

Colonel Assoc. Prof. Harald GELL, PhD, MSc, MSD, MBA



After High School Harald Gell learned a trade as photographer. With 19 years he joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1982. After serving as an NCO and mortar squad leader in an Mountain Infantry Battalion he studied at the Theresan Military Academy and graduated as best of class as an Artillery Officer. He spent the first part of his career in an Artillery Regiment as Battery-2iC, Battery Commander of a self-propelled Artillery Battery and Signal Officer.

After serving as a Team Leader with the European Union Monitor Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in 1998/1999, he was transferred to the Theresan Military Academy as Desk Officer and as Senior Lecturer for Leadership Training. During this time, he also served as Chief of Staff of an Infantry Battalion and graduated from some 15 EU, UN, and NATO courses up to CJTF level.

In 2002 he graduated as best of class with a Master of Security and Defence Management (MSD) degree from the National Defence Academy in Vienna and started Master studies in Education Management which he finalised in 2006 (MBA). In parallel, he studied Defence Economy at the Corvinus University in Budapest where he graduated from as MSc in 2007. In the same year – after serving as Chief Operations Officer with UNDOF in Syria – he started his PhD-studies in Security Research and took the doctoral degree from the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna in 2010. After that, he started the Habilitation Proceeding for Associated Professor at the University of Defence in Brno/Czech Republic, which he finalised with the Habilitation in Military Management in September 2017.

Since 2010, he has been the course director of all the Common Security and Defence Policy-Modules conducted at the Theresan Military Academy. In 2012, he was appointed as the Head of the Docentship for Comparative Military Leadership Education at the Theresan Military Academy in Austria and promoted to Colonel, also being responsible for all international exchanges of Officer Cadets and their Lecturers & Staff.

On 1st of April, 2015 he was appointed by the Steering Committee of the European Security and Defence College as new Chairman of the “Military Erasmus” Implementation Group. This 2-year mandate was prolonged in 2017 and 2019.

Among other projects, he combined in 95 publications, in 18 scholar books & several module descriptions and in 67 international conference-presentations the findings of years long stress research projects with findings of international exchanges to propose effective and efficient tools for increasing military leadership skills and competences. With his Habilitation proceeding in Military Management he proofed evidence that international exchanges have a very positive effect onto Officer Cadets’ personal developments and competences.

Memberships:

- Austrian Representative of the Implementation Group for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers, inspired by Erasmus from the very beginning since 2009 / Chairman of this group since 1st of April, 2015.
- Member of the Council of the Degree Programs in Military Leadership – Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports from 2012-2015.
- Honorary Senator of the “Nicolae Balcescu” Land Forces Academy in Sibiu/Romania.
- Member of the Academic Council of the Moravian University College Olomouc/Czech Republic.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the War Studies University Warsaw/Poland.
- Member of the Scientific Committee for the international Military Academic Forum.
- Member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Science of the Military University of Land Forces in Wroclaw/Poland.
- Designated member of the international advisory board for Strategos, the scientific journal of the "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" Croatian Defence Academy in Zagreb/Croatia.

Missions & Operations:

- 1991: Artillery observer in a border security operation during the Slovenian War of Independence.
- 1993-1997: Several border security operations at the Austro-Hungarian border and several deployments for disaster management.
- 1998: Team Leader of the European Union Monitor Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.
- 2002-2020: Some 250 international activities, in European Union countries, Canada, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States.
- 2005-2014: Liaison Officer to civilian authorities for disaster management.
- 2007: Chief Operations Officer with UNDOF in Syria.