

EDITORIAL

USE CHALLENGES TO APPROACH NEW CHALLENGES

Dear readers and authors of the Slovenian Armed Forces Bulletin,

The SAF Bulletin does not exist anymore. It has become history. You are looking at the first issue of Contemporary Military Challenges. By changing the name of the publication, published by the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces, we are implementing the Editorial Board strategy announced last year. This concludes the process of introducing a new image and better quality on the basis of new 2009 standards, which contributed a great deal to our success in 2010 – classification of the publication into an international data base.

By changing the name of the publication, we set foundation for a better recognisability of the publication in Slovenian and international expert public. The former title “SAF Bulletin” conveyed a message that the publication was an internal newsletter of the Slovenian Armed Forces informing about the owner of the newsletter. The new name, on the other hand, communicates that this is a military publication dealing with the studies of contemporary problems and phenomena which can represent a challenge for military and security organisations, governments, policies and societies. Researchers and readers interested in military matters will be able to easily come across this main military publication in the Republic of Slovenia, also when searching by the names of publications.

The name has changed, but the strategy remains the same. Our wish is to at least maintain the hitherto level of quality. Contemporary Military Challenges will support the development of the Slovenian military intelligentsia and allow for critical debate on contemporary trends and dilemmas about the development of armed forces, defence and security systems and warfare. In this respect, we will strive to increase the rate of scientific articles, especially by the authors from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia. Our wish is also to increase cooperation with

the authors from similar foreign publications. However, our main wish is to contribute to the exchange of critical views on the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces and Slovenian defence system. The latter two subjects will also be discussed in this year's second issue, which will, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Slovenia, contribute our share to the assessment of our current situation and future orientation. You are all kindly invited to join us and contribute your expert and critical views on the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

In the preparation of the current issue, we have worked towards a goal established last year, which is to publish an issue with predominantly natural science articles.

Marko Jordan and **Janez Hafner** present virtual simulation training systems and the results of two projects, which dealt with their comparison, their possible use with the training systems of the Slovenian Armed Forces and their importance for trainings and exercises of armed forces.

Mihael Nagelj deals with new warfare concepts enabled by information and communication technologies. He establishes that the success of changes depends not only on technology integration, but mainly on the agents utilizing the information domain to influence the decision-making process and consequently the physical effects of the military mission.

Aleksej Jerman Blažič deals with electronic confidentiality labelling, presenting the latest developments in technology and standardization within NATO in the field of secure data interchange between domains and focusing on techniques of electronic confidentiality labelling.

Barbara Hubad, Maja Berden Zrimec, Aleksis Zrimec and **Aleš Lapajne** determine that timely and proper detection of biological hazards is essential for providing support and protection to the warrior or civilian population during hostilities, epidemics, disasters or terrorist acts. The established procedures were tested by identifying the source of unpleasant smell in bottled water.

Janez Hafner takes interest in quality management and control of major investments. The author participated in a project, where the development of information systems was chosen to be used as a raw model. The nature of IS development shows that such systems prove to be the most complicated since they actively interfere with the processes and the organisational structure. A hybrid has been developed on the basis of best practice.

Avdulla Pelaj and **Teodora Ivanuša** try to find the answers to why, how and where Weapons of Mass Destruction could be used in the Republic of Slovenia and by whom. They analyse the legal bases and the appropriateness of planning defence against this type of weapons, also offering certain improvements.

Marjan Zupančič finds that single command authority and subordination are the two basic principles underlying the hierarchical arrangement of a military organisation, which also includes military attachés. A wide range of roles and duties assumed by attachés in the international environment can cause deviation from the established domestic procedures.

Maj Fritz presents the international code of conduct for private security and military companies, which includes recommendations for countries and private companies regarding the arrangement of status, operation, surveillance and responsibility of such companies, since the majority of states do not have the adequate legislation to regulate this.

Nejc Lahne deals with the status of combatant in the international law on armed conflict, the phenomenon of the so-called unlawful combatants and the status of members of private military and security companies. The author assumes a critical approach to the status of combatants in the international armed conflict in Afghanistan.

In his article, **Branko Urbanč** considers the contribution made by spiritual care in the Slovenian Armed Forces especially during the deployment of servicemembers abroad, where they deal with completely different kinds of problems, needs and challenges.

The issue concludes with a review of a book published in 2009 by the George Marshall Center and edited by Sabine Collmer. With this contribution, we introduce a new section in our publication and kindly invite all to participate.