EDITORIAL FOREWORD

Continuity Cannot Be Taken for Granted

Continuity does not mean that nothing changes. It means that the task can still be carried out when circumstances do. This distinction speaks both to the research assembled in this issue and to the fiftieth anniversary of Systemy Logistyczne Wojsk / Military Logistics Systems (SLW). Issue 65 brings the anniversary celebrations to a close. It is an occasion to take pride in the journal's achievements, while recognising that the lasting value of a scholarly legacy depends on how it is used and developed.

Issue 63 revisited the journal's history and acknowledged the people and institutions that had sustained it. Issue 64 turned from anniversary reflection towards logistics capability, resilience and implementation. The present issue develops this discussion by examining the conditions that make capability usable. How must equipment, personnel, infrastructure, information and institutions be brought together if essential functions are to be sustained when normal operating conditions no longer apply?

I invite readers to approach the twelve articles as a conversation about the difference between having resources and being able to sustain the functions for which they are needed. The authors pursue this question at different levels: from military equipment acquisition and configuration management, through personnel preparation and the protection of essential services, to the design of energy, digital and transport systems. Seen together, these perspectives reveal dependencies that can be difficult to recognise from within a single discipline.

The opening article, by Andrzej Bujak, Artur Szymonik, Bartosz Jasiulewicz and Anna Jurczak, assesses the urgent operational requirement procedure in relation to the accelerated replenishment of selected categories of military equipment in Poland in the context of the Russian–Ukrainian war. Its relevance extends beyond procurement speed. Drawing on the cases of K9A1 self-propelled howitzers and M1A1 Abrams tanks, the authors distinguish rapid equipment acquisition from the conditions needed for subsequent operational use. Delivered equipment contributes to military capability only when it is supported by training, ammunition, maintenance, infrastructure and sustainment arrangements. This opening contribution is a reminder that the logistics perspective does not end with contract fulfilment: it encompasses what makes equipment usable over time.

Przemysław Simiński examines a related problem through the mobility of military vehicles. Drawing on traction-dynamics characteristics, analytical methods and simulation, he investigates the consequences of mass growth following changes in equipment and configuration. The study highlights the trade-off between the benefits of additional equipment and the retention of the performance needed to carry out

a mission. Anna Pęzioł turns to personnel, analysing longitudinal recruitment data from the Military University of Technology in Warsaw in relation to intake quotas and training-capacity planning. Read together, these contributions offer two complementary perspectives on force development. Expanding and upgrading equipment holdings requires scrutiny of operational usability; increasing the number of places on military degree programmes requires an understanding of applicant demand and the capacity to educate and train future personnel.

The next two articles extend this perspective to the relationship between military capabilities and the functioning of the state and society. Dariusz Paweł Masłowski, Małgorzata Dendera-Gruszka, Julia Giera and Błażej Babik examine the strategic and logistical role of the Polish Armed Forces during the COVID-19 pandemic, proposing reference process models for military support to civilian authorities. Their focus is on the sequence of decisions, resource mobilisation and the organisation of civil–military cooperation. Krzysztof Szwarc, Michał Wiśniewski and Witold Skomra examine the shift in European Union policy from protecting individual infrastructure assets to ensuring the continuity of essential services. They identify the difficulty of translating recognition of interdependencies into shared approaches to risk assessment and management. Together, these articles ask not only who holds the required resources, but how their use can be coordinated when disruption crosses organisational and sectoral boundaries.

The information dimension of these interdependencies is explored in two complementary contributions. Oleh Semenenko, Ihor Mylashenko, Maryna Sliusarenko, Mykola Linevych and Oleksandr Leonenko integrate technical, organisational and legal perspectives on cybersecurity for Ukraine's critical infrastructure. Artur Chlebicki focuses on coalition logistics data exchange, using simulation to compare the consequences of a breach under different access-control architectures, including zero trust. Cooperation depends on information exchange, yet inadequately protected links between partners can also become routes through which disruption spreads. The issue is therefore not simply the security of an individual system, but the ability to maintain a shared logistics picture.

Operational continuity also has a physical foundation: a dependable energy supply. Marianna Jankowska, Rafał Grzegorczyk, Jan Dziedzic and Bartosz Ciupek present a concept for a mobile, containerised combined cooling, heating and power (CCHP) system supported by battery energy storage. Their feasibility analysis considers an energy island serving critical facilities, while highlighting the importance of fuel availability, the utilisation of recovered heat and deployment conditions. Independence from the grid does not mean independence from supply chains. Azad Babayev and Bahruz Ahmedov complement this discussion with laboratory tests of diesel oxygenate additives derived from petrochemical by-products. They assess fuel consumption and exhaust smoke opacity, identifying the potential contribution of

local feedstocks to supply diversification as a subject for further investigation. Both articles encourage the assessment of technical performance alongside the resources and operating conditions needed to make a solution viable.

