

LETTER OF INTENT ON MAINTAINING THE ARCTIC CHALLENGE
EXERCISE AT HIGH QUALITY FLAG LEVEL
AMONG
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE OF DENMARK, FINLAND, NORWAY, AND SWEDEN

- References: A. Letter of Intent on USA participation in ACE development towards flag level exercise among air chiefs of Denmark, Finland and Norway, and the Swedish Armed Forces, signed October 16, 2017
- B. ACE's Final Exercise Report Arctic Challenge Exercise 2019 (ACE 19), dated September 10, 2019

1. Introduction:

This Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Department of the Air Force of the United States of America and the Ministries of Defence of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, hereinafter referred to as the Participants, aims at maintaining the Arctic Challenge Exercise (ACE) at high quality, flag level.

In 2017, the Nordic air chiefs and the chief for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe signed an LoI aiming to develop ACE into a flag level exercise, while emphasizing the need for U.S. Air Force participation in order to attain this goal.

ACE 19 met the criteria for a Flag Level Exercise in accordance with the parameters set up in the NORDEF CO FINAL STUDY REPORT for "High intensive Air Combat Flag Exercise" (30 June 2015), and became Europe's largest tactical air exercise in 2019.

In March 2020, the Nordic ministers of defence reached an agreement to enhance Nordic-Transatlantic relations by, among other initiatives, working to secure participation and maintain flag level engagement in future Arctic Challenge Exercises with the U.S. Air Force.

2. Intent:

The Nordic nations and the United States share an interest in upholding security and stability in the Nordic and Baltic Sea regions, the North Atlantic Ocean, and the Arctic. All parties share a mutual interest in ensuring this region's security.

This LoI demonstrates the commitment of the Participants to the exercise and their intent to maintain ACE as a flag level, tactical air exercise. This LoI does not supersede the Oct 2017 LOI (Ref A).

3. Way Forward:

The Participants are to strive for mutual involvement in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the exercise to ensure its continued quality and relevance.

This LoI is not a legally binding commitment between the Participants under international or national law.

This LoI will be revisited in 2026 to ensure continued relevance with regard to its scope and the Participants' capabilities.

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EXERCISE (ACE) AT HIGH QUALITY FLAG LEVEL

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

Trine Bramsen

The Honorable Trine Bramsen
Minister of Defence

17.2-21

Date

Copenhagen

Location

LETTER OF INTENT ON MAINTAINING THE ARCTIC CHALLENGE
EXERCISE (ACE) AT HIGH QUALITY FLAG LEVEL

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND



The Honorable Antti Kaikkonen
Minister of Defence

16.2.2021

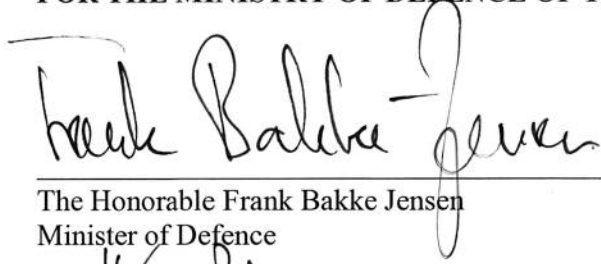
Date

Helsinki

Location

LETTER OF INTENT ON MAINTAINING THE ARCTIC CHALLENGE
EXERCISE (ACE) AT HIGH QUALITY FLAG LEVEL

FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY



The Honorable Frank Bakke Jensen
Minister of Defence

16/2-21

Date
Oslo

Location

LETTER OF INTENT ON MAINTAINING THE ARCTIC CHALLENGE
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FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN



The Honorable Peter Hultqvist
Minister of Defence

17 / 2 - 2021

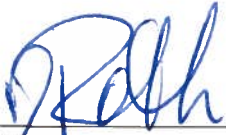
Date

Stockholm

Location

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**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**



The Honorable John P. Roth
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

FEB 17 2021

Date

Pentagon, Washington D.C

Location