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This is a peer reviewed annual research publication published by the Military Academy of Lithuania in cooperation with Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The main objective of this publication is to provide readers with a wide-scale analysis and generalization of the changes, both essential and significant, in the national security of Lithuania at the international–systemic, regional, and national levels. The yearbook also aims to give maximum emphasis to the specificity of Lithuanian national security issues and comprehensively present them to a widely interested and concerned audience.

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Preface

The Strategic Research Centre of the Military Academy of Lithuania, together with its partners at Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University, presents for readers the twelfth volume of the *Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review*, devoted to security problems in Lithuania, Europe and the world in 2013. Attention is basically focused on themes that call for significant research and insight.

The first part of the *Review*, titled “The Global International System and Lithuania”, presents two studies. Vytautas Butrimas, the author of the first article, titled “National Security and International Policy Challenges in a Post *Stuxnet* World”, surveys cyber threats to national security and presents three variants of the solution to the problem as well as possible models for managing this disruptive activity of states in cyberspace at the international level. In the second article “Critical Security Studies in the 21st Century: Any Directions for Lithuanian Security Studies?” Dovilė Jakniūnaitė, seeking to suggest new and different guidelines for the research of Lithuanian security policy, presents the latest research and discussions on security studies and explores three topics – analysis of security through the concepts of risk, exceptionality and media – that have become particularly urgent talking-points in recent years and which have provided innovative insights in security studies.

The second part of this publication, titled “Changing European Security System”, is comprised of three studies. A somewhat nontraditional study by Žygimantas Pavilionis “The First Decade of Lithuania in the European Union: between Meta-political Values and ‘Pragmatic’ Politics” should pique readers’ interests and provoke discussion. In it the author critically reflects upon the decade-long experience of Lithuania’s presence in the European Union; he believes that it is pragmatic-technocratic in nature and proposes to enrich it with a meta-political, values-based strategic dimension, the model for which could be the European policy of the Holy See. Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, the author of this section’s second article, devoted to the eurozone crisis and differentiation in the European Union, seeks an answer to the question of what threat these phenomena pose to the goals of the Union, estimates possibilities to coordinate national interests and formulates the main policy dilemmas emerging for Lithuania. The third text of this part, prepared by
Valerij Špak, discusses Turkey’s “Strategic Depth” doctrine and other foreign policy principles of this country. Taking into consideration the fact that Turkey’s accession to the European Union is a complicated and controversial political issue, a better understanding of the reasoning model and decision-making logic of the political elite of this country will enable European Union politicians (as well as those of Lithuania) to make well substantiated decisions.

The third part of the journal is traditionally devoted to Eastern neighbors of Lithuania. However, in 2013, no less interesting processes were developing in other countries neighboring Lithuania as well. Therefore, we have decided to expand the rubric this time and, apart from Eastern neighbors, to dwell on other countries bordering on Lithuania. The first article, developed by Andžej Pukšto, Ieva Karpavičiūtė and Mindaugas Norkevičius, focuses on the dynamics of Lithuanian–Polish strategic partnership. The article analyses the development of the political dialogue of the countries, strategic cooperation, security and defense policy, cooperation in economy and energy areas as well as problems of ethnic minorities in bilateral relations. In his study “Security Policy at Road’s End?”, which discusses the roles of Sweden and Finland in the Nordic-Baltic Defence Co-operation Process, Mike Winnerstig points out that the political elite of Sweden as well as the general public have essentially begun to seriously consider the possible membership of the country in NATO, whereas nothing of the kind can be said about Finland so far. Raimonds Rublovskis’s article “Latvian Security and Defense Policy in the 21st Century Security Environment” surveys the fundamental factors which shape and in essence model the security and defense policy of the Republic of Latvia. Finally, the fourth article of this group of texts, “The Impact of Force Structures and the Army on Maintaining the Regime in Belarus”, written by Jovita Neliupšienė and Valentinas Beržiūnas, explores the connections between the Belarus force structures and the stability of the present regime.

The fourth part of the journal is traditionally dedicated to national security issues. It is comprised of three studies. The first in line is an article by Asta Maskaliūnaitė entitled “Sharing the Burden? Assessing Lithuania’s Decision to Establish a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan”. In her work, the author comes to the conclusion that the participation of Lithuania in NATO International Security Support Force can be explained by such a systemic factor as the dependence on the Alliance, while Lithuania’s decision to assume the responsibility for commanding the Provincial Reconstruction Team is best explained by strategic cultural peculiarities of the time and factors of bureaucratic policy. The study by Agnietė Žotkevičiūtė “The Manifestation
of Cultural Awareness of Military Personnel Participating in International Operations” assesses the manifestation of cultural awareness of Lithuanian military personnel that have participated in international operations and provides recommendations concerning further development of cultural awareness of Lithuanian military personnel. The study “Banking System Stability and Public Security: the Collapse Cases of the Commercial Banks Snoras and Ūkio bankas in Lithuania” by Liudas Mažylis and Ingrida Unikaitė-Jakuntavičienė completes the fourth part of Volume 12 of the Review. The primary subject of this article is the information about the collapse of Snoras (2011) and Ūkio bankas (2013) found in Lithuanian mass media and its impact on society in terms of the perception of security.

We wish our readers interesting reading in the new research offered in this volume of the Review. Please note that this and previous volumes of the Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review can be found online at the website of our Open Access publisher De Gruyter as well as at the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania web page.

Vilnius, June 2014

Editor-in-Chief

Volume 12 articles are available at:

For printed version please address the Military Academy of Lithuania