

## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR

**Introduction** Contemporary security environment is becoming increasingly complex and demanding. The threats, introduced to the national security system by changed security conditions in the world, should not be ignored. Politically, socially, economically and ecologically destabilized areas, terrorist organizations, international organized crime, mass migrations and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will represent basic sources of security threats in the future. Due to the emergence of new forms of asymmetric threats to the national, and indirectly also to the international security, national security systems are faced with a demanding task; they must find appropriate methods to effectively respond to new challenges.

Capabilities of the Republic of Slovenia are limited by personnel, financial and other factors. Coordinated measures among all factors of the system are crucial for efficient performance in the defence area; therefore, the armed forces play an extremely important role in this context. Limited resources require from us to overcome narrow interests of specific individuals and groups, and ensure more rational operation of certain subjects. Only in this way can we improve the efficiency of bodies that will be able to adjust to and counter the threats posed to national security of the country. The solutions which proved appropriate and efficient in the near past are now outlived and inefficient.

Due to their specific mission and operational environment, the armed forces must intensively seek to find new methods of operation to respond to the emerging forms of threats. The latest findings and various views of scientists and practitioners represent an added value which, as a response to changing security environment, is needed by each organized system for its successful transition to new operational forms. Therefore, the following thought, expressed by Charles De Gaulle, is very much applicable to the Slovenian Armed Forces: 'We should not retain the armed forces we are used to. We must create the armed forces we need'.

Under the influence of all these challenges the Editorial Committee of the Bulletin of the Slovenian Armed Forces has decided to dedicate this issue to new findings in the area of the armed forces operation. The second issue of the Year 11 of the Bulletin has the following theme title: *Views on the armed forces operation – reflection of the present for the future*. After a long time this issue is not thematically limited and offers a wide range of articles addressing various topics from the areas which are directly or indirectly related to the armed forces, their operation and development.

In this issue of the Bulletin, articles are thematically divided into: articles, related to the wider international security environment and the operation of political-defence alliances; articles, related to the operation of the Slovenian Armed Forces in international operations and missions<sup>1</sup>; two articles which include abstracts of researches carried out within the Target Research Programme 'Knowledge for Security and Peace'; and articles, directly related to the operational environment of the Slovenian Armed Forces. In this context personnel issues are also highlighted and addressed by authors from various points of view.

Brigadier David Humar describes NATO Alliance as a political alliance with a strong military component, characterized by a diverse and multi-level structure organized on several levels. He points out that within the alliance of democratic nations, based on consensus decision-making, the armed forces do not define the policy of NATO Alliance, but represent one of the structures whose policy implementation is most obvious in the area of crisis response operations.

Commander Boris Geršak analyses threats within the international environment which are related to safe navigation on sea routes. He correctly realizes that prevention of threats to free navigation demands efficient international interoperability which, through the joint synergy, will ensure appropriate global security at the sea. He points out that in the future Slovenia should remain loyal to effective multilateralism, based on the conviction that contemporary challenges for, and threats to the international security can be solved only through close cooperation of all partners.

Major Anže Rode, Captain Drago Čevriz and Colonel Žarko Henigman in their articles express the observation that the changed strategic and security environment, Slovenian membership in NATO and the EU, as well as different tasks of the Slovenian Armed Forces demand adjustments (organizational changes) to the military intelligence activity. This is justified by the fact that commanders of Slovenian contingents, involved in operations, must take certain decisions. In doing so they are decisively supported by the military intelligence activity. The authors give special attention to the role of military intelligence during the force protection process, since commanders on various command levels, when facing threats, rely on timely and quality intelligence information.

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<sup>1</sup> This term was introduced by Defence Minister, Dr. Ljubica Jelusič, at the expert talks on participation of the Republic of Slovenia in international operations and missions, held at Brdo pri Kranju on 21 January 2009.

First Lieutenant Anica Flajnik points out that investigations of criminal offences in international operations and missions represent one of the challenges for the Ministry of Defence and its services with police powers during pre-trial criminal proceedings. One of the reasons which hinder investigations of criminal offences is geographical remoteness of Slovenian contingents involved in operations abroad, due to which specific provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act are difficult to implement. Factors with negative impact on the effective investigation of criminal offences result also from the lack of harmonization of the national legislation with the adopted NATO standards and international obligations within the Alliance.

Denis Čaleta, PhD, points out that new terrorist threats influence also the development of those educational approaches within national-security systems which could ensure more effective conduct of activities in counter-terrorism processes. He gives special attention to the significance of organizational learning and its impact on the increased awareness of counter-terrorism and its importance, and to the provision of more efficient activities. In this context national-security structures are particularly standing out, since their operational principles are based on closed and less receptive systems, rather than on dynamic, open environment, prepared for rapid changes.

As part of the Target Research Programmes, Maks Tušak, PhD, and Matej Tušak, PhD, did research on the assessment of information truthfulness, based on the human physiological response to questions, and conducted through the application of instruments, such as polygraph, peak achievement research, bio-feedback and spectral voice (system truster), and analysis of data, achieved with these assessments (MATHLAB). These procedures are already being used by laboratories for various purposes (as lie and fraud detection system), and for the assessment of the psychological condition of athletes during their psychological preparations. The goal of research is to develop a system which would enable a relatively reliable assessment of the information received, and of the speaker's identity. Its usage for military and security purposes would be of extreme importance.

Manica Jakič, PhD, presents a part of the complex research addressing social representations and organizational culture within the Slovenian Armed Forces. She addresses the issue whether perception of factors creating social atmosphere significantly differ with regard to individual categories of the Slovenian Armed Forces' members, which are connected with other four socio-demographic characteristics (education, regional origin, sex and employment status), and with regard to satisfaction with the organization and superior staff. The results of the research confirm the differences in the evaluation and perception of factors which create the atmosphere among various target groups of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Major Božo Majcen addresses current pressing problems related to workplace violence. Although the official data on the prevalence of workplace violence in Slovenia is rather scarce, we are aware that this type of violence is becoming increasingly widespread, and that the armed forces are not excluded from this social

processes. The author tries to present basic information on the reasons for the emergence of workplace violence, its forms, and various methods for its resolution.

Natalija Plemenitaš Fuchs presents her views on transition to an independent scholarship system within the Slovenian Armed Forces, suggests improvements and makes a comparative analysis of the scholarship system established within the Croatian Armed Forces. The need for a change in the scholarship system is justified by the fact that every year labour market shows less interest in the military profession, while the target population of the Slovenian Armed Forces is interesting also for other employers. Since negative demographic trends have an unfavorable impact on manning the active component of the Slovenian Armed Forces, in the future the Slovenian Armed Forces will probably recruit new personnel mainly through its scholarship system.

Lieutenant Colonel Zoran Vobič addresses the possibility of retaining the military duty, as well as the conceptual formation of the military strategic reserve. This is justified by the need for a conceptual solution which would allow for an increase of the Slovenian Armed Forces capabilities. He points out the need for long-term solutions, mainly due to negative demographic trends and a significant decrease in number of military-trained people.

In the last article Zvonko Krunić presents the results of a random sample questionnaire on the services offered by the Library and Information Centre of the Ministry of Defence, carried out at the end of 2008. The analysis shows that the most important source of information remains books and serial publications.

Only a brave man can follow a path of innovations, overcome his narrow personal interests and benefits and create, in close cooperation with his friends and colleagues, a new quality which gives hope for the future. If we are brave enough to follow this path together, we can also hope to constantly live the dream of the armed forces, created in line with the wishes of the Slovenian public.

Ljubljana, 21 April 2009