

Faculty Of **Military Science** ready and able

The Faculty of Military Science is ready and able to take on any challenge. Its aim is to empower members of the South African National Defence Force and other defence forces on the African continent with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to manage current and future security challenges effectively. This requires the Faculty to pursue an internationally recognised academic stature, as well as a contextualised understanding of the unique security challenges facing the continent.

This is proven by the increased utilisation of Faculty members in decision support roles by the Department of Defence. It also reflects the recognition that the academic expertise of the members of the Faculty of Military Science is beginning to enjoy.

The year 2004 saw the first presentation of the Certificate in Military Skills (CMS) - a mixture of appropriate academic subjects and opportunities for military professional development. This approach represents an attempt to expose future officers to an initial level of higher education in anticipation of the capacity to allow all young officers to complete a full degree course before they are employed as officers in the Department of Defence.

The MPhil in Security Management was fully accredited by the Council for Higher Education. The programme offers recognition to senior officers who have successfully completed the Executive National Security Programme and allows them to complete a master's degree.

The successful deployment of the Distance Education Project in three of the undergraduate programmes is unobtrusively ensuring that a further revolution in the education, training and development practices of the Department of Defence is achieved.

The Department of Education vastly enhanced the academic profile of the Faculty with the accreditation of *Scientia Militaria* a multidisciplinary journal catering for a wide readership, targeting articles on all matters relating to military affairs.

The first two accredited issues were published in recent months, carrying articles on a range of interesting and topical issues such as: the war in Iraq; conflict in the DRC; humanitarian intervention in conflict-ridden states; sovereignty of states in the post-Cold War era; South Africa's defence policy; and educational offerings at military institutions of higher learning. According to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof Theo Neethling, it is hoped that *Scientia Militaria* will stimulate debates on military affairs within the academic community and the defence industry, and in turn, between the Military Academy and its counterparts abroad.

The appointment of the Rector and Vice Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch, Prof Chris Brink, as Honorary Colonel to the Military Academy earmarked a very historic and important day in the history of the Military Academy. This appointment has far reaching dividends not only in the advancement of the existing relationship between the University and the Department of Defence, but also in the churning out of highly qualified and skilled manpower that the SANDF and

our country is so much in need of.

The launch of MASIZA took place during April 2004 at the Military Academy. MASIZA is a collaborative partnership between the Military Academy and Mfesane - a Christian development agency established to empower the poor and disabled to achieve their full potential and

participation in society.

The organisation has been active in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape for over 30 years. The marriage between the Military Academy and Mfesane hails a new era in interaction with the community of the West Coast and surrounding areas. The word "siza" is a Zulu word connoting assistance to people and Mfesane is a Xhosa word for compassion.

The accommodation of a significant number of foreign students at the Military Academy has been a long-standing ideal and during 2004 a small step was taken in this direction with the enrolment of three officers from the Botswana Defence Force.

The study visit of three months of French students from Saint Cyr was also a highlight. The three students were final year students at the French Academy. Other African defence forces have also expressed interest in the possibility of enrolling their officers through the distance education programmes.

A highlight on the level of sporting activities, was that two of the members of the Military Academy were chosen for the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) rugby team to represent the SANDF on a rugby tour to the Netherlands, where they played matches against the Netherlands Defence rugby team.

During March 2005 the United States Naval Academy also visited the Military Academy to play two matches against the West Coast Military Regional Team. Students also excelled in kickboxing by taking part in the SA Kickboxing Championships.



From left Major Michael Mukokomani, Major Bruce Thobane and Major William Moswetsi from the Botswana Defence Force who are busy with postgraduate studies at the Military Academy.

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