



FACULTY OF MILITARY SCIENCE

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DURING 2009 THE FACULTY OF MILITARY SCIENCE was strongly impacted by a vigorous programme of action to intensify the military culture at the Military Academy.

Tensions created by competing military and academic ethos proved a challenge, not uncommon at military academies, and required a fine balance to produce an environment conducive to learning and vigorous academic engagement. After all, our graduates need to demonstrate that they are well-rounded leaders, both militarily and academically. In our vision we strive to be a “*kraal of intellectual innovation and wise warriors*”!

As a Faculty we succeeded in delivering on our core business to disseminate knowledge, generate scientific research, and put our knowledge to use for society through community interaction. However, due to a severe staff shortage (24 vacancies) our research output remained low and our community interaction limited.

Aligned to Vision 2012 of Stellenbosch University we continued to develop international partnerships as a way to generate third-stream income and remain a global knowledge partner. A successful Defence Academies and e-Learning Conference (DACeL) was held in partnership with the University of New South Wales in Australia and Cranfield University in the United Kingdom. We held the first international conference on Strategic Theory and Contemporary African Conflicts in partnership with the Royal Danish Military Academy.

Our contribution to the body of literature on security-related matters relevant to Africa is evident from our various conference proceedings. Our accredited journal *Scientia Militaria* (previously owned by the South African Military Archive) celebrated 40 years of its existence. Our ability to generate third-stream income is subject to external factors such as politics, security threats and other related concerns, however, continued international interest in cooperating with the Faculty puts Stellenbosch University firmly on the map in Africa and beyond.

Our Faculty contributes to the Overarching Strategic Plan of the University aligned to Vision 2015 through the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa. Our objectives are to conduct high-quality, coordinated Africa-wide leadership training, contribute to knowledge building and management,

enhance good governance and leadership, and promote and utilise results-based collaborative arrangements. In particular we embrace two themes from the University’s development agenda, namely to deepen democracy and to promote peace and security.

At a strategic level, our Faculty is concerned with issues of relevancy as well as sustainability. There is growing recognition within the Defence Force of the importance of developing the Military Academy as a national asset. Our sustainability is dependent on greater understanding of the Military Academy as a military educational institution rather than a regular military unit. Our sustainability is strengthened by the fact that salaries of all staff in the Faculty, except for the Dean and an administrative member, are paid by the Department of Defence and Military Veterans (DoDMV).

Our residential students are members of the South African Army, Air Force, Navy and Military Health Services, and together with the personnel, are selected according to a formula and the transformation targets dictated by the needs of the DoDMV and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). While our student body most closely reflects South African demographics, racial and gender diversity among faculty members remain problematic and retention of staff is a challenge. At present we do not have the infrastructure to increase our residential student numbers.

The Faculty produced 141 learners who obtained the Higher Certificate in Military Studies and 73 the Bachelor of Military Science, 11 the Bachelor of Military Science with Honours and one the Master of Military Science degrees during 2009. Our annual intake of first-years was lower for 2009 and the academic performance at first-year level became a challenge. Only 60 to 65 learners will continue with full-time second-year studies in pursuance of the Bachelor of Military Science degree. Our graduates are the future leaders of the SANDF and will, more than likely, become involved in peacekeeping missions in Africa in one capacity or another.

Both our faculty members and our students continued to achieve international and national accomplishments and receive military promotions. Our Centre for Military Studies now boasts a new Director and we hope that our research output will increase significantly.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the University and the DoDMV, as well as the numerous other stakeholders for their continued support of our Faculty.