

# The MILITARY RESEARCH GROUP

The Military Research Group seeks to empower people in their understanding of security issues through the provision of relevant research projects, information updates, policy options and seminar programmes.

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South Africa is in the midst of a fundamental transition that is affecting all aspects of state and society. A key area in this regard remains that of the defence and security terrain. Without the creation of a stable scenario of civil-military relations, and a correspondingly legitimate Defence Force, the stability of a democratic government will continually be in doubt.

A range of issues present themselves as problematic both during the current transition and the future. These include such issues as the legitimacy of the armed forces in a democratic South Africa; the process of restructuring to accomplish this goal; the future of the armaments industry and the redefinition of national security policy to include a primary emphasis on the economic developmental and psychological components of security.

The Military Research Group arose from the realization that these issues were receiving scant attention from the official strategic study institutes within South Africa and that a progressive focus was required to make these debates accessible to the public. For too long matters relating to security had been considered the sole preserve of a select group of state-aligned technocrats.

To provide accurate and ongoing information on matters of a military and security nature, it was imperative that the Military Research Group provide as broad a focus as possible on these areas. The Military Research Group has, accordingly, included a wide range of researchers into its structure and this is represented in the composition of the Group itself.

The Military Research Group is an independent, non-partisan group of progressive researchers, policy analysts and academics

involved in strategic study and military-related research. The backgrounds of its members bears testimony to the the intellectual diversity of the group itself — developmental strategists, strategic study theorists, civil-military relations experts, peace study academics, political scientists and former soldiers. It is the presence of these individuals that allows the MRG to network with a wide-range of individuals and organizations — community-based organizations, political organizations, trade unions, research institutes (both domestic and international), peace groupings and former and serving military personnel.

### **1. Objectives**

The objectives of the group are fivefold:

- To provide ongoing and thorough research into specified areas of military-related research.
- To make information generated through research available to as wide a range of individuals and organizations as possible with the emphasis being on the broadening and popularization of the debate. This will include the publication of Journals and information packages.
- To ensure that progressive organizations and individuals contribute to the outcome of defence and military-related debates both in the current transition and a democratic South Africa through seminar and workshop programmes.
- To network with local and international organizations, think-tanks and individuals involved in research of a military or strategic studies nature.
- To provide a training service for potential researchers interested in the area of debate outlined above.



## **2. Areas of Research**

In line with the positions elaborated above, the MRG has prioritized the following areas of research for the future:

- Alternative security theory and policy options.
- The revision of prevailing threat analyses and perceptions.
- The dynamics of regional security.
- Future defence policy postures and doctrines.
- Transitional and democratic parameters of civil-military relations and forms of political accountability.
- The modalities of the integration of the SADF, MK and the TVBC armies.
- The restructuring of the intelligence environment.
- Women and militarization.
- Environmental Issues and the military.
- The arms industry and its conversion potential.
- defence economics.
- current military innovations within the state and society.
- revisiting the moral dimensions of military professionalism and many many more issues.

## **3. Structure**

The MRG is a collective decision-making forum which arrives at its decisions via consensus and debate. Decisions are taken by its Executive Committee which consists of invited members. Members are invited because of their expertise and their commitment to a representative and accountable defence force in a democratic South Africa.

“Nuts and Bolts” decisions are delegated to the MRG’s Management Committee which con-

sists of three MRG members and the coordinator. The size and composition of the Management Committee is not fixed and can be varied for specific purposes. The Management Committee will function as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee and subject is to review by the Executive Committee.

#### **4. MRG Membership**

**Professor Jackie Cock**, Sociology Department, University of the Witwatersrand; **Laurie Nathan**, Director of the Centre for Intergroup Studies, Cape Town; **Sandy Africa**, Head of the Project on National Security at the University of Durban-Westville, Natal; **Dr. Ian Phillips**, Political Science Department, University of Durban; **Abba Omar**, Department of Information and Publicity, ANC; **Calvin Cahn**, ANC; **Ian Robertson**, ANC; **Krish Naidoo**, Lawyer and Strategic Studies Expert; **Dr. Rocky Williams**, Co-ordinator, MRG; **Bill Anderson**, Computer Strategist and South African Defence Expert, London; **Gavin Cawthra**, military analyst and author, London.

