

## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

**Editorial** »Anciently those called skilled in war conquered an enemy easily conquered« is a sentence from *The Art of War*, written by one of the most important Chinese Taoist warriors and philosophers, Sun Tzu. Master Sun has many interpreters, as the universality of his messages is, in many ways, still applicable nowadays. For this reason we have used this sentence to stand at the beginning of this year's third issue of the *Bulletin of the Slovenian Armed Forces*. The issue has been designed as a scientific and professional contribution in the field of defence and security, dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO which, for this occasion, has chosen the slogan 'Young at 60'.

The main characteristics of the current period are intensive changes in the security environment and adjustment to these changes. The definition of military operations and military victories is at this time often completely different from the established concepts and earlier practices. In the face of the current circumstances, we of course cannot ignore the economic crisis and recession, which pose the question of whether it is necessary to invest in defence and security subsystems, or whether it is permissible to weaken them and first take care of other social subsystems. We are thus faced with the question of whether the field of defence and security needs to deal with the issue of survival first or whether it is a matter of gathering courage for change. These questions are, in fact, constant historical features. After the end of World War I and particularly during the Great Depression, those who invested in survival outside the field of defence and security were always weaker. The endless arms race and excessive investments in it during the Cold War forced a range of national economies and nationalised planned economies to their knees. The answer to the question of how to provide defence and security in the current situation is multifaceted and complex – as Master Sun Tzu would have put it, it was easy to prevail in ancient times. That is why wisdom and prudence are essential in strategies, doctrines, visions and the modernisation of armies, as well as of defence and security systems at national and transnational levels. We are often faced with the question of whether small countries should contribute in this matter or act merely as observers of

developments and actions of large countries. We could use Slovenia as an example of a young country which has reached the age of 18 and has been a full member of the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union for five years. Such an example enables the exchange of new outlooks and different ideas, indicates additional possibilities for changes and adjustments, and ultimately brings more of a youthful spirit.

The editorial board has tried to answer the question of what we can contribute to confirm the truth of the slogan 'Young at 60'. In planning this issue, we have carefully selected contents and authors connected to Slovenian operations in the field of defence and security in order to present several different views of NATO and the EU on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Slovenia's membership in both organisations. With topics such as the introduction of Network Enabling Capabilities and various aspects of integration, which accompany transformation as a global paradigm, and the process of changing defence and military systems and the role of the military, we wish to contribute Slovenia's experience in cooperation and the establishment of common policies within NATO and the EU.

Since the articles in this issue of the *Bulletin* are in the English language, it is appropriate to add an editorial explanation. First, there is the intention of presenting the international environment with topics which show Slovenia's experience after five years of integration and membership in the Alliance. In this respect we are particularly pleased with the cooperation of the foreign author. The circle of participants is thus expanding and the possibilities for publishing articles abroad are presenting themselves. In designing the current issue we have participated with the IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies) in London, where the renowned author Bastian Giegerich is based. The publication is thus symbolically considering new approaches and future challenges.

In 2009, the *Bulletin of the Slovenian Armed Forces* entered its 11<sup>th</sup> year of publication. At the beginning of April 2009, the first issue of the 11<sup>th</sup> year was published with a new graphic design. This issue carried the meaningful title of *In the Service of Peace*, its contents dedicated to international operations and missions. By carefully selecting topics for the third issue, the editorial board has tried to realise the intention of placing the publication at a higher level through increased quality and a larger number of scientific articles. The readers, including national and foreign expert public, reading through the summaries of the articles in the second part of this editorial, will judge whether or not we have managed to achieve the intention of becoming more recognisable in the international environment.

We are pleased that **Dr Ljubica Jelušič**, Minister of Defence, has contributed the introductory article. She presents several topical aspects of the five-year period of Slovenian integration in the Alliance structure.

**Milan Jazbec, PhD**, in 'NATO at Sixty: From the Cold War to Intercultural Dialogue', presents NATO's operations and development, which in his opinion

are marked by two complementary aspects: the enlargement and transformation of the Alliance. As he states, at the time of NATO's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we can say that NATO members are still interested in retaining their membership and there is great readiness for cooperation between members and non-members (or those countries that wish to become members).

