

Cold Response 2022

Fact sheet *(last updated 4 March 2022)*

About the exercise

Cold Response 2022 (CR 22) is a Norwegian military exercise, in which Norway has invited NATO allies and partner nations to participate. The most visible part of exercise CR 22 will take place between 10 March and 10 April 2022.

From early January, Allied forces have come to Norway to train on how to operate under harsh winter conditions. Cold Response will conclude most of this allied training, but there will be some allied training in Norway also after Cold Response.

The NATO alliance is the backbone of Norway's defence. Should anyone attack our country, it will [invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty](#), and Norway's allies will assist us militarily. A credible defence of Norway is based on Allied training and exercises in peacetime, and Norway's ability to receive and host Allied support. We depend on our allies' ability to master demanding Norwegian weather and winter conditions. To ensure this, our allies must train and exercise in Norway regularly.

Participating nations and troops

As of 4 March 2022, a total of 27 nations and some 30,000 soldiers are signed up for Cold Response. These numbers are likely to change as we get closer to the exercise.

The 30,000 participants consist of:

- 14,000 land forces
- 8,000 naval forces
- 8,000 air forces and staff

About 220 aircraft and more than 50 vessels will take part in the exercise.

In addition to military units from NATO, partner nations and the Norwegian Armed Forces, a number of Norwegian civilian agencies and organisations will also take part. In addition to this, 39 Norwegian municipalities are involved in the exercise.

Why is exercise Cold Response important?

An important part of CR 22 is to train the Norwegian Armed Forces in enhancing the defence of Norway. In this connection, naval and aircraft capabilities will play a vital role in deploying Allied amphibious and land forces wherever needed. During the exercise, we will especially train on mastering the transition between sea, coast and land.

For NATO, this exercise is important in order to train the deployment of the NATO Response Force. For Norway, it is important to train on host nation support – in other words to test Norway's ability to efficiently receive and cater for allied reinforcements.

Can the exercise contribute to instability and conflicts in the north in the current situation?

CR 22 is a defensive exercise where we practice defending our country. Cold Response is a Norwegian military exercise held in North Norway every other year, and we invite our allies and partners to participate.

Norway has always been transparent and open about exercise CR 22. For the past couple of years, we have provided thorough information about the exercise in many contexts, this also includes information to the Russian Ministry of Defence in Moscow and direct talks between the chief of the Norwegian Joint Headquarters and the commander of the Russian Northern Fleet.

The Norwegian Armed Forces want transparency around our military exercises. This is vital for preventing misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict. To ensure transparency, Norway complies with the Vienna document by informing about any major exercise in Norway.

The Vienna Document is an agreement between the states of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#). The agreement was established to ensure military stability and to reduce the risk of war by requiring states to implement security and trust-building measures.

Observers

Norway has invited observers from all 57 OSCE member states – including Russia – to observe Cold Response 22. The deadline for registering as an observer is 5 March.

