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## EDITORIAL

### SECURITY PARADIGMS

At the end of 2023, the publication Contemporary Military Challenges is marking an important anniversary. In September 1999, the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces published the first issue of the then Slovenian Armed Forces Bulletin. Next year, the copies of the publication will bear the inscription “year 25”, which makes us very proud. This will also be a year marking many important anniversaries, among which we highlight the 20th anniversary of our country's European Union and NATO membership, and 30 years since the adoption of the Defence Act. With the latter, the Slovenian Armed Forces were given their official name. Before that, the armed forces were called the Territorial Defence of the Republic of Slovenia.

There are plenty of reasons to be proud, and more will follow. At the same time, we will be facing many challenges as well. However, they should not be particularly tough nuts to crack. Looking to the future is always very much linked to looking to the past. The above-mentioned anniversaries are only a confirmation of the fact that we have successfully trodden some very important paths. And we did not do it alone, but together with others, always in a group, as a team, as a unit, as a squad, even as an editorial board.

In 2024, we expect many interesting papers related to these anniversaries, but also to other topical issues we are facing in the field of security, defence and the military. We can boast many such topics in the past years and all of us, authors, proofreaders, translators, librarians and editors, have done an excellent job. This only motivates us to do even better together and to invite other interested parties to participate in the preparation of our publication.

One of the topics we are particularly keen to cover is the transformation of the armed forces. In the context of the development of new technologies, we invite authors to

write on the transformation of the armed forces in the modern times and environment, both in terms of the impact of different technologies (artificial intelligence, unmanned vehicles, quantum technology, etc.) and changes in the organisation and functioning of the armed forces (modernisation of tactical, operational and strategic procedures; the questions concerning professional and conscript armed forces, etc.). The deadline for submissions under this theme is 11 March 2024.

The next topic which we invite authors to discuss in their papers is the geopolitical and security environment. In various parts of the world, new conflicts are emerging, and in some places almost forgotten conflicts of varying intensity are on the rise, such as in Ukraine, Israel, Pakistan, India, China and elsewhere. We would like to see more analyses of contemporary conflicts, their relevance for the development of military activities and science, possible lessons learned in the use of modern technology in direct combat, the (ir-)relevance of the international law of war, the different adaptations of armed forces to the new security situation, etc. The deadline for submissions under this theme is 15 April 2024.

The last topic we have identified as interesting and relevant for the following year is the relationship between the armed forces and the environment. Combat operations have their impact on the environment. Several authors have already written about this, using the example of the war in Ukraine, but also elsewhere. There are many factors that influence the emergence of green breakthroughs in the armed forces as well. We are referring to the energy efficiency in the armed forces, electric vehicles in military use and so on. An article in this field is published in this issue as well. The deadline for submissions under this theme is 1 June 2024.

The Editorial Board is also interested in publishing papers on other topics or as proposed by the authors.

The first contribution in this issue is by **Mihály Boda**, entitled *Proxy war: Its philosophy and ethics*. In this paper, he discusses the development of this form of warfare from a legal-ethical and philosophical perspective, focusing on the objectives and the relations between the stakeholders involved.

Considering proxy war as a part of hybrid warfare, the following paper deals with the other two aspects of hybrid warfare, namely economics and information security. **Tamás Somogyi** and **Rudolf Nagy**, in their paper *The impact of the war in Ukraine on the information security of the banking sector in the European Union - a case study of Hungary and Slovakia*, highlight the threats faced by the EU member states.

In order to be as prepared as possible for such and other threats, especially in the defence system, the role of the military education system is clearly of paramount importance. **Darko Ščavničar**, in his article *Data power in military education: awareness and understanding of learning analytics*, outlines the importance of analytics in the education process for the ongoing and definitive progress of learners.

The following article *Analysis of an armed conflict: a case study of the Lord's Resistance Army* by **Klemen Kocjančič** provides an analysis of the longest-running armed conflict between a terrorist organisation and several states on the African continent.

A related work by **Ajda Vodlan** also analyses another unconventional armed conflict, this time on European soil. *The dynamics of an (armed) conflict: the Albanian minority in the Republic of North Macedonia* deals with a multi-year conflict between different armed groups of the Albanian ethnicity and the (North) Macedonian state.

The paper by **Mitja Mori, Urban Žvar Bašković, Tomaž Kutrašnik, Robert Šipac** and **Boštjan Drobnič** focuses on the future of the armed forces. Their article *Securing autonomy of military barracks through renewable energy sources* deals with the increasingly important issue of energy efficiency and the so-called green transition.