**Primož Šavc**, in 'The Slovenian Experience of Defence Planning and NATO Membership', throws light on the last five years of Slovenia's membership in the Alliance and summarises the key changes which he himself has seen and are today an integral part of the independent Slovenia's 18-year history. His experience is linked to his participation in the process of Slovenia's accession to NATO and to defence planning in Slovenia and the Alliance. The author takes a very critical approach and the dilemmas and conclusions he presents, linked to theoretical bases and practical experience, may contribute to an understanding of the reality of defence planning in the future. Whether or not this will be the case remains to be seen.

Brigadier **David Humar**, Colonel **Ivan Mikuž**, Lieutenant Colonels **Samo Zanoškar** and **Dejan Groff**, and Major **Leon Holc**, in their article entitled 'Integration of the Slovenian Armed Forces in NATO and the Military Structure of the European Union', lead the reader on the path the Slovenian Armed Forces have taken so far, i.e. through the period of preparation for membership in NATO and the EU military structures as well as the Armed Forces' activities after Slovenia's accession to both integrations. The authors present the key elements of the Slovenian Armed Forces' contribution to international security structures and share with the reader their views of the future.

**Damir Črnčec, PhD**, in 'Exchange of Experiences in Intelligence and Security with the European Union and NATO', acquaints the reader with the operation of defence and security structures in NATO and the European Union and with the cooperation of intelligence and security organisations of member states with these structures, including Slovenia's contribution. He presents and emphasises the importance of cooperation which has been greatly enhanced in recent years and is one of the key pillars in the provision of national and international security.

**Anton Bebler, PhD**, has prepared an article entitled 'Slovenia's Road to NATO' in which he presents a comprehensive list of various factors which contributed to Slovenia's accession to NATO. One of the factors was undoubtedly Slovenian public opinion which, in a referendum, showed strong support for NATO membership. On the basis of public opinion polls, Bebler, PhD, ascertains that the Slovenian public is critical of the activities of the Alliance in Iraq and Afghanistan and wonders how this affects the confidence the Slovenian public has in NATO.

Major General **Alojz Šteiner**, in 'It is Time for Transformation', addresses the question of transformation, its essence and challenges, from the theoretical point of view. He claims that the transformation paradigm and transformation process

present a topical framework for the field of defence and military and at the same time wonders how to realise the two in a small country like Slovenia during the time of economic recession.

**Uroš Svete, PhD**, and Lieutenant Colonel **Zoran Jankovič**, in their article entitled 'Experience of the Republic of Slovenia in the Introduction of Network Operation Capabilities', draw attention to the importance of introducing network capabilities. They emphasise that, regardless of the size of the system which is being transformed into a network operation, such an operation requires an integrated approach and consideration of technological, doctrinal and human components, otherwise success cannot be achieved and the essence of this capability cannot be realised.

**Anton Travner**, in 'Schengen, Evolution, Enlargement and Slovenia's Entry into the Common Schengen Area', provides the reader with information on the characteristics, history and development of the Schengen area and the activities of Slovenia in relation to its establishment. The author actively participated in the establishment of the area and acquaints the reader with advantages and disadvantages of the solutions as well as with several guidelines for the future of the Schengen area.

**Bastian Giegerich, PhD**, in 'NATO Integration of European Countries: Military and Political Indicators', acquaints the reader with indicators of the member states of the Alliance, such as movements in the defence budget, the activities and participation of individual countries in international operations in crisis areas, defence reforms and the influence of public opinion. Indicators in all four areas strongly interact and are manifested differently in each member state, which in turn also affects the Alliance.

**Anton Grizold, PhD**, and **Rok Zupančič**, in 'Five Years in the Alliance and 60 Years of the Alliance: Slovenia and NATO', discuss the anniversary of the Alliance and particularly its role in Afghanistan. They are interested in whether the Alliance has proved successful in the case of Afghanistan, whether it is achieving the set objectives and whether it is still organised in a way that enables it to face modern security challenges. The authors have paid special attention to the role of Slovenia as a member of the Alliance and the EU in Afghanistan, which, according to the authors, is very important.

After sixty years of operation, NATO is searching for new methods and a fresh impetus, which is also evident in its intention to form a new NATO Strategic Concept (NSC). The published articles point to the fact that Slovenia has successfully completed the first five years of its integration in the Alliance. In accordance with its set objectives, Slovenia has introduced many changes in the field of defence and security, while many still await it, including those that present a challenge to all NATO members. The authors of this editorial have also had the opportunity to follow these changes and be part of them. They are therefore looking into the future with expectation.