

Conclusion

The Institute for Security Studies has as its mission to conceptualise, inform and enhance the debate on human security in Africa. We believe that the personal security of the people of Africa, together with their development, should be the ultimate goal of governments and regional organisations but, understanding the conflict patterns on our continent, also acknowledge the important role that African armed forces have to play in this regard. This will be possible only if African armed forces are correctly structured, developed and prepared for the many challenges that they will face in the years to come.

In this regard the Institute supported the SA Army in arranging the seminar to enhance the development of Army Vision 2020. Such a vision is essential to position the SA Army for its ever-increasing role in Africa. The seminar provided many important insights into the possible futures that the SA Army will have to cope with and understanding these will assist the army in developing the appropriate strategies, doctrines, capabilities and force components.

Many speakers referred to the phenomenon of conflict in Africa. This manifests primarily in intra-state conflicts caused by historic circumstances, poor governance, lack of state capacity, resource exploitation, a proliferation of war-lords and ethnic and religious differences, but also causes spill-over effects such as displaced persons and refugees that cause inter-state tensions. Most speakers were of the opinion that this situation will prevail for many years to come. At the same time, African leaders through the African Union as well as at regional economic community level are trying to establish the mechanisms for dealing with conflict prevention, resolution and management on our continent. There is an increasing awareness that Africa must deal with its own security problems and will have to establish the appropriate institutions and mechanisms to do so. These include the Peace and Security Council (PSC), as well as its implementing mechanisms such as the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF), consisting of the sub-regional standby brigades.

There seems to be general consensus that the SANDF and the SA Army will have to play an important role in these structures and mechanisms. South Africa is one of the few countries in Africa that can

make substantial contributions to the ASF and SADC Brigade. Whereas many countries can contribute troops, the SA Army will have to provide a large part of the more substantial capabilities of command-and-control, motorised and mechanised forces, engineering services, logistics and special forces. The SA Army will therefore have to be structured to provide essential elements of a quick-reaction, highly mobile (land, sea and air) and technologically advanced expeditionary force for rapid intervention when so required by the PSC or SADC.

At the same time the SA Army will retain the responsibility for homeland or territorial defence. On this front, however, a conventional threat against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Africa is very remote, whilst other threats such as organised and trans-border crime and internal instability exceeding the capacity of the SAPS are more immediate. The SA Army will also have to maintain the capacity to assist in cases of natural and humanitarian disasters and the breakdown of essential services, domestically and in our immediate region. This situation can best be dealt with by the maintenance of a regular core conventional capability backed up by a part-time component. Such a force will allow for the maintenance of expertise and core capacities while providing for the possibility of expansion and growth when and as required. At the same time a part-time force, both conventional and territorial, will allow for effective support to the expeditionary force as well as for internal security. A territorial reserve would be by far the most efficient and effective force to deal with the threats of organised and trans-border crime and internal instability exceeding the capacity of the SAPS. It will provide the best support to internal intelligence services and the fastest and most appropriate reaction to internal emergencies.

In summary, it can be concluded that the SA Army of the future should structure itself for the dual tasks of rapid-reaction expeditionary operations in support of PSC and SADC-mandated operations as well as homeland defence and security. This will require four force elements: a regular rapid-reaction expeditionary force of sufficient size to meet South Africa's expanding peacekeeping obligations, a regular conventional core force, a conventional reserve to be able to support and lend sustainability to the first two force elements and a territorial reserve to be available to support the conventional forces in times of conflict and to serve as the first line of support to other security services, such as support to the SAPS in countering organised and trans-border

crime and internal instability as well as support to civil authorities in situations of disaster and the breakdown of essential services.

These considerations should drive the longer-term design and development of the SA Army and in the short term the SA Army should realign its force development and preparation along these lines and prioritise the rebuilding of the part-time forces, both conventional and territorial.