

Letter from the Director

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Military intelligence has an evident impact on the history, affecting not only the result of wars and the political affairs, but also the development of technology in response to the needs presented, for example, for the optimization of safer methods of communication. In Colombia, the intensity of the armed conflict created the need to strengthen methods and military forces teams, since the military intelligence played a major part in achieving large operations for the last several years, like the "Operation Fénix" (2008), the "Operation Jaque" (2008), the "Operation Chameleon" (2010) and the "Operation Sodoma" (2010). However, even though the army strategic intelligence has been developed to defeat the enemy in war, the role of the military intelligence in post-conflict periods is the necessary condition for a democracy to exist, as well as in accordance with a permanently evolving society.

This again points to the importance the strategic intelligence in the name of national security and, in this respect, the part played by the Escuela de Inteligencia y Contrainteligencia "Brigadier General Ricardo Charry Solano" on the innovation, consolidation and strengthening the strategic intelligence in the country.

It is also necessary to recognize the role played by Departamento de Ciencia, Tecnología, Investigación y Doctrina (Department of Science, Technology, Research and Doctrine, DECTID) in the elaboration of the *Perspectivas en Inteligencia* journal, where different views are expressed, from geopolitical perspectives to the pedagogy of the strategic intelligence.

For the above reasons, as the Director of the Escuela de Inteligencia y Contrainteligencia "Brigadier General Ricardo Charry Solano", I have the pleasure to present the issue corresponding the vol. 8, num. 16 of the *Perspectivas de Inteligencia* journal, containing six articles distributed over two sections.

The first section is called "Military Strategic Intelligence", and the second one, "Security and Defense". These two sections are specialized on topics of current interest concerning the military strategic intelligence and, specifically, the Blue Currency affairs.

With regard to the first article, written by Manfred Grautoff, a researcher in matters of defense and national security, and Professor Rafat Ghotme, from the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, achieve economic valuation study of the loss of the territorial sea after the ICJ's decision against Colombia. The research uses a historical and political analysis methodology, through which some of the bad choices made by Colombia are evidenced, and they propose a delay of the ICJ's decision, as one of the possible strategies to continuing for the future.

The second article is the result of research carried out by Alejandro Bohórquez-Keeney, professor of the Universidad Sergio Arboleda and of the Escuela Superior de Inteligencia y Contrainteligencia. In this paper, attacks in European cities by extremist Islamic groups are analyzed, coupled with modern theories of war and strategic studies. Based on theories of complexity in international relations, strategic and intelligence studies, it also highlights the new role of the civilian population as both an opponent's objective and battlefield.

The third article deals with the research carried out by William Andrés Castellanos-Sarmiento, who conducted a study on the intelligence and geopolitics life-circle, as strategic intelligence tools of the States. The

author clearly manages to present the four phases of the intelligence: 1. Planning efforts in the process of the search for information. 2. Search for information. 3. Information process and analysis. 4. Dissemination and use of the intelligence.

The fourth article is the result of research carried out by João Hernani Vasconcelos Teixeira de Melo, who provided an analysis of the bilateral relationship between Colombia-Brazil for the fight against organized crime. The paper describes the development of the cooperation between the two countries in security issues, during the two of Uribe-Lula and in view of the coincidence of Santos-Lula and Santos-Rousseff (until 2014).

In the fifth article, written by OscarYair Pérez-Rubiano, both the importance of digital competences and technological resources managing are highlighted, as well as the challenges which are currently taking shape for the educational institutions before the dominating dynamics in the digital world, and this as a result of the author's concern raised by the need to renovate spaces and training intentions concerning ICT, in schools, starting with the training of teachers, for ensuring competitiveness involving transfer processes, processing, and storage of information.

Finally, the sixth article, written by Laura Vanessa Valbuena-Oñate, develops an analysis on asymmetrical warfare against Israel and the impact of the military strategies of the war in the National Security Doctrine. The paper highlights the model of the armed forces of Israel, implemented in the wars, in 1967 and 1973, which consolidated the progressive professionalization of the troop strength (of both officers and conscripts).

What role does the strategic intelligence play in policy making? The modern scholarly literature on military intelligence identifies three great challenges with regard to the analytical function of intelligence. The first one is the problem of the Information Age which has enlarged the corpus of information that should be examined, making more difficult this analysis. The second one is the problem concerning the mentalities, in which both production and consumption of military intelligence are biased by misrepresentations; and the third one has to do with the problem of the politicization of the military intelligence, either top-down, by the policy maker, or from the ground up, by the intelligence professional, representing a similar danger.

Referring to the actors and the role of the military intelligence played in the implementation of public policies, there was a need to highlight, on the one hand, that one of the purposes of the military intelligence is to support the people in charge of the overall policy, such as the presidents. On the other hand, the role of the responsible of the overall policy (the presidents), in the process of the intelligence, is in a unique position to decide on the overall policy, making them in one of the major consumers of the military intelligence. In this context, the presidents should play a more active role through the intelligence life-circle, to ensure that the information required by this indicator meets what they need to satisfy their policy making objectives. In response to the three deficiencies referred to above, the producer of intelligence need that the knowledge, abilities and the resources of the customer, in order to be fully established the intelligence consumers and producers roles, given the impact that this may have on the expectations and beliefs of the leaders. Finally, a policy maker must not express the final o expected result of the military intelligence to an analyst, because the policy maker should be forcing the analyst, directly or indirectly, to analytical conclusions.

A timely and reliable intelligence may not be effective against ineffective policies or poorly implemented. Military intelligence has the purpose to inform the policy makers in order for them to make appropriate decisions about policies. If the responsible of the public policy does not understand the role of the military intelligence or simply ignores it, the event might be a blinded policy making. This kind of policymaker's and intelligence professional's influence stress the importance of the role of the intelligence in the process of policy making (Gookins, 2008).

For that reason, efforts continue to strengthen the training in military intelligence in the Escuela de Inteligencia y Contrainteligencia "Brigadier General Ricardo Charry Solano", improving the academic research as part of the future project to implement the military intelligence in Colombia. Accordingly, we should like to acknowledge the researchers who participated and collaborated in the elaboration of this journal. Their efforts to progressively consolidate the intelligence on an academic level have resulted in a quality publication, including papers that give more light to the solution of the most relevant issues concerning military intelligence today.

References

1. Gookins, A. (2008). *The Role of Intelligence in Policy Making*. The Johns Hopkins University Press.