



RAKOVSKI NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

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REVIEW

By colonel associate professor Peter Simeonov Hristov ,
Chief of “Air Force and Air Defence” Department, “Command and Staff” Faculty in
“Rakovski” National Defence college.

Higher education area: 9.”Security and Defence”

Professional field: 9.2. “Military Art”

Scientific specialty: “Organization and Management of the Armed Forces”.

The scientific papers presented in competition for occupying the academic position “associate professor”, for officer at the “Joint operations and planning” Department of “National Security and Defence” Faculty in “Rakovski” National Defence college in the scientific field “Organization and Management armed forces”, higher education area “Security and defence” professional field “Military art” in educational disciplines: “Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations”, “NATO Operations Planning”, “Crisis Response Operations” and “Information Operations”. The competition was announced by order of the Minister of Defence № OX - 460 / 05.16.2019, promulgated in the State Gazette № 51 / 28.06.2019.

The composition of the Scientific Jury is determined by an order of the Chief of the “Rakovski” National Defence college № SI29-RD03-206/ 07.10.2019.

The candidate to participate in the competition is Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev PhD, assistant in the “Joint Operations and Planning” Department at the “National Security and Defence” Faculty of the “Rakovski” National Defence College.

1. Brief biographical data and relevance of the proposed scientific works:

The candidate for the academic position of associate professor Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev was born on May 2, 1975. in the town of Yambol.

He graduated “Panayot Volov” Artillery and Air Defence School in Shumen in 1999, majoring in “Ground Artillery and ATGM”, with a Bachelor's Degree “Military art”, qualification - Military Officer and civil qualification - “Engineer electronic computing“. He has studied and completed his Higher Education, Master of Arts in Military Science - the “Rakovski” National Defence College - Sofia for 2009 to 2011, majoring in “Organization and Management of Operational-Tactical Units by the Land Forces”.

He has held various command and staff positions in the Bulgarian Army units for 12.08.1999 to 2012.

He has been a PhD student for 2012 to 2014 - a regular form of training in the “Operative Art” Department of “Rakovski” National Defence College. He has acquired an educational and scientific PhD the specialty “Organization and Management of the Armed Forces” since 2014.

He has been Assistant Professor in the “Operative Art” Department of “Rakovski” National Defence College since 23.12.2014. He has been chief assistant in the “Operative Art” Department of “Rakovski” National Defence College for 01.02.2016 to 04.07.2016. He has been chief assistant in the “Joint operation and planning” Department at the Rakovski National Defence College since 04.07.2016.

The competition's research and teaching activity is focused mainly on the creation and extension of scientific knowledge of the multidirectional and dynamic changes in modern integrated security environment and the need to effectively use operational units in multinational and joint operations, in crisis response operations, in information operations and in NATO operations planning.

The relevance of the works developed by the applicant and proposed for the competition and reviewing of the work arises from the need to carry out a more complete and comprehensive study of the operational use of the formations, focusing on the necessary operational, planning and preparation skills for participation different missions.

Contributions from the research conducted by the candidate to the competition contribute to complement and further develop the theory of modern operations, to ensure the management of forces and to effectively counter current threats. The scientific and applied value of the papers submitted for review by Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD is focused on expanding theoretical knowledge of the fundamental and

traditional principles in planning and using military formations in different formats of operations and summarizing experience over the years.

The dynamic security environment provides opportunities for research and interpretation, in search of opportunities for misleading opposing forces, a balance between combat losses and resources for joint operations.

2. A general description of the materials presented at the competition and which works of the submitted by the applicant are accepted for evaluation by the reviewer.

The participant in the competition - Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD submitted 26 publications in a volume of 336 pages for review. Of the 26 titles presented, 22 are authors and 4 are co-authored. Co-authored scientific publications are accompanied by duly prepared and signed separation protocols.

It is clear from the Application for the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for occupying an academic position of “Associate Professor” that the scientific papers proposed for review by the applicant do not repeat those proposed in the procedure for acquiring a Doctoral degree. This fact gives me justification for the 26 papers proposed for review by Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD with a total volume of 336 pages, for review to be accepted by all 26.

Submitted publications (according to the "Scientific Production List of Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD ") **can be classified as follows:**

- monograph - 1 item - [3.2], with a volume of 140 pages;
- articles - 10 items [21 to 30], with a volume of 88 pages;
- reports - 15 issues [6 to 20], with a volume of 108 pages.

