

FOREWORD

Hybrid challenges have become a permanent element of the security environment. Today every member state of the NATO alliance is likely to be subjected to some form of hybrid attack sooner or later. Strong NATO responses to such non-linear threats are therefore critical because not every member nation has the resources to face a series of hybrid attacks on its own. However, hybrid defense must originate in the nation under attack: an alliance response can succeed only if the societal sectors – the political, military, economic, society, information and infrastructure sectors of NATO doctrine – are adequately hardened and prepared. This must be a whole-of-nation project, in which the armed force plays an important role.

In November 2021 the Scientific Research Centre of the Hungarian Defence Forces organized an international conference in order to improve general understanding of the characteristics of hybrid warfare, and identify some of the interdependencies among the various stakeholders, as well as to encourage an exchange of views and best practices through open and unrestricted debate.

A distinguished team of international and Hungarian scholars and hands-on experts presented the fruits of their research and the lessons of their experience, and engaged the audience in lively debate. This special issue of the *Hungarian Defence Review* contains some of the papers developed from the presentations.

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