

## FOREWORD

This year we can see that the defence transformation in Hungary has kicked into full gear. The first Airbus helicopters and Leopard tanks are arriving to our units symbolising the modernization efforts. At the same time, the HDF is committed to focus on defence innovation. These two strategic efforts (modernization and innovation) must go hand in hand in order to build the defence force of the future.

As General Ferenc Korom's vision laid out, in order to establish a capable, agile, and ready HDF, which can effectively respond to new threats and challenges, we must focus not only on the acquisition of the best available platforms and technologies, but also on changing the culture of the forces through innovation and organizational learning processes as well.

In order to modernize our armed forces, decision makers must have a balanced approach towards procurement and innovation. Both of them have their own challenges. Military procurement must be rational and flexible. Innovation, as a strategic tool itself, serves three purposes. First of all, monitoring the technology trends and adjusting innovation priorities accordingly is a must. Future foresight is absolutely necessary to avoid strategic surprises, and to create an arsenal for strategic deterrence or surprise.

Secondly, strategic agility must be pursued in developing new technologies. Anomalies and wicked problems are showing up on an everyday basis, and large enterprises should not dismiss them. The defence sector should use innovation methodologies to speed up development and testing in order to enable future operators to handle a wide variety of security challenges.

Finally, as technology development becomes exponential, we, humans must be able to re-imagine our organizational learning processes as well. Knowledge management therefore is the third pillar of innovation and a defence knowledge strategy must support the overall grand strategy in order to attract and retain talent in the digital age. People bring experience, skills, and expertise to the defence sector, and such collective knowledge has great value.

Alas, the ultimate purpose of modernization and innovation is to enable our warfighters with the best possible equipment, and this requires a well-intentioned and considered knowledge management process, continuous and relentless technology development and a focus on the enhancement of the human element.

We are paying close attention to these trends in the Defence Review this year as well, and invite everyone who are willing to share their ideas on contemporary security challenges, force modernization, technology trends, defence innovation, and other thought-provoking ideas about the nature of warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This specific issue reflects the above-mentioned ideas, as we can see thought-provoking articles from our international pool of authors on personal development, blockchain technologies, society building and multi domain operations as well. The following issue will be focusing on innovation, sharing the ideas of top military applied design thinkers from around the world.

*Col Imre Porkoláb PhD  
Deputy National Armament Director for Research Development and Innovation  
Chief of the Editorial Board, Hungarian Defence Review*