By place of publication:

- articles in national magazines - 8 items [21 to 28];
- articles in international journals - 2 items [29 and 30];
- scientific works of “Rakovski National Defense College”-18 items;
- scientific works of the “Vasil Levski National Military University”- 4 items.
- other - 4 items.

In the language in which they are written:

- in Bulgarian language - 24 items;
- in English language - 2 items [29, 30].

Number of co-authors:

- author - 22 items;

- co-author - 4 items.

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

Representatives for the review of the work of the Chief Assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD may also make a problem in the specialty of the competition for taking an academic degree " associate professor " higher education area "Security and Defence", professional field "Military Art", majoring in "Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations", "NATO Operations Planning", "Crisis Response Operations" and "Information Operations", as well as in courses and master's programs in professional field National Security.

Browse papers have been publicized in specialized scientific journals: Military Magazine; International Journal of Advanced Studies; Annual Scientific Conference at "Rakovski" National Defence College, Annual Scientific Conference of the Command-Staff Faculty and Annual University Scientific Conference of "Vasil Levski" National Military University.

The applicant's style is academic, concluded, understandable and accessible.

At the initial acquaintance with the scientific production for Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD the impression was given the proper arrangement of the documents, including their uniform numbering in accordance with the requirements of this Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. Also noteworthy is the new moment, regulated in the said Law, namely the Statement for the implementation of the national minimum requirements (according to Article 2b, Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria). From the introduction of the guidebook, it can be seen that the best points in the indicator groups are for all of the submitted scientific works, which have been done and overlooked in order to compete.

The applicant has submitted his papers in a different format, organized in several main thematic areas (according to the attached list "Abstracts of scientific papers for review"):

- **Generation of new knowledge and skills** in the security and defence sector [1, 3, 7.25, 7.26, 7.27].

Central to this group of works is naturally the monographic work entitled "Information Operations and Information Impact."

The monograph presented reveals the nature and content of the operational use of information impact as an element of general theory of operative art and part of a joint operation. The historical aspects and the periodization of operative art are thoroughly and thoroughly disclosed and the views of the various world theoretical schools are presented and analysed. The processes and activities related to planning and carrying out information operations are analysed and investigated in logical coherence and consistency.

The complete reading of the monographic work complements and expands the knowledge related to the possibility of using information influences in conducting a modern operation - independently or jointly. At the same time, one assesses the impact and dependence of various aspects of defensive defensiveness on "awareness".

Other papers in this thematic area also enrich and supplement the theory and could be used in the development and review of doctrinal and tactical publications that determine the use of information approaches in operations.

- development of theoretical and practical formulations- [7.6, 7.7, 7.15, 7.23, 7.26] regarding the functioning of the information impact system when participating in operations.

These works provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills on issues related to the ability to combine lethal and non-lethal effects on opposing forces from the various components involved in joint operations.

- creation of a coherent system of theoretical generalizations and proposals for the use of units by the Armed Forces in information operations and development of operational capabilities based on misinformation approaches to counteract non-traditional threats [3, 7.25, 7.27].

- Chief Assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev PhD **has continued 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 has been developed as a central or as an aspect in publications submitted for review [3, 7.25, 7.27, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18].

This fact is itself a telling testimony to the sustainability of the scientific interests of the candidate for academic importance "Assistant Professor" in the scientific and educational field of the competition, which is reflected in his scientific and methodological developments.

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

The monographs submitted for review, reports at scientific conferences and articles in scientific journals have been developed at a high scientific and theoretical level, allowing the candidate in the competition to further develop a scientific theory that not only describes but systemizes summarizes and proposes changes.

From the creative autobiography presented, it can be seen that the Assistant professor, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev PhD has been appointed to a teaching position since 2014 as an Assistant Professor in “Operative Art” Department of “Rakovski” National Defence College”. He has been appointed as Chief Assistant in the “Operative Arts” Department at the “Rakovski” National Defence College”- Sofia from 01.02.2016 to 04.07.2016, and he has appointed as a Chief Assistant in the “Joint Operations and Planning” Department of the “Rakovski National Defence College” since 04.07.2016. After that he has involved in the teaching process and has been teaching in the following subjects: "Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations", "NATO Operations Planning", "Crisis Response Operations" and "Information Operations", as well as in courses and master’s programs in professional field National Security.

