

STANDPOINT

by prof. Vladko Michov Ivanov, PhD member of the scientific jury in competition for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", 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".

On the ground of Chief's order of VA "G. S. Rakovski"

№ СИ29-РД03-206/07.10.2019 г.

I. A general assessment of the qualities of the candidate, scientific publications and relevance of scientific production

The competition announced in State Gazette No. 51 / 28 June 2019 and announced by order of the Minister of Defence No. OX-460/16.05.2019. The candidate has submitted his documents within a competition - lieutenant colonel Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, PhD assistant professor in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defence Faculty at the VA "G. S. Rakovski".

Lieutenant Colonel Zhelev pointed out 26 scientific publications with the total number of pages - 336 for competition's review. The scientific papers with co-authorship are separate correctly. After reviewing them, I think that they have been published in reputable publications and they are the personal work of the candidate. In terms of content, they are located in the field of security and defence and the

professional field pointed in the competition. The scientific production covered the fundamental problems of the modern information confrontation, extended in many applied directions and instruments for operation in the era of cold peace. There is no doubt that they are relevant and significant - this matter characterizes the exit to a more complex multipolar world that has probably come and science registers it as fact today. The candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Assistant Professor in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", professional field 9.2. "Military Art", and he exceeded them in a pretty good extent.

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

It is clear from the attached documents that lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD has taken the first officer's office in 1999 and he had 20 years of service as an officer. His diplomas are excellent. He has held the positions by Platoon Commander, Company, Battery and Division Chief of Staff. He has participated in numerous professional development courses. In the scientific aspect, the candidate has five years of experience as an "Assistant professor". He has graduated PhD in 2014. His workload show stability and exceed requirements in each of them over the past three years.

Overall, I think that the candidate combines professional and pedagogical achievements with scientific. This is one of the reasons the candidate for the post of the associate professor competition in the Joint Operations and Planning Department.

III. Assessment of the scientific and practical contributions to the submitted works and their importance

I accept the self-assessment of the contributions of lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD declared in the Summary of his scientific publications dated 29.07.2019. They combine theoretical and applied achievements, which pass into each other and present the author as a built scientist, who grew up in military life. They are group into several main areas.

First, I emphasize theoretical summaries of the information environment based on purposefully selected doctrines, authors, and schools. Despite the huge volume of publications on this topic, lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD has built its cognitive system for an information environment, reflected in orderly terminology, applicable to the Army reality. I have highlighted his monographic it realistically display and Information oriented impact as the leading goal of the entities that monitor, analyse, use and ma left main strategic, operational and tactical factors. After complex abstract and battle regroupings, they form the national power of states and coalitions, pledge victories in peace and forge them into conflict. The author also gives a provisional interpretation of a fateful postulate, known since Sun Tzu's time - from the same information about the needs of the armed struggle creates opposite manipulation effects. The winners set their standard of truth and enjoy a short world order before the new subjects made their claim. This is difficult to understand in classrooms and a reminder of today's national establishment - the paradigm, poles and orientations change very quickly on the dividing line between East and West. From the scientific publications lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD feels the breath of information wars, which opened up fronts in culture, economy and mass media, they divided societies, political forces and countries. A process precedes and accompanies wars that are being experimentally waged around Bulgaria in recent times. I recommend that the author bravely name the problems, because whoever sees them first and solves them with a swing will be the next leader in the Balkans, Europe and the world.

Secondly, meaningfully determine the knowledge analysis and synthesis of the visions of the operational art. It is a topic as old as the world, but in new times, it has a new context. I expressly point out that the candidate had discovered him, formulated, described - modern operations of any kind will be conduct in complicated information field whose poles will change faster than knows possibilities of human, as a biological species and they will negate the moves of machines. The result will be as surprising to the world as the fall of the Berlin Wall. On the periphery of the EU and among the

ambiguity of partners they Euro-Atlantic solidarity operational art, the principles of its application and forms for use of armed forces put Bulgaria in front of existential questions. The candidate has drawn situational field which must be placed Bulgarian priorities that I do not I see clearly in the affairs of the institutions. I suggest that the author clearly to say who will be leading a role in operations in the Balkans - the armed forces, paramilitary formations unspecified ethno-social and political boundaries or spontaneously is defending people. This is a cardinal question - it answers whether it makes sense at all to start wars that will end with a civilizational apocalypse. lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD has well-combined information factors and forms of armed influence - countries are breaking up around Bulgaria, the new ones are being created, the names are being changed and unions are being reorganized. All of this raises questions of national doctrine.

