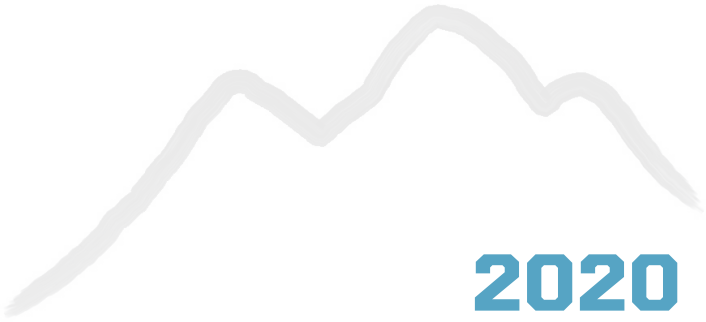
DEFENCE WHITE PAPER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

2020

Dear Readers,

Both in everyday life, and in the operation and development of a country, we occasionally need to stop and strategically assess our efforts to see whether they are leading towards the desired objective. The result of our strategic reflection is the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia, which represents a high level of consistency of views within the defence sector on the future security environment, and on the necessary measures to enhance the country's defence capacity, taking into account real human, economic and other capabilities. The purpose of the Defence White Paper is to define a gradual long-term development of the Republic of Slovenia's defence system in order to ensure the necessary levels of capacity and preparedness for the implementation of national defence, and the fulfilment of the adopted international obligations.

I believe that, through diligent work and analysis, we have acquired a good basis for directing the further development of the defence system, which will be able to function effectively and in accordance with its mission. This document provides guidance for the change, reform and strengthening of both military and non-military defence mechanisms to meet the contemporary security challenges. It provides the starting point for the preparation of planning documents which will specify the key defence objectives by 2035, and the way they are implemented.

The security of the country and its citizens is not self-evident and should not be taken for granted. It is a benefit and a value that is directly related to the existence of a nation, a government, a democratic system, the sovereignty of a state, the protection of one's identity, the exercise of human rights, and other interests of nations and states. Without it, other national objectives relating to social, economic, political and cultural development and the well-being of individuals and the state cannot be achieved. Slovenia, like other European countries, is facing a changing and highly dynamic security environment. There is instability in both the eastern and southern European neighbourhood. No part of Europe is safe from contemporary threats. Hybrid operations call for the modernization and strengthening of defence capacity, and the increased resilience of countries.

On this basis, a new Resolution on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia was adopted in 2019, which was fundamental to the preparation of the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia. The Defence White Paper provides the basis for continuing the debate on the adoption of the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces. In it, we will strive for the widest possible consensus of the professional public and the policy on the long-term development of the defence system, and the manner in which the Slovenian Armed Forces will ensure national defence and fulfil the obligations of Slovenia as a member of various international organizations.

The Ministry of Defence will strive to provide an efficient and resilient defence system which, taking into account the country's human resources, and material, financial and other capabilities, will develop the necessary level of Slovenia's defence capacity.

I believe that the vision presented in the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia will help to create the basis for the building of confidence in the defence system. We need confidence to create the conditions for a flexible and modern defence system which responds to changes in the international security environment and provides conditions for the functioning of other social subsystems for a quality living environment, development and prosperity, while giving perspective to future generations.

Karl Erjavec
Minister of Defence

11

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INTRODUCTION 6

1 **VISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEFENCE SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA** 7

2 **THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY THREATS** 8

3 **DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA** . . 10
3.1 **National defence and mutual security assurances** 11
3.2 **Defence policy and international cooperation** 12

4 **THE SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES** 14
4.1 **Vision for the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces** 14
4.2 **Military capabilities and military infrastructure** 15
4.2.1 Combat capabilities 16
4.2.2 Combat support capabilities 17
4.2.3 Combat service support capabilities 18
4.2.4 Military aviation capabilities 19
4.2.5 Naval capabilities 20
4.2.6 Cyber defence capabilities 20
4.2.7 Command support capabilities 20
4.2.8 Military education and training capabilities 21
4.2.9 Military infrastructure development 22
4.3 **Size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces** 24
4.3.1 Size of the Slovenian Armed Forces 24
4.3.2 Structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces 26
4.4 **Human resources** 27
4.5 **Financial resources** 28

5 **CIVIL DEFENCE AS A RESILIENCE BUILDING BLOCK OF THE STATE AND SOCIETY** 30

6 **RESPONSE TO HYBRID THREATS IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE** 32

7 **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM CAPABILITIES AND CYBER SECURITY** 33

8 **INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CAPABILITIES** 36

9 **STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION** 37

10 **MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER** 38

CONCLUSION 40

INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, the defence system of the Republic of Slovenia has faced challenges in financial, human and material resources, which, given the increasingly unpredictable and uncertain international security environment, hinders its development and operation in accordance with the law and the adopted development guidance and planning documents.

The Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia is a strategic document outlining the vision for long-term development, the functioning of Slovenia's defence system, and the achievement of key defence objectives by 2035. The Paper explains the policy framework and commitments for adapting the defence system to changes in the security environment. It takes into account the measures to strengthen Slovenia's defence capacity, which were proposed in the Strategic Defence Review 2016, and in NATO's defence planning and capabilities assessments and other findings on the condition of the defence system.

The Defence White Paper provides planning guidance based on realistic medium-term bases for pursuing the objectives of the defence system's development in the long term. It recognizes the effects of the deterioration in the security environment, the emergence of new technological trends, and demographic trends in the Republic of Slovenia and abroad. It expresses the determination of the Republic of Slovenia to strengthen its defence system, and stresses the need for the implementation of measures in the field of defence.

The greatest challenges for the development of the defence system, especially for the Slovenian Armed Forces as the entity responsible for military defence, are to reach the planned number of personnel, complete its professionalization, continue with modernization, and appropriately fund its operation and development.

The purpose of the Defence White Paper is to define the gradual and long-term development of Slovenia's defence system, in order to ensure the necessary level of capacity and preparedness for the implementation of national defence and the fulfilment of the adopted international obligations. It takes into account the comprehensive approach and importance of the resilience of the country and society as a whole to various forms of security threats and risks.

The following points were taken into account when preparing the Defence White Paper:

- The complexity, variability and uncertainty of the future international security environment;
- The appropriate organization and effective defence of the Republic of Slovenia;
- The national defence of the Republic of Slovenia as part of the collective defence within the framework of NATO and the common security and defence policy of the European Union;
- The primary responsibility of the Republic of Slovenia to ensure the capacity, preparedness, resilience and sustainability of the national defence;
- The unfavorable long-term demographic trends in the Republic of Slovenia and abroad;
- The poor competitiveness of the military profession in the labour market;
- The consequences of the lack of financial resources and investments in the development of defence capacity in the past.

1 VISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEFENCE SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The defence system of the Republic of Slovenia will adapt to changes in the strategic environment, which is characterized by the deteriorating security in Europe and its periphery. It will be resilient and able to respond to future security threats and challenges. The development of the defence system will be based on two important assumptions: that efforts by the state and society are essential for the proper organization and preparation of the national defence of the Republic of Slovenia; and that the national defence of the Republic of Slovenia is closely linked to NATO's collective defence and to mutual assistance within the European Union.

The defence system of the Republic of Slovenia will provide the necessary level of competence, preparedness, resilience, and sustainability of defence capacity, and will contribute to the overall resilience of the state and society to respond to contemporary and future security challenges and threats.

The effectiveness of the defence system will be based on professionalism, transparency, belonging, patriotism, mutual respect, and recognition of the importance of the defence system entities in the wider social environment.

With an ambitious and predictable level of defence spending, the Republic of Slovenia will, in the long term, provide human, financial and material resources for the continual modernization of the defence system, and the development of defence capacity.

The national interests of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of defence will be achieved by strengthening a credible defence posture, by active engagement in the international environment, and by carrying out the adopted international obligations.

The Republic of Slovenia will have an army capable of defending the country from military threats; an army which will contribute a proportional share of its capabilities to the Alliance's common defence; and an army whose skills, knowledge, training level, and capabilities will help to ensure the security of the country and its citizens, and establish and preserve peace in the world. The updated strategic and planning guidelines and normative bases will provide the Slovenian Armed Forces with system, status, financial, material, human resource, doctrinal, and other conditions for its development and the provision of necessary readiness.

2 THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY THREATS

After a period of the easing of tensions in the international security environment, these are increasing once more. The modern international security environment is changing rapidly. Globalization has made it more interconnected, complex and interdependent, which, in addition to the positive consequences, also has negative ones.

The state of international relations is shifting towards multipolarity, with the emergence of new centres of power at the global and regional levels, and the related expansion of areas of influence. We are facing a transformation in the established international connections and relationships; new dynamics within the existing organizations and mechanisms of the international community; and challenges in the European security architecture, international law, multilateralism, and democratic values.

In the area of security, the levers of national power of conventional and unconventional origin are strengthening, along with the use of hybrid actions across the broader social, political, economic, financial, intelligence, information, and media spectrums. National interests are pursued through the engagement of non-state actors, especially in fragile and conflict areas.

Security risks stem mainly from unstable geographical areas characterized by internal conflicts, failure of authority, corruption, poverty, scarce resources, land degradation, and population growth, which creates conditions for the spread of radicalism, terrorism, crime, and illegal mass migration. The impact of climate change is another factor influencing the development of the security situation, while the speed and scale of population movements cause increased epidemiological risks.

