

NL ARMS

Netherlands Annual Review of Military Studies

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Ministry of Defence

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The series aims to create an overview of scientific research in military sciences and it shows the extent to which researchers of the Faculty of Military Sciences (FMS) of the Netherlands Defence Academy contribute to this field of expertise.

Research at the Faculty is confined to military-relevant, multi-disciplinary areas and therefore deals with issues relating, among others, to:

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- Leadership and ethics
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- Operational analysis
- Navigation
- Combat systems
- Military platforms
- Cyber warfare

The series is peer-reviewed and reflects the diversity and quality of the Faculty of Military Sciences at its best. With NL ARMS the FMS hopes to serve as a trigger for more international comparative research on military sciences.

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Netherlands Annual Review of Military Studies 2016

Organizing for Safety and Security
in Military Organizations



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Foreword

“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” With these poetic words, Benjamin Franklin in November 1789 explained in a letter to the French scientist Jean-Baptiste Leroy, that the recently signed Constitution of the United States of America might not be so certain and final as the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, 2 years earlier, may have believed. When he wrote this letter, the first amendment to the constitution had already been submitted and he was convinced that the constitution would change over time. As a true polymath, Franklin realized that 100 % certainty is seldom achieved—except for death and taxes. Five months later, Benjamin Franklin died and 2 years later the first amendment was adopted—freedom of speech and free exercise of religion from now on being part of the United States Constitution.

Achieving a society in which safety and security are 100 % guaranteed is impossible. We have to decide what risks we deem acceptable, or, alternatively, which costs we are willing to pay to achieve the highest level of safety. Such costs can be of actual monetary value, but they may also refer to less tangible commodities, such as giving up individual freedom, freedom of movement and rights to privacy. An acceptable risk level for society as a whole may therefore be difficult to comprehend at the level of a single individual. Especially for individuals who have been subject to a disruptive event, there may be little consolation in knowing that chances of that event happening were very small. This constitutes an essential dilemma in risk management: lightning only strikes occasionally and although the chances that lightning will strike twice on the same spot are even lower, this can still happen.

This book is part of the so-called Netherlands Annual Review of Military Studies (NL ARMS) series of books on military relevant themes. NL ARMS 2016 offers several multi-disciplinary views, as provided by a number of researchers

from the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Netherlands Defence Academy as well as from several universities, on the theme of organizing for safety and security, in which the military plays a pivotal role. We hope you enjoy this year's contributions and we are confident that the authors would be happy to give you further information. So, please do not hesitate to contact them directly.

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