

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**PREPARING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE ARMED  
FORCES TO COUNTER HYBRID THREATS**

Warsaw – Kiev – Krakow

6-9.04.2020 r.

Today's world is experiencing many new threats affecting its security, and individual countries are still looking for new ways to both influence and defend themselves effectively against the difficult to define potential adversary. The issues of security concern new and new spheres, which in turn influences the classic definition of this concept, including military.

In recent years, the notions of threats and hybrid war, understood as a conflict involving states, international organisations, national and social groups, using all available means of combat, involving soldiers and civilians, started after the declaration of war or without the declaration of war, have gained particular importance, conducted with the use of means provided for by law or in violation of the law, with a significant share of non-military means, with the large-scale use of economic, political, information and propaganda activities, with different and changing objects of attack and aimed at defeating the opposing party or forcing the desired action on it.

There is no doubt, of course, that hybrid forms of conflict have been accompanying humanity practically since the dawn of history, and the name itself has been known by military theorists for many years. However, the concept of hybrid conflict only became widely known after the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine in 2014. It should also be emphasized that in the last dozen years or so, hybrid threats have undergone significant transformations - the balance between classical means of influencing the opponent and alternative (asymmetrical) means has been disturbed, the number of intra-state conflicts has increased, various types of entities with non-state status have replaced state entities, and the border between soldiers and civilians and the state of war and peace has been blurred. Changing security characteristics and new threats make it increasingly difficult for state structures to effectively guarantee security, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of state borders, as well as to ensure constitutional order, public order and security of its citizens.

As the conflict in Ukraine has shown, chaos, the lack of a defined adversary, acts of diversion or intense disinformation block, especially in the initial stage of the conflict, the effective and quick implementation of actions by the public administration and the armed forces. Therefore, it is necessary to diagnose the current and future capabilities of the public administration and the armed forces (state defence readiness) to counteract hybrid threats. In this new world, questions must be asked: Is the current system of national security, including the state defence system, sufficiently prepared to face the emerging hybrid threats? What role do or should individual elements of the security system, including the state defense system, play in the context of hybrid threats? In what direction should it develop and what

capabilities should it achieve in the future? We hope that this conference will provide answers to these questions.

The conference, organized by the War Studies University in Warsaw, Ukrainian National Defence University in Kiev, Ukrainian Air Force University in Kharkiv, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Pedagogical University in Krakow, NATO Military Staff DEEP Programme, Polish Academy of Sciences Branch in Kiev, Institute of Security and International Development SDirect24, will be held on **6-9 April 2020 in Warsaw, Krakow and Kiev.**

Below you can learn about the topics discussed on **8-9 April at the University of National Defence in Ukraine:**

1. Characteristics of hybrid threats and the specificity of modern hybrid armed conflicts (on the example of experiences from the Hybrid War in Ukraine, conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and other modern armed conflicts).
  - theoretical aspects concerning hybrid threats and conflicts with hybrid characteristics,
  - the actions of troops during military conflicts described as hybrid,
  - the activities of the police, border guards and other actors of the Ministry of Interior,
  - the operation of the Secret Service,
  - media activities (participation of journalists),
  - political, economic, informational, diplomatic activities of countries and international organisations,
  - legal and illegal actions of parties involved in hybrid conflicts (legal aspects),
  - the importance of psychology (psychological actions).
2. Prevention of hybrid risks.
  - the capabilities of the armed forces,
  - department of the entities of the Ministry of Interior,
  - the involvement of the Secret Service,
  - participation of educational entities (including military universities),
  - the possibility for States and NATO and the EU to create a system to counter hybrid threats.
3. Preparation of personnel for combating hybrid threats and participation in hybrid armed conflicts.
  - psychological aspects of preparing commanders, officers and soldiers for participation in hybrid conflicts,
  - preparation of the entities of the Ministry of Interior,
  - preparing specialised staff for other institutions and organisations,
  - preparation of the management of civil institutions,
  - preparing societies.

4. Opportunities for systemic change to combat hybrid threats and effective participation of actors involved in hybrid conflicts.
  - legal and procedural changes,
  - changes in the share of military and civilian personnel,
  - modernisation and equipment of military and civil entities.

The conference will be held in English and Ukrainian. You can learn about the topics discussed in Warsaw and Kiev by clicking the [\[link\]](#):

Please send your application via [\[form\]](#).

Deadline for submission of applications: **15.03.2020**.

Fee for a conference in one city: **500 pln/120 eur**.

Publication of the text, without participation in the conference: **300 pln/70 eur**

to the Institute of Security and International Development SDirect24:

**92 1140 2004 0000 3402 7885 4014** (staff of the organising HEIs do not pay any fees, the cost of their participation and publication is held by the home HEIs).

Currency account: **88 1140 2004 0000 3812 0820 2451**

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If you have additional questions, please contact us at: **hybridconference2020@gmail.com**

Best regards

Chairman of the Scientific Committee:

Prof. Waldemar Kitler -

Director of the State Security Institute of the War Studies University in Warsaw

Chairman of the Organizing Committee:

PhD Piotr Pacek - War Studies University in Warsaw