

Major Powers Meet at Ärna

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<http://www.unt.se/uppsala/stormakter-mots-pa-arna-1285054.aspx>

[Translated from Swedish to English]

This week, military officials from Russia and the United States will meet at Arna airfields in Uppsala, Sweden, for an historic [mission demonstrating joint] cooperation on disarmament.

For the first time Russia and the United States will conduct a joint mission under the Treaty on Open Skies. Both countries have put much emphasis on the mission, said Major Mats Gyllander at the Air Combat School of Information at Uppsala garrison.

The core of the mission is a common observation flight starting from Ärnafältet today, Wednesday, or Thursday. Participants from both countries arrived at Uppsala, on Monday but the preparations for this cooperative mission have been ongoing for a long time. The Open Skies Treaty allows member countries to conduct observation flights over their territories.

This collaborative mission is designed to build mutual trust and to prevent political and military tension between the countries. The flights from Open Skies bases are conducted primarily to observe and document the military equipment on land and sea, through the use of imaging sensors, including photography. The treaty regulates the methods of observation and data collection and the types of equipment that may be used for these purposes.