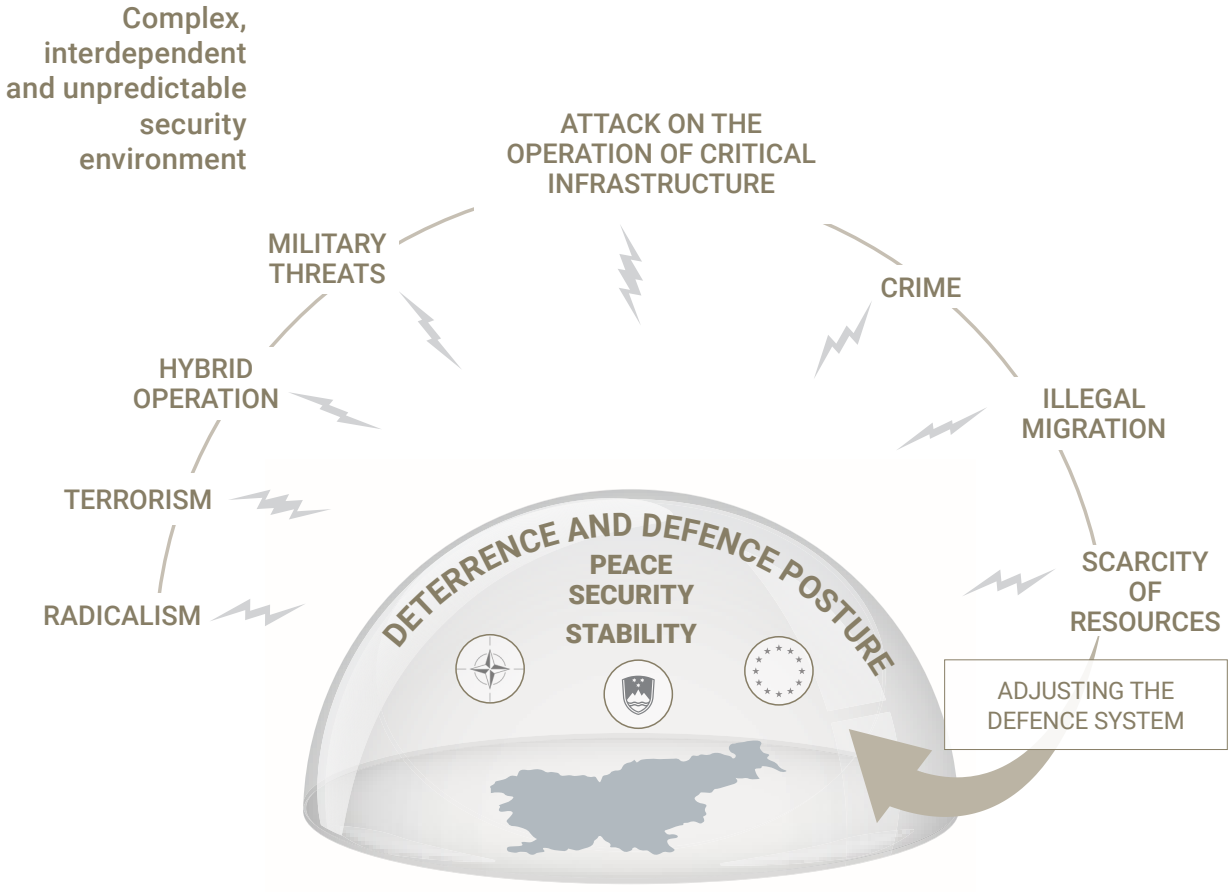
Technological advances and the availability of knowledge, products, and technologies to state and non-state actors have a significant influence on the development of security threats, which may in turn influence the emergence of new security challenges in new domains of operation. All this brings new challenges and requirements for preserving the effectiveness of the defence system.

The Republic of Slovenia recognizes and manages the consequences of the changed security environment surrounding the European Union, and with the risks from its periphery. The processes of stabilization in the Western Balkans remain unfinished, causing an increase in the radicalization and influence of

external actors. Migration pressure remains strong in the south and may affect the security and stability of the country.

Given its geostrategic and geopolitical position, the Republic of Slovenia may be exposed to hybrid operations, attacks on critical infrastructure, terrorism, mass migration pressures, and potential military threats in the event of a deterioration in the international or regional political security situation.

An effective response to modern threats requires an improvement in the defence capacity of the Republic of Slovenia. The Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia focuses on the introduction of a wide range of measures for the organizational, human resources, material, and technological modernization of the defence system. In order to achieve these objectives it is of primary importance to gain a broad social understanding of the changing security environment and the associated risks of the operation and development of the Republic of Slovenia in the long term, which requires a responsive and functioning defence system.



3 DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The Republic of Slovenia is a globally and regionally responsible country, committed to solidarity and striving for the promotion of peace, security and stability, respect for human rights and international law, prevention of conflict, and jointly addressing global security challenges. The defence system of the Republic of Slovenia will support lasting and strategic national interests which will enable the creation of a safe environment as a condition for the welfare of the state, society, and citizens.

The permanent and vitally important interests of the Republic of Slovenia are to maintain the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the state, and to maintain the national identity, culture, and authenticity of the Slovenian nation within the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Slovenia, abroad, and throughout the world.

The strategic interests of the Republic of Slovenia are the recognition of and respect for the inviolability of the country's internationally recognized borders and its national territory, including the territorial waters and the airspace of the Republic of Slovenia; the functioning of the democratic parliamentary political system; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; strengthening of the rule of law and the social state; the welfare of its people and a comprehensive development of society; the protection of life and a high level of all forms of security for its people; the protection of the rights and prosperity of Slovenian indigenous ethnic communities in neighbouring countries; peace, security and stability in the world; and the preservation of the environment and natural resources of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Republic of Slovenia is an integral part of the Euro-Atlantic political, economic, security, and cultural environment. It respects and shares important values with its allies and partners – respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law.

The Republic of Slovenia pursues its vital and strategic national interests autonomously, through intense bilateral cooperation, and by maintaining an active role in the region and in the United Nations Organization, the European Union, NATO, and other international organizations. It uses mechanisms and means in compliance with the provisions of international law.

The defence system ensures the defence of the country and contributes to other national security objectives of the Republic of Slovenia, such as ensuring a high level of security and prosperity of the citizens; cooperation in deterrence and defence against the threats to security and in ensuring peace in the world; strengthening its international reputation, the political security position, and the visibility of the Republic of Slovenia in the world; and developing good relationships with its allies, partners and other countries. Strengthening the wider involvement of countries in the Euro-Atlantic environment, defined by stability, equality, prosperity and solidarity, is in the national interest of the Republic of Slovenia. Such an environment remains an important factor in a more equal position of all actors in the international community, and a guarantee of stability.

3.1 National defence and mutual security assurances

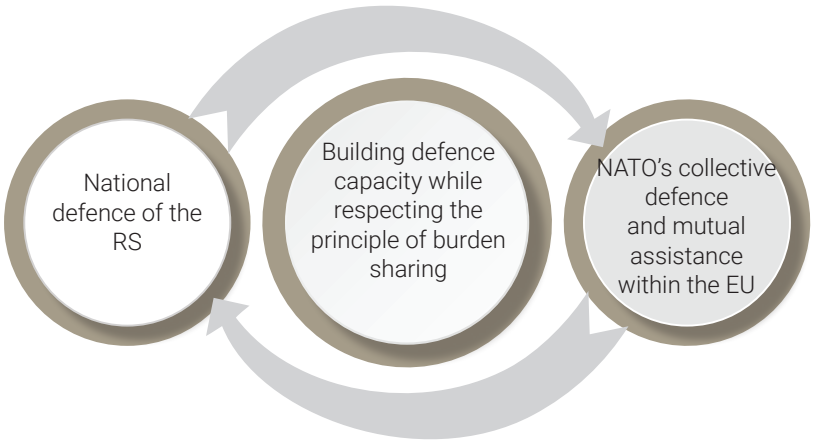
A responsive and effective national defence is the cornerstone of a sovereign state in ensuring its security and defence. It reflects credibility in assuming a proportionate share of the burden and risks in relation to the European Union and NATO. The most important element of national defence is sufficient investment in the development of the national defence capacity based on the national planning priorities, NATO's defence planning process, and defence planning within the European Union.

The Republic of Slovenia will ensure its defence capacity and its preparedness for and responsiveness to military and other threats. This includes the appropriate size, structure, equipment, and capabilities of its military and civilian defence capacity. National defence is based on the implementation of military defence and on the implementation of measures to ensure the resilience of society as a whole.

The implementation of the military defence of the Republic of Slovenia will, as a matter of priority, be ensured by respecting the mechanisms of mutual assistance and solidarity within the European Union, and by an appropriate level of Slovenia's own defence capacity, which is the basis for effective integration into NATO's collective defence system.

As a member of NATO, the Republic of Slovenia receives security assurances and accepts commitments, since NATO's collective defence is based on a sufficient range of the Allies' national capabilities. Involvement in the collective defence system allows for a more rational development of Slovenia's own defence capacity. Strengthening the national defence means strengthening the collective defence and vice versa, based on burden sharing and the development of agreed capabilities.

A responsive and effective national defence is the cornerstone of a sovereign state in ensuring security and defence



The Republic of Slovenia has committed itself to a gradual long-term approximation to a defence spending target of 2% of GDP within broad fiscal frameworks, and a defence investment share of 20% of defence spending, with an intermediate target of 1.5% of GDP by 2024.

The long-term strengthening of the deterrence and defence posture increases the importance of NATO's collective defence, in line with the negative changes in the international security environment. In the coming years, all allies will be required to make additional efforts which will be reflected in the development of more advanced capabilities, additional contributions to allied and related structures, a greater range of exercises, and a higher level of force readiness.

3.2 Defence policy and international cooperation

The consequences of crisis situations, instability, and conflicts in the world may have negative effects on the national security of the Republic of Slovenia in the globally interdependent and interconnected environment. It is therefore important to address the causes of instability at the place of their origin through various foreign, defence, and security policy mechanisms, and in accordance with the provisions of international law.

The Republic of Slovenia, as a responsible member of the international community, will contribute to international political, military and other efforts for peace, security and stability in the Western Balkans and in the wider European area, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central Asia, in accordance with its capabilities and the provisions of national and international law. It will also be active in providing assistance in the event of natural and other disasters in these areas.

Participation of the Slovenian Armed Forces in international operations and missions, and in NATO and European Union response forces, will remain an important factor in achieving responsiveness and a higher level of competence, efficiency and interoperability of forces. The Republic of Slovenia will maintain a discernible comparative share in terms of broader burden-sharing, and adjust the contribution ratio for international operations and missions and for NATO and European Union response forces in line with its operational priorities. It will also support the mission and efforts of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in various fields.

