

From the editor

The editors of *Scientia Militaria* are proud to present the second edition of 2009 to its readers. This edition is printed with the financial support of the Netherlands Defence Staff (as reflected on the back cover) and we wish to recognise the support to the journal of Commander Bruno Gerrits, defence attaché at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in South Africa.

With this edition we also celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Scientia Militaria*. Here I have to acknowledge the work done by Professors I. van der Waag, G.E. Visser, T.G. Neethling and Ms N. van der Waag in bringing the journal into the faculty and their unselfish service and dedication to the journal as administrators and/or editors. Under their leadership the journal grew to an accredited South African scholarly publication in the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University. The dean of the faculty, Professor van Edna Harte, also needs mentioning as she graciously funded a small, but enjoyable dinner to celebrate the 40th anniversary at Blue Bay Lodge. It was a memorable occasion with the sun setting over the beautiful bay of Saldanha amidst good company, a healthy meal and excellent wines.

On a slightly different note, a warm word of welcome to Professor Shrikant Paranjpe of Pune University in India who recently joined the editorial board and replaces Professor Amadu Sessay of Nigeria who served the journal for a very long period. Welcome Professor Paranjpe, and our sincere appreciation to Professor Sessay.

This last edition of 2009 is somewhat longer than usual and reflects six contributions. The contribution by Thomas Mandrup brings the ongoing matter of the SADC Brigade back into focus and in particular to update readers with its progress. Realize Ferreira covers peacekeeping, but turns the attention to the unintended and often negative consequences of ongoing peacekeeping operations. Piracy is drawing much international attention and in particular due to current events off the African east coast. Gerrie Swart demarcates the possible piracy – terrorism connection by touching upon the interest certain extremist groups show in the ongoing piracy wave while Henri Fouché contributes to this debate with an article on the policing of piracy as they move their activities further off-shore.

From a more historic perspective Deon Visser describes civil-military interaction in an academic environment by exposing the tensions when housing young military

students on a South African civilian university campus towards the middle of the 20th century. Dries Velthuizen raises the polemics of Cuito Cuanavala that stem from the clash of South African, Cuban and Angolan military forces in the south of Angola. This latter article attempts to outline who got what from the outcome, as opposed to who won or who lost the battle or the war.

Three book reviews conclude the edition. Ian Liebenberg's review article covers the literature on South Africa's military involvement during the late 20th century. The review by Francois Vreÿ covers the publication by Richard Holmes (*Dusty Warriors*) on the experiences of a British infantry battalion in the Iraqi insurgency during 2004 and includes a post-conflict perspective on British Armed Forces and society. The final review is by Deon Visser on perspectives by Vladimir Shubin, on the Soviet Union and the conflict in southern Africa during the Cold War.

Francois Vreÿ

Editor