



**İSTANBUL AREL
UNIVERSITY**



II. INTERNATIONAL WAR AND PEACE STUDIES CONGRESS LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 21ST CENTURY WARS

23-25 October 2025

Arel TEKMER

La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul Gunesli



For
Congress
Webpage

<https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/>



AIM AND SCOPE

War, which humanity has been facing for thousands of years, has an unchanging essence that resists time and has evolving and frequently changing characteristics. The unchanging essence consists of passion and primordial violence, chance and probability, reason, and political purpose, and is defined as the “paradoxical trinity” by Clausewitz. Since war is not bound by time and space, geopolitical, political, socio-cultural, economic, technological, international, legal, and cognitive developments constantly change it.

As is evident in the interstate wars, civil conflicts, and acts of terrorism that have taken place in the 21st century from Iraq to Afghanistan, from the Middle East to Latin America, and from Africa to Europe; significant changes are being experienced in the strategic, operational, tactical, and technical levels of warfare with the widespread use of advanced technologies, especially artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and robotic studies. The level of changes that have come is much more evident in the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts, where dramatic results have emerged.

Today, leading states allocate resources to detect changes in advance and learn lessons. This practical approach allows them to adapt to change, avoid being caught unprepared for war, and gain an advantage over rivals. The lessons learned from this congress will directly apply to such work and research, ensuring that your participation will have a tangible impact and contribute to advancing war and peace studies.

In this context, Istanbul Arel University International Strategic Research Application and Research Center (Arel USAM) has organized an international congress titled “Lessons Learned from 21st Century Wars”. This congress, of immense global significance, will bring together the war and peace studies community worldwide. It will be held face-to-face in Turkish and English, and participation is free of charge.

The congress will focus on strategic, operative, tactical, and technical level observation, detection, and lessons learned from intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance, warning and notification systems, command-control-communication, maneuver, combat in urban areas, fire support, naval operations, air operations, air defense operations, special forces operations, logistics and personnel activities, training, artificial intelligence and robotic systems, and civil defense-public protection areas.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS FROM THE CONGRESS

- To create knowledge on current and potential doctrines and concepts within the scope of the congress themes.
- To provide information on developments in warfare weapons and vehicles, command control, intelligence, and logistics systems.
- To follow developments in asymmetric means such as CBRN systems, cyber technologies, information systems, and robotic systems and to open doors to new developments in these areas.
- To enable analysis and synthesis at technical, tactical, operative, and strategic levels.
- To provide information exchange between the Academy - Security Sector - Security Bureaucracy.
- To create approaches for introducing developments in demand-based warfare weapon vehicles and systems to the armed forces.
- To create approaches for introducing supply-based innovative warfare weapon vehicles and systems to the armed forces.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts (maximum 300 words) prepared using the abstract submission template should be sent to <https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/> by June 13, 2025, at the latest.

In presentations and full texts of abstracts, emphasis is expected to be given to developments with innovation/revolutionary potential in military issues rather than theoretical discussions and definitions.

The presentation time of abstracts during the congress should not exceed 15 minutes.

The Congress Organizing Committee will review abstract proposals through referees, and the applicant will be informed as necessary. Abstracts will be published as an e-book before the congress.

Full texts between 2500 and 4000 words should be sent as a Microsoft Word document to <https://wapscon.arel.edu.tr/> by November 21, 2025. The full-text proceedings book will be published electronically on December 31, 2025.

CONGRESS CALENDAR

Publication of the call for paper:	7 January 2025
Deadline for submission of abstracts:	13 June 2025
Reporting accepted abstracts:	17 July 2025
Publication of Congress program:	31 July 2025
Congress dates:	23-24-25 October 2025
Submission of full papers:	21 November 2025
Publication of Congress proceedings e-book:	31 December 2025

CONGRESS ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Oktay Bingöl, Prof., (Rtd.) Brigadier General, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye (Congress Chair)

Selma Şekercioğlu Bozacıoğlu, Assist. Prof. İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye (Coordinator)

Ali Bilgin Varlık, Assoc. Prof. Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

Yunus Karaağaç, Dr., İstanbul Arel University, USAM Researcher/Türkiye

Hasan Yılmaz, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye

Deniz Kaynak, Research Assistant, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

Eray Kara, Research Assistant, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

Barış Yüksel, Research Assistant, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

H. Eren Şengelen, Research Assistant, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

M.Akif Aslan, Research Assistant, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

