



# Slovenia: Warrior of the 21st Century

Incremental acquisition is the watchword of Slovenia's Warrior programme, which in C4I terms, is maximising the use of existing equipment



Slovenia has no near term plans to update its night vision capabilities © AJB

*Under the "Warrior of the 21st Century" programme, the Slovenian Armed Forces are rapidly modernising, acquiring significant chunks of transformational capability, integrating them within the soldier system today, while researching in parallel, other candidate domains for inclusion tomorrow.*

"In one area [of capability], weapons are to some extent already finished," explained Ales Lebar, Senior Adviser on the programme for the Ministry of Defence Logistics Directorate, Armament and Equipping Office, Military Technology, Research and Development Division. "We have bought a completely new range of weapons. Basically we have changed calibres."

This new suite of lethality systems include the Beretta M92 FS 9mm pistol, and several weapons sourced from FN Herstal; the FN F2000 S 5.56mm assault rifle with a mix of Aimpoint sights, laser pointers and Acog optics and underbarrel grenade launcher; the Ultima Ratio Command I sniping rifle, some with integral silencer; FN's .338 Lapua Magnum PGM Sniping rifle; the Hecate II 12.7mm rifle, the Para Minimi 5.56mm Light Machine Gun and 7.62 MAG general purpose machine gun.

#### NEW CAMOUFLAGE

Slovenia has now been working for almost three years on a project to provide a prototype urban and all purpose uniforms, together with the University of Ljubljana and University of Maribor. The Chief of General Staff gave the green light in March 2008 for 200 sets of the general purpose uniform to be produced for testing from January 2009.

Major Bozo Majcen, programme lead for the new uniform in the General Staff, explained that after the uniform completes its roughly eight-month assessment, ▶