



## **REVIEW**

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FOR THE SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE COMPETITION FOR  
OCCUPATION OF THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF JOINT OPERATIONS AND PLANNING OF THE  
FACULTY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE AT GEORGI STOYKOV  
RAKOVSKI MILITARY ACADEMY IN HIGHER EDUCATION 9. "SECURITY  
AND DEFENSE" , PROFESSIONAL DEGREE 9.2 MILITARY AFFAIRS,  
DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN ARMED FORCES ORGANIZATION AND  
MANAGEMENT.

Applicant: Dr. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, Assistant Professor in the Joint  
Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defense Faculty at  
the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski ", Sofia.

The competition was announced by order of the Minister of Defense No 460 of  
May 16, 2019 and published in the State Gazette No 51 of June 28, 2019.

Documents for participation in the competition within the deadline provided by  
the law were submitted by only one participant - sub. Dr. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev,  
Assistant Professor in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National  
Security and Defense Faculty at the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski ", Sofia.

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

Applicant's research and teaching activity in the competition LTC Dr. Zhivko  
Zhelev is mainly focused on research and analysis of the information impact and  
information environment that influence joint operations in modern conditions and



study the evolution and development of operative art and the forms of use of the armed forces in modern conditions.

The relevance of the developed by the LTC Dr. Zhivko Zhelev in scientific and scientifically applied problems stems from the need to expand the systematic scientific knowledge of information impact, ensuring the achievement of the goals of information operations and the vision of operative art, the principles for its implementation and the forms of use of the Armed Forces.

Contributions to the research performed by the candidate in the competition help to determine the ability of the Armed Forces to participate in information operations as a baseline for current operational capabilities.

The scientific value of the works proposed for peer review LTC Dr. Zhivko Zhelev is focused on expanding the theoretical knowledge of the peculiarities of misleading opposing forces and achieving suddenness, which has an impact on combat losses and resources for joint operations, and the impact of information impact on operational factors, which sets it apart as a driving force for decision-making in the planning and execution of joint operations.

The participant in the competition LTC Dr. Zhivko Zhelev is the author of 27 papers with a total volume of 670 pages (for review 336 pages), of which: 1 monograph, 1 textbook, 10 articles and 15 scientific papers.

Out of the total list of accepted materials for review, 22 are copyrighted and 5 are co-authored or developed within teams. Of the papers presented, two articles were published in English in a foreign journal with an impact factor.

The titles listed are as follows:

Publications in the country:

Monograph -1pcs. -140 pages;

Scientific publications - 15 pcs. - reports - 120 pages and articles - 8 issues. - 78 pages

Publications abroad - articles - 2 pcs. - 10 pages;

I agree to review all materials.

I estimate the number of publications accepted for review as sufficient to participate in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski ", Sofia.

Applicant's works are in the field and problems of the specialty of the competition for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of



higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.2. Armed Forces 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.

The applicant's style is deep, understandable and accessible.

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

LTC Dr. Zhelev graduated from the Higher School of Economics "P. Volov" in Shumen in 1999, specialty "Ground Artillery and PTURS".

Successfully graduated from "G. S. Rakovski" in 2011, majoring in "Organization and Management of Operational Tactical Formations by the Land Forces".

Since February 2012 he is a PhD student in full-time training in the Department of Operative Arts, and in 2014 he successfully defended his PhD in the scientific specialty 05.12.01 "Organization and Management of the Armed Forces" at VA "G. S. Rakovski".

Since December 2014 he has been an Assistant Professor in the Operative Arts Department, and since February 2016 he has been Assistant Professor in the same Department. From July 2016 to the present time, Dr. Zhelev is Principal Assistant in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the Military Academy, "G. S. Rakovski" Sofia.

He has participated in various forms of advanced training, as evidenced by his CV.

An analysis of the scientific papers submitted for review indicates that the applicant has focused his research and research interests in several thematic areas:

1. Research on the problems of information operations.
2. Research in the field of operational art.

The professional experience gained as a commander and teacher, researcher and innovator has been directly reflected in his scientific output and fully meets the requirements for occupying the academic position of Assistant Professor in the professional field of Military Affairs.



There is a clear ambition for continuous improvement of scientific qualification and theoretical and practical preparation through the development of lectures, teaching aids and textbooks.

Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Zhivko Zhelev teaches the following subjects: Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations, NATO Operations Planning, Crisis Operations and Information Operations at VA G. S. Rakovski ”.

Continued work on Subs. Dr. Zhelev on the topic of his doctoral dissertation "Improving the participation of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria in information operations in a multinational environment" and this topic appears as central or as an aspect in some of the publications followed by the defense of the dissertation - papers №-2.1. 1.7 - 2.1.1.10; 2.1.1.12 and 2.1.1.16.

This fact in itself is a testament to the sustainability of the scientific interests of the candidate for the academic position of associate professor - prof. Dr. Zhivko Zhelev in the scientific field of the competition, reflected in his scientific developments.

