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After the years of forbearance and hesitation, the North Atlantic Alliance finally adopted a new Strategic Concept at the Lisbon Summit on the 19th-20th of November 2010. NATO has faced the necessity to elaborate a new strategy just after the 11th of September 2001, the date that revealed an entirely new quality of the international security environment. However, the demarcation of new strategic perspectives was difficult. Discrepancies within the Alliance, emerging in particular after the Iraqi intervention, were an effective inhibition. Some people feared that a serious debate on strategy could intensify them even more. It is very well that finally the differences of interests have been neutralised enough to get to work without any bigger risk. And what's more – the result of this works is particularly positive.

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The Lisbon Summit has been generally declared the success. Neither the previous fears concerning the possibility to work out a compact Strategic Concept by the divided allies proved correct, nor the panicky signals preceding the meeting that the Turkish delegation would break the negotiations. The allies have adopted the strategic documents that will point out the direction of NATO activities in a long-term perspective (NATO Strategic Concept) as well as its current policy (the shield, Russia, Afghanistan). However, at present we can only say that the summit has been a success, it is not yet the success of the organisation. We have to wait till real steps reflect the Lisbon settlements.

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The first decade of the 21st century has weakened more the position of Europe in the world. The USA are still the undisputed leader of the geopolitical arena, however we face a tangible change as the Asia and Middle East countries become more and more important. In the Old Continent it is getting more and more difficult to point the countries that could be unanimously considered as global leaders. France and the UK are the last two countries that can be considered as leaders. Their current position is due to political factors such as the fixed position in the UN Security Council, as well as to military factors or – lesser and lesser – to economic factors.

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Anita Krzyżanowska

After the May election in the UK, it has been decided to carry out the Strategic Defence and Security Review, extending the idea of the Strategic Defence Review that had been set some time before the elections. The analysts consider the fact that the object of the review is focused on the general security matter not only as the strategic analysis concerning the British interests, but also as the search by the government of the possibilities to rationalise / reduce the budget expenses, also for the defence.

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Sławomir Kamiński

On the 27th of May 2010 the Barack Obama administration announced a new National Security Strategy. The Strategy stresses the priority significance of the diplomacy and of the international involvement, of the economic development and of the power of persuading, and – if necessary – of the use of the military potential of the USA.

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Ewa Mazur-Cieślik

The National Security Strategic Review (SPBN) has been planned as a process which would indicate the directions of thinking about the future security of Poland, basing on the analysis of the current situation. The changing home and international conditions, new threats that emerge and new possibilities, scientific and technical discoveries will influence considerably the situation of Poland, also the security matters, in a long-time perspective. So the quality of the National Security Strategic Review depends on how precisely we will define all the development possibilities and threats. In the light of these facts the problem of choosing a proper research tool to gather and select some basic information is particularly important.

Americans are leaving Iraq 82

Aleksandra Dzisiów-Szuszczkiewicz

Since September 2010, the American mission in Iraq has changed its formula: officially it is no longer a combat mission. The main task of the forces (about 50 000 soldiers) stationing on the banks of the Euphrates river consists on training the Iraqi Security Forces. However the size of the contingent lets the Americans react quickly in case of an internal threat.

Impact of flood on home matters in Pakistan 89

Tomasz Otlowski

In spite of the official propaganda, the tribal border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan are still within the authority of the Talibans from Tehirk-e-Taliban (TTP). It is still so in spite of numerous marshal operations periodically repeated over the last several years by the Pakistani security forces and the army. However, these offensives have not brought any measurable and permanent strategic results in spite of the deployment of considerable forces and means, as well as of a hard propaganda. It concerns the political aspects as well as the home military situation.

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Bartosz Cichoński, Paweł Świeżak, Konrad Zasztowt

After an optimistic beginning of the year, in the second trimester of 2010 there have been predictions from all over the world concerning the coming of the next economic crash. The greatest apprehension is about the USA public finances. In Europe, it is the destabilisation within the EURO zone that threatens most: the bankruptcy of Greece; the emergency situation in Portugal, Ireland, Spain and Italy. Eastern Europe – as well as Russia – is not indifferent face to a potential second wave of world economic crisis. However, basing on the recent circumstances, it is of little probability that this threatening situation would force the market reforms and the progress of democratisation of political systems.

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Stawomir Moćkun

The ex-Soviet republics of Eastern Europe had tight economic connections with Moscow. Audacious reforms, strong economic relations with Scandinavian countries basing on historical and cultural background, as well as joining the EU have turned the three Baltic states into the economic “tigers” of Europe. However, a fast economic growth propelled by the credits has brought a high inflation and a big deficit of the current sales. The economies have “overheated” and – together with a global financial and economic crisis – the state finances have crashed bringing a serious recession.

MILITARY FORCES

The Navy of the Republic of Poland – its role within the State security system, current situation, perspectives 121

Agnieszka Adamusińska, Waldemar Kozicki

The Navy faces a dramatic decrease in its own potential. It seems that the only viable solution to that problem, which would provide for the maritime armed force's continuous existence, is assistance from the state. Any further delay in this regard would result in the practical loss of the Navy's capabilities. Recovering them from scratch would be both excessively costly and time-consuming.

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