

Editorial

USI National Security Paper 2012 on the subject : 'Restructuring and Integration of the Ministry of Defence with the Three Service Headquarters' was written by Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd) and the same is being carried as the lead article in this issue of the Journal. It has been a subject of much debate in the past and continues to be so. Even though, the necessity for this long standing reform stands well established; yet for some inexplicable reason, the change continues to elude us. General Nambiar in his well researched and thought out paper has put the whole issue in correct perspective and gone on to suggest a structure and the process to achieve the end result that would serve the Nation well. I earnestly hope that his labours would receive due attention from the policy makers. In any case, the initiators of this change ought to be the Defence Services themselves as visibly it affects them the most; undoubtedly, the change would also be in national interest.

Cyber attacks continue to make news but it is neither possible to pinpoint their source, nor are there any regulatory mechanisms in this field. The possibilities of damage and disruption are horrendous. Lieutenant General Davinder Kumar, PVSM, VSM and Bar (Retd) in his article 'Cyber Weapons – The New Weapons of Mass Destruction' has analysed the whole issue of cyber warfare, its implications for national security and highlighted the need for deterrence capabilities in this uncharted field.

In the next article 'China's Border Wars', Major Akshat Upadhyay has done a wide ranging survey of China's border disputes with its neighbours and on what terms most of these, except India and Bhutan, have been resolved. The author has drawn some very perceptive inferences about Chinese behaviour in border negotiations; primarily, "never bargain from a position of weakness". Our negotiators may well keep that in mind.

In the same vein, Dr Bhartendu Kumar Singh in his article 'Henderson Brooks Report and India's China Challenge' argues that the debate over declassification of the above report has been

rendered irrelevant with the passage of time. He, however, emphasises that getting to know the Chinese better is more important as that would help India manage its relations with China. Historians may not agree with this view but it is a view that also needs to be taken into account.

Lieutenant General PC Katoch, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SC (Retd) in his article 'India's Third Front' has examined India's internal fault lines in the light of Pak - China nexus and its implications for national security. Needless to say, it would require a grand strategy to hedge and marginalise these threats, while at the same time building capacities to meet them in the long term.

Space seems to be emerging as the new battleground for military supremacy. At the same time there are no international treaties or regulatory mechanisms in this arena so far. Group Captain RK Singh in his article 'Indian Anti Satellite Weapon: Necessity, Urgency and the Way Ahead' takes stock of the Indian capabilities in this field and outlines the way ahead for India to be an important player in this game of space domination.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones are being developed and used by many countries including India. Consequent to the increasing use of UAVs by the USA in its 'War on Terror' in the Af - Pak Region and elsewhere, ethical issues have come to the fore. In the next article 'Conceptual and Ethical Dilemmas in Employment of Armed UAVs in Counter Terrorism (CT) / Counter Insurgency (CI) Operations in Indian Context', Colonel Amar Ramdasani, VSM, examines the whole issue from ethical and operational point of view in the Indian context.

In the next article 'Why Japan Needs India as a Security Provider?', Dr Satoru Nagao looks at the converging security interests of India and Japan in the Indo - Pacific Region and makes a convincing case for Japan and India to not only cooperate with each other but also with the USA, Australia and ASEAN to come together to stabilise Asia as a whole. He has, however, also asked a very relevant question – whether India has the required will?

As a fall out of the recent incident of beheading of an Indian soldier on the Line of Control (LC) by Pakistan troops, there was considerable debate in the media on the continued relevance of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Lieutenant Colonel Shailender Arya in his article 'UNMOGIP : A Sub-continental Relic' traces the history, composition and functioning of this Mission since its inception in 1948 through the turbulent decades of India - Pak relations to the present times. He has also argued that though this Mission hardly has any meaningful role; yet its presence in the Valley continues to impact on the Kashmiri psyche and credibility of the 'return to normalcy'. While India cannot terminate the Mission unilaterally, he goes on to recommend restricting the Group to its existing office in Delhi with no field presence in Srinagar. It is a food for thought !

Similarly, there is a continuing debate in the media on the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) regarding its continuation in various parts of the Country and the need to modify some of its provisions. In the next article 'The AFSPA – Need for Review' Lieutenant General Raj Kadyan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), based on his considerable experience of having operated in CI environment under AFSPA, carries out an in-depth analysis of various issues raised from time to time and gives a practitioner's point of view based on ground realities.

The next article 'The Story of a Lady Helicopter Pilot' by Wing Commander Namrita Chandi (Retd) is a personal narrative which describes vividly : the expectations, sense of adventure, doubts, apprehensions and finally a profound sense of achievement that she experienced through her years with the Indian Air Force which at the time of her joining the Force was primarily a male bastion.

The last section of the Journal carries four personal experiences of 'Indian Wars – As Seen Through Soldiers' Eyes'. These are : 'A Thorny Operation' by Admiral Sushil Kumar, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, NM (Retd), former Chief of Naval Staff (a reprint by kind courtesy Quarterdeck 2012), 'Fly Low' and 'Tanks with the IPKF' by Group Captain AG Bewoor, VM (Retd), 'Operation

Riddle – 7 Sikh Action in Poonch Sector (Aug – Sep 1965)' by Lieutenant Colonel Ravel Singh Sidhu (Retd) and 'The Revolutionary Government of Nagaland Joins the Mainstream' by Brigadier N Bahri, VSM (Retd). I would like to reiterate that these pieces are meant to share with the readers the feelings and emotions which the authors felt when faced with combat or war like situations. These are neither an attempt to write a history of these operations, nor a critique to bring out lessons learnt. Readers are most welcome to share their experiences of Indian Wars. Even if all contributions cannot be carried in the Journal, these will be preserved in USI Archives for posterity.

Errata

Please refer to page 603 in USI Journal Vol CXLII, Oct – Dec 2012, No 590.

In the footnote, date of commissioning of the Author, Captain Skekhar Dutt, SM, IAS (Retd) :-

For – 06 August 1969

Read – 06 August 1967

Error is regretted.

Editor