Sinem Arı, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ahmet Ateş, Dr., Iğdır University, Intelligence and National Security Expert/Türkiye
Ahmet Berat İlhan, (Rtd.) Captain (N), HAVELSAN Researcher/Türkiye
Ahmet Yavuz, (Rtd.) Major General/Türkiye
Alaettin Sevim, (Rtd.) Rear Admiral /Türkiye
Ali Denizli, Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Rumeli University/Türkiye
Ali Rıza Kuğu, Dr., (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye
Alpaslan Erdoğan, (Rtd.) Lieutenant General/Türkiye
Alptekin Tartıcı, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, National Defense University Guest Lecturer /Türkiye
Anıl Çağlar Erkan, Dr., Energy Security and Public Diplomacy Expert /Türkiye
Arda Mevlütoğlu, Aerospace Engineer, Defense and Aviation Technologies, Procurement Programs and Industrial Policy Expert /Türkiye
Atakan Konukbay, Dr. (Rtd.) Colonel, HAVELSAN, CBRN Product Manager /Türkiye
Aytekin Cantekin, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, Military Academy Guest Lecturer /Türkiye
Başar Baysal, Assoc. Dr., Ankara Bilim University/Türkiye
Berkay Turgut, (Rtd.) Major General/Türkiye
Besfort Rrecaj, Assoc. Dr., University of Prishtina/Kosovo
Burak Semih Gülboy, Prof., İstanbul University, Politics and International Relations, /Türkiye
Burak Şakir Şeker, Assoc. Prof., (Rtd.) Captain (N), Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University/Türkiye
Bülent Durgun, Assoc. Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye
Can Kasapoğlu, Dr., EDAM Security and Defense Researches Directorate /Türkiye
Celalettin Yavuz, Prof., (Rtd.) Captain (N), World of Türkiye Author, Security Policy Expert/Türkiye
Cem Okyay, (Rtd.) Rear Admiral/Türkiye
Cengiz Tatar, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye
Cenk Özgen, Assoc. Prof., Giresun University, Defense Technologies Expert/Türkiye
Chifu Iulian, Prof., National Defense University Bucharest, Romania
Cihangir Akşit, Dr., (Rtd.) Major General/Türkiye
Ceyhun Çiçekçi, Assist. Prof., Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University/Türkiye
Cumhur Erentürk, (Rtd.) Colonel, Türkiye
Dariusz Kozerawski, Prof. Dr. (Rtd.) Colonel, National Security Chair, Jagiellonian University in Kraków/Poland
Doğan Şafak Polat, Assoc. Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Kent University/Türkiye
Efe Can Gürcan, Assoc.Prof., London School of Economics/UK
Emrah Özdemir, Assoc. Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, Military Academy/Türkiye
Erdal Tatlı, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, Researcher Maastricht University/ The Netherlands
Ergin Saygun, (Rtd.) General/Türkiye
Erol Işıkcı, Dr. (Rtd.) Colonel, OSTİM Teknik University/Türkiye
Ercan Caner, (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye
Ertan Beşe, Prof., Çankırı Karatekin University/Türkiye
Ethem Büyükişık, (Rtd.) Major General/Türkiye
Fahri Erenel, Prof., (Rtd.) Brigadier General, İstinye University/Türkiye
Fikret Birdişli, Prof., İnönü University/Türkiye
Gökhan Ak, Assist. Prof., (Rtd.) Captain (N), İstanbul Topkapı University/Türkiye
Gökhan Sarı, Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye
Hakan Eraydın, (Rtd.) Rear Admiral /Türkiye
Haldun Solmaztürk, Dr., (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye

Hasan Özyurt, (Rtd.) Rear Admiral, Defense Management Consultant, Unmanned Marine Vehicles Expert / Türkiye

Hulusi Gülbahar, (Rtd.) Colonel

Hüseyin Fazla, Dr., (Rtd.) Brigadier General, Strategic Researches Center (STRASAM) Chairperson/Türkiye

Hüsmen Akdeniz, Dr., (Rtd.) Major General/Türkiye

Ivan Us, Chief Consultant, National Institute for Strategic Studies/Ukraine

Kaan Kutlu Ataç, Assist. Prof., Mersin University/Türkiye

Kadir Varoğlu, Prof., (Rtd) Colonel, Başkent University/Türkiye

Kemal Eker, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Nişantaşı University/Türkiye

Leonid Polyakov, Advisor, National Institute for Strategic Studies/Ukraine

Levent Uzunçibuk, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye

Levent Köse, (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye

Marek Kulczycki, Assoc. Prof. Dr., University of Wrocław/Poland

Mehmet Alkanalka, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye

Mehmet Çanlı, Dr., (Rtd.) Colonel, Military Academy Guest Lecturer/Türkiye

Mehmet Daysal, (Rtd.) Lieutenant General/Türkiye

Mehmet Kınacı, (Rtd.) Colonel, NATO Allied Transformation Command/USA

Mehmet Kurum, Dr., Colonel, Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Academy /Türkiye

