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## INTRODUCTION

Last July, the Journal of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies was included in the catalogue of Latindex, in the field of defense, security, political science, and public administration. This is a decisive first step on the path which we have plotted and which is none other than to reach maximum scientific recognition both in the Spanish-speaking and in the English-speaking worlds, using as a base the scientific rigor and control of this publication, which, faithful to its semi-annual calendar, presents its issue Number 4, which is in fact its fifth.

On this occasion, we present nine articles which we consider to be of great interest. In the first of these, Rosa María Fernández Egea sets forth the need for finding solutions to those conflicts generated by the use, in some cases excessive and harmful, of fishing resources, especially in such waters as the North Sea, where the bordering countries have traditionally exploited endangered species and which generate great sensitivity in international public opinion. Food security, appropriateness of use, and exploitation of natural marine resources underlie the author's analysis.

In a very different area, Carlos Setas Vílchez follows a research project for an absolutely rigorous historical analysis of the Al Qaeda organization, based on data from the last 15 years, and very especially on the letters from "Abbottabad" and the data base of the "Harmony Project". Neither does the author ignore the various branches still currently operative, nor the principal leaders of jihadism on an international scale.

At a time when the ISAF operation in Afghanistan is taking stock of results, Jose Antonio Fernández Alfaro offers in his article an evaluation of the programs for the Reform of the Security Sector (RSS) which have been implemented in Afghanistan, and the influence that these have had on the Armed Forces of the country. The analysis is enriched by the inclusion of the personal experiences of the author, who participated in the international mission, carrying out tasks related to the material in his paper.

There is no doubt that Afghanistan has been one of the most demanding of scenarios

for the forces of the more than 50 participating countries and as such, one of the conflicts where troops have found themselves under greatest stress, which on no few occasions has been accentuated by combat situations. Authors Barderas, García-Silgo and Pastor address the role of transformational leadership as a protector from labor stress and the difficulty of implementing it in hierarchical organizations. This is a novel subject for our journal, but one of great interest.

Fernando Ibáñez Gomez extrapolates conclusions from the lessons learned from the excellent results achieved in the fight against acts of Somali piracy, in an attempt to apply them successfully in the Gulf of Guinea, where acts of piracy are increasing and are currently more numerous than those in the Somali basin. Professor Ibáñez analyses lines of action, such as international military presence, means of self-protection, and even the influence on the sea of stability and security on land, not overlooking regional cooperation and the reinforcing of the naval capacities of bordering coastal countries.

Following with questions proper to maritime space, in one of the papers most closely linked to strictly military aspects of those published in our Journal to date, Guillem Colom describes the principal characteristics which define the U.S. Navy. He thus analyses the changes introduced in order to adapt the fleet to coastal warfare and guarantee access to any point on the globe, using its ships as launching platforms in an attempt to maintain the relevance of the Navy, considered fundamental for a seafaring nation, follower of the Mahan doctrine, as is the United States.

For her part, Professor Esther del Campo goes into the ever-interesting research into the Armed Forces-civil society interaction in Latin America, and into how this is reflected in the perception held by citizens of their armies, based on four regional surveys. This question is of great relevance at the stage of transformation now being undergone by the Latin-American Armed Forces, which at times undertake functions more properly carried out by the forces of State security, due to the conditioning factors of common violence, organized crime networks or natural catastrophes which some Latin American countries present.

Professor Esther Salamanca Aguado, who teaches at the Segovia campus of the University of Valladolid, addresses a subject of great current interest affecting people's private lives, namely, data protection, in the face of the abusive use of technologies which permit the massive vigilance of communication, bringing them into collision with the rights and liberties of citizens. The article evaluates Article 8 of the European Human Rights Agreement, with the aim of analyzing whether this is considered sufficient to avoid interfering with the private lives of citizens.

Finally, Ignacio Cartagena Núñez deals in his article with the reinforced dialogue of the International Energy Agency with certain non-member States who, as emerging economies, are destined to play an ever more relevant role in the coming energy panorama. This dialogue should play a relevant role in the response of the international community to the challenges represented by emergency situations within this sector.

I would like to end by thanking the numerous authors who have sent us their articles for their interest in having their work published in the Journal of the Institute.