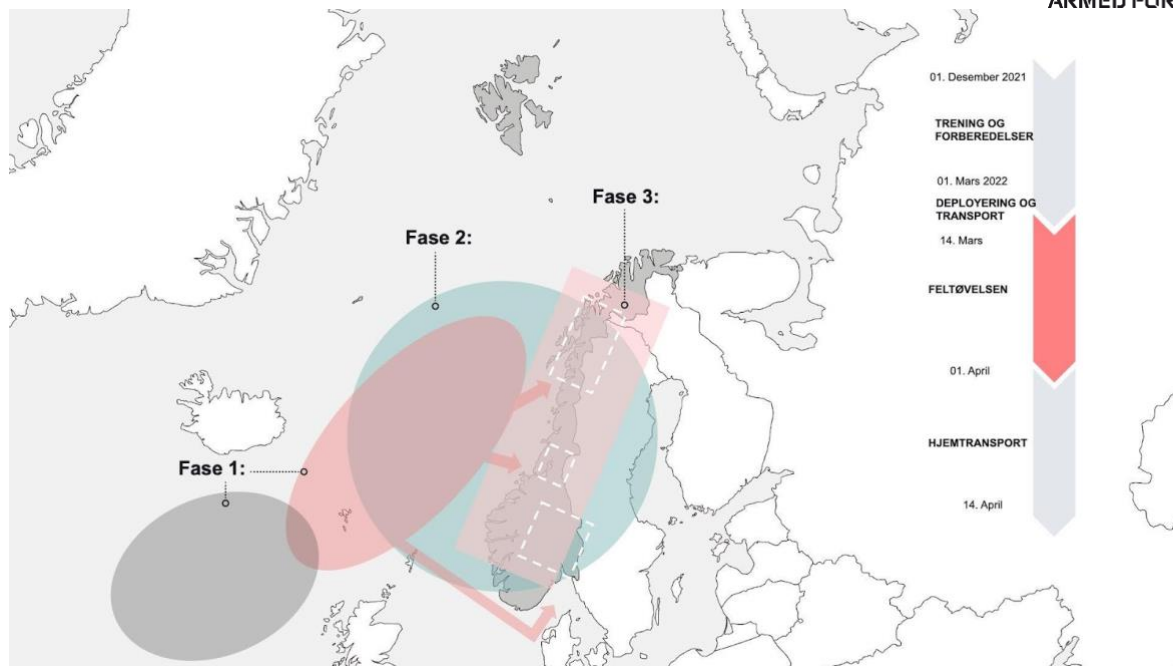
Where does the exercise take place?

The participating troops will train in large areas both at sea, in the air and on land. The exercise will take place in Southeast Norway, Central Norway and Northern Norway.

In the south, most of the activity will take place around Rena Base, Elverum, Flisa, Sessvollmoen close to Oslo Airport, and Jørstadmoen in Lillehammer.

In Central Norway, the activity will mainly take place in the vicinity of Fosen (Brekstad–Bjugn). There will also be some activity in the Stjørdal area (northeast of Trondheim), this will activity will mostly be transportation of military equipment.

In North Norway, the activity will mainly take place between the village of Nordkjosbotn and the town of Narvik. The activity will take place both along the E6 highway and the coast. In addition, there will be practice activity related to CR 22 in the town of Bodø and at Porsangmoen Base in Finnmark.



The three phases of the exercise:

Phase 1: Command of the sea (sea control) ensures that Allies are able to deploy to Norway. Sea control is ensured by the use of naval and air forces.

Phase 2: Air operations to ensure allied deployment. Norwegian troops secure important hubs for reception, and the Norwegian total defence prepares for the receiving allied troops and materiel.

Phase 3: Allied amphibious and land operations. These operations are carried out with the support of air and naval forces.

Exercise timeline

7 March:

- ⇒ Deployment of NATO Response Force (part of the NATO exercise Brilliant Jump 2022). The NRF will arrive at Borg Harbour in Fredrikstad and then be based at various camps in southern Norway.

14–18 March:

- ⇒ Air, naval and special forces operations will take place in North Norway (northern Nordland and southern Troms).

16–20 March:

- ⇒ Naval and air operations in the Ofotfjord–Andfjorden area.

17 March:

- ⇒ NATO Distinguished Visitors Day at Rena Base

19–22 March

- ⇒ Amphibious operations, supported by air and maritime capabilities. Northern Nordland County and southern Troms (Evenes–Sjøvegan area)

20–31 March:

- ⇒ We expect visits from political and military leadership in NATO and Norway. Especially in northern Norway.

23–31 March:

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Amphibious and land operations, supported by maritime and air capabilities:

- ⇒ North Norway: North in Nordland County, and Troms and Finnmark County. From Bjerkvik to Blåtinn (E6 Highway) and along the coastal axis
- ⇒ South Norway: Innlandet County, from Flisa to Rena Base.