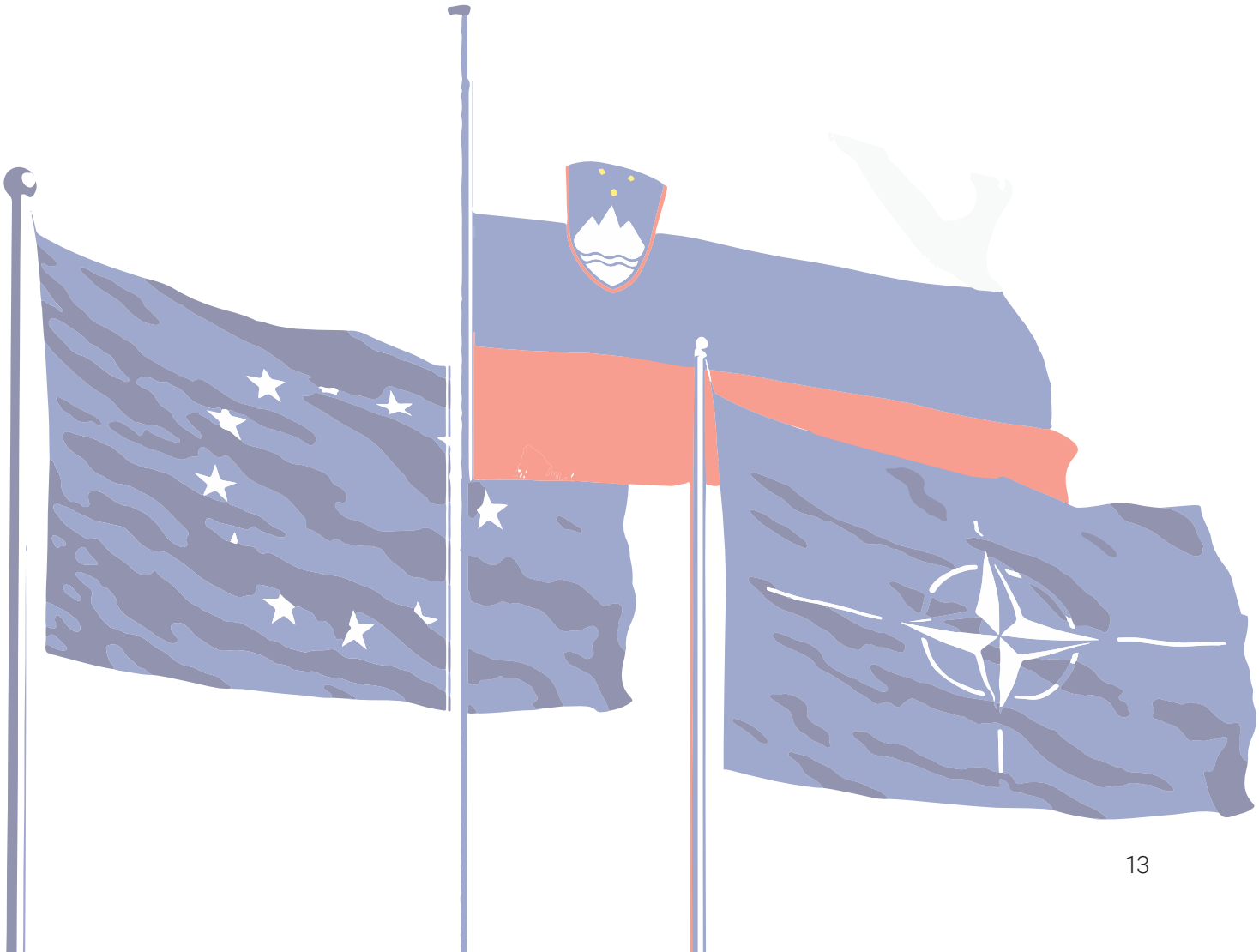
The Republic of Slovenia will contribute to ensuring the common defence of its territory, people and values by participating in the basic tasks of the Alliance, such as collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security. The commitment of the Republic of Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty will be manifested through joint contribution to the deterrence and collective defence measures, contribution to response forces, and participation in exercises and other activities to ensure preparedness for various security challenges and threats, taking into account the sustainability of forces and their capabilities. The Republic of Slovenia will establish its national defence capacity and the agreed target capabilities of the Alliance in accordance with its national interests and needs.

It will contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy in the area of security. It will strengthen the efforts to ensure resilience in the south and east of the European Union, a common approach to conflicts and crises, regional cooperation, and international law.

Close involvement of members will be important in the development of defence capacity and permanent structured cooperation, the fulfilment of commitments to mutual assistance and solidarity, response to hybrid operations, and cooperation with NATO in the development of capabilities and activities in crisis areas.

The Republic of Slovenia will respect the principle of a single set of forces and capability development. Coordination in counteracting cyber and hybrid threats and active participation in the development of military mobility will be important for Slovenia's national security on the basis of the Joint Declaration of the European Union and NATO. A cohesive and credible European Union strengthens NATO's European pillar as the foundation of Europe's collective defence and transatlantic ties, and enhances the role of the European Union as a global security and defence actor.

Regional and bilateral cooperation will be an important complement to cooperation in a multilateral context for the Republic of Slovenia. Enhanced cooperation with our allies and strategic and other defence and security partners, based on similar interests, objectives and starting points, will focus on the joint building of specific capabilities, the implementation of modernization projects, participation in international operations and missions, the implementation of joint training and exercises, the transfer of experience in defence and security, and potential joint action within different international organizations. Cooperation with the countries of the Western Balkans will also be enhanced in order to strengthen the Euro-Atlantic integration of these countries.



4 THE SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES

The mission of the Slovenian Armed Forces is to deter military aggression against the Republic of Slovenia independently and in cooperation with its allies, and to contribute to international peace and stability both within and outside the Alliance's borders. The Slovenian Armed Forces provides military defence to the Republic of Slovenia independently and in cooperation with its allies in the event of military aggression.

The modern security environment requires the Slovenian Armed Forces to increase its ability to operate in various security, military and defence scenarios across the entire spectrum of operations; increase its level of readiness; and increase the resilience and sustainability of military capabilities.

The capabilities of the Slovenian Armed Forces support various national security subsystems in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in crisis and other security-critical situations.

4.1 Vision for the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces

The Slovenian Armed Forces will be able and prepared to defend and protect the country with its own capabilities and in cooperation with its allies. It will cooperate in ensuring the overall security of the country and its citizens, and in maintaining and establishing peace, security and stability in the world.

The ability and readiness of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be based on trained and skilled soldiers, competent leaders, quality equipment, high-level commands and units, and the ability to adapt to the complex security environment.

The Slovenian Armed Forces will be an advanced and effective military organization which will develop the necessary military capabilities, raise the level of general readiness and resilience, and create conditions for increasing its size in the event of a sharp deterioration in the security situation or an immediate military threat to the country.

The following development objectives will need to be met to achieve this vision:

- Modernization of the Slovenian Armed Forces, with a focus on developing the military capabilities of two medium battalion battle groups;
- Construction and modernization of critical infrastructure and training areas for the operation and development of the Slovenian Armed Forces and the defence system;
- Strengthening of technologically advanced military capabilities as a force multiplier;

- The fulfilment of international commitments of the Republic of Slovenia relating to the establishment of agreed military capabilities, to military contribution to international operations and missions, to response forces, and to the provision of financial resources;
- Improvement in the position and reputation of the military profession in society;
- Upgrading of the system of recruitment, retention and exit of members of the Slovenian Armed Forces;
- Development of military professionalism, leadership and organizational culture, which are the foundations of an effective military organization;
- Upgrading of the military education and training system;
- Establishment of conditions for increasing the contract reserve component and the voluntary military service;
- An active role of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the recruitment and promotion of the military profession;
- Strengthening of the connection of the Slovenian Armed Forces to the local environment in the wider area of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Strengthening of the connection of the Slovenian Armed Forces to other national security subsystems.

4.2 Military capabilities and military infrastructure

The Slovenian Armed Forces will develop combat, combat support, combat service support, command support, and military education and training capabilities. Part of these capabilities will be dual purpose, which means that they can be used both for protection and rescue and for support to other national authorities.

Certain capabilities will not be developed by the Slovenian Armed Forces on its own, but will be provided within the Alliance or jointly through appropriate agreements with individual allied or partner countries.

Financial resources will be primarily devoted to launching major modernization projects and to infrastructure capabilities of the Slovenian Armed Forces. To this end, appropriate legislation will be prepared for the implementation of key equipping projects of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Key modernization projects will be the purchase of wheeled combat vehicles, self-propelled howitzers, short- to medium-range air defence systems, and multi-purpose helicopters. The possibilities for joint procurement with other countries or within the agencies of the European Union and NATO, and through intergovernmental agreements, will be primarily taken into account when the market analysis concludes that such purchases represent the best option in the light of cost optimization and transparency of procurement. This includes the purchase and modernization of military equipment already held by the Slovenian Armed Forces. Tested military equipment will be selected, with no risks in its development and use. The possibilities and purpose of purchasing used military equipment and weapons will be examined.

