This is a peer reviewed annual research publication published by the Military Academy of Lithuania in co-operation 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 Lithuanian Military Academy, alongside its partners in Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University, presents their readers the thirteenth volume of the „Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review“, devoted to security problems of Lithuania and the Baltics in 2014-2015. Attention is again focused on urgent themes that call for significant research and insight. Continuing a long-lasting tradition, we have classified the twelve studies presented in the journal into four main parts.

The first part, „The Global International System and Lithuania“, presents two papers. Egidijus Vareikis writes in his article about recently more and more widely used future research methods, and presents certain conclusions about what the twenty first century will be like. The author draws the readers’ attention to the fact that in the abundant literature on future strategies, it is nonetheless still possible to distinguish several stereotypical models or even visions of the future world. Co-authors Vincentas Vobolevičius and Greta Gerazimaitė chose a metaphorical title for their article, “Of Iron or Wax? The Effect of Economic Integration on the Reliability of Military Alliances”. The article aims to establish whether the economic integration of states that have entered into a military alliance enhances the reliability and effectiveness of the alliance in the case of aggression. The researchers emphasize that the scope of trading interacts in an interesting way with other conventional reliability factors of a military alliance, such as the coincidence of interests and values of alliance members or the symmetry of the military power.

The second part of this publication, “The Changing European Security Area”, is also comprised of two studies. Philippes Perchoc, a French political analyst interested in the Baltic States, prepared an article devoted to the attitude of French diplomacy to the region of Eastern Europe, which is very significant for the foreign policy of Lithuania and includes Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and the South Caucasus. The author underlines that the region has always been of secondary importance in French diplomacy, with the exception of those cases when problems of this region would grant the possibility to emphasize the role of Paris in international relations. The second study in this part is by Vaidotas Urbelis. It is devoted to the modes of action of small states within the common security and defence policy of NATO and the EU. According to the author, small NATO and EU members can successfully implement their interests in the alliances if they follow a purposeful strategy while opera-
ting at various levels. The author's conclusions are first of all illustrated by the example of Lithuania's activity in NATO and the EU common security and defence policy.

The focus of the third part of the journal, “Lithuania's Eastern Neighbourhood”, is on Russia, the largest Eastern neighbor, who most significantly changed its foreign and security policy in 2014. Russia’s policy has drawn the attention of three researchers for this issue. Eikas Kaukas explores the interrelations of Russia’s aggressive foreign policy and the material resources at its disposal, including the armed forces. Daivis Petraitis, an international expert, shares his insights on the peculiarities of Russia's military reform. Finally, Ainas Razma, a new researcher, assesses the impact of Russia's policy changes on the stability of the region of Central Asia.

The fourth part of the “Review” traditionally analyzes urgent aspects, issues and cases of the national security of Lithuania. This time, readers have the opportunity to become acquainted with five studies. With the beginning of Russia's aggression in Ukraine in 2014, historian Vytautas Jokubauskas directs his attention to the development and perspective of military security means complex of the Republic of Lithuania. In his article, he analyzes changes in the financing, personnel planning and material support of the Army of the Republic of Lithuania throughout the past quarter century, starting from its restoration and to 2014. The influence of the war in Ukraine on the priorities of Lithuania’s security and defence policy is analyzed by young researchers Linas Kojala and Vytautas Keršanskas. Lawyer Kristina Kenstaivičienė explores the constitutional basis of compulsory military service and the constitutionality of certain ordinary regulation provisions concerning national military service. In his article Deividas Šlekys surveys how in Lithuania the intellectual reflection is being developed during which the following fundamental issues are raised: what is war, how is the nature of warfare changing, how does this affect and change the defence policy(s) of Lithuania and its allies. In the article “Analysis of Volunteer Soldiers’ Attitudes to Service in the Lithuanian Military”, the authors Eglė Vileikiienė, Aušra Pocienė and Jolanta Aleknevičienė note that the Lithuanian volunteer defence forces are an important link between the Lithuanian military and society, giving Lithuanian citizens the opportunity to combine a civilian profession with military service. Using the results of complex sociological research conducted in 2014, the authors analysed volunteer soldiers’ information sources about the military, their attitudes towards military service and the factors which motivate them.
We hope this new research engages and interests our readers. Please note that this and previous volumes of the “Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review” can be found at the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania Internet website as well as in various international databases.

Vilnius, June 2015

Editor-in-Chief

Volume 13 articles are available at:

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