### **3. Main scientific results and contributions**

The main scientific results of LTC Dr. Zhelev can be reduced to conducting a thorough analysis of the existing theory of the field of information impact in operations, and outlines the technologies and methods for its implementation. The theory of modern operations has also been supplemented and further developed by considering various aspects of the operational planning process.

Research activity:

- Generation of new knowledge and skills related to security and defense - Works-№№- 2.1.1.7, 2.1.1.9 - 2.1.1.11; 2.1.1.17, 2.1.1.21, 2.1.1.22, 2.1.1.29 and 2.2.32;

- further development of the theory and practice of scientific research through generalized and extended theoretical formulations for:

= development of technologies and methods for informational impact and influence of information on the main operational factors, combat and national power-works-№№- 2.1.1.8 - 2.1.1.10, 2.1.1.14 - 2.1.1.16, 2.1.1.21, 2.1. 1.22, 2.1.1.25 - 2.1.1.27, 2.1.1.29, 2.1.1.30 and 2.2.32;

= current trends for discovering the connection between the vision of operative art, the principles for its application and the forms of use of the Armed Forces - Works No.1.1.13, 2.1.1.18 - 2.1.1.20, 2.1.1.23, 2.1.1.24 and 2.1.1.28;



- creation of a harmonious system of theoretical generalizations and proposals for achieving suddenness in the actions of the military formations and misleading the enemy - Works-No.1- 2.1.1.11, 2.1.1.12, 2.1.1.15, 2.1.1.23, 2.1.1.30 and 2.2.32.

The main contributions of the applicant are of a scientific and scientific nature.  
Scientific contributions:

- Information impact technologies ensuring the achievement of the objectives of the information operations are defined and classified - Works - №№ - 2.1.1.9, 2.1.1.10, 2.1.1.14, 2.1.1.16, 2.1.1.21, 2.1.1.30 and 2.2.32 ;

- In accordance with the concept of system-functional analysis, the theory for determining the ability of the armed forces to participate in information operations has been expanded with scientific knowledge - Works - №№ - 2.1.1.7, 2.1.1.10, 2.1.1.17, 2.1.1.23, 2.1.1.30 and 2.2.32;

- Theoretical formulations in drawing the connection between the views on operative art, the principles for its application and the forms of use of the armed forces - works - No.1.1.1.13, 2.1.1.18, 2.1.1.19, 2.1.1.20, and 2.1.1.23;

Scientific and applied contributions:

- Systematization of the methods of misleading opposing forces has been made, which has an impact on combat losses and resources for conducting joint operations - Works - No-2.1.1.9, 2.1.1.10, 2.1.1.14, 2.1.1.16, and 2.1.1.21;

- The links between combining sources of influence on the enemy with the use of manipulative technologies in modern military operations have been defined, which would facilitate the making of reasoned decisions for the use of force in an uncertain and dynamic environment - Works – №№ - 2.1.1.11, 2.1. 1.12, 2.1.1.15, 2.1.1.21, 2.1.1.24, 2.1.1.30 and 2.2.32;

- The impact of the information impact on operational factors has been systematized, which sets it apart as a driving force in decision-making during the planning and carrying out of joint operations - Works - №№ - 2.1.1.8, 2.1.1.10, 2.1.1.14, 2.1. 1.17, 2.1.1.25, 2.1.1.28, 2.1.1.29 and 2.2.32.

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

My assessment of the scientific and applied contributions is that they are unique in nature and fill a serious gap in the theory and practice of military science.

The materials submitted to me for review show the application of the results of the applicant's research and regulatory activities. Lt. Col. Dr. Zhivko Zhelev is a major contributor to most of the collaborative publications. Separate protocols have been presented for the works in which the applicant has co-authored.

I believe that the work is an independent work of the applicant and successfully defends the claims for scientific and scientifically applied contributions.



### **5. Critical notes on submitted works**

To the submissions of candidate materials submitted to me for review Dr. Zhivko Zhelev I have no critical remarks. The writings do not notice any inaccuracies, repetitions and editorial errors.

I recommend that the applicant expand his / her research activities and use the lessons learned from recent international conflicts, from exercises and classes.

### **6. Conclusion**

Provided by the candidate in the competition Chief Assistant, LTC Dr. Zhivko Zhelev documentation and scientific production meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Rules for its implementation and the required national minimum requirements.

My assessment of the research papers of Assistant Professor, LTC Dr. Zhivko Zhelev, sole participant in a competition for a military serviceman to occupy an academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of the Armed Forces", professional field 9.2. "Military Affairs" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", for the needs of the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defense Faculty at Georgi Stoykov Rakovski Military Academy, is "positive".

### **7. Evaluation of candidates**

I propose to the distinguished Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate, Assistant General, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev and propose to the Faculty Board at the National Security and Defense Faculty of the Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski "to be elected and to hold the academic position "Assistant Professor "in the field of higher education" Security and Defense ", professional direction " Military Affairs ", in the specialty " Organization and Management of the Armed Forces "in the Department of Joint Operations and Planning "from the National Security and Defense Faculty of the VA" G. S. Rakovski"- Sofia.

10/29/2019  
Veliko Tarnovo

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Colonel Assoc. prof.

Milen Ivanov, PhD