



## NORWEGIAN ARMED FORCES

# Facts about exercise Cold Response 2020

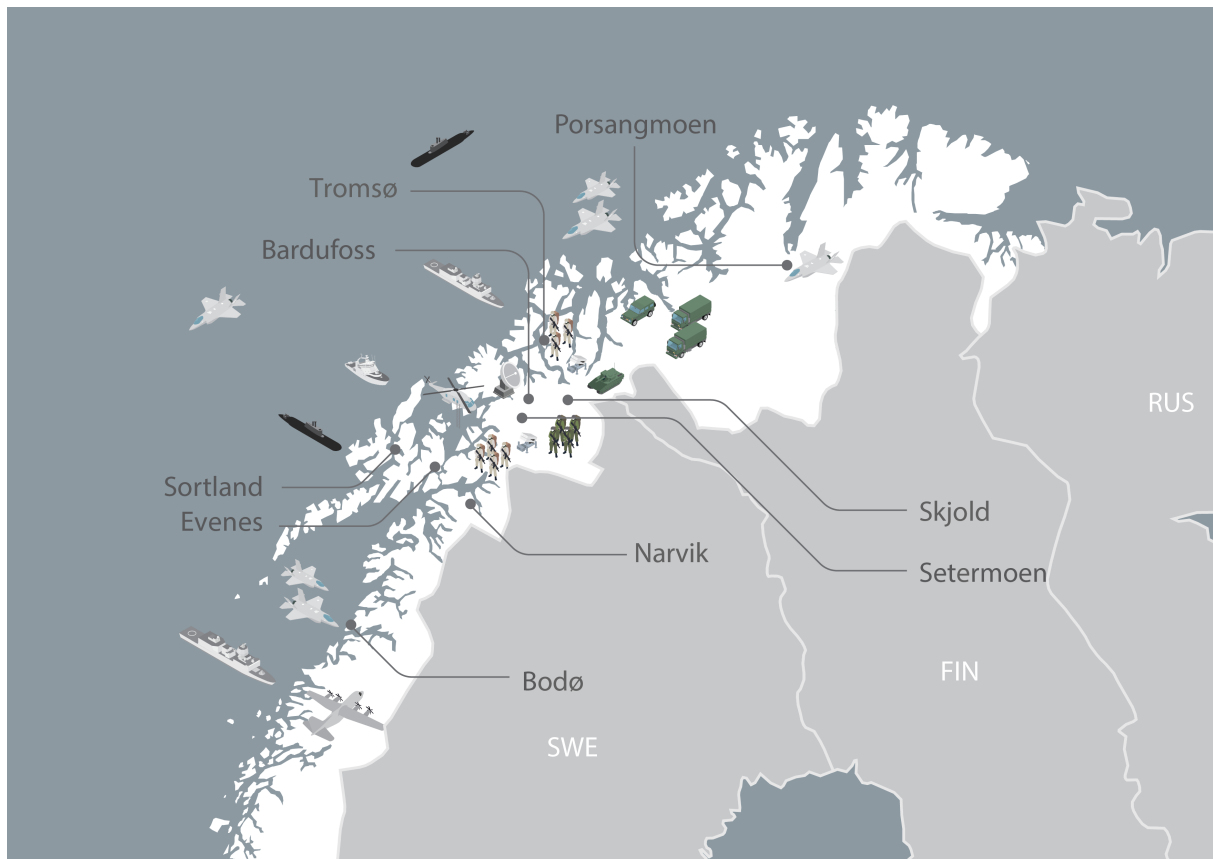
Cold Response 2020 is a Norwegian led exercise in which allied and partner nations have been invited to participate. Activities related to the exercise will take place from the 2nd to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The main part of the exercise, the field exercise, will take place from 12 to 18 March.

Over 15,000 soldiers from The United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Sweden as well as Norwegian forces are participating in the exercise.

Approximately 20 maritime vessels, over 100 vehicles and 50 aircraft will participate in the exercise. The exercise is led by the Norwegian Joint Headquarters.

