

# PREFACE



Esteemed readers!

You are holding a collection of articles originally published in Estonian in the 2021 issues of the Estonian Journal of Military Studies. One of the missions of the Estonian Military Academy (EMA) research journal the Estonian Journal of Military Studies is to develop the Estonian military terminology and specialised language. This is why several articles on different aspects and topics of warfare were initially published in Estonian. For the purpose of reaching out to a wider audience, we decided to publish a selection of articles in English.

The selection of articles is based on our wish to introduce the different research and development fields and academic proceedings of the Estonian Military Academy that have given grounds for these articles. Herein, you will find writings from doctoral and master's students of the Estonian Military Academy and the University of Tartu, prize-winning articles from the naval warfare essay contest organised by the Estonian Military Academy, and articles that summarise different research and development projects of the Academy (for example, regarding information operations, resource management, training military leaders, and the history of Estonian military thought). In the area of government of the Estonian Ministry of Defence, EMA is responsible for five aspects of capability development (leadership, operational analysis, resource management, human resources, and technologies) while also being actively involved in other aspects (e.g. military history and strategy). Therefore, the articles published in the Estonian Journal of Military Studies primarily reflect on the research and development done in the aforementioned fields.

Every issue of the Estonian Journal of Military Studies contains articles in Estonian and in English, and some special issues have been solely in English, for example, "The Crisis in Ukraine and Information Operations of the Russian Federation" (2/2016)<sup>1</sup>, "Russia, Syria and the West: From the Aftermath of the Arab Spring in the Middle East to Radicalisation and

---

<sup>1</sup> Full issue available at <https://www.kvak.ee/sojateadlane2/>.

Immigration Issues in Europe” (12/2019)<sup>2</sup>, and “Putin’s War in Ukraine. Vol. 1: The Background and Anatomy of Russian Aggression” (20/2022, in print).

The articles were selected from three issues of the Estonian Journal of Military Studies published in 2021 (volumes 16, 17, and 18). The first one was a special naval warfare issue<sup>3</sup> subtitled “Visions for Maritime Defence of Small States”, from which we selected two articles. The first article is a scientific essay entitled “Future Maritime Defence Scenarios in Estonia” that analyses comprehensive naval defence in the context of maritime affairs in general; the essay won second prize on the EMA essay contest “The Future of Naval Warfare”. The second article from issue 16, written by an experienced naval officer, is entitled “Do Small States Need a Balanced Fleet?” and deals with the practicality and prospect of establishing a balanced fleet in the context of a small state with limited resources.

Volume 17 of the Journal of Estonian Military Studies, a specialised issue<sup>4</sup> of Estonian and English articles subtitled “Strategic Storytelling as a Means for Informational Influence” provided us with two articles written by master’s and doctoral students within a research project of information operations. The article “Antithetical Identity Formation in the Strategic Narratives of the Russian Federation” complements the concept of strategic narratives with a cultural semiotic approach of antithetic modelling. The second article entitled “Countering Russian Information Influence in the Baltic States: A Comparison of Approaches Adopted in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania” compares the countermeasures adopted in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to combat hostile information influence activities (including from the Russian Federation).

Volume 18 of the Estonian Journal of Military Studies<sup>5</sup> provided us with four articles that were translated into English. The first one, entitled “Motivational Aspects in Conscript Training and Their Impact on Learning Outcomes and Attrition” is based on a master’s thesis written within a development program for military leaders organised by the Estonian Military Academy and analyses motivational traits that impact the study behaviour, learning motivation, and outcomes of conscript training. The second article, “The Principles of Life Cycle Costing of the Assets of the Defence Forces” is from the field of resource management and gives a great overview of the

---

<sup>2</sup> Full issue available at <https://www.kvak.ee/sojateadlane13/>.

<sup>3</sup> Full issue available at [https://www.kvak.ee/files/2021/08/ST\\_16\\_www.pdf](https://www.kvak.ee/files/2021/08/ST_16_www.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Full issue available at [https://www.kvak.ee/files/2022/02/ST\\_17\\_veebifail.pdf](https://www.kvak.ee/files/2022/02/ST_17_veebifail.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Full issue available at [https://www.kvak.ee/files/2022/02/ST\\_18\\_veebifail.pdf](https://www.kvak.ee/files/2022/02/ST_18_veebifail.pdf).

basic principles of estimating the life cycle costs of military equipment and the components of life cycle costs. Modelling and categorising life cycle costs gives the Defence Forces great grounds for making optimal decisions in procurements. The third article, entitled “How Russia Deflects Accusations of Cyberattacks and Disinformation Campaigns: An Analysis of the Rhetorical Strategies of RT” is also written within the research project of information operations. The article gives an overview of the way the largest Russian state-financed international news portal RT.com portrays the accusations against Russia of cyber and disinformation attacks and its communicative self-defence measures. The fourth article, “Inventing Military History Teaching in Estonian Military Education 1919–1940: Approaches, Tools, and Methods” is a part of the military history research project of EMA entitled “Estonian Military Thought 1920–1940”. The author of this article analyses the process of establishing military history teaching in Estonian military education, the teaching methods of the given period, and the role of military history disciplines in Estonian military education.

We hope that our readers will enjoy the small selection of topics that support the capability development of the Estonian Defence Forces and illustrate some aspects of the research and development done in the Estonian Military Academy.

Wishing you pleasant reading experiences and cogitation

Andres Saumets  
Editor-in-chief