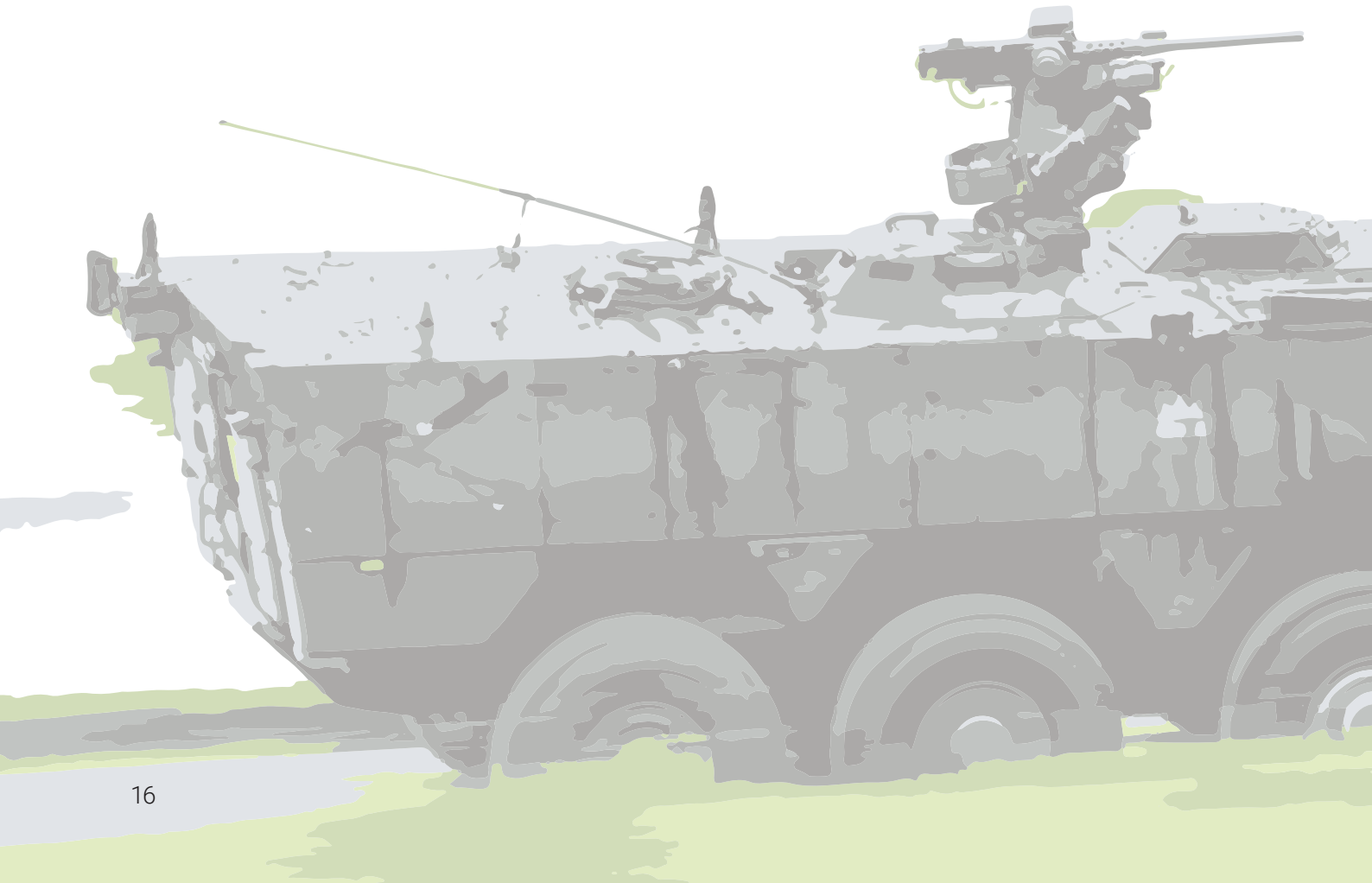
4.2.1 Combat capabilities

The combat capabilities of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be based on medium infantry with the ability to form a task brigade-level unit.

The core of the Slovenian Armed Forces' capabilities and modernization will be the establishment of the capabilities of a medium battalion battle group. Its key building blocks will be wheeled armoured vehicles with appropriate firepower, and ballistic and counter-mine protection of the crew. The capabilities of air defence, artillery, engineering, nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological defence, communications, and reconnaissance will be included in the medium battalion battle group. These capabilities will be designed in accordance with the standards of the Alliance. Taking into account the principle of a single set of forces, the medium battalion battle group will be dedicated to ensuring national defence and meeting the international obligations of the Republic of Slovenia. The first medium battalion battle group will be formed by 2027, and the second by 2030.

Light infantry will carry out tasks within the national territory and in international operations and missions. It will complement the capabilities of medium infantry, and provide training and operation of the contract reserve component. It will enable the establishment of the elements for the growth of the force, based on the activation of the concept of military strategic reserve.

The capabilities of special forces will be dedicated to carrying out special reconnaissance tasks, training foreign armed forces, obtaining important military information, and fighting against military objectives in the depths of the enemy's territory.



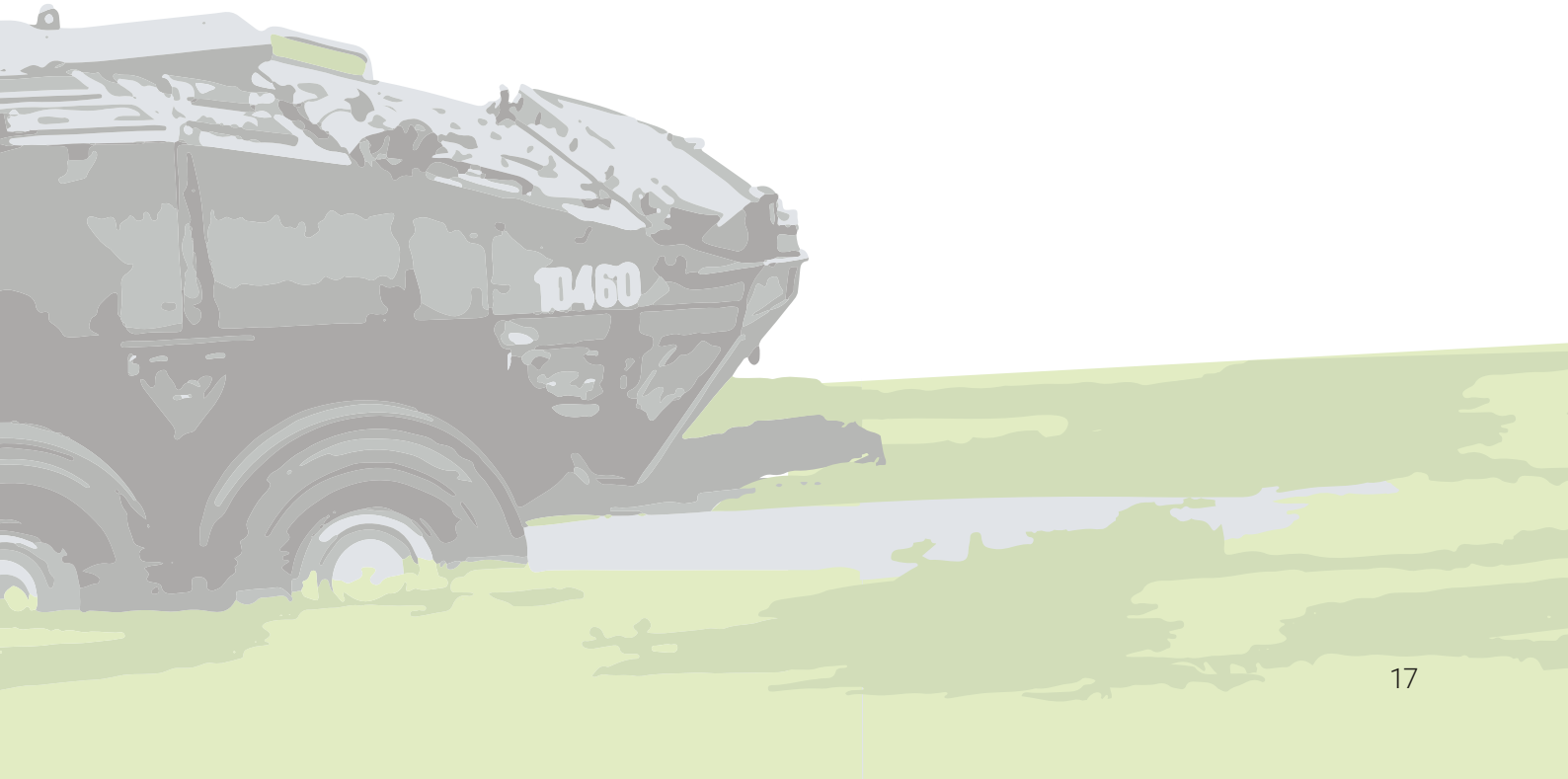
Armoured capabilities will participate in joint combat operations at the national level and, to a limited extent, within the Alliance's territory, and provide capabilities for the training of infantry units.

4.2.2 Combat support capabilities

Combat support capabilities will be based on joint fire support capabilities (artillery support, anti-tank missile support, air support); intelligence and reconnaissance support; electronic warfare; combat engineer support; air defence; nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological defence; psychological operations; civil-military cooperation; and ensuring the security and legality of operations.

The capabilities of artillery support will support units up to the brigade level in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, and provide appropriate capabilities for the medium battalion battle group. These capabilities will be based on self-propelled artillery systems with digitized and networked systems for fire control and long-range operations.

Anti-tank capabilities will be upgraded within the infantry capabilities, either as part of infantry units or as part of task anti-tank formations, operating independently or within the medium battalion battle group. They will be equipped with modern portable and mobile anti-tank weapons.



Air defence capabilities will be based on modern short- to medium-range mobile systems. They will provide direct and indirect protection to the Slovenian Armed Forces and critical infrastructure.

The capabilities of combat engineering will ensure the mobility and survival of friendly forces, and prevent the manoeuvring of enemy forces. They will provide capabilities for the medium battalion battle group. General engineering capabilities will ensure the construction and maintenance of military infrastructure.

Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological defence capabilities will be able to detect and identify nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological substances, and to decontaminate personnel, equipment and assets. Modules for the medium battalion battle group will be established from a range of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological defence capabilities. Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological defence capabilities will be deployable.

Military intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities will be used for reconnaissance, observation, targeting, data collection and analysis, and the provision of intelligence. They will consist of intelligence acquisition, analysis and distribution capabilities. These capabilities will be deployable and interoperable with the capabilities of the Alliance; they will be able to support the operation of units to the brigade level.

Electronic reconnaissance and warfare capabilities will support the implementation of the Republic of Slovenia's defence interests, and protect the Slovenian Armed Forces' units in the electromagnetic spectrum. Electronic warfare capabilities will be deployable, while electronic reconnaissance capabilities will be partially deployable.

Psychological operations (PSYOPS), civil-military cooperation (CIMIC), and Military Police capabilities will be deployable and will support the operation of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

4.2.3 Combat service support capabilities

Combat service support capabilities will enable the operation and sustainability of the Slovenian Armed Forces within the national context, while part of the capabilities will be able to support the Slovenian Armed Forces outside the country. Development will cover autonomous and organic deployable logistic capabilities providing logistic sustainability and support to tactical units of the Slovenian Armed Forces in international operations and missions.

Tactical units of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be logistically self-sufficient. The development of non-deployable logistic capabilities to support the Slovenian Armed Forces will be directed towards increasing its combat effectiveness.

The deployability of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be based on land, maritime and air strategic transport, which will be provided through various initiatives by NATO and the European Union, and by contractors.