The faculty's annual report on participation in the learning process shows that the Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev, PhD has a high level of participation in the learning process, which satisfies the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for participation in the competition.

The candidate in the competition - has successful leadership, training and protection of 14 (fourteen) graduates.

5. Main scientific results and contributions

The main contributions of the candidate - Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev PhD are scientific and scientifically applied and can be formulated as follows:

As scientific contributions related to the enrichment of existing knowledge:

1. The principles and approaches for the development of manipulative technologies for information impact in accordance with the modern requirements are revealed and justified the directions are presented for modernization and areas for acquiring and maintaining capabilities for conducting information operations. [3, 7.25, 7.27].

2. New knowledge and skills in the field of security and defense have been generated, extending theoretical assumptions regarding the impact and impact of information on major operational factors [3, 7.25, 7.27, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18].

3. The theory of the operational use of military units in operations of a union or coalition nature has been further developed and enriched [7.16, 7.17, 7.18].

4. Theoretical perceptions and statements related to the category "information impact" have been enriched and expanded and the links with the military and national power have been deduced. [1, 3, 7.25, 7.26, 7.27].

As scientific contributions, I accept:

1. A theoretical rationale has been made and options have been proposed for combining lethal and non-lethal effects on opposing forces from different components involved in joint operations. [7.6, 7.7, 7.15, 7.23, 7.26].

2. The ability of the Armed Forces to participate in information operations is formulated as the basis of modern operational capabilities, enriching the theory of martial arts for action in an unstable public environment. [7.5, 7.8, 7.20, 7.26].

3. Ways to mislead opposing forces have been proposed [7.1, 7.9, 7.11, 7.21, 7.22, 7.28].

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

The materials submitted to me for review show the application of the results of the research and teaching activity of the candidate in the competition - Chief Assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev PhD.

7. Assess the extent to which the contributions are made by the applicant

Assistant professor, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev PhD is the lead author for most of the collaborative publications.

8. Critical notes on peer-reviewed works

Some critical notes and recommendations may also be made to the materials submitted for review:

- there are inaccuracies, repetitions and editorial errors in the design of the materials for participation in the competition and in part of the works, which do not diminish their scientific value but impair the opportunities for quick perception;

- the list of references used in some publications has not been compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Standard for Bibliographic Citation - BDS / ISO 690:2011;

- the papers submitted for review show that a small part of them are from the candidate's participation in conferences and other scientific forums with international participation (2 items).

These gaps are for the most part technical and do not diminish the value of the results achieved by the candidate. They show his ability to develop independently and in a team matters relevant to the theory and practice of security and defence of the modern state in a dynamically changing environment for security.

9. Personal impressions and other matters that the reviewer believes should be relevant

I have known Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev, PhD since 2012, as a full-time doctoral student. My impression is that he is a professional in his field, a collegial and correct officer and a colleague. Doesn't have the inconvenience of asking questions and always strives to clear up the vague moments and details of a problem. His authority among colleagues and trainees is high, given the proven levels of knowledge and the pursuit of excellence in theoretical preparation and practice. I am convinced that Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Zhelev, PhD is working hard for his teaching perspective and is a good example for his colleagues and trainees and students.

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

10. Conclusion

The documentation and scientific production submitted by the candidate in the competition for Assistant Professor, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD meet the requirements Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and regulated by them minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Rakovski National Defence College.

My assessment of the scientific work of Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD sole participant in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” (declared in the State Gazette issue - No. 51 / 28.06.2019) as a Officer in higher education area “Security and Defence”, professional field “Military Art”, scientific specialty “Organization and Management of the Armed Forces”, subjects:

“Operational Art in Joint and Multinational Operations”, “NATO Operations Planning”, “Crisis Response Operations” and “Information Operations”, is **“positive”**.

11. Assessment of candidates

I propose to the distinguished Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate, the Assistant professor, Lieutenant Colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD and to propose to the Faculty Council at the Faculty of National Security and Defence of Rakovski National Defence College **to be elected and to take academic post “Associate Professor”** in the higher education field “Security and Defence”, professional field “Military Art”, in the specialty “Organization and Management of the Armed Forces” in the “Joint Operations and planning” department of the “National Security and Defence” Faculty and Rakovski National Defence College - Sofia.

Drafted the review:

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colonel associate professor Peter Hristov, PhD

Sofia city