Participating capacities

(may change towards the exercise)

Air capacities:

- P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft (Norway)
- F-15 (USA)
- Bell 412 Helicopters and C-130J Hercules transport aircraft (Norway)
- Clockwork (UK) with: AW159 Wildcat, EH101 Merlin, HH-60 Pave Hawk
- CH-53E Sea Stallion (USA)
- AH-1Z Viper (USA)
- UH-1Y Bell (USA)
- Saab JAS 39 Gripen fighter aircraft (Sweden)
- DA-20 Jet Falcon (Norway)
- Control and reporting personnel (Norway)
- F-18 (USA)
- AV-8B Harrier (USA)
- KC-130J Hercules (USA)
- C-130 Hercules (USA)
- MV-22B (USA)
- A400 Atlas (Germany)
- Bell 412 (Norway)
- Norwegian Air Operation Centre (NAOC)
- E-3A AWACS (NATO)
- E-3A AWACS (France)
- Maritime patrol aircraft (France)
- F-35 fighter aircraft (Norway)
- MRTT Airbus Tanker (NATO)
- P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft (UK)
- KC-135 Stratotanker (USA)

Maritime capacities

A number of countries will contribute substantially on the maritime side: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, and Norway.

- Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)
- Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1)
- Two aircraft carriers
- Several major platforms for amphibious forces with helicopters
- Several submarines
- 50+ other vessels

Land capacities

Substantial contributions from several countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Finland, and Norway.

- Amphibious and land operations will take place from 19 to 31 March
- The exercise is carried out simultaneously in northern and southern Norway.
- The exercise involves NATO Response Force, including support from bilateral partners.
- Operations and training will take place in challenging weather and winter climate.

What is the Norwegian total defence?

Norway's and NATO's ability to conduct military operations depends on civilian actors and their responsibility for critical societal functions. Without close civil-military cooperation, we will not be able to receive allied reinforcements. Cooperation between military and civilian forces is what we called the total defence.

The entire total defence must contribute to ensure that Norway fulfils its responsibilities for host nation support.

Some of the Norwegian Armed Forces' civilian partners:

The Norwegian Police, the Norwegian Coast Guard, Bane NOR (railways), Norwegian Customs, the Norwegian Directorate of Health, the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, Avinor (airports), the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, the Norwegian Communications Authority.

For more information about the exercise, see: www.mil.no/cr22

Traffic safety and exercising in winter conditions

Norway has held winter courses and courses on Norwegian conditions and regulations, for allied participants.

All participants will be informed about Norwegian conditions and traffic regulations before the exercise starts. Both Norwegian civilian police and Norwegian and allied military police will be present and ensure that traffic rules are complied with. Norway will also dispatch official personnel at all major Allied units.

When it comes to driving on icy and snowy roads, driving skills will vary. The Norwegian Road Traffic Act applies in all cases, and drivers must adapt their speed and driving to the conditions. In worst cases, this may mean that units must stop until conditions improve, or until they apply adequate safety equipment such as tire chains.

The Norwegian Public Roads Administration is aware of the challenges, and personnel will be standby to plough roads or sprinkle road surfaces with salt or sand.

Cold Response is a major exercise, and at times it will affect the civilian local population in the exercise areas. This can noise or queues on the roads. From early March, military columns will be visible on the roads. The Norwegian Public Roads Administration will provide updated reports on road conditions and traffic during the exercise.

UAVs in the exercise area

Following an application from the Norwegian Armed Forces, the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority has established restriction areas in and around the exercise area for civilian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones). This means that UAVs are prohibited in the restriction areas, unless they have been granted special permission to fly here. The restriction areas will not affect ordinary civil air traffic.

The restriction areas are established to avoid collisions and aviation accidents during the exercise. The restricted areas apply 24–7 in the period 14 March to 31 March 2022.

[Avinor's website](#) has information about the restricted areas and how to apply for a special permit to fly in these areas. See this [PDF for more information](#).

Protecting the environment

We have put considerable effort into the planning of this exercise. This is done to ensure that we protect the environment in the best possible way, and to limit any damage.

The Norwegian Armed Forces have held site surveys, done risk assessments and obtained information on local conditions. We have worked with a number of civilian authorities to determine which areas and infrastructure to avoid – like drinking water sources, cultural monuments, fish farms, agricultural areas and nature reserves.

All this information is available in specially designed exercise maps. The training areas have been adjusted to minimise the risk of damages on environment and private property.

The exercise and COVID-19

The Norwegian Armed Forces and NATO have implemented a number of measures and plans to ensure that allied training in Norway is carried out safely, and without spreading the coronavirus and COVID-19. We work closely with civilian health authorities and the local authorities in the exercise areas. Read more about our COVID-19 measures on [this webpage](#).

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