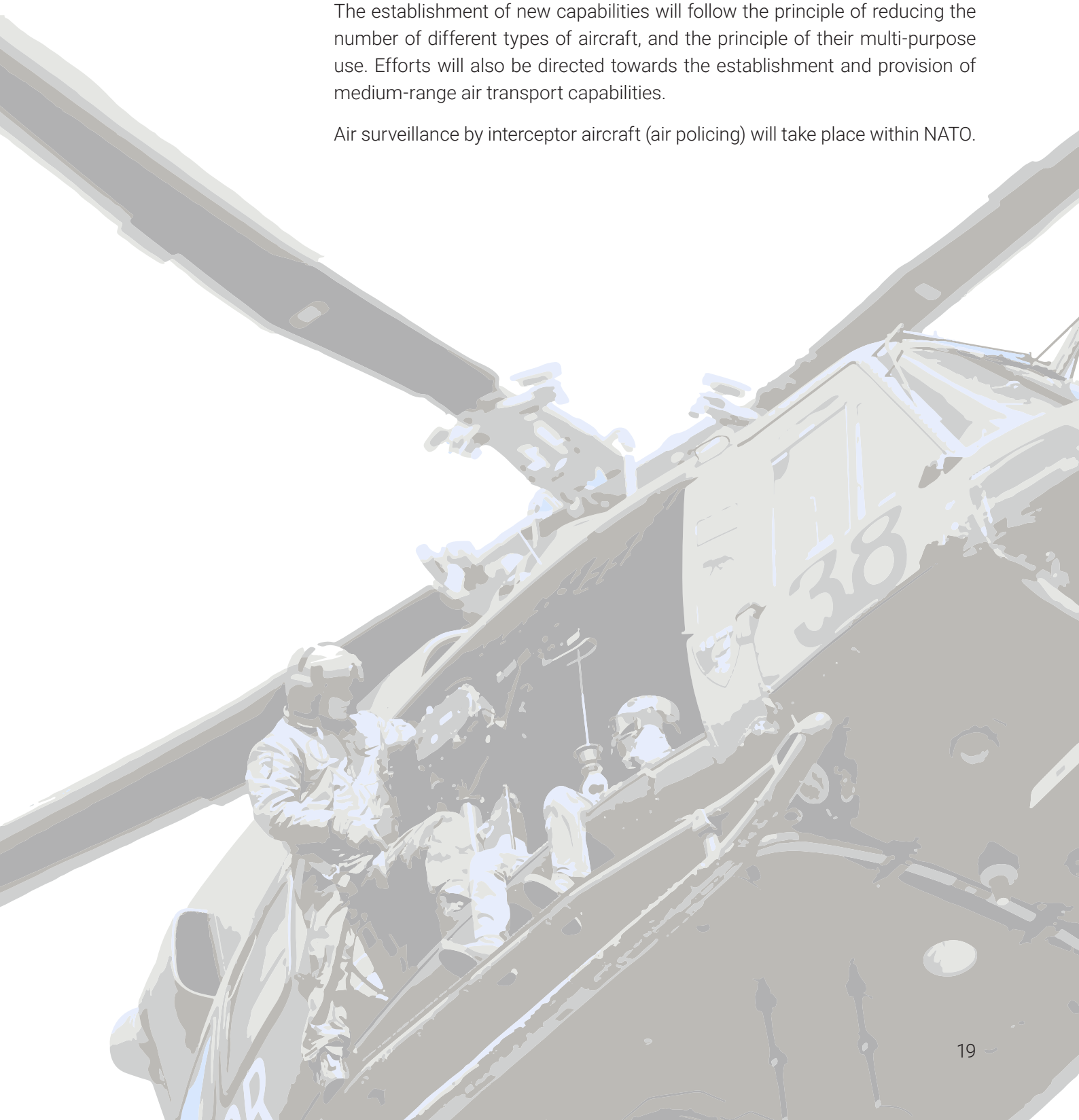
4.2.4 Military aviation capabilities

Military aviation capabilities consist of the capabilities for air operations, air support, and aviation education and training. These capabilities will support air transport, provide protection to the Republic of Slovenia's airspace, and support the Slovenian Armed Forces' units. Emphasis will be on joint combat operations within the Slovenian Armed Forces, and on joint operations within the Alliance.

Military aviation capabilities will be deployable within the Alliance's territory, and partly deployable outside it.

The establishment of new capabilities will follow the principle of reducing the number of different types of aircraft, and the principle of their multi-purpose use. Efforts will also be directed towards the establishment and provision of medium-range air transport capabilities.

Air surveillance by interceptor aircraft (air policing) will take place within NATO.



4.2.5 Naval capabilities

The Slovenian Armed Forces will develop capabilities for naval operations designed to operate at sea, on the coast, and on rivers and lakes, either independently or in cooperation with other units of the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Alliance. They will cover the capabilities for surface and underwater operations, and for combat service support. Part of the naval capabilities will be deployable mainly within the Alliance's European area.

4.2.6 Cyber defence capabilities

The Slovenian Armed Forces' cyber defence capabilities will be integrated into the Ministry of Defence's comprehensive system and the national cyber security and defence system. Part of the capabilities will be deployable.

The Slovenian Armed Forces will establish cyber defence capabilities which will be able to detect, prevent, and respond to cyber security incidents in real time. They will be based on a comprehensive approach that ensures secure communication channels and the protection of military information systems.

In the development of these capabilities, the Slovenian Armed Forces will be closely involved in NATO and European Union projects. The possibilities in the context of bilateral cooperation with key strategic partners will continue to be used in the development.

4.2.7 Command support capabilities

Command support capabilities will support command and control functions at strategic, operational and tactical levels. The command and control system will enable interoperability and cooperation within the national and international environments.

A secure and flexible high-availability network infrastructure will be established. The command and control system will be supported by application solutions to support decision-making and command. Part of these capabilities will be deployable.

The Slovenian Armed Forces’ airspace command system will, in the long term, be based on NATO’s air command and control system. Air surveillance capabilities will be based on current long-range radar systems. The Airspace Surveillance and Control Centre will be an integral part of NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence System.

Naval capabilities will be connected to maritime communication and information systems in accordance with international standards. Situational awareness at sea will be established in cooperation with other maritime security actors at national and international levels.

4.2.8 Military education and training capabilities

Military education and training capabilities will enable and support the operation and development of the Slovenian Armed Forces. Their proper integration into the civilian education system will be ensured to support the development of military knowledge and science for the needs of the Slovenian Armed Forces. To this end, military education and training capabilities will focus on enhancing professionalism and expertise, including in relation to foreign military educational institutions. Military education and training capabilities will be developed and upgraded in line with changes in society, technological advances, the development of the military profession, and lessons learned in contemporary armed conflicts.

Particular attention will be devoted to the development of the combat character and organizational culture of the Slovenian Armed Forces, to leadership skills, and the professionalism and morale of members.

Research and scientific work will be strengthened and integrated as much as possible into civilian scientific research processes. An important mission and objective of military education and training will be to provide members of the Slovenian Armed Forces with an appropriate level of knowledge and competence, and thus ensure their competitiveness in the civilian environment, especially after the end of their military careers.

The system of officer education will be renewed, with entry to the officer corps being made possible chiefly directly after the first level of Bologna education.

The military education system will be expected to be verified and habilitated at the level of comparable civilian education systems. Basic military training will take place in the Republic of Slovenia. Military education and training abroad will be used to develop specific, specialized and high-skill profiles.

There will be more specialist military education and training for the needs of branches and services, more functional and joint training and practice, and more joint tactical exercises, including tactical live-fire exercises. High-quality training will be ensured through the purchase of modern training equipment and assets, and the upgrading of training infrastructure.

Military education and training of contract reserve officers and non-commissioned officers will be organized in order to increase the size of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and thus will ensure the necessary human resources for the operation of the contract reserve component and for the training of the military strategic reserve.

Military exercises – as the most demanding form of training – will be intended for the training and verification of the competence and readiness of the Slovenian Armed Forces' commands and units to operate across the entire spectrum of operations. The priority in the area of international exercises will be to participate in exercises that support the development of target capabilities, and which are included in the Alliance's exercise programme.

4.2.9 Military infrastructure development

Military infrastructure will provide the conditions for operation, training, practice and education. The infrastructure of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be adapted to the needs of the armed forces, and the development of the defence system. The development of military infrastructure will focus on system maintenance and the upgrading of infrastructure, equipment, devices and systems, on energy and the environmental rehabilitation of infrastructure, and on ensuring the prescribed conditions for its use.

Parts of military infrastructure will be included in Host Nation Support to allied forces. Specific barracks capabilities will be arranged and modernized for the purpose of Host Nation Support.

Firing ranges and training areas, by their regional location and equipment, will enable the training of units, and will be adapted to the increased size of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The Main Training Area of the Slovenian Armed Forces in Postojna will be the key training capability for the Slovenian Armed Forces' commands and units, and for joint training and exercises with partners and allies. The Slovenian Armed Forces will also use the infrastructure of the Alliance member states and partner countries abroad for their training.

The construction of infrastructure for the operational functioning of the Slovenian Armed Forces at Cerklje ob Krki Airfield will be completed, giving the airfield the status of an entry-exit point into international airspace for military aircraft. The airport will carry out the allied task of Host Nation Support.

Part of Jože Pučnik Airport will remain in use for the Slovenian Armed Forces, mainly for the operation of the helicopter units of the Slovenian Armed Forces

in support of the system of protection against natural and other disasters, and for the surveillance, control and protection of Slovenia's airspace.

Mooring of military vessels will be provided in the Port of Koper. The necessary additional naval infrastructure will be provided in the vicinity of existing military facilities.

Infrastructure for cyber defence capabilities will be provided.

The construction of infrastructure, equipment and facilities for communication and command support will continue. Telecommunication and optical networks will be upgraded, modernized and adapted.

Repair shops, military depots and other necessary infrastructure will be built and modernized simultaneously with the purchase and introduction of new weapon systems into the operational use of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

4.3 Size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces

4.3.1 Size of the Slovenian Armed Forces

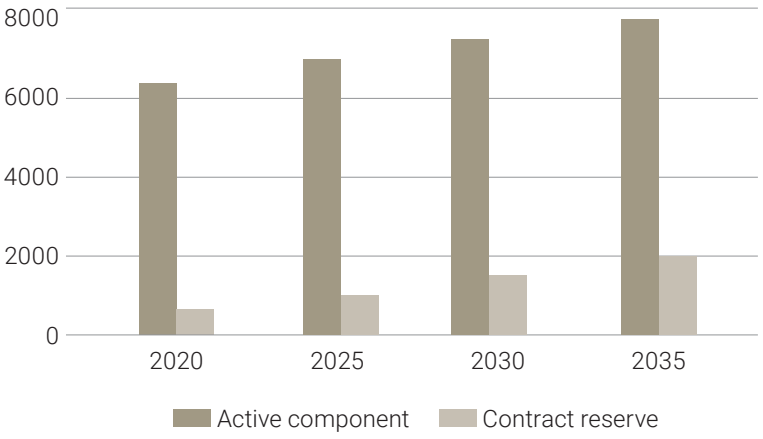
The size of the Slovenian Armed Forces will reflect the real possibilities of the country's human and economic capabilities, with an enhanced role of the contract reserve component in order to strengthen the country's defence capacity and resilience.