#### **5. Management Committee of the MRG**

Jackie Cock; Calvin Cahn; Abba Omar, Rocky Williams (ex-officio).

#### **6. Full-Time Employees**

Rocky Williams (PhD, University of Essex) is employed as a full-time coordinator and researcher for the MRG. Fezeka Tabata is employed as a full-time administrator for the MRG.

## **7. Funding**

Funds for the MRG are currently provided by:

1. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (United Kingdom).
2. The Canadian Dialogue Fund (Canada).
3. The Albert Einstein Institute.

The Executive Committee of the MRG will decide on and motivate for additional sources of funding according to the projects and priorities it identifies.



# CALL-UP OPTIONS

## 1 "Legal Options"

- 1.1 **Apply for deferment:** Send a letter requesting deferment to the Exemption Board or, if you are a camper, to your unit. Your application can be supplemented by affidavits, for example from your employer. If you've got some spare cash then get an attorney to apply on your behalf.
- 1.2 **Apply for full exemption:** Exemptions can be granted on medical grounds, for example. Deferments are usually easier to get but exemptions are permanent.
- 1.3 **Exile:** Not to be recommended. Why leave the country because of the SADF when you can avoid them with not too much difficulty at home?
- 1.4 **Challenge the validity of your call up:** Your camp call-up could, for instance, be invalid if it does not provide you with "reasonable" advance warning of your camp.
- 1.5 **Don't sign for or collect registered post (and ensure that no-one does this on your behalf):** If you have not received a call-up you cannot be prosecuted successfully for not reporting.
- 1.6 **Request an interview with the Commanding Officer of your unit to discuss your objections:** This is only really feasible for campers and is easier if you are an officer. At best it is probably only a delaying tactic, but some OC's are approachable.
- 1.7 **Inform the SADF that you intend to apply to the Board for Conscientious Objection. Then make an application which will definitely be rejected by them.** This should give you a few months breathing space.

## 2 "Not So Legal Options"

Please note that there is a risk of prosecution involved in all of these options. However in nearly all of the cases where people break these laws nothing happens to them. Where people have been convicted, sentences are usually substantially less than the maximum sentence provided for. ECC would also like to make it clear that we are not encouraging you to perjure yourself in court or to engage in bribery or blackmail of SADF officials.

- 2.1 **Don't register:** This option is mostly only open to those who are still at school. Your teacher is often the person who registers you at 16. You could indicate that you wish to register yourself and then fail to do so. (Maximum fine R2 000).
- 2.2 **Don't notify the SADF of your change of address:** Ask a friend if you can use their name to open a post-office box or get a telephone. Also ensure that people, at your previous home or work, as well as your parents, do not provide your address or telephone number to anyone. Instead they should take messages for you and offer to pass these on to you "if they see you". (Maximum fine R2 000).
- 2.3 **"Leave the country":** Send the SADF a letter from outside South Africa (even from one of the "independent homelands") saying that you are permanently resident outside the country. The SADF may then defer you and request that you inform them of your new South African address on your return. After you return you may then "forget" to tell the SADF that you are back. If you are not leaving the country yourself, ask a friend who is going overseas to post the letter for you. (Maximum fine R2 000).
- 2.4 **Don't report:** Nothing happens to over 90% of people who don't report for their call-ups. If you are followed up, prosecuted, and found guilty the average sentence is R300 - R500. (Maximum fines: Private - R600, NCO - R1 200, Officer - R5 000).
- 2.5 **Refuse to serve:** Directly inform the SADF that you refuse to do any (or any more) military service. The SADF hardly ever prosecute people for this as it usually results in them getting very bad publicity. In the unlikely event of your being prosecuted and found guilty, you would most likely receive a sentence of community service. (Maximum sentence - imprisonment).
- 2.6 **Get your file "lost":** This is an option for campers or national servicemen who have direct access to SADF personnel records or friends or contacts with such access.

