

# Perspectives on Military Technology

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general Owe Wiktorin.

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## Foreword

The Swedish Royal Academy of War Sciences has taken on the task to try to review and analyse the meaning and consequences of the accelerating military technology development in this new world order. By answering questions like where do we stand today and in which direction are we going, the attempt is to illustrate and explore further trends and challenges to come.

In this book the Department of Military Technology has selected a group, mainly from the Academy's expertise in military technologies, and asked them to extend their thoughts in specific fields. The publication will give some perspectives on military technologies related to homeland security and homeland defence as part of the ongoing transformation. Technologies in today's security systems are not military exclusive nor nationally unique as they used to be. This will change the way we develop and apply new technologies in the service of national and international defence. It calls for better understanding of the meaning and role of technologies in future defence systems. I hope this anthology broadens the ongoing debate in support of further transformation.

The first chapter gives a number of outlooks. To start with, the development of military technology is placed in a historical perspective. This demonstrates the impact on principles and practise of war from major historical shifts in the development of military technologies and its applications.

The following article points out that government supported R&T activities, paid for by the defence budget, have an increasing relevance as Industry's own funding will not be sufficient. This article also explains how modern disruptive technologies contribute to changes of military affairs.

A third article reflects societal changes. Today's threats do not follow the same logic and principles as yesterday. Strategic consequences may well lead us to a new generation of warfare.

An overview is also given of the scientific field of military technology and how it influences defence transformation. Of special interest is the Swedish view of the subject, which differs from most countries's, focusing on the impact of technology on the officer's profession and vice versa.

The second chapter of this book is about the battle space. The land, sea, air and information arenas are all undergoing changes. The importance of the land terrain decreases and makes ground warfare more like sea and air warfare. Weapons range and tempo impact all battle space. The changes are described in separate articles. The problems of long-term predictions are treated as well as ways to find patterns in technological, doctrinal and societal development.

The third chapter focuses on consequences of some related areas. This encompasses articles on leadership and management, defence industry, logistics, and new demands on competence. The perspective from protection technology sensu lato illustrates clearly the broad character of the military technology issues and advocates whether military technology can be used for protection or if there is a need to protect military technology...

This is an important book and the Academy is to be congratulated.

General Owe Wiktorin (ret)  
Supreme Commander  
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1994 -2000