In pursuing the long-term target size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces within the framework of recasting development guidance and planning documents, it will be necessary for it to be based on the real situation and circumstances under which the defence system and the Slovenian Armed Forces operate now and will operate in the future. The most important issue for armed forces with a professional system of recruitment is the establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to increase their size and structure, in accordance with the need and the available sources and resources of the state and society. On the basis of military professional assessments, the fulfilment of legal tasks and commitments, and the need to respond effectively, taking into account the uncertain security environment in the future, the target size of the Slovenian Armed Forces is set at 8,000 members of the active component and 2,000 members of the contract reserve component.

In order to achieve the long-term target size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces, it will be necessary to implement measures to successfully address both wider demographic trends and the decline in the population who have completed military service or have fundamental military knowledge, who represent an important resource of personnel for completing the active component and, even more so, the contract reserve component and the military strategic reserve. The actual human and financial resources, and also the current level of modernization and the already developed capabilities of the Slovenian Armed Forces, will be taken into account in the preparation of appropriate normative, development guidance and planning documents, and the proposal of the new Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces and the future medium-term defence programmes.

The target size of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be achieved in stages. The objective in the period 2020-2025 is to have 7,000 members of the active component of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and 1,000 members of the contract reserve component of the Slovenian Armed Forces, while at the same time fundamentally reforming the system of recruitment and retention of members and their leaving the service. The objective in the period 2025-2030 is to increase the size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces to 7,500 members of the active component and 1,500 members of the contract reserve component, if the measures to improve human and financial resources are successfully implemented and the process of modernization and capability development is strengthened. In the period 2030-2035, the target size of 8,000 members of the active component and 2,000 members of the contract reserve component will be achieved.

Target for the number of SAF members



A concept of the contract reserve component, divided into a manoeuvre and a territorial part in the future, will be redefined. The manoeuvre part of the contract reserve component will carry out the whole range of tasks of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and will supplement the capabilities of their units manned by the active component, including participation in international operations and missions, and in collective defence. The system of training for the members of the contract reserve component to achieve an appropriate and comparable level of competence and training will be re-designed accordingly. The status of the members of the contract reserve component in the civilian environment will be improved; in particular, adequate legal protection for labour rights during longer absences from work due to the performance of military service.

The territorial part of the contract reserve component, led by the active core of the active component, will operate exclusively in national territory. It will be trained for national defence, and will participate in support activities to the entities of the security system and of the system of protection against natural and other disasters.

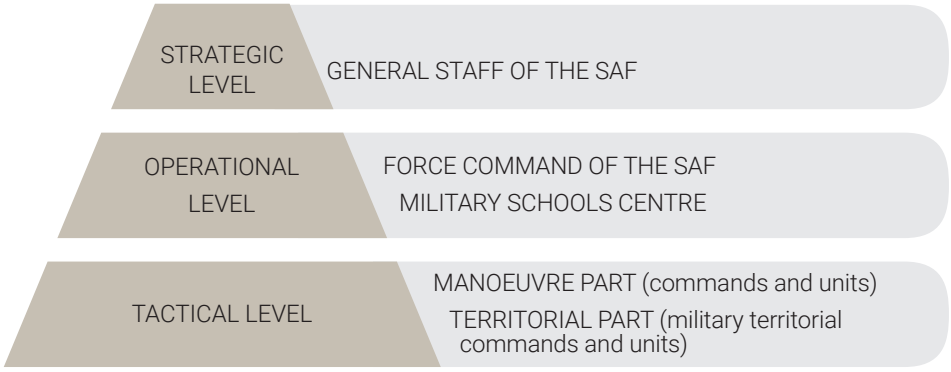
The military capabilities of the Republic of Slovenia will be increased through the military strategic reserve in the event of an imminent risk of an attack against the state or the declaration of a state of emergency or war.

If the planned measures in the stated periods do not contribute to an increased number of personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces (both the active component and the contract reserve component) or if the result is far from the target objective, it will be necessary to rethink the defence system concept of the Republic of Slovenia, the size and structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and the introduction of other components of military service.

4.3.2 Structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces

The Slovenian Armed Forces will be organized at strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces



The highest military professional body charged with commanding the Slovenian Armed Forces at the strategic level will be the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

At the operational level, the Force Command of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be responsible for the readiness and competence of subordinate commands and units; for the operation of the SAF forces in Slovenia and abroad, including support to the system of protection against natural and other disasters; for assistance to other state authorities; for civil-military cooperation; and for the maintenance of the peacetime cores which will enable a gradual increase in the size of the Slovenian Armed Forces. If other components of military service which would significantly increase the planned target size of the Slovenian Armed Forces are to be activated, the possibility of establishing additional commands at the operational level will be examined, if need be.

The Military Schools Centre will be responsible for the organization and implementation of military education.

Commands and units, in addition to military territorial commands, will be established at the tactical level, representing the maneouvre part and, to a certain extent, the support part of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The main tasks of the manoeuvre part of the Slovenian Armed Forces, which will be composed mostly of the active component, self-sufficient in terms of logistics and mainly deployable, will be to ensure and maintain the required level of readiness of the response and declared forces intended for operations in the Republic of Slovenia and for collective defence, and to develop capabilities, maintain the ability to rapidly generate crisis response forces, form, train and prepare contingents for international operations and missions, and ensure interoperability and the ability to operate in a multinational environment. The support part of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be responsible for the maintenance of technical goods, equipment and weapons.

The military territorial commands will complete the manoeuvre part of the Slovenian Armed Forces through territorial units; train the territorial part of the contract reserve component; implement civil-military cooperation; support the system of protection against natural and other disasters; provide assistance to other state authorities; carry out services regarding territorial logistics; provide Host Nation Support services; and maintain the peacetime cores which will

enable a gradual increase in the size of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The core of commands will be manned by the active component.

The Slovenian Armed Forces will conduct joint combat operations and be capable of forming a task tactical unit to the brigade level in the national framework, manned by the active component and the contract reserve component.

The units of the Slovenian Armed Forces intended for combat, combat support, combat service support and command support will consist of the active component and the manoeuvre contract reserve component, and will be organized as battalions or regiments. The military territorial commands will be manned by the active component and the territorial contract reserve component at the regiment and brigade levels.

The peacetime structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces will enable voluntary military service under its fundamental tasks.

The proportion of deployable forces of the SAF land component will be 50%, meaning that up to 50% of the SAF land component will be organized, equipped and trained for operations outside national territory. Deployable forces will be declared as potentially usable in participation in international operations, particularly in NATO's collective defence. Up to 10% of the SAF land component will maintain a high level of readiness within the national territory, or for participation in international operations and missions.

4.4 Human resources

Human resources are the major factor allowing the Slovenian Armed Forces to achieve its target size and fulfil its mission. A fundamental challenge with regard to the future development of the Slovenian Armed Forces, the achievement of the development objectives, and its technical modernization, lies in providing a suitable number and quality of personnel.

Efforts to increase the number of personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces will be focused on the promotion of the military profession; the entry and recruitment of new personnel; the retention of current personnel, including the provision of rewards, compensations and bonuses; and the exit of personnel from the defence system, including system solutions for all categories of members of the Slovenian Armed Forces (the contract reserve component and voluntary military service). The situation relating to human resources in the Slovenian Armed Forces will only improve through a comprehensive personnel approach within the entire national security system and the wider society, requiring certain adjustments and changes to legislation and implementing Acts. This is in fact a combination of necessary organizational and status-related measures in connection to specific features of the military profession and changes to legislation.

Measures to encourage entry into the Slovenian Armed Forces will be focused on the acceleration of procedures, improved promotion of military profession and employment, the possibility of awards of scholarships, and the opportunity to gain education during employment, among other things. Measures to improve the status of the members of the Slovenian Armed Forces, such as appropriate evaluations and rewards, housing, the regulation of status during education and of different obligations, and other measures under the

comprehensive care for the members, will contribute to the retention of the members in the system.

Measures to facilitate members to leave the Slovenian Armed Forces after reaching the age of 45 will be focused on ensuring the acquired rights, regulating the status, and providing financial and other benefits. Measures related to the contract reserve and voluntary military service will be focused on appropriate reimbursements and the motivation of employers for support, timely planning, better earnings, promotion, and so on. In order to successfully implement the measures in the area of human resources, it will be necessary to include the tasks related to the recruitment and retention of personnel in the work processes of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Improved implementation of strategic communication, the promotion of the military profession, and the increase in the territorial part of the Slovenian Armed Forces will contribute to a better integration of the defence system into the local environment and to permanent close contacts with the citizens.

In addition, the system of career development for the members of the Slovenian Armed Forces will be upgraded, providing individuals with the possibilities of career promotion and professional development, and also enabling them to leave at a certain career level.

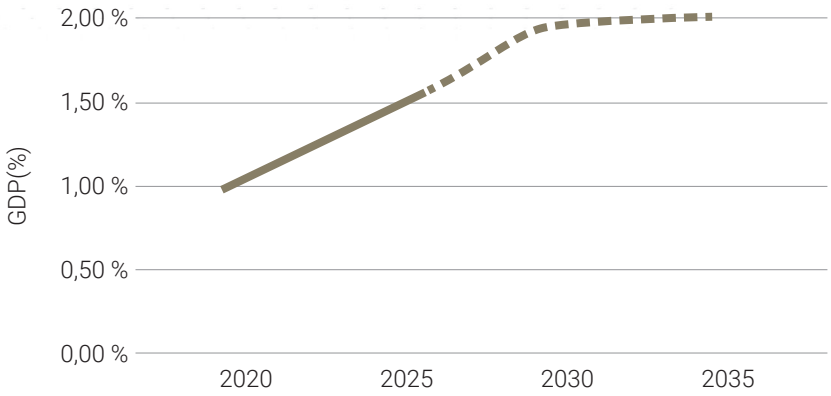
4.5 Financial resources

Due to the changed international security situation, and the extremely negative consequences of several years of reduction in defence expenditure, large financial investments are required. Only by making these investments will the Republic of Slovenia be able to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness of the defence system in the future, and to meet all its obligations related to common defence arising from its membership in NATO and the European Union.

