



Chief of Joint Operations



Vice Admiral Jan Thörnqvist



Jan Thörnqvist was born on the 9th of October 1959 in Karlskrona, Sweden. He joined the Royal Swedish Navy in 1976 and served as basic private and petty officer afloat in various types of ships in the Navy (e.g. Minesweepers, Destroyer, Torpedo and Picket Boats). In 1981 he entered the Naval Academy and in 1982 graduated to be commissioned as Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Navy, followed by Principal Warfare Officer training and promotion to Lieutenant in 1983.

The subsequent years Thörnqvist served as 2nd Officer on MW Staff Ship and Icebreaker HSwMS Thule, various Mine Countermeasures Vessels, qualified as a Mine Clearance Diver, served as 1st Instructor at the Naval Mine Warfare School and in 1987 assumed command of the Diving Support Vessel HSwMS Skaftö. Upon completion of the National Defence College Staff Course in 1989 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and appointed Executive Officer on Landsort Class Minehunters. During his appointments afloat at MCM and MCD units Thörnqvist frequently during the mid 80's and 90's took part in national and later on multinational MCM and EOD operations in the Baltic Sea and off the west coast of Sweden.

In 1993 Thörnqvist took command of the Naval MCM Divers Squadron, a command he held until mid 1996, when he was appointed Commanding Officer of 411.MCM Squadron and the MCMV HSwMS Ulvön. After this appointment, he completed the two years Advanced Command Program at the Swedish National Defence College, followed by an appointment as Chief of Staff in the Visby-class Corvette Trials Unit at the 3rd Surface Warfare Flotilla in Karlskrona.



In 2001 Thörnqvist was promoted to Commander and appointed Staff Officer at the Swedish Armed Forces HQ, Joint Forces Development, Staff Department, Analysis Section. Three years later in June 2004 he attended the U.S. Naval Command College in Newport, Rhode Island. On returning to Sweden he became Head of Forces Development, Plans and Policy Staff in the Joint Headquarters.

In 2006 Thörnqvist was promoted Captain and took command of the 4th Naval Warfare Flotilla. This command was in October 2009 followed by a command of the Naval Base in Karlskrona. As appointed Force Commander he was from the 1st of December 2009 working full time with the preparations for the EU NAVFOR operation ATALANTA and was subsequently ad interim in January 2010 promoted to Rear Admiral (LH).

From mid April to mid August 2010 Thörnqvist as Force Commander onboard HSwMS Karlskrona, where his multinational Force Headquarters was deployed, lead EUNAVFOR in the waters off the Horn of Africa. After this deployment he resumed his command of the Swedish Naval Base in Karlskrona. In December 2010 Thörnqvist was designated to become COS/COM MCC Royal Swedish Navy and subsequently in January 2011 promoted to Rear Admiral (LH). On the 1st of March 2011 Thörnqvist was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed as the COS Royal Swedish Navy, an appointment he held for five years. On the 18th of April 2016 Thörnqvist was promoted to Vice Admiral and appointed as Chief of Joint Operations.

Thörnqvist is from July 2016 a member of the board for the Swedish Defence Material Administration. Before then he was a member of the board for the Swedish Maritime Administration during three years. He is a fellow of the Royal Swedish Society of Naval Sciences and a fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences. He speaks English fluently and limited German. His personal decorations include: Medal for Zealous and Devoted service of the Realm, Armed Forces Conscript Medal, Armed Forces International Service Medal, Swedish National Alliance of Auxiliary Naval Corp's Medal of Merit in silver, Association of Coastal Ranger's Silver Badge for Merit, Association of Swedish Reserve Officer's Silver Badge for Merit, 4th Mine Warfare Flotilla's Commemorative Medal, Commander 1st class of the Order of the Lion of Finland, Commander of the National Order of Merit – France (Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mérite), Meritorious Service Medal (Military) – Singapore (Pingat Jasa Gemilang – Tentera) and the European Security and Defence Policy Service Medal – EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

Jan Thörnqvist is resident in Stockholm. He is married to Christina Martinsson and has three sons, born 1985, 1990 and 2000. When off-duty he enjoys renovating the family summer cottage, motorbiking, boating, fishing, outdoor and nature activities with the family.