## 3. "Non Options"

- 3.1 **Registering as a Conscientious Objector:** If you are officially recognised by the Board for Conscientious Objection as a CO you will be ordered to do full time "community service" in a government department for one-and-half times your total outstanding military service commitment. If you do not complete all your community service you can be imprisoned in DB.
- 3.2 **Applying for deferment after reporting for your call-up;** the SADF may suggest to you that you should report for your call-up, and that the unit will then consider your application for deferment. They may then take advantage of this situation and refuse the application thereby forcing you to do your full camp.

*In the PWV area, more than 35 advocates have put their names on a roster indicating that they are willing to defend people, for free, on all call-up charge. If you are outside the PWV area, ECC may also be able to help you in getting legal assistance. Contact us for more details.*

**Don't co-operate with the call-up!**



**In February 1990 the government made a commitment to doing away with racial discrimination. In June 1992 they passed a law to entrench the whites-only call-up. What exactly are they up to?**

At a time when thousands of SADF personnel are being retrenched, and thousands of volunteers are being turned away by the SADF, we cannot think of one good reason why you should have to report for compulsory military service. We cannot think of one good reason for maintaining the present racist call-up system.

But it seems that the SADF and the government do not respond to reason. In circumstances such as these, we believe that your best option is to make up your OWN MIND about what to do about your call-up. We believe that you have a right to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF.

In this pamphlet we outline what some of your options are if you do not wish to report for your call-up. If you have been called up and you do not have positive reasons of your own for actually wanting to do military service, we urge you not to report for your call-up.

**Help us to end the call-up!**

## ***Join our register.***

**Many people are already, in one way or another, not co-operating with the call-up system. However, if we stand together, we can be more effective in expressing our rejection of the call-up. If:....**

- you are liable for military service
- you are not prepared to do any (or any further) military service at least under the present call-up system
- you are not prepared to apply to the Board for Conscientious Objection and you are prepared to commit yourself to not applying for deferment, and
- you wish to take your non-cooperation with the call-up system one step further, then ....

**.... sign the ECC Register of Non-cooperation with the call-up system.**

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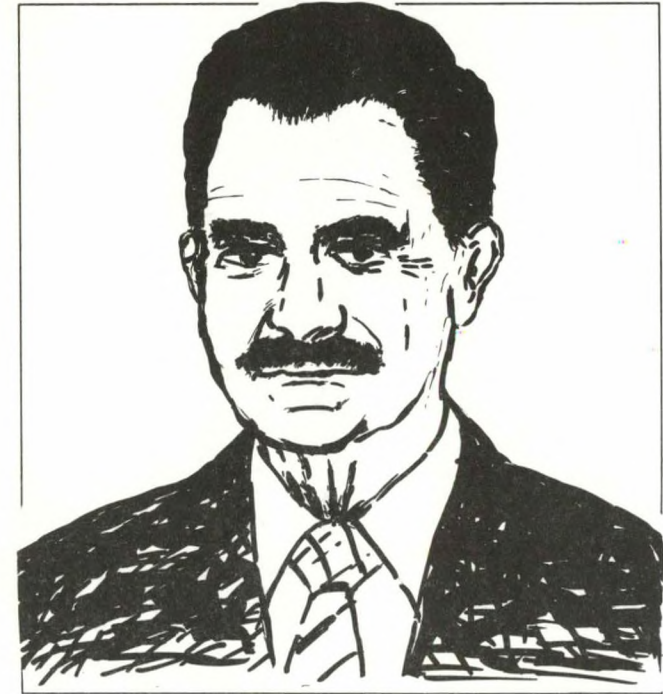
To find out about the ECC Register or our petition, or for general information about the call-up, contact ECC at (011) 836-8423.

**For free and independent advice about the call-up phone the Conscriptio Advice Service: Durban - 305-6001 (Sue), Pietermaritzburg - 94-4079 (Mark), East London - 43-0047, Grahamstown - 2-6043 (Dusty), Queenstown - 3965 (Rudi), Port Elizabeth - 51-2804, Cape Town - 689-1194, Pretoria - 320-2230 (Linda), Johannesburg - 648-5887 (Neil).**

GLOBE

Issued by the End Conscriptio Campaign, P.O. Box 537, Kengray, 2100.

# WANTED



**Gene Louw  
Minister of Defence**

***For failure to provide a single  
good reason why anyone should  
report for a call-up.***

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*End Conscriptio Campaign*



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