By signing the Defence Investment Pledge in 2014, the NATO member states committed themselves to halting the trend of declining defence expenditure, and to aiming to gradually increase defence expenditure in real terms, as GDP grows, towards 2% of GDP for defence within the next decade. At the same time, the NATO member states will increase their defence spending on major equipment and on research and development, with the aim of allocating at least 20% of their defence spending for these purposes within the next decade.

For national defence purposes, it is necessary to provide financial resources in the long term, which will enable the implementation of the development objectives of the Slovenian Armed Forces as laid down in national strategic and development guidance documents, including the development of defined capabilities and an increased number of Slovenian Armed Forces personnel in the event of a sharp deterioration in the security situation.

Target defence expenditure share of GDP



Rational and sustainable defence expenditure able to effectively support the development objectives in this document and at the same time follow the Defence Investment Pledge, should gradually increase to at least 1.5% of GDP in 2024. Between 2024 and 2035, the share of GDP for defence will move towards 2% of GDP within broad fiscal frameworks.

If defence expenditure in the next medium-term period does not reach the defined proportion, the vision of the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia will not be fully implemented. Moreover, it will be necessary to reflect on the level of the defence system's capabilities and the adopted international obligations, and on the related consequences for a wider national security system.

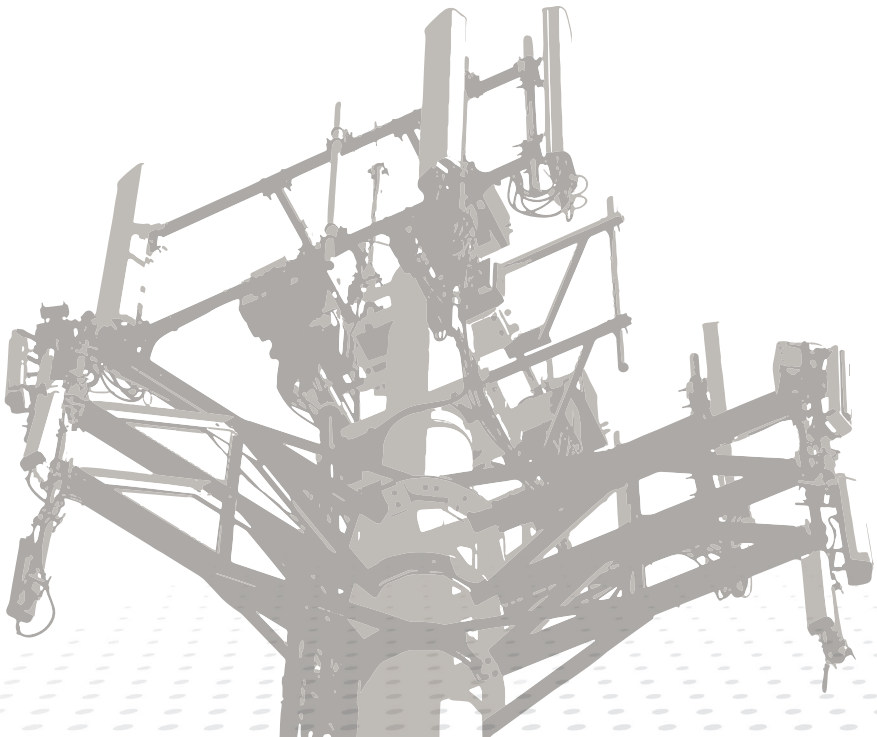
5 CIVIL DEFENCE AS A RESILIENCE BUILDING BLOCK OF THE STATE AND SOCIETY

Civil defence, ensuring the conditions for the continual functioning of the authorities and the functioning of the entire defence system, will contribute to the enhancement of civil preparedness and to the resilience of the state and society, and support the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Allied forces in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in peace, crisis, emergency and war, through civilian capabilities and by preparing and implementing measures.

In line with the new strategic reality, and towards the growing interdependence of civilian and military capabilities, the content and tasks of civil defence will be adapted and updated accordingly. In terms of the enhancement of civil preparedness and the resilience of the state, the defence planning entities in the state will, through activities and measures, ensure civilian capabilities for Host Nation Support; the strengthening of resilience to hybrid threats; the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure, information and communication support; geospatial and cartographic support; and the implementation of military duties and of material and medical care.

Solutions for the effectiveness of the defence system will be drafted in the defence planning process in the state, on the basis of defence plans prepared by all entities. With regard to intensified activities in planning civil preparedness, hybrid and cyber threats will also be taken into account, whereby the conditions for the state's comprehensive responses to various security threats and risks will be ensured.

Crisis response measures, as part of state preparedness measures, will be supplemented, updated and reviewed accordingly, both in national exercises and in the crisis management exercises of the European Union and NATO. Efforts towards the supply, protection and survival of the population will also play a key role in terms of strengthening civil preparedness at the national level. Here, constant inter-ministerial cooperation, responsibility, and the appropriate organization of entities responsible for planning will be taken into account for the performance of tasks in crisis, emergency and war, in accordance with



international obligations and the ability to adapt to change. Under changed circumstances, the most important function of the Ministry of Defence will be the coordination of tasks in the field of defence at both the regional and local levels.

By ensuring civil preparedness, civil defence will carry an important share of the functions of the Republic of Slovenia, including in the performance of tasks related to NATO's collective defence and mutual assistance within the European Union. The established solutions will take into account NATO's general requirements and criteria for the assessment of civil preparedness in order to ensure the continual functioning of the authorities, support to the armed forces with civilian capabilities, and the protection of key civil services. Defence planning upgraded in this direction will, on the basis of assessments, enable the Republic of Slovenia to respond in line with the risk degree of a state, NATO, and the European Union. The Ministry of Defence, responsible for the coordination and guidance of defence planning, will continue to facilitate cooperation with all entities responsible for defence planning.

Activities of planning in the provision of support to the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Allied forces will complement NATO activities in the provision of Host Nation Support, and will be coherently developed in the strengthening of military mobility within the framework of the European Union. In this way, the coordination and implementation of Host Nation Support and military mobility will be improved. The Ministry of Defence, together with other competent government authorities, will find solutions and methods to ensure the appropriate capabilities to support national and Allied transport needs and military mobility in the Republic of Slovenia and outside its territory. Simplified procedures for border crossings under military mobility will be in line with solutions in the European Union and NATO, and efforts should be made to synchronize and complement different procedures.

Since infrastructure is exposed to contemporary threats, appropriate protective and defence measures, and measures to prevent and mitigate the consequences of such attacks will be adopted. In planning the effective protection, security and defence of critical infrastructure and strengthening its resilience, close cooperation will be established between the private and public sectors, and between critical infrastructure operators and managers.

6 RESPONSE TO HYBRID THREATS IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE

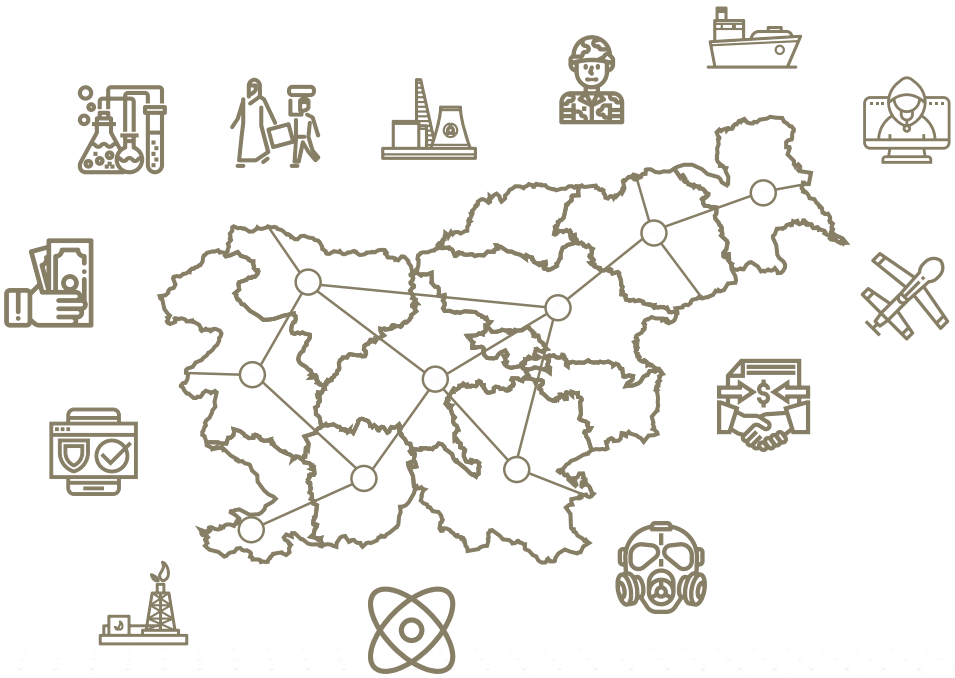
One particular challenge for the state's defence is hybrid threats, whose negative effects have significantly magnified due to the development and use of new technologies and the coordinated operation of various actors. In carrying out activities to strengthen civil preparedness and adopt appropriate national solutions, vulnerability will be reduced and resilience to hybrid threats improved.

In line with the efforts of NATO and the European Union to strengthen resilience in dealing with hybrid threats, national solutions and activities will be prepared and implemented in order to comprehensively address hybrid threats. Coordination and other capabilities to identify and respond to hybrid threats will be developed within this framework. Situational awareness, resilience to hostile intelligence activities, cyber and information security and defence, strategic communication, and crisis management mechanisms will be enhanced, taking into account various methods of hybrid operation.

Response to hybrid threats within the framework of defence planning and crisis response measures will be developed, with an emphasis on strengthening the resilience of the state and society, cyber security and defence, civil preparedness, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Within defence planning, measures and procedures will be developed for the event of the operation of non-military instability factors and hybrid factors which, due to their multiplicative effect, may require the engagement of military capabilities to manage and ensure the resilience of the state and society.

Complexity and multidimensionality of hybrid threats



7 COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM CAPABILITIES AND CYBER SECURITY

The importance and role of the capabilities of the communication and information system as one of the key elements affecting the operation and development of defence capacity are constantly growing, due to the intensified digitalization of processes and weapon systems, and the establishment of cyberspace as a domain for military operations. In parallel with the above, advanced computer technologies have inexorably changed both the theatre of war and the methods of military operations and defence processes.