The following two contributions consider technological change from the perspectives of adoption and analytical support. The pilot study by Maciej Bielecki and Agnieszka Bukowska-Piestrzyńska documents variation in the use of Industry 4.0 technologies within the surveyed group of logistics operators in Poland. Its distinction between familiarity with a technology and its integration into operational processes provides a useful reference point for discussions of digitalisation. Volodymyr Lukhanin develops a comparative framework for supply-chain analysis using discrete-event simulation, agent-based modelling, system dynamics and machine-learning-assisted methods. Their complementary perspectives make it possible to examine different mechanisms of system behaviour, while preserving the distinction between simulation results and findings based on operational data. The question connecting these contributions is how to match both a technology and the means of evaluating it to the logistics problem at hand.

The issue closes with an article by Murad Akhundov, Elvira Omurchiyeva, Lamiya Huseynova, Aytaj Hajiyeva and Nurlan Abbasov on green logistics in transregional transport corridors. Drawing on a synthesis of secondary sources, their analysis of the Middle and Zangezur corridors connects carbon-footprint reduction with multimodal transport, digital transit systems and institutional coordination. It broadens the scale of enquiry from the capability of a particular platform or organisation to the conditions shaping change in international transport networks. It also leaves readers with a question: how can systems be designed to sustain their performance as economic and environmental requirements evolve?

The articles in this issue draw on documents, administrative records, pilot surveys, measurements, simulations and conceptual analysis. Such diversity is valuable when the questions that each method can answer are clear. A laboratory finding, a modelled outcome and an institutional analysis may inform the same decision without constituting the same kind of evidence. A journal's role is to support dialogue across disciplines in which the usefulness of knowledge rests in part on a clear account of its evidential basis and the limits of its application.

This responsibility for the quality and accessibility of knowledge gives particular significance to recent milestones in SLW's development. On 29 September 2026, the journal was included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), an international directory of open-access journals. Inclusion confirms that the journal meets DOAJ's criteria concerning, among other matters, open access, transparency in editorial and peer-review processes, and clear licensing and copyright policies. This is a welcome recognition of the work undertaken to strengthen the journal's publishing standards. It is also a commitment to uphold those standards in everyday editorial practice.

The anniversary year also closes with excellent news from Index Copernicus. On 3 November 2026, SLW received confirmation of its successful evaluation and inclusion in the ICI Journals Master List for 2025. The detailed report recognises the journal's publishing standards, the availability of full texts online and the completeness of the article metadata deposited for the four years covered by the assessment. This is a welcome acknowledgement of the collective effort involved in developing SLW and maintaining its scholarly record. It also provides a useful basis for further improvements in digital publishing and international participation in peer review.

The significance of these developments extends beyond additional listings. Visibility makes a publication easier to find; transparency helps readers assess the grounds for trusting it. Open access enables readers to obtain the text, while clearly stated publishing policies make the process through which it was prepared and assessed more intelligible. This does not replace critical reading; it provides better conditions for it. In a field bringing together defence studies, engineering and management, it is especially important to distinguish scientific transparency from the disclosure of protected information. Responsible openness requires a clear account both of the available basis for an analysis and of any restrictions on sharing it.

Continuity in publishing is sustained by people. On behalf of SLW, I thank the authors and reviewers, the members of the Scientific Council and editorial team, the language editors and publishing staff, and the community of the Military University of Technology. Authorship and peer review are different forms of participation in the same scholarly endeavour: both require time, expertise and a willingness to submit arguments to reasoned scrutiny. I also thank the readers who take up the questions addressed in SLW in their own research, teaching and professional practice. The purpose of preparing each new issue is realised as that knowledge is applied, tested and developed further.

As the fiftieth-anniversary celebrations draw to a close, gratitude is accompanied by the ambition that SLW should remain a forum for knowledge that advances the understanding and improvement of logistics systems. The achievements of earlier decades do not relieve the journal of the need to ask new questions; they provide a firmer basis for asking them well. The next decade begins with the conviction that a journal's value lies not only in how long it has been published, but in what it enables its readers to understand, test and do.

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