Mehmet Şahit, Assoc. Prof., Military Academy/Türkiye

Mesut Özel, Assist. Prof. Dr., (Rtd.) Rear Admiral, Kent University/Türkiye

Murat Ağdemir, Dr. (Rtd.) Colonel, Security and Terrorism Expert/Türkiye

Mustafa Şenol, Assist. Prof. Dr. (Rtd), Brigadier General, İstanbul Gelişim University/Türkiye

Nazım Altıntaş, (Rtd.) Lieutenant General/Türkiye

Nihat Kökmen, (Rtd.) Lieutenant General/Türkiye

Nihayet Ünlü, (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye

Nuri Şen, (Rtd.) Colonel, Türkiye

Orhan Akbaş, (Rtd.) Lieutenant General, Türkiye

Öner Akgül, Assoc. Prof., National Defense University/Türkiye

Özgür Tüfekçi, Assoc. Prof., Karadeniz Teknik University International Relations /Türkiye

Özlem Kayhan Pusane, Prof., Işık University/Türkiye

Rıza Bayrak, Assoc. Prof., Ostim Teknik University/Türkiye

Saffet Akkaya, Assist. Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, Çağ University/Türkiye

Sait Karabayır, (Rtd.) Colonel/Türkiye

Sait Yılmaz, Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Esenyurt University/Türkiye

Savaş Biçer, Assoc. Prof. (Rtd.) Colonel, İstanbul Nişantaşı University/Türkiye

Serkan Yenal, Assoc. Dr., Military Academy /Türkiye

Şebnem Udum, Assoc. Prof., Hacettepe University/Türkiye

Tahir Bekiroğlu, Dr., (Rtd.) Lieutenant General/Türkiye

Tarık Özkut, Assist. Prof. Dr., (Rtd.) Major General, Okan University/Türkiye

Uğur C. Özgöker, Prof., İstanbul Arel University/Türkiye

Uğur Güngör, Prof., (Rtd.) Colonel, Başkent University/Türkiye

Ulaş Pehlivan, (Rtd.) Colonel, Peace Support and Security Expert, TERAM Author/Türkiye

Victor Korendovych, Prof., National Defence University of Ukraine

Yakup Battal (Rtd.) Brigadier General/Türkiye

CONGRESS THEMES AND TOPICS FOR PAPERS

Strategic Assessment of International Peace and Security

War, Politics and Diplomacy in the 21st Century

Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance

- Intelligence and counter-intelligence
- Reconnaissance and surveillance systems and applications
- Early warning systems
- Target detection, recognition, and analysis systems

Maneuver

- Combined operations
- Infantry, airborne and air assault operations
- Use of tanks and armored units
- Use of engineering units (destruction, fortification, obstacles, bridging, fortification, fighting vehicles, etc.)

Operation in Urban Areas

- Features of urban areas (tall buildings, narrow streets, tunnels, and other underground systems)
- Challenges of urban operations
- Humanitarian law considerations
- Collateral damage and environmental destruction
- Evolving tactics and systems

Fire Support and Air Defense

- UAVs and armed UAVs
- Use of fire and maneuver
- Fire attack tactics
- Artillery, rockets
- Air defense operations

Command-Control, Communications, and Consultation

Cyber operations

Information and Media operations

Psychological operations

Special Forces Operations

Combat service support

- Transportation
- Ammunition and fuel
- Maintenance and repair
- Spare parts
- Logistics facilities
- Personnel integration and mobilization
- Food services
- Medical evacuation and treatment
- Administrative services

Survival and Operational Security

- Dispersion, relocation
- Concealment

Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Systems

Civil Defense

Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN)

Training and exercises

ABSTRACT PROPOSAL FORM

First Author, Name and Surname:	University /Organization:
Department:	Title:
E-mail:	GSM:
Second Author, Name and Surname:	University /Organization:
Department:	Title:
E-mail:	GSM:
The title of the paper:	
Abstract:	
You can enlarge this section if needed.	
The abstract should include the paper's central thesis, the subject's importance, and the content (main and sub-discussion points, the methodology used, and the outcome).	
Keywords: (Four keywords)	
The central thesis of the paper:	

You can enlarge all sections if needed.

Important Note: The name, surname, title, institution and contact information of all authors included in the paper must be shared. In addition, the responsible author who will present the paper must be specified, all communication will be made through the responsible author. Abstracts must be written in Times New Roman format, 11 points and single-spaced.