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Theory of Operational Design Concepts and Their Significance for Higher Military Education

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ABSTRACT Operational art can be understood as a cognitive approach utilized by commanders and staffs, supported by their skills, knowledge, experience, creativity and judgment. It is used to develop campaigns and operations to organize and employ military forces by integrating ends, ways and means. Through the operations planning process, commanders and staffs apply operational design concepts as specific conceptual elements of operational art. This paper discusses the significance of the theory of operational design concepts, based on the perspective of students from the Czech University of Defense, as well as other active and retired military professionals. The research was conducted to determine the importance of the theory. Based on the result, the major importance of the theory was demonstrated and confirmed the overall relevance of the operational art study within the education of military professionals. Findings from the questionnaire survey (QS) among respondents served as the basis for necessary modifications to the course's curriculum.