Evaluation on the annual work in MABAL (Israel National Defense College), 2019

Dissertation:

The F-35: innovative and strategic component of Israeli and Italian National Security

presenter:

Col. Eros Zaniboni (Italian Air Force)

This study examines how the new F-35 fighter jet contributes to the national security of Israel and Italy. This issue is important and relevant currently when the two countries are in the process of acquiring these aircraft, examining tactical questions and developing combat doctrine for the aircraft with its new capabilities, as well as broader questions of national security and the possible contribution of the aircraft to this issue. Due to classification difficulties, this work cannot go into the tactical details of the aircraft's combat doctrine, and therefore focuses mainly on the strategic aspects of the project, including economic, military and political characteristics.

The structure of the work is right and serves the purpose of the research. The first chapter presents the changes that have taken place in the strategic environment in the recent decades and discuss whether the new fighter plane is relevant to them. The second chapter briefly reviews the new fighter jet project, the overall deal and economic implications for Italy and Israel. The next chapter shows the plane's capabilities and its military aspects. The following two chapters examine the significance of the plane's absorption in Israel and Italy, and the last chapter summarizes the F-35’s implications for the two countries and presents recommendations regarding the continuation of the plan.

This work is an important study of the topic, reflecting already from the serious attitude of the author to the work and his readiness to learn: The effort to understand the subject is evident, by the updating and improving the various drafts of the study as well as the rich and varied sources in which the author used very well.

The work itself is well written, fluent and clear, arousing interest and curiosity. As stated, because of the classification of aircraft capabilities and combat doctrine, the author chose to deal with the strategic level, and the work very well shows the advantages of the F-35 aircraft and its contribution to the national security of Israel and Italy as well as the differences between the two. It was possible to discuss in more depth the criticism of the project in the strategic aspects, and to discuss whether there are negative implications for the project: Does the dependence on the United States, which is deepening in this project, strengthen or weaken the national security, for both countries and in comparative terms? However, the contribution and importance of the work overshadows its limitations and makes it a very good job.

Grade - 96

Dr. Nimrod Hagiladi

Academic Instructor

Command and General Staff College, IDF