

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Ten years after the decision has been made on a gradual cancellation of conscription and the formation of professional armed forces complemented by voluntary reserve, questions occurred how successful the professionalization of the Slovenian Armed Forces had been. Has the objective set with the professional armed forces project (PROVOJ) been attained or is the professionalization, as one of the authors in this issue claims, only a path and never the end state – a path to the establishment of the profession of arms.

Today, the Slovenian Armed Forces became what it has been planned to become – predominantly professional armed forces. How close or how far is the Slovenian Armed Forces from the profession of arms and what are its characteristics and challenges? These are only a few of the questions we attempted to answer in the present issue – the questions which will have to be answered by the officer and NCO corps. Those two groups of people which are perhaps satisfied with the fact that we constitute nothing but one more group of state officials in public administration, or maybe wish to build the profession of arms – such with identifiable relations, characteristic of a military organisation, and organisational culture, but mainly with explicit care and responsibility towards expert authority. A profession with identifiable military intelligentsia – such possessed by other social spheres, such as health care, which, in addition to undeniable expert authority, has also managed to establish a large degree of immunity against politics.

How close we are to finding the answers to the questions about today's military professionalism and profession is also evident from the messages the authors have provided in this issue's articles. We in the editorial board admit to have had greater

ambitions and expectations regarding the responsiveness of Slovenian Armed Forces members. Indeed, the response can be one of the indicators showing the situation after ten years.

Igor Kotnik based his article *Professionalization of the Slovenian Armed Forces – a goal or a path* on the project Transition to Professional Armed Forces Complemented with Contractual Reserve (PROVOJ) which started in 2003. The author defines today's situation and wonders how we should continue in the given circumstances and with the restrictions he divides into nine thematic challenges.

In his article *Military profession and a professional officer yesterday, today and tomorrow* **Viktor Potočnik** tries to answer the questions how the terms profession of arms and professional officer are defined today and how the Slovenian Armed Forces should tackle the question of profession of arms and professional officer development.

The article by **Mojca Pešec** and **Uroš Krek** *Can the process of professional military education create military strategists* presents the authors' views of the education programmes for military strategists in Slovenia from the theoretical and practical point of view. The authors also substantiate the need for more intensive and better quality strategic theory study programmes.

Slovenian military history tradition and military history memory were discussed by **Vladimir Prebilič** and **Jelena Juvan** in their article *(Non)existence of Slovenian military identity*, where they established who in fact was fit to define Slovenian military tradition and how it would be strengthened in the future.

Žarko Henigman and **Anže Rode** claim that the main purpose of their article entitled *Guidelines for the development of 21st century intelligence and security activities* was to analyse the functioning of intelligence and security sector in the Republic of Slovenia in the field of defence and to propose several solutions for a more rational and better quality performing of the mission, adapted to new challenges.

In the article *Fire support management systems in modern armed forces* **Jurij Jurtela** highlights the importance of the development of such systems at a national level and their interoperability with fire support management systems of other countries to provide an effective joint effort in the international environment.

Dear readers of Contemporary Military Challenges, the aim of this thematic issue is to once again motivate you to think about and take part in the development of new contributions with topical military and defence subjects.