About this Special Issue

As the year 2015 is drawing towards its end, I’m very pleased to be able to offer this ISMS conference special issue to our readers. Our original target was to have the ISMS special issue completed by the end of 2015 and now it seems that we have achieved that in the nick of time. For that I have to give a special thanks to all the unnamed reviewers who have contributed in a very important way to making this special issue possible in the planned schedule. Having said that, I must point out that in a scientific journal, if there is a conflict between timetable and scientific quality, it should always be quality that takes precedence.

This issue is a special issue related to the 2015 International Society of Military Sciences conference (R)Evolution of War that was held in Helsinki 13-15th October. Along with conference presentations based on abstracts, ISMS offered a possibility to send full papers to ISMS conference. These full paper submissions would go through double-blind review process organized by Journal of Military Studies and to be published in Journal of Military Studies ISMS conference special issue.

By the deadline for full paper manuscripts on 29th May there were a total of 20 manuscripts of which, however, two were withdrawn. Of the remaining 18 manuscripts nine where classified as desk rejects by JMS editor-in-chief. So there were nine manuscripts that were sent to the double-blind review process. All papers had the 1st review round completed by the ISMS conference, after which the requirements for a double-blind process were naturally compromised, as there was a possibility for the reviewers to find out the author names in the ISMS brochure. Of the nine reviewed manuscripts, four were ultimately rejected, one was withdrawn and four accepted for publication. None of the accepted papers were accepted based on the first review round. Altogether, I would very much like to see this outcome to be a confirmation of the quality and rigor of the review process.

The four papers that can be read from the following pages of this special issue are:

Nordic Armaments Co-operation savings potential by J-M Lehtonen and H. Isojärvi. As I am myself the first author of this paper, I only want to point out that this manuscript was accepted after a similarly rigorous review process as other manuscripts. The editor for this manuscript was Prof. Teemu Tallberg, to whom I would like to express my most sincere thanks for his efforts.

Dependency of Military Capabilities on Technological Development by V. Kuikka, J-P Nikkarila and Marko Suojanen. This paper is concerned with a capability planning problem where the authors present a technology forecasting model that takes into account the interdependencies of technologies.

The Effect of Job Demand and Social Support on Peacekeepers’ Stress and Sense of Coherence after Deployment by J. Keskinen and P. Simola. This paper, through
analyzing a questionnaire, takes a look into the connection between job demands and social support during deployment and psychological well-being afterwards, thereby suggesting ways to enhance post-deployment well-being.

Adversarial Risk Analysis for Enhancing Combat Simulation Models by J. Roponen and A. Salo. This paper, in turn, discusses the adversarial risk analysis approach, whose promise according to the authors is to “combine the conventional statistical approach of risk analysis – which is already widely employed in combat modeling – with fresh game-theoretical perspectives that help predict what one’s opponents are likely to do.”

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those authors that submitted a manuscript for this ISMS special issue and I hope they could also in the future consider JMS as a viable outlet for publishing their research papers. I hope the readers will find the four articles included in this special issue both interesting and enjoyable.

In Lappland on 29th December,

Prof. Juha-Matti Lehtonen

Editor-in-Chief