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Approximate numbers of participants</b>
Norway:	9000
Denmark:	100
Finland:	450
Sweden:	400
Germany:	400
Belgium:	100
The Netherlands:	1100
United Kingdom:	2000
France:	400
United States:	1500

## The exercise area



Activities connected to exercise Cold Response will affect large parts of the middle and northern parts of Norway, especially in the preparation phase and the ending phase of the exercise. The main activities during the exercise will be held in the northern part of Nordland, larger parts of Troms as well as some areas in Finnmark. On land the main part of the exercise will be conducted from Bjerkvik in the south to Nordkjosbotn in the north. At the end of the exercise there will be some additional activity in Tromsø. There will also be some military activity in and around Porsanger and other parts of Finnmark.

The maritime activity will take place from the coast of the western part of Norway up to Finnmark. The air forces will primarily operate from Bodø and Bardufoss. There will also be some aircraft activity from Andøya. The air operations will be conducted in the requisitioned airspace. Amongst others, low flights will take place in Indre Troms and in the Banak area.

Before the exercise starts, allied and Norwegian forces will be training together. Elsewhere, there will be live fire exercises inside military shooting ranges.

## Why do we exercise?

In order to secure freedom, security, predictability and stability it is vital that Norwegian forces train regularly together with allies and partners. This is why exercise Cold Response is important for the Norwegian Armed Forces. In order for our allies and partners to

effectively be able to support Norway in a crisis or war it is vital that they are exercising in Norway under demanding conditions together with Norwegians in peacetime.

The main aim of the exercise is to secure the Norwegian Armed Forces and allies' ability to conduct multinational joint exercises within a high-intensity combat scenario in demanding winter conditions.

Another important aspect of the exercise is to train large-scale amphibious capability. This means practicing how to master the transition between the coast and the shore by, for example, practicing attacking a target on land from ships with the assistance from amphibious assault ships and helicopters.

Norway is a leading nation in NATO when it comes to cold weather operations, and has extensive experience in this field. This makes Norway a natural and experienced host for winter exercises such as Cold Response.

## **Total Defence**

Our ability to receive allied reinforcements is essential when it comes to defending Norway in a crisis situation. As a part of the exercise the Norwegian Armed Forces will receive allied forces by collaborating with civilian actors through the total defence concept.

The concept is the sum of Norway's civilian and military resources working together to prevent and manage crises, armed conflicts and wars. If a serious situation should arise, civilian and military forces are mutually interdependent.

As a part of exercise Cold Response, the Norwegian Armed Forces will cooperate with civilian actors such as Avinor, the Civil Aviation Authority, Bane Nor (the state-owned company responsible for the Norwegian national railway infrastructure), the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, the Police, the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Troms and Finnmark counties, municipalities and port authorities.

## **Observers are invited**

Openness is important for building trust and preventing misunderstandings. Therefore, the Norwegian Armed Forces will make sure to follow the Vienna Document. This is an agreement made between the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) member states. The agreement aims to secure military stability and reduce the risk of war by imposing states to implement security and confidence building measures. Norway will invite observers from all the 56 member nations in OSCE, which also includes Russia, to the exercise.

## **Safety**

The Norwegian Armed Forces has taken a number of measures in order to prevent accidents. The Norwegian Armed Forces is cooperating closely with civilian agencies, such as the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, to ensure the safety of the participants.

Every day the participants receive an updated safety report, which includes information about weather conditions, avalanche danger and the traffic pattern in the exercise area. A separate safety brochure has also been issued to all participants exercising on the land areas of the exercise. In addition, a local security organization will be located in Setermoen.

## **Environmental protection**

The Norwegian Armed Forces has obtained information about local conditions, and has collaborated with a number of government agencies to provide information about the areas that the participants must or should stay away from, such as drinking water sources, farms and cultural monuments. This information has been used in the planning process of the exercise to minimize the risk of damage to the environment and property. These areas have been incorporated in the environmental maps that all participating units will use. A separate information environmental protection folder has been published and distributed to all participants and posted on the Norwegian Armed Forces website (mil.no).

