

Försvarets Forskningsanstalt, or in short FOA, is the agency mainly responsible for the development of operations research and systems analysis in Swedish defense. After preliminary efforts in this field in the early 1950s, a Planning Department (FOA P), including an OR division, was set up within FOA in 1958.

The main tasks of FOA P were to train operations and systems analysts, assign them to various central Government agencies, such as the Defense Staff, the staffs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, the Civil Defense Board, etc., and to improve and develop methods of OR and Systems Analysis.

In 1974, as one of the results of a government-initiated organizational study of all defense research activities in Sweden, FOA was given widened responsibilities in defense research planning. This book is an attempt at commemorating the period of 1958-1974 during which Operations Research, Systems Analysis, and International Security Studies became firmly established in Swedish Defense. The contributions are written by senior members, past and present, of the FOA P staff including one long-time consultant. In their Preface the Editors express the hope "that the collection of papers presented here without any ambitions at comprehensiveness will give the reader an overview of various developments within FOA P and its field of activities".