

Liliana Brožič

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EDITORIAL

MODERN WARFARE

Introduction

In the last two and a half years, modern warfare has completely captured the attention of the national and global public. Two war zones in particular, the renewed outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, have dominated. Both are characterised by the fact that the world public and its organizations have been completely helpless in their search for solutions that would succeed, at least temporarily if not permanently, in stopping the fighting and in organizing the various processes in support of the search for diplomatic and international solutions.

The parties involved are divided into those who have no way of helping themselves and those who do not respect international agreements, international law, human rights and many other world-view and democratic postulates.

In September 2024, the UN General Assembly approved a non-binding draft resolution calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories within one year, in line with the opinion of the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The resolution was supported by 124 of the 193 UN members, 43 abstained and 14 voted against. According to the new President of the General Assembly, Philemon Yang, the General Assembly and the UN Security Council have an obligation to end Israel's unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to ensure justice and the rule of law (UN, 2024). The way to achieve this is not yet known.

1 NEW WAYS OF WARFARE

While the international community seeks diplomatic, international law-related and peacekeeping solutions, modern warfare in practice is constantly evolving, refining and taking on new dimensions. The experience of the use of Turkish drones in Syria, Libya, Nagorno-Karabakh and Ukraine shows that such systems are highly effective

and bring important innovations to the theory and practice of warfare (Besenyő and Málnácssy, 2024).

In early 2023, Russia was surprised to learn that a large-scale missile attack by Makiivka in the Ukrainian region of Donbas was the reason for the increased use of mobile phones by Russian soldiers on the New Year's eve. This allegedly allowed the Ukrainian side to locate and pinpoint the coordinates of the location of the military personnel for the missile attack (BBC, 2024a).

In September 2024, the media reported that the pagers exploded while Hezbollah members were using them, causing fatalities. Further, hand-held radios used by the Hezbollah have also exploded (BBC, 2024b).

Daily reports from Ukraine show casualties and sophisticated forms of drone warfare causing increasing damage. In Zaporizhzhia, 22 such drones were counted in only one night, while the Russian side reported 125 Ukrainian drones (Reuters, 2024).

One of the important factors in warfare is certainly the hybrid warfare taking place in cyberspace. This type of warfare is not new. According to Štruel (2022), it has been in use for a long time. It has, however, reached its greatest proportions in the period before the Russian military attack on Ukraine and is still developing intensively.

Modern warfare thus uses not only classical forms of warfare with the latest weapons and equipment (Šlebir, 2022), but also entirely new ways of harming the enemy as much as possible. In doing so, those fighting the battle are working hard to minimize the direct involvement of human resources, which they are trying to replace with various devices and links between them.

Lessons learned encourage us to respond appropriately to modern warfare. Not only in the sense of being prepared for such and similar innovations, but also to have the right strategic edge in the modern theatre of war.

How to gain the edge is the focus of Mario Draghi's report, which, in order to make Europe more competitive, focuses on the entirely new European environment in which it finds itself, on the importance of closing its innovation gap, on its common decarbonisation and its competitive agenda, on its increased security and reduced dependence on others, on its increased financial investment and on its strengthened governance. Within these themes, it also focuses on the importance of strengthening Europe's defence industry, without which its security and defence cannot be guaranteed (Draghi, 2024).

One of the important factors in ensuring Europe's security is European mobility, an area where Fiott (2024) believes we should focus more on the logistical aspect. Advances in this area, in his view, can make a significant contribution to the advantages of modern warfare.

2 MODERN WARFARE FROM THE AUTHORS' PERSPECTIVE

Chinedu Simplicius Udeh in his article *Nigerian military and counter-insurgency operations in North-East Nigeria: an assessment* provides an analysis of the Nigerian Armed Forces' long-standing operations against terrorist and insurgent groups such as Boko Haram and the West African Province of the Islamic State. The paper is based on document analysis and field research.

The article *Airspace Master - A Winner* by **Matic Baliž** and **Vladimir Prebilič** is based on the premise that airspace mastery is a prerequisite for winning a war, as it allows military tasks to be carried out with greater freedom and efficiency. During the Russian offensive on Ukraine, there was an expectation that Russia would secure air superiority, but this did not happen, which had a significant impact on the course of the war in Ukraine.

Balancing the requirements of military readiness and environmental protection is key to the successful management of the environmental aspect of civil-military relations. In the paper titled *The environmental aspect of civil-military relations: opportunities and challenges for the Slovenian Armed Forces*, **Silvo Grčar**, **Andrej Sotlar** and **Katja Eman** explore the views of SAF unit commanders. These reflect a positive ecological attitude, objectively perceiving certain impacts of military activities on the environment.

World champions in training: Germany's difficult relationship with its military special operations forces is an article by **Anna M. Gielas**, which examines examples of far-right extremism in the German Army's Special Forces Command that have been making international headlines for several years. The public outrage in Germany and the demand for change have provided an opportunity to restructure not only these, but all German military special operations forces.

On 7 October 2023, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a major joint offensive against Israel. In parallel with the kinetic attacks, various cyber threat actors attributed to Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and Russia launched cyber attacks against Israeli IT systems in the commercial, industrial and government sectors. **Tal Pavel** analyses cyber-attacks and Israeli counter-measures in the field of cyber-security in his article *Avoiding a "Digital 7 October": a study on cyberwarfare against Israel during the October 2023 war*.

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email: liliana.brozic@mors.si

ORCID: 0000-0002-0508-2477

Izred. prof. dr. Liliana Brožič je doktorirala na Fakulteti za državne in evropske študije Nove univerze. Na Ministrstvu za obrambo Republike Slovenije je zaposlena od leta 1996. Delala je na področjih obveščevalnovarnostne dejavnosti, kadrov, vojaškega izobraževanja in usposabljanja ter odnosov z javnostmi. Od leta 2009 je urednica Sodobnih vojaških izzivov. Od leta 2022 je vodja Oddelka za vojaško tehnologijo, raziskave in razvoj. Dodatno je zaposlena kot dekanja na Fakulteti za državne in evropske študije. Habilitirana je na področju varnostnih študij.

Assoc. Prof. Liliana Brožič, PhD, holds a PhD from the Faculty of Government and European Studies of the New University. She has worked at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia since 1996 in the fields of intelligence and security, human resources, military education and training, and public relations. Since 2009, she has been the editor of the Contemporary Military Challenges. Since 2022, she has been Head of the Military Technology, Research and Development Section. She also works as Dean of the Faculty of Government and European Studies. She holds a habilitation in Security Studies.

e-mail: liliana.brozic@mors.si

ORCID: 0000-0002-0508-2477

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