Prior to the exercise the Norwegian Armed Forces has conducted several reconnaissance sessions with those who will participate in the exercise in order to become as familiar as possible with the areas in which they will operate. During the exercise, the exercise directing staff and umpires will make sure that the units are not causing any unnecessary damage to the environment. The common goal of the Norwegian Armed Forces and our allies and partners is to minimize the consequences for the local population. The Norwegian Armed Forces has introduced restrictions on military activity in a number of areas, so-called Out of Bounds Areas (nature reserve, national parks, cultural heritage sites).

If you notice any damage to property or nature as a result of the exercise call 400 38 526 or email [mbo@mil.no](mailto:mbo@mil.no).

## **Restriction areas for drones and flights**

In order to safeguard the flight security during exercise Cold Response, the Civil Aviation Authority has, on request by the Norwegian Armed Forces, approved two temporary restriction areas. One of the areas is active from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, while the other is active from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March.

All flights in the restricted areas that are not part of the exercise are prohibited, including unmanned aerial vehicles and model aircraft.

The restrictions do not apply to flights in connection with police, ambulance and search and rescue missions including fire missions, provided that this is coordinated with the Norwegian Air Operations Centre (NAOC). Scheduled traffic to and from Bardufoss will also be allowed.

For non-military air traffic, an application must be sent to NAOC at least 72 hours in advance of the desired flight. The flight must have a social utility value in order to be prioritized.

More information can be found on Avinors website:

[https://avinor.no/globalassets/\\_microsite/ais-portal/aip-sup/en\\_sup\\_a\\_2020\\_001\\_en.pdf](https://avinor.no/globalassets/_microsite/ais-portal/aip-sup/en_sup_a_2020_001_en.pdf)

Here you will find information about the restricted areas and how to apply for permission.

In addition to this, The Norwegian National Security Authority (NSM) has banned the use of airborne sensors from 24.2.2020 to 24.3.2020. This includes all photographing and filming from the air. It is possible to ask NSM for an exemption from the ban in cases where there are particular weighty reasons for the use of photography and filming. The application must include a description of the needs, geographical area and time period, and should be submitted to NSM at luft@nsm.no. NSM will include the Norwegian Armed Forces in the application process. In addition, there is a demand that no sensitive objects are exposed during the information gathering.

More information on this can be found on the Norwegian Security Authority's website:

<https://www.nsm.stat.no/om-nsm/tools/fysisk-sikring/foto-fra-lufta/>

## Which counties and municipalities will directly be affected by the exercise?

### **Nordland County**

Municipalities: Narvik, Lødingen, Evenes, Sortland, Andøy, Vågan og Hadsel.

### **Troms and Finnmark County**

Municipalities: Tromsø, Harstad, Kvæfjord, Tjeldsund, Ibestad, Gratangen, Lavangen, Bardu, Salangen, Målselv, Sørreisa, Dyrøy, Senja, Balsfjord, Karlsøy, Lyngen, Storfjord, Kåfjord, Skjervøy, Nordreisa, Kvænanen, Kautokeino, Karasjok, Porsanger, Tana, Nesseby and Sør-Varanger.

## Information for the population

Openness and good information is important. You will find updated information about the exercise on this website: <https://forsvaret.no/en/coldresponse>

If you are planning on travelling by road in the exercise area, you should check traffic reports and plan your trip in accordance with those. If you should meet a military convoy on the road it is important to remember that the military drivers might have limited visibility. For current incidents please call the Public Road Administrations on phone no. [175](tel:175) (from Norway) or [+47 815 48 991](tel:+4781548991).

## Information for media

Media can contact the Norwegian Joint Headquarters on duty press officer on +47 404 38 083 or send an e-mail to [info@njhq.no](mailto:info@njhq.no).

From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March a media and information centre will be located at Rustad camp in Bardufoss.