Somewhere among the big questions, the author poses the dilemma of information operations as "combining lethal and non-lethal effects on opposing forces from different components ... to maximize the impact of conflicts of law and moral considerations in different nature." The mention of morality after the theory of armed struggle allows the use of information as misinformation is a huge scientific and value challenge. It can deform the sense of justice for generations and lead the at-risk society to spiritual destruction, a prerequisite for the transition from cold to fighter wars. I recommend that the author give an opinion on who will win in them - weapons or faith, biology or intelligence. How should these components be combined and prepare? Without this scientific staging, we do not know what Bulgarian society is preparing for and what tasks we are facing with the security system over the long term.

The candidate successfully outlines the field and capabilities of the Armed Forces to participate in information operations as an indicator of current operational capabilities. The connection between the fire impact on the enemy (the author is an artillery officer) with the use of manipulative technologies in modern military operations is built in the context of modernity created by objects and infrastructure,

which in itself has great destructive potential. The same related to the peculiarities of decision-making and the deliberate use of force in an uncertain and dynamic environment.

With innovative and applied effects are concerned questions about the new methods for the determination of combat potentials planning it fire support in multinational joint operations, the role of the naval component operations military deception and others.

The candidate is able to summarize the development of military science and principles of using armies of Alexander of Macedonia to the Napoleonic wars and the evolution of views for operational art before and after World War II. I would like to see the conclusions of nowadays-strategic management – “Where it leads us and whether it draws conclusions from the military campaigns of strategists who have remained as lessons in history”. I think that the candidate has tried to give a preventive answer and has not accidentally included in the analyses the developments in military science, the national interests of the Russian Federation and the activities of the Russian Armed Forces in Syria. The problem of information impacts and operational art, and in this context, reaches the essence of the armed struggle - misleading the opposing forces and inflicting devastating damage on them with sudden and decisive actions without rules.

Lastly, I emphasize that the scientific publications placed on the richness of the authors of the past, have a contemporary interpretation and personal writing.

IV. Critical notes and recommendations for the applicant's future activities

I understand that due to his position lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD has spared names, national and coalition weaknesses. I offer him in a restricted environment to evaluate the capabilities of Bulgarian Armed Forces to conduct independent information operations. After that, he will be good to put on a critical assessment operational art to threats of various kinds and offer direct solutions for national

priorities in terms of national power, moral direction of information and military-political behaviour in a region.

I also read with interest the use of information operations in carrying out "non-violent revolutions". Are there no violent changes at all? To which side does the Armed Forces stand in this case - uphold the status quo or lead to change?

V. Conclusion

I thank the candidate for evaluating and re-evaluating information opposition, operational art and its fruits - military, economic, ethno cultural, intelligence and other operations. My generation lives in such a spirit - fortunately, we Bulgarians (despite the large list of mistakes) did not get into a heated conflict. In this sense, I see and finally evaluate as positive the works of lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD they are measured, saturated with theory and practical ideas, but they do not inspire aggression. I wish him if he aspired for a professor to dose the retreat and the offensive so that it would not deprive us of the right at the end of the parades to stand among the winners.

The completely scholarly discussion of the work gives me every reason to support the candidate on the path to an associate's degree, which I think is well worth the job - both with biography and scientific papers and with the example of a teacher and an officer. I vote in the affirmative and propose that the Scientific Jury award it to lieutenant colonel Zhelev, PhD in academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 9. "Security and Defense", 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".

Drafted the standpoint:

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