



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

Sweden and the USA

Common challenges – shared solutions



Trans-Atlantic Cooperation

The Euro-Atlantic strategic setting of complex interdependencies, where critical functions of society and shared nodes of resilience are dependent on the actions of others, creates a necessity for a fully functioning partnership between the US and Europe. It is imperative to secure a joint ability to act effectively and legitimately in the face of significant risks and major disasters. It is important that national efforts are, at a minimum, mutually reinforcing and not inter-blocking. It is also necessary to view homeland security, or societal security, as a whole-of-society activity rather than as the policy domain of a specific department, ministry, agency or directorate.

The governments around the Euro-Atlantic basin have a shared responsibility to protect their populations from harm and their open democracies and economies from outside interference. This is a core element of good governance and something that citizens expect from their leaders. A Europe and North America that is “whole and free”, but not safe and secure, would not live up to the primary governing principle of the responsibility to protect.

In the spirit of this shared responsibility, the Governments of Sweden and of the United States on April 12, 2007 signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland Security Matters. This agreement is managed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the Directorate for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security. The two Executive Agents meet in annual bilateral sessions to review the progress and to set the strategic direction for future cooperation. Several million dollars are invested each year in mutually beneficial research projects and expert level collaboration. Many public agencies, universities, institutes and businesses are engaged in the joint activities spearheaded by the two Executive Agents. Both governments also have similar agreements with the government of Canada, creating a mutual platform and a wide span of opportunities for future collaboration.



Areas of Cooperative Activity as stated in the Agreement include:

- The development and implementation of threat and vulnerability assessments, interdependency analyses and methodologies related to potential threats to homeland security scenarios.
- The assessments of prior operational experience and evaluation for the purpose of articulating operational deficiencies into definable technical requirements and appropriate standards and supporting methodologies.
- Research and development of technologies and systems to meet user requirements or capability gaps and national needs.
- Reciprocal education, training, and exchange of scientific and technical personnel. Exchange of equipment and material in science and technology areas including research development, testing and evaluation.
- The development and exchange of best practices, standards and guidelines.



Forms of Cooperative Activity as stated in the Agreement include:

- Coordinated research projects and joint research projects.
- Joint task forces to examine emergent homeland security challenges.
- Joint studies and scientific or technical demonstrations.
- Joint organization of field exercises, scientific seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops.
- Training of scientists and technical experts.
- Visits and exchanges of scientists, engineers or other appropriate personnel.
- Joint use of laboratory facilities, equipment and material.



Topics of Cooperative Activity include:

- Community resilience.
- Information assurance and cyber security.
- Forensics and Explosives.
- Prerequisites for emergency management, capabilities and equipment for the future needs of First Responders.
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).
- Risk and Crisis Communication.
- Health Security.
- Preventive and countering violent extremism.
- The identification of thefts and fraud.



Briefly about the Principals:

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

The MSB is responsible for issues concerning civil protection, public safety, emergency management and civil defence, to the extent that the responsibility does not belong to another authority. The responsibility includes measures taken before, during and after an emergency or crisis.

We work:

- via knowledge enhancement, support, training, exercises, regulation, supervision and our own national and international operations.
- in close cooperation with the municipalities, county councils, other authorities, the private sector and various organizations.
- to achieve greater security and safety at all levels of society, from local to global.

Point of Contact:

transatlanticcooperation@msb.se
www.msb.se/en

The Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the dedication of more than 240,000 employees in jobs that range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analyst to chemical facility inspector. Our duties are wide-ranging, and our goal is clear – keeping America safe.

DHS Science and Technology Directorate:

The Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) is the primary research and development arm of the Department. It provides federal, state and local officials with the technology and capabilities to protect the homeland.

Point of Contact:

SandT.InternationalPrograms@hq.dhs.gov
www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/st-icpo

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
SE-651 81 Karlstad Phone +46 (0)771-240 240 www.msb.se/en
Order No. MSB1090 – March 2017