



EDITOR'S NOTE

The second issue of 2024, volume number 91, comprises a collection of eight articles which deal with timely research findings within the realm of defence and security concepts, NATO and EU: policies, strategies and actions, trends and perspectives in geopolitics and geostrategy, intelligence studies, and aspects concerning emerging technologies. The edition continues with an interview with Vice Amiral Mihai Panait, PhD, Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces, followed by the *Book Review*, *Scientific Event* and *Guide for authors* rubrics.

The first rubric, *Defence and Security Concepts*, brings to our readers' attention an article written by our colleague, Mrs. **Alexandra Sarcinschi**, PhD, Senior Researcher, which explores the importance of incorporating risk perception assessment into evaluating the impact of climate change on national security's societal dimension with the aim of creating a framework to guide future strategies and policies. The analysis emphasizes that climate change is just one factor contributing to a broader "permacrisis" which increases public stress and anxiety, and, based on existing surveys, the author draws some conclusions that outline key components for a framework to analyse climate change-related risks.

The second article, signed by Lieutenant-colonel **George-Ion Toroi**, PhD, highlights the role of deception in military operations, using the 2022 Kharkiv counteroffensive as a case study. By providing a detailed analysis of the strategies used, the author stresses the effectiveness of deception in modern warfare and extracts key lessons for future military planning, while also presenting the theoretical aspects of military deception and its influence on the outcome of the Kharkiv campaign, confirming enduring principles and methods used in the operation.

The heading *NATO and EU: Policies, Strategies, Actions*, encompasses two articles: first, signed by Mrs. **Ilinca-Smaranda Cioată**, analyses Euro-Atlantic relations, pointing out that although cooperation between Europe and the United States is in question, a short-term political, military or economic rupture would have serious consequences at the global level; in the long term, the EU could become more militarily independent, but not completely. The paper focuses on the relationship between the EU and NATO, using the recent strategic documents of 2022 (EU Strategic Compass and NATO Strategic Concept) and the 2023 Joint Declaration, which reflect joint responses to new challenges. The objective is to emphasize the transatlantic partnership as an essential element of stability through common security and defence strategies.



The second paper under this rubric is written by Mrs. **Andreea Dincă**, and examines the EU-Africa partnership in the field of peace and security, highlighting EU's active role as a supporter and funder of African initiatives at national, regional and continental levels. Even though current discussions place this partnership in the context of global power competition, the article examines the explanatory role of the concept of strategic culture in this field, assessing events and trends after 2022 to determine whether EU actions in Africa reflect a coherent strategic culture. The paper concludes this approach helps to understand the EU's preferences, constraints and effectiveness in its security behaviour in Africa.

In the third rubric, *Geopolitics and Geostrategy: Trends and Perspectives*, the article written by Captain (N) Professor **Lucian-Valeriu Scipanov**, PhD, in co-authorate with Lieutenant (N) Junior Grade, Engineer, **Marian-Vasile Sava**, examines the complex environment of the seabed to highlight the importance of its control in maritime security. The authors explore the concept of "warfare on the bottom of the sea" and propose directions for the development of a specific doctrine or as part of a broader naval doctrine. The novelty of the article consists in the identification of the necessary directions for the control of the seabed and the possibility of integrating this concept into the doctrine of the Romanian Naval Forces.

Starting with this edition, we have included a new rubric in the journal, namely the *Emerging Technologies*, which comprises two articles. The first, signed by Captain **Ionela Cătălina Manolache**, deals with the need for precise and adaptive protection measures in the current security environment, with a focus on safeguarding the transatlantic area, while highlighting the role of emerging and disruptive technologies in achieving this goal. Through documentary analysis, the paper explores how military leaders plan for the rapid movement of forces to potential conflict zones, emphasizing the importance of force protection and the integration of advanced technologies in meeting these efforts.

The second article, written by Colonel Engineer **Petru-Eduart Dodu**, PhD, stresses the growing impact of drones on various aspects of life. What once seemed unimaginable is now reality, with drones playing a crucial role in conducting atmospheric research, monitoring pollution and hazardous zones, improving domestic infrastructure surveillance, and enhancing military reconnaissance, leading to easier victories in conflicts. Conclusions lead to the fact that drone development continues, promising even greater advancements in the future.

In the *Intelligence Studies* rubric, we have included an article signed by Mr. **Cristian Condruț**, that emphasizes the increasing interest in cybersecurity education among public and private institutions, reflected in the availability of various academic and training programs. As cyberintelligence emerges as a critical subfield of both intelligence and national security, there is a pressing need for education and training



to develop analysts capable of addressing cybersecurity threats. The findings of the research indicate that high-priority competencies blend both intelligence and cybersecurity skills, with analytical and context-dependent abilities being the most significant. The paper also provides examples of educational practices that can be implemented to enhance these critical competencies.

Within the *Strategic Dialogue* rubric, we had the honour to interview Vice Admiral **Mihai Panait**, PhD, the Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces, on the security situation in the Black Sea in these challenging times.

Through the *Book Review* rubric, we want to bring to the readers' attention *Security Perception and Security Policy in Central Europe, 1989-2019*, a book edited by Mr. Tamas Csiki Vargha, and reviewed by our colleague, **Mihai Zodian**, PhD, Researcher.

The *Scientific Event* rubric briefly presents aspects from International Seminar "Lessons Identified from the Conflict in Ukraine", held by CDSSS on May 16th, 2024, in a hybrid format.

Also, this edition includes the *Guide for authors*, a mandatory reading for those who wish to disseminate the research results in our journal.

For those discovering *Strategic Impact* for the first time, the publication is an open-access peer reviewed journal, edited by the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies and published with the support of "Carol I" National Defence University Publishing House, and, also, a prestigious scientific journal in the field of military sciences, information and public order, according to the National Council for the Accreditation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU).

Strategic Impact is an academic publication in the field of strategic defence and security studies. The journal has been published since 2000 in Romanian, and since 2005 in English, print and online. The journal is currently published exclusively in English. The articles are checked for plagiarism and scientifically evaluated (double blind peer review method). The thematic areas include political science, international relations, geopolitics, the political-military sphere, international organizations – with a focus on NATO and the EU information society, cyber security, intelligence studies, military history, and emerging technologies. Readers will find in the pages of the publication strategic-level analyses, syntheses and evaluations, views that explore the impact of national, regional and global dynamics.

In terms of international visibility – the primary objective of the publication – the recognition of the scientific quality of the journal is confirmed by its indexing in the international databases CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library, Germany), EBSCO (USA), Index Copernicus (Poland), ProQuest (USA), and WorldCat and ROAD ISSN, as well as its presence in the virtual catalogues of the libraries of prestigious institutions abroad, such as NATO and military universities in Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia etc.



The journal is distributed free of charge in main institutions in the field of security and defence, in the academia and abroad – in Europe, Asia and America.

In the end, we encourage those interested in publishing in our journal to rigorously survey and assess the dynamics of the security environment and, at the same time, we invite students, master students and doctoral candidates to submit articles for publication in the monthly supplement of the journal, *Strategic Colloquium*, available at URL: <http://cssas.unap.ro/ro/cs.htm>, indexed in the international database CEEOL, Google scholar and ROAD ISSN.

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