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Review of the book  
“Digital Infantry Solution. Research and Innovation”

Introduction

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the issue of the importance of information for effective tactical and operational activities. The research interest in this area goes hand in hand with the practical dimension, namely, the increase in the importance of non-military aspects of the battlefield, such as information activities. What is more, due to the growing amount of information, it is necessary to conduct research in the field of innovation and information technologies (IT) that can be used by modern armed forces and state institutions competent in the field of defense.

The obvious challenge then is to provide IT knowledge to the military and civilian personnel responsible for gathering, processing and dissemination of information. The reviewed book is an attempt to answer this challenge, providing the reader with knowledge about the use of innovative elements of the battlefield, war tools based on digital technologies.

Substantive evaluation

As the authors point out in the introduction, the book is a continuation of research conducted as part of a project and another publication presenting the current and universal issue of the digitalisation of the modern battlefield. The reviewed book consists of two substantive parts, which are described in the introduction, embedding the publication in the wider context of previously published project works.

The first part of the book presents a general multi-entity approach to the issue of innovativeness of the modern battlefield. The first paper, whose author is Kristina Prišmantaitė, presents the results of the analysis of the EU initiatives concerning the digitization of war tools, paying attention to the priority treatment of security matters by the organs and institutions of the European Union. In turn, in the second paper, author Ieva Bērziņa, deals with the current state of research on issues of innovation in the field of defense in the area of the Baltic states - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The second part of the book, in turn, presents cognitive effects resulting from the experience and research of many authors from different countries and research environments in the use of

unmanned ground vehicles (UGV) in the military environment. It shows the current state of the discussed issue in the global context by describing the states such as: Canada (written by Yazan Qasrawi, Abdeslem Boukhtout and Peter Gizewski), Germany (by Mirosław Smolarek), France (by Gérard de Boisboissel), Great Britain (by James Rogers and Robert Clark.), the United Arab Emirates (by Sintija Broka and Serge Lévitiski).

#### Methodological evaluation

The reviewed book is a multi-author work, which is basically intended as a set of individual methodological approaches of the authors of the individual papers to the discussed issues. The advantage of the book, however, is the unification of the methodological layer in the basic dimension. In each paper, in a more or less direct way, the author defines the methodological basis in the first paragraphs of their work, focusing on presenting the goals of their work, which amount to the diagnosis of the current state of research, as well as the practical implementation of the discussed issues. What is more, the authors made forecasts concerning the issues raised by them, concentrating on potential opportunities and limitations. It is worth noting that the collected papers are characterized by considerable uniformity both in the descriptions and research assumptions. This undoubtedly makes it easier for the reader to analyze and compare the presented content, which is particularly important in the case of the second part of the reviewed book. At this point, one can point to a certain flaw of the reviewed publication, namely, there is no ending in it, i.e. a summary of the whole and general conclusions referring to the presented content.

#### Final conclusions

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the book contains a number of arguments in favor of developing scientific research in the field of implementation of IT solutions in the modern battlefield, indicating the minimization of civilian and military losses by using modern IT war tools.

The authors also presented the needs and technological, organizational, legal and moral limitations concerning the development of the discussed issues, taking into account the current and potential capabilities of states and research communities. A wide analysis of theoretical and practical issues allows the reader to make a number of reflections on the future battlefield and, undoubtedly, it can be used as an information and training material for soldiers of the armed forces of many countries around the globe.