# CHALLENGES OF NAVAL TRANSFORMATION

New security challenges and advances in technology, communications and information technologies in particular, impact the way militaries around the world are organized and equipped to perform their roles. The expectation is that, rather than leading to one-step reorganization and restructuring of the military, these factors bring permanent adaptation of military organizations, designated recently as *transformation*.

To reflect the impact of these developments on navies and related organizations, the Editorial Board of *Information & Security: An International Journal* (I&S), jointly with the AFCEA-Varna Chapter and the Naval Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces initiated the preparation of this special I&S issue.

Naval transformation was the overarching theme of the Second International Conference "The Bulgarian Navy – New Missions, Roles and Capabilities," organized by the AFCEA-Varna Chapter [1] and held at the end of September 2003 on the Black Sea coast near Varna, Bulgaria. The articles in this volume are based on a selection of presentations discussed during this conference.

Reference point of transformation is the new roles, missions and tasks of the Navy. Naval forces are preparing to deal with ill-defined asymmetric threats, under uncertain scenarios in multi-agency and multinational setting. In addition, very often naval forces are expected to assist civilian authorities in border control, law enforcement, search and rescue, and environmental tasks.

To do that effectively, navies shall be able to act in a network-centric manner, where net-centricity is achieved through very high degree of connectivity, near real-time situational awareness, distributed decision-making authority, and a range of flexible capabilities. Such features are in the process of institutionalization through development of novel naval doctrine and tactics, adequate organization, and insertion of advanced naval technologies.

In addition, technological opportunities allow for smaller size of personnel, however with higher and more diverse skill levels. Therefore, transformation places a special emphasis on continuous education, e-learning, and qualitative improvements in individual, crew, and staff training.

In order to succeed, naval transformation needs a clear vision, supported by adequate concepts, doctrine, policies, and technology acquisition. The reader will not find answers to all related questions in this issue. We believe, though, that this I&S volume will provide novel ideas, analysis of experience, and description of advanced technological opportunities, that will be of service on the thorny path of naval transformation.

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[1] More about the activities of the AFCEA-Varna Chapter the reader may find at www.afcea.bg.