

Editor's Word

Dear readers,

You are holding the first edition of the *Strategos* journal for 2024, into which the editorial team and authors have invested a great deal of effort. This issue is being released slightly later than planned due to a change in ownership. The journal is now published by the University of Defence and Security "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" in collaboration with the Croatian Military Academy.

This edition also features a wide array of papers, with six articles covering a highly interesting selection of topics. The first is a review by young researcher Trlin, who tackles the topic of firefighting in his paper titled "*Optimization Possibilities for Volunteer Firefighter Alarm Processes: A Case Study of the Trnje Volunteer Fire Department*". The author writes about volunteer firefighting as a key element of the homeland security system, with the primary purpose of extinguishing fires and rescuing people, property, and animals during natural and other disasters.

The second paper, authored by Tomašević, Čutić, and Trzun, titled "*Situational Awareness and Strategic Culture*", presents strategic culture and situational awareness through the analysis of scientific sources. Using Ukraine as an example, the paper demonstrates how incomplete situational awareness can lead to flawed thinking and, ultimately, tragically wrong decisions.

In the third paper, "*The Failure of the JNA's Strategic Campaign Against Croatia in September 1991*", authors Kostanjevac, Benković, and Krertić explain the scale of the armed rebellion in Western Slavonia and the role it played in the JNA's military leadership's plan to crush Croatia.

Kinder, in his work "*Obstruction of Humanitarian Convoys as a Violation of International Law – A Case Study of the 'White Road' Convoy*", examines the strategic context of the armed conflict that led to the formation of the Croatian convoy "White Road for Nova Bila and Silver Bosnia" in late 1993. The

author concludes that the “White Road” convoy had a legitimate and lawful purpose, was properly prepared and approved at the appropriate decision-making levels, and was carried out impartially and without discrimination.

The final paper in this issue, authored by Tomašević and Ćutić, “*Strategic Forecasting as a Prerequisite for Timely Response*”, provides insights into the processes and analytics of strategic forecasting as a key concept and tool for making effective and timely decisions.

In conclusion, I proudly recommend the articles in this first joint edition by the University of Defence and Security and the Croatian Military Academy to our readership. I also take this opportunity to invite other authors to contribute papers from their areas of expertise to help raise the quality of the works published in *Strategos*.

Editor-in-Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'C. B.' or similar, written in a cursive style.