

STANDPOINT

by Colonel Professor Dr. Nikolay Bonev Nichev,
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for the scientific papers presented at the competition for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" in the Department of Joint Operations and Planning of the National Security and Defence Faculty at the VA “G.S. Rakovski” in the field of higher education 9.“Security and Defence”, professional field 9.2. "Military Art" under the Doctoral Program in Organization and Management of the Armed Forces in the subjects of "Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations", "NATO Operations Planning", "Crisis Response Operations" and "Information Operations", announced by order of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria No. OX-460 / 16.05.2019 and promulgated in the State Gazette No. 51 / 28.06.2019

of the sole candidate in the competition: **lieutenant colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD** Principal Assistant in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defense Faculty at the VA “G. S. Rakovski”

Veliko Tarnovo
2019

1. General characteristics of the applicant's research, applied and pedagogical activity.

Lt. Col. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD graduated from “Panayot Volov” Artillery and Air Defense School in Shumen in 1999, majoring in Ground Artillery and ATGM. In 2011 he graduated from the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski ", specialty "Organization and management of operational-tactical formations by the Land Forces". He owned his PhD in the scientific specialty 05.12.01 "Organization and Management of the Armed Forces" at MA "G. S. Rakovski”.

He has participated in various forms of advanced training, which is evident from the enclosed competition documents.

In 2014, Lt. Col., Zhelev participates in a competition for an academic position and has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Operational Arts and is currently Assistant Professor in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defense Faculty.

2. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical preparation and activity.

Lt. Col. Zhivko Zhelev, PhD enhances his scientific qualification through the development of lectures, methodologies and books. He has taught various subjects assigned to him during the academic years, namely: Operational Art in Multinational and Joint Operations, NATO Operations Planning, Crisis Response Operations, and Information Operations. The applicant is the author and co-author of books, study guide and monographs with a total volume of 190 pages, of which 140 pages for participation in the competition and articles and reports with a total volume of 386 pages, of which 336 pages for participation in the competition.

3. Main scientific results and contributions.

The publications presented are aimed at studying the current theoretical and applied problems in the field of organization and management of the Armed Forces. The problems developed in them can be grouped in the following two directions: - Information operations and - Operative art. The works of the Information Operations Group (publications under №. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16,

21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32)¹ are of fundamental importance in the research of the candidate. Here the author outlines the theoretical assumptions about the development, organization, technologies and methods of informational impact on opposing forces. In the works of the Operative Arts group, the candidate Lt. Col. Zhivko Zhelev, PhD outlines the principles for the use of operational art and the forms and methods of using the armed forces in the context of information operations (publications under numbers 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 32).

4. Assessment of the importance of contributions to science and practice.

The scientific results are a personal matter of Lt. Col. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD. They can be defined as enriching and furthering existing knowledge, proving new facts and statements, and putting the results into practice. As a result of the analysis of the submitted materials by the candidate in the competition, I accept as scientific and scientific contributions:

1. Scientific contributions:

1.1. Based on a comparative analysis of leading authors from different military schools in the field of information impact, technologies and ways of information impact and the impact of information on the main operational factors, military and national power have been derived.

1.2. Manipulative information impact technologies have been introduced to ensure the achievement of the objectives of information operations in the context of strategic communications and joint operations.

1.3. On the basis of a comparative analysis of leading authors from different military schools in the field of military and operational art, the relationship between the views on operational art, the principles for its application and the forms of use of the armed forces has been drawn.

2. Scientific and applied contributions:

2.1. The possibilities for combining lethal and non-lethal effects on opposing forces from different components involved in joint operations are presented, to maximize the effect of conflicts of different nature while respecting the legal and moral aspects of information operations in today's environment;

¹ The numbering of publications used in the opinion shall be in accordance with the applicant's scientific production list.

2.2. Determining the ability of the armed forces to participate in information operations as a basis for modern operational capabilities, this enriches the theory of martial arts for action in an unstable public environment;

2.3. Reaffirming the link between reconciling enemy sources of influence with the use of manipulative technologies in modern military operations, which would facilitate reasoned decisions about the use of force in an uncertain and dynamic environment;

2.4. Proposed are ways to mislead opposing forces that affect combat losses and resources for joint operations;

2.5. Providing ways to bring about sudden action in military formations with a view to minimizing risk and loss through new means of misleading the enemy;

2.6. Influencing the information impact on operational factors, which makes it a driving force for decision making in the planning and execution of joint operations.

5. Critical notes on submitted works.

The submitted submissions for the applicant's opinion, Lt. Col. Zhivko Zhelev, PhD I have no critical remarks do not give grounds for formulating critical remarks, but rather recommendations - for continuation of scientific work, search for opportunities to attract PhD students and students to participate in research activities.

The presence of the author in the system of referenced systems (SCOPUS and Web of Science) is needed, which will contribute to the results being accessible to a larger scientific community, as well as validation of their applied character.

6. Conclusion.

The candidate for occupation of the academic position „Associate Professor” Lt. Col. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD is a proven scientist with his authority. The rich and varied scientific production, scientific contributions, applied aspects of research, teaching activity are fully and synchronously consistent with the status of "Assistant Professor". The published activities, the participation in national and international forums and the ability to defend their scientific ones, give me reason to give my high appreciation for compliance with the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

7. Evaluation of candidates.

The acquaintance and study of the scientific production presented at the announced competition for associate professor and my personal contacts with the candidate give me a reason to give a positive assessment of the applicant's achievements and to suggest to the venerable scientific jury working on the announced competition to support the award procedure academic post “Associate Professor” of Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD in higher education 9. Security and defense, professional field 9.2.”Military Art” scientific specialty “Organization and Management of the Armed Forces”.

23.10.2019 г.
V. Tarnovo

MADE THE STANDPOINT:
COLONEL PROFESSOR NIKOLAY NICHEV, PHD