

EDITORIAL

MILITARY KNOWLEDGE IN A
CONTEMPORARY SECURITY SETTING

We are entering the third decade of the Contemporary Military Challenges publication in the spirit of the 15th anniversary of Slovenia joining the elite international organisations, the European Union and NATO. The latter deserves even special attention, since it has been in place for as long as 70 years. The Republic of Slovenia joined this international political and military organization in 2004. A special thematic issue entitled *Fifteen years in the Alliance* will thus be published in the beginning of September as this year's third issue. The deadline for the submission of articles for this issue is 17 May 2019.

This year's second issue is dedicated to *strategic communications and armed forces*. Both thematic issues will be published in English, since we wish that the above-mentioned contents reach as many readers, experts and scientists as possible.

The last, fourth, issue in year 21 will be dedicated to the *organizational culture*, especially in the armed forces. The deadline for the submission of articles for this issue is 8 August 2019.

This year's first issue focuses on *military knowledge in a contemporary security setting*. The autumn of 2017 marked the beginning of the General Staff Course of Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) members. This was already the eighth generation of the General Staff Course in the history of the Slovenian Armed Forces and independent Slovenia. After the students completed their training in the beginning of October 2018 with a ceremony held at the Military Schools Centre, some of them decided to publish an article in the Contemporary Military Challenges.

Military knowledge was the first in the history to institutionalize knowledge, with the exception of theology, which was originally developed by the church. One of the military schools with the longest tradition is the Lisbon Military Academy, founded

in 1641. The Lithuanian Military Academy was founded in 1747 on the initiative of General Jonas Žemaitis. The Theresian Military Academy in Austria is considered to be the oldest military academy in Europe. It was founded by Maria Theresa in 1751. The Royal Military Academy in the Netherlands has been in existence since 1826. The Royal Military Academy in Belgium was founded in 1834. The National Defence Academy is the successor to the royal and imperial military school founded by the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph in 1852.

The beginnings of organized education and training in the Slovenian Armed Forces date back to 1991, more precisely to 16 December 1991, when the first military school in the independent state was established, namely the Non-Commissioned Officer School. The school formed a part of the training centre of the Ministry of Defence.

In 1993, the Non-Commissioned Officer School was joined by the Command and Staff School, Officer Candidate School, and the School for Military Unit Officers. In 1995, the training centre was renamed the Military Schools Centre, which in 1999 became an integral part of the Slovenian Armed Forces. In 2004, the Doctrine, Development, Education and Training Command (DDETC) was established in order to integrate military education and training with scientific and research work in the field of military science and doctrines, thus giving the possibility of directly introducing the new military knowledge into practice through the school system. The DDETC integrated the Military Schools Centre and the Doctrine and Development Working Group. In 2007, it moved from the premises in the Ljubljana district of Šentvid to the Kadetnica military facility in Tabor, Maribor. The history of Kadetnica (former Cadet School) dates back to the reformation of the Austrian army, which began in 1848. In November 1918, to the proposal of General Rudolf Maister, Lieutenant Colonel Davorin Žunkovič became the new commander of the military secondary school. The classes in the first Slovenian military school began on 3 December 1918 and were given in Slovene and Serbo-Croatian languages, unfortunately, only for a short period of time.

After 2004, when Slovenia became a fully fledged member of the European Union, much has changed in the area of military education, training and further training. The international exchange of military knowledge in a wide variety of forms has intensified. The exchange of students and lecturers between the armed forces is the most basic form of cooperation in this field, followed by the exchange of good practices and joint activities in military exercises, which serve as the preparation for joint action in the international security environment or, more specifically, in international operations and missions. Work within a country's representation offices in international organizations and working bodies is a unique test of theoretical knowledge and practice. The writing of complex scientific and professional texts, however, is regarded as a more noble way of displaying one's knowledge, practice, worldliness and perceptions.

In the Slovenian Armed Forces, the texts of students from various military schools are most often published in the SAF publication *Vojaškošolski zbornik* (Military School Journal), which is dedicated to this purpose. In 2018, the 13th issue of the journal was published, which points to the fact that the potential for prose and poetry, which was demonstrated by General Rudolf Maister as early as at the beginning of the last century, still sits with the Slovenian military personnel. The General Staff Course is the highest level in the hierarchy of military education, so we decided to devote the first issue of this year primarily to the contents of the articles written by the last generation students.

Slovenian Armed Forces up to 2025 and beyond is the title of the article by **Franjo Lipovec**. In his article, he focused on NATO's DOTMLPF-I methodology, which he used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and proposed the recommendations for the functioning of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the future in the area of system consolidation, preparation of a vision, integration, modernization and flexible structure of units as well as financial stability and sustainability.

Aleksander Vidergar writes about *The role of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the implementation of foreign policy interests and goals of the Republic of Slovenia*. He examined Slovenia's strategic documents and tried to establish which of them do or do not mention the Slovenian Armed Forces, and in connection with which foreign policy interests and goals they mention it. The Slovenian Armed Forces has been relatively active in the international security environment. Its contribution has been particularly appreciated within the European Union and the Alliance in the post-2004 period after its participation in various international operations and missions. More about how the Slovenian Armed Forces contributes to the realization of foreign policy interests and goals of the state, and how it could additionally contribute to them, can be read in the article.

The Slovenian Armed Forces also participated in the migration crisis of 2015. In his article titled *The role of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the event of a complex crisis in the Republic of Slovenia*, **Boštjan Novak** writes about the SAF's position and experiences in the crisis response activities. The migration crisis as vast as in 2015 has passed. We have learned a lot and it is appropriate that, in the future, these experiences are taken into consideration in the country's strategic documents, planning and organization of the national security system as well as in other areas.

Bogomir Tomažič believes that the 25th anniversary of the SAF naval unit is a milestone, which requires us to thoroughly think and plan the future path of the maritime branch. The aim is to enable the branch to use the adequate political support and cooperation at both national and international levels in times of limited human and financial resources to maintain the ability to carry out its mission and tasks, as well as to upgrade them. In this way, it could ensure its greater integration and

visibility as a cornerstone of maritime safety in the Republic of Slovenia. How this goal can be achieved, is explained in the article *Development of the Slovenian Armed Forces maritime branch and the implementation of the Slovenian defence strategy*.

Participation of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the helicopter medical services system is an article of the author, who personally takes part in military helicopter rescue activities. **Igor Lanišnik** proposes a few changes in the system of providing helicopter medical services, in order to contribute to the greatest possible effectiveness of the coordination between the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Police. In the Republic of Slovenia, the provision of such services is regulated differently than in other countries, which is a unique challenge.

According to **Viktor Potočnik**, the airborne capability is good, because its members are subject to a stricter selection and with the status they represent they thus attract more motivated and better qualified personnel. This status is again associated with the demanding training and selection procedures. Parachute jumps and special equipment are not necessary elements to develop a high *esprit de corps*, which is rightly attributed to airborne units. What else is necessary to achieve this, can be read in the article titled *Airborne capabilities and the Slovenian Armed Forces*. The author of this article is the only one in this issue, who was not the student of the last generation of the General Staff Course.

Readers of the Contemporary Military Challenges are invited to read about the authors' acquired military knowledge and to contribute their own ideas and views. Should you decide to do write for us, the instructions for authors published at the end of this publication can be of assistance to you.