

REVIEW

by Captain (Navy) PhD Krasimir Petrov Kostadinov, associate professor, Head of the “Naval Forces” Department at the Faculty of “Command and staff” of the “Rakovski National Defense Academy”, Sofia, 82 "Evlogi and Hristo Georgievi" Blvd., tel. 029226635, Field of higher education: “Security and defence”; Professional direction: “Military case”.

for the scientific papers presented at the competition for occupying the academic position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Joint Operations and Planning of the Faculty of National Security and Defense at “Rakovski National Defense Academy”, in the field of higher education “Security and defence“, professional field “Military Affairs”, Doctoral Program ”Organization and Management of the Armed Forces”, announced by order of the Minister of Defense No. OX-460 of May 16, 2019 and published in the State Gazette No. 51 of 06/28/2019 of the Candidate: Lt. Col. PhD. Jivko Dobrev Zhelev, assistant professor in the Department “Joint Operations and Planning” Faculty “National Security and Defense” at the “Rakovski National Defense Academy”.

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

lieutenant colonel Phd Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev was born in 1975 in the town of Yambol. In 2014, PhD Zhivko Zhelev has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Operational Arts, and is currently Principal Assistant in the Joint Operations and Planning Department of the National Security and Defense Faculty. He has participated in various forms of advanced training, which is evident from the enclosed competition documents.

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

The competitor's research and teaching activities are focused mainly on creating and expanding scientific knowledge of the multidirectional and dynamic changes in today's integrated security environment and the need for effective planning and involvement of armed forces structures in military operations, as well as the role and the importance of the Operational Factor Information for maximum impact.

3. Main scientific results and contributions

Contributions from the research carried out by the candidate to the competition contribute to complement and further develop the theory of modern operations by considering various aspects of the operational planning process. An in-depth study of information impact in operations has also been carried out and technologies and methods for its implementation have been identified.

The scientific value of the papers submitted for review by Lieutenant Colonel PhD Zhelev, Assistant General, is focused on broadening the theoretical knowledge of fundamental and traditional principles in the operational use of force formations.

The applicant has presented his / her work in a different format, organized in several main thematic areas (according to the attached “Reference for original scientific contributions”

- Generation of new knowledge and skills in the security and defense sector –
works №№ 3, 7.1, 7.11, 7.22, 7.9.

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

The complete reading of the monographic work complements and broadens the knowledge related to the possibility of information impact in modern operations. At the same time, it assesses the importance of the Operational Factor Information and its use for maximum effect.

Other works 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 the Armed Forces in operations.

- **Further development of theoretical and practical formulations** - works - №№ - 7.8, 7.10, 7.12, 7.13, 7.16, 7.18, 7.20, 7.24, 7.25 in respect of manipulative technologies for information impact, ensuring the achievement of the goals of information operations in the context of strategic communications and joint operations.

- **Creation of a harmonious system of theoretical generalizations and proposals** on some aspects of the use of formations by the Armed Forces in operations, creation of operational capabilities and effective impact and counteraction to non-traditional threats - Works - №№ 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.14, 7.19, 7.23, 7.28.

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

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

As scientific contributions related to the enrichment of existing knowledge:

1) Based on a comparative analysis of leading authors from different military schools in the field of information impact, technologies and methods for information impact and the impact of information on the main operational factors, combat and national power have been derived. [3, 7.10, 7.25].

2) 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. [3, 7.27].

3) Manipulative information technology technologies have been introduced to ensure the achievement of the objectives of information operations in the context of strategic communications and joint operations. [7.16, 7.17, 7.18].

As scientific contributions, I accept:

1) The possibilities of combining lethal and non-lethal effects on opposing forces from different components involved in joint operations to maximize the effects of conflicts of different nature while respecting the legal and moral aspects of information operations in today's environment are presented. [7.6, 7.7, 7.15, 7.26].

2) Confirmation in a new way of the link between the reconciliation of sources of influence on the enemy with the use of manipulative technologies in modern military operations, which would facilitate the making of reasoned decisions for the use of force in an uncertain and dynamic environment. [7.10, 7.12, 7.13, 7.14, 7.19].

3) Outlining the impact of the information impact on operational factors, which makes it a driving force in decision making during the planning and implementation of joint operations. [3, 7.1, 7.11, 20.1].

5. Critical notes on submitted works.

I have no critical comments on the materials submitted by the candidate for the competition. It is evident that the author presents the studied objects and objects thoroughly and

comprehensively, as well as the fact that the presented scientific production has been correctly edited.

I consider it a good idea to propose to the candidate to expand his publications by genre and seek to promote his activity by publishing in the world reference systems (SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE).

6. Conclusion.

My assessment of the scientific work of Lieutenant Colonel Phd Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev, sole participant in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of Assistant Professor for military personnel, in the field of higher education “Security and Defense”, professional direction “Military Affairs”, scientific specialty “Armed Forces Organization and Management” is “**positive**”.

7. Assessment of the applicant.

I propose to the distinguished Scientific Jury of the competition to rank the candidate, Assistant General, **Lieutenant Colonel Phd Zhivko Dobrev Zhelev and propose to the Faculty Board at the National Security and Defense Faculty of the “Rakovski National Defense Academy” 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 “Rakovski National Defense Academy”

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