

From the editors

The editors of *Scientia Militaria* are proud to present the first edition of 2010. The new editors took over from Francois Vreÿ and a distinguished editorial team. *Scientia Militaria* was privileged to have had a succession of highly qualified and committed editors over the past decades. It is no small order to step into their shoes. To our benefit, many of the early members are still around, playing an active role; others are present as critical soundboards and sources of institutional memory and knowledge. As editorial collective, we intend to keep *Scientia Militaria* as an accredited journal on a high standard with contents of interest to military scientists, military and strategic theorists, informed practitioners and civil society actors alike.

Scientia Militaria is now in its 41st year. The journal acts as a showcase and theoretical platform for security, military, strategy and civil-military matters from both the social and natural sciences. As an interdisciplinary journal, we would like to keep this interface between various disciplines alive as part of the unending dialogue on security in its broadest possible scope. Given our context, the journal will continue to present a strong focus on the African continent in general and on South(ern) Africa in particular. With this scope and focus, we trust that the journal will provide solid and pleasurable reading to our readership.

This edition holds six articles. The contribution by Amelia Broodryk and Hussein Solomon addresses the continental challenge to transform war economies into peace economies in Africa. War economies can last, and sometimes for long periods, but usually to the detriment of people. Peace economies, while difficult to kick-start, turn out to be more beneficial for countries and people in the long run. Broodryk and Solomon expertly discuss this touchy issue on the continent.

Africa's security is closely tied to security worldwide. Conflict and the maintenance of security impacts directly or indirectly on the socio-political and economic as well as the general security environment in Africa. Glenn Segell's "A decade of African Union and European Union trans-national security relations" takes a careful look at the security interface between the AU and the EU security links and related challenges.

The history of the so-called "Third World" is steeped in oppression: in some cases, by colonial or neo-colonial/neo-imperialist countries; in other cases, by a home-grown power elite who acts with disregard for human rights, social justice and

economic reconstruction. Resistance against such top-down impositions is not new. Both on the continent and elsewhere, successful guerrilla wars were fought against domination. These may have been “small wars in far away countries”, but their effects still last. More recently, such conflicts are referred to as “asymmetrical warfare”. The contribution by Ferreira addresses the complex issue of irregular war and asymmetric warfare in African conflicts. A phenomenon that holds no easy theoretical (or practical, for that matter) answers and for which the diagnoses are likely to be multi-angled and riddled by complexities.

Apparently, the South and Southern African public have not finished reading, dialoguing and debating the involvement of South Africa in Namibia and Angola. Here and elsewhere, such as in Cuba and Russia, publications that relate to the border war and the extension thereof into Angola – another small war with no small consequences – are rolling off the press. Leopold Scholtz makes an important contribution with his revision of the “The South African Strategic and Operational Objectives in Angola, 1987–88” through the uncovering of primary sources that were, until recently, not available to historians.

From a historical angle, an interesting contribution is made by Tim Stapleton. Stapleton takes us back to Southern Rhodesia and the beginnings of Rhodesia, which thereafter saw a convoluted war for liberation that resulted in an independent Zimbabwe. His contribution deals with the extra-territorial African police and soldiers in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) 1897–1965, who were recruited to fight for their colonial masters – a phenomenon that holds in various guises elsewhere on the globe to this day.

The use of augmented reality in command and control situation awareness by Willem le Roux straddles the interface between the high-tech war, tactical observation, human agency and the exploitation of digital potential for conventional and asymmetrical warfare. Increasingly, the conflict between powerful states and smaller (frequently unconventional) actors of resistance is marked by the use of increased technology. This also holds true for the African continent.

Three book reviews conclude the edition. It is now just over two decades since the withdrawal of apartheid South African forces from Namibia and Angola and the independence of Namibia following the implementation of UN Resolution 435. A whole array of works appeared – and is still appearing – on this war and its outcomes. For a significant time, the role of conscripts as a vast reservoir of young lives for the apartheid political and military elite deserved lesser attention. This mould is breaking with more and more conscript veterans speaking for themselves in what can only be described as “history from below”. Increasing volumes of work authored by then conscripts tired of politicians and generals speaking on their behalf

are appearing. Some are day-to-day recollections or blood and guts experiences from the frontline – in cases, even raw unpretentious poetry. Gert van der Westhuizen reviews something different in this growing genre. It is not about the heat and glare of the sun and the dust up north, or contacts with the enemy or cross-border operations. Rather the work that is discussed deals with the oldest of old forms of resistance by the unwilling soldier, namely to creatively dodge duties, take short cuts or prevent exposure to danger through *gyppo*-ing. This contribution, which reviews Gary Green's *Stand at Ease*, contrasts with other literature on South Africa's military involvement during the late 20th century. The work is certainly not without its lighter moments compared with the mythology of the forever alert and duty-bound patriot fighting for a righteous cause.

The review by Abel Esterhuysen deals with the publication of *Seapower: A Guide for the Twenty-First Century* by Geoffrey Till. Esterhuysen points out that the author has set a new bar for publications on maritime issues with this book and that the work is essential for students of naval history and strategy alike.

While many in military establishments and their political leaders are talking grand strategy and analysing ways to win wars or a "Global War on Terror", child soldiers form part of the socio-political dynamics in countries involved in inter- or intra-state conflict. The final review by Gerhard van Zyl, an incisive and astute observer, discusses Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone – Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. The author remarks: "This book challenges ... those portions of society that remain blinded by prejudice and self-centred socio-political gaze ... They are now confronted with a face and a name: Ishmael Beah". The review reserves no punches in dealing with the issue of child soldiers. The review – given the experience in Africa – cannot be ignored in our time.

Needless to say, we need to acknowledge the work by predecessors Professors I. van der Waag, G.E. Visser and T.G. Neethling and Ms N. van der Waag in bringing the journal into the Faculty and their unselfish dedication as administrators and editors over fifteen years. Under them, the journal grew to an accredited South African scholarly publication in the Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University. No person or institution is an island. In what we achieve, we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us and others who stand with us. We are mindful of a strong local, national and international support network and sponsors past and present who play an important role in the growth and enhancement of this journal and who add consistent value to its status and profile.

The Editors

Ian Liebenberg & Abel Esterhuysen