Cyber attacks on both state and non-state actors are growing in number, and becoming more aggressive and sophisticated. The defence system in cyberspace follows the norms and rules of operations in accordance with international law. The applicable international law, rules and norms for the responsible conduct of states in cyberspace are an important factor for reducing risks, preventing conflicts, and establishing trust and stability in international relations.

The most important objective of the establishment of the capabilities of the defence system's communication and information system will be to ensure adaptability and interoperability of timely, accurate and comprehensive data in real time which are necessary for the effectiveness of the defence system and

the performance of military operations in Slovenia or abroad. The communication and information system of the defence system will represent the whole, together with the communication and information system of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

The development of capabilities will be based on the preparation and provision of dynamic and flexible information and communication solutions, with an emphasis on the introduction of advanced computer technologies, integration and security, and simple and safe user access. The interconnection of information systems and various data security domains will enable easier dataflow and thus more effective decision-making, resulting in cost optimization and more economical functioning of the defence system.

By effectively managing cyber threats and responding to cyber security events, a safe and reliable communication and information system will be provided, with its services readily available to all users regardless of location and time.

The most important objectives will be constant raising of awareness with regard to the possibilities enabled by the effective use of information solutions, the active participation of users in improving information systems, and a high level of users' awareness of cyber threats.

Bearing in mind that cyberspace has no borders and that defence is our common responsibility, the cyber resilience of our own communication and information systems will be developed, thus providing our contribution to the comprehensive system of national cyber security of the Alliance, in cooperation with other state, public and private, national and international actors. The establishment of a responsive management system, policies and the organizational structure, the introduction of advanced technologies, the development of relevant skills, knowledge, qualifications and awareness, and the enhancement of cooperation between national and international actors will contribute to the development of capabilities for protecting communication and information systems in the field of defence, and responding to cyber threats.

A system of comprehensive management of cyber threats will be established, which will include all actors from the Ministry of Defence. Cooperation with the competent national authority and other actors in the system of cyber security will be developed.

Intensive and systematic training, education and exercises in the area of cyber security will contribute to raising awareness of cyber threats, acquiring knowledge, and developing trust both at the national level and within the Alliance.

The fulfilment of international commitments made in the area of cyber security will be accelerated. A comprehensive range of functionalities to ensure cyber security, encompassing defence, prevention, assessment, sustainability, and notification, will be set up in accordance with the national policy, and the policies of NATO and the European Union.

8 INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CAPABILITIES

Intelligence and security capabilities aimed at timely detection and countering of threats to the Republic of Slovenia and its defence system will be developed in the field of defence. The complexity and changeability of contemporary security threats require the adaptation of intelligence and security capabilities. The integration of intelligence and security processes, and their technological and personnel capabilities will be reasonably strengthened, which will enable successful and timely detection of individual threats. An assessment of how appropriately the capabilities are placed in the defence system will be made in order to allow for the effective and expert implementation of tasks.

The subsystem of rapid and safe exchange of data and information between the entities in the intelligence and security community and their users will be modernized. Thus, the subsystem of early warning, threat detection and situational awareness will be strengthened. The thorough monitoring of and information on military and other threats likely to affect the security of the Republic of Slovenia and the situation in crisis areas and those areas where members of the security system operate, will continue.

Individual entities of the intelligence and security community in the Republic of Slovenia will continue to cooperate in the exchange of data, capabilities, and expertise. Coordination of work in detecting and counteracting individual threats and data exchange between the entities forming part of the national security system will be strengthened. In addition, cooperation with the partner intelligence and security services of the member states of the European Union and NATO, and with other countries, if required, will continue in the exchange of data and experience.

In the area of security, the procedures and standards for the protection, vetting and monitoring of people having access to security sensitive work posts, people, facilities, areas and classified information at the Ministry of Defence will be updated. Processes for the timely identification of security vulnerabilities of the defence system will be developed and modernized. Also, appropriate normative and other solutions will be sought in the area of security.

In addition to the development of traditional intelligence and security capabilities, with a focus on counter-intelligence activities, cyber, technological, and other support capabilities will be developed, , which will enable successful counteracting of threats.

9 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

In an increasingly complex, highly developed, and dynamic information environment, we are faced with continual information flow, a global audience, information overload, fake news, and social media. Given the above, the defence system will develop the capabilities and potentials of strategic communication, complemented by public diplomacy activities, and of all other actors of the national security system to support the implementation of the national security policy and strategic objectives in the field of defence. Such capabilities are vital for the assertion of the national security and defence interests of the Republic of Slovenia, and represent an essential element of informing society and raising awareness of the importance and role of the defence system in carrying out all functions and activities. This can contribute to transparency and broader social consent in relation to the functioning and activities of the defence system. Strategic communication also actively contributes to the limitation and reduction of the effects of contemporary security risks and threats.

The adaptation and responsiveness of the defence system to the changing security environment requires the relevant placement and use of various elements of the concept of strategic communication, which will at the same time follow the concepts and guidelines of NATO and the European Union. By doing this, the development of strategic communication in the defence system will be inextricably connected to the development of the national concept.

Through the preparation of a strategy, the concept of strategic communication in the defence system will be gradually established in all areas and levels of the functioning of the defence system, with the purpose of achieving the desired response of selected target audiences to support the implementation of the set objectives. Strategic development guidance documents will form the basis for the preparation of fundamental messages in the field of military defence, aimed at the widest public, and strengthening the functioning of the state and society in the field of military defence. In doing this, a fundamental principle of strategic communication will be followed, i.e. a consistency between the messages and the activities carried out.

10 MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER

The fulfilment of these measures will be defined by implementing strategic guidance and planning documents, and by amendments to legal and other normative bases for the functioning and development of the defence system in the Republic of Slovenia. The implementation of the guidelines and measures contained in the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia will be reviewed every two years.

The main measures for the implementation of the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia

1. To provide the bases for improved effectiveness and development of the defence system through amendments to the legislation.

2. To gradually increase defence spending towards 2% of GDP and an investment share of at least 20% of defence spending.

3. To implement measures to strengthen civil defence and preparedness, and in doing so the resilience of the state and society, with an emphasis on the continual operation of government at all levels, the continuity of public infrastructure and services, and the uninterrupted provision of energy, information and communication support and other resources important for the functioning of the state, the security and the lives of citizens, and for the protection of critical infrastructure.

4. To establish mechanisms providing the conditions for an increase in defence forces to successfully implement the Doctrine of Military Strategic Reserve of the Republic of Slovenia in the event of a sharp deterioration in the security situation or an immediate military threat to the Republic of Slovenia.

5. To implement solutions regarding the territorial organization of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and to ensure their greater involvement in and connection to the local environment in the wider territory of the Republic of Slovenia.

6. To re-define the concept of the contract reserve component by dividing it into the manoeuvre contract reserve component and the territorial contract reserve component, and to link it with the system of transition between the various forms of military service.

7. To improve national solutions and activities for raising resilience to hybrid threats through comprehensive and uniform coordination, and the monitoring of hybrid threats in the Republic of Slovenia.

8. To ensure situational awareness and to provide an analytical assessment of hybrid threats in support of the decision-making process, with the purpose of effectively responding to hybrid threats.

9. To enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors, and between critical infrastructure operators and managers, to plan the effective protection of critical infrastructure and to strengthen its resilience.

10. To upgrade the crisis response measures in the field of defence. To periodically check, through national crisis management exercises, the crisis management system and the state's ability to promptly and effectively respond to various security threats.

11. To upgrade the military education and training system.

12. To renew the system of recruiting members to the Slovenian Armed Forces by improving their labour status and through financial rewards, and to enhance the promotion of the military profession.

13. To examine the methods of recruiting more personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces, including a potential introduction of all components of military service.

14. To prepare legislative solutions for the implementation of key equipping projects of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

15. To take into account, to the maximum extent possible, the possibilities for joint procurement with other countries or within the agencies of the European Union and NATO when purchasing military equipment and weapons, including through intergovernmental agreements, in the light of cost optimization and transparency of procurement. This includes the purchase and modernization of military equipment already held by the Slovenian Armed Forces. To examine the possibilities and purpose of purchasing used military equipment and weapons.

16. To strengthen cooperation with and support to the public education system in relation to civic education.

17. To upgrade strategic communication capabilities in the field of defence.

18. To review and update normative solutions related to intelligence and security activities in the field of defence, and to integrate intelligence and security capabilities and processes.

19. To intensify the introduction of advanced computer and communication technologies into weapons systems and defence processes.

20. To establish a comprehensive system for cyber defence management in the field of defence within the national cyber security system.

CONCLUSION

The Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia deals with the fundamental challenges which the defence system of the Republic of Slovenia faces, and defines measures to improve its defence capacity. The measures to develop the defence system are, as a matter of priority, aimed at ensuring the stable and sufficiently ambitious funding of the defence system; reaching the necessary number of personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces; completing its professionalization; improving the members' status; carrying out modernization with a view to building defence capacity; modernizing the key infrastructure for the operation and development of the Slovenian Armed Forces; and strengthening the connection of the defence system with the wider society, and thus achieving better recognition of national defence within society.

The defence system of the Republic of Slovenia will pursue an intermediate defence spending target of 1.5% of GDP by 2024 within broad fiscal frameworks, and a gradual long-term approximation to the defence spending target of 2% of GDP. Increased investment in defence must be sufficiently ambitious and predictable, and at the same time balanced between financial resources to implement urgent personnel measures, resources to carry out priority modernization projects, and resources to ensure the preparedness and operation of the defence system in Slovenia and abroad.

The recommendations in the Defence White Paper of the Republic of Slovenia will be the basis of the preparation of new normative, development guidance and planning documents, such as the defence strategy, the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and medium-term defence programmes, which will define, on the basis of realistic assumptions, how intermediate targets in the development of the defence system capabilities will be achieved in reaching the desired state by 2035.

Monitoring the successful achievement of targets related to recruiting more personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces, the changes to the system, the development and modernization of defence capabilities, and, consequently, strengthening the defence capacity of the Republic of Slovenia, will be a continual process which will be based on clearly defined progress indicators.

Building defence capabilities will be a gradual and long-term process requiring constant political support, stable long-term funding and a relevant normative framework. The effects of the measures to strengthen the defence capacity of the Republic of Slovenia and, particularly, to improve the capabilities and readiness of the Slovenian Armed Forces, will be visible in the middle of the long-term period.

Through an effective, modern, and responsive defence system, the Republic of Slovenia will ensure security to its citizens as a condition for the functioning of other social subsystems, and contribute to a quality living environment for the development and perspective of all generations.

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