

Defence and Security in a Democratic South Africa

- What form will the integration of MK, the homeland armies and the S.A.D.F. assume?
- What will be the nature of Defence policy, posture and strategy both in the current transition and the future?

These questions, and others, remain crucial not only for all South Africans but also for progressive organizations as well.

MILITARY RESEARCH GROUP

The Military Research Group (MRG) is an independent group of progressive researchers, policy analysts and academics involved in strategic study and military-related research. The MRG was formed in late November 1991 to co-ordinate research being conducted into areas of military matters by progressive organizations and individuals.

The MRG has grouped military research into four major categories:

1. Defence and Transition.
2. Defence in a Democratic South Africa.
3. The future of the Armaments Industry.
4. The restructuring of the South African Intelligence environment.

AREAS OF RESEARCH

In line with the above-mentioned categories, the MRG has prioritised the following areas of research for the future:

- alternative security theory;
- the revision of prevailing threat analyses and perceptions;
- the dynamics of regional security;
- regional security arrangements and confidence-building measures in the future;
- future defence policy, postures and doctrines;
- the parameters of civil-military relations and forms of political accountability;
- the modalities of integration;
- restructuring of the intelligence environment;
- women and militarization;

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- environmental issues and the military;
- the arms industry and its conversion potential;
- defence economics;
- current military initiatives within the state and society;
- transitional politics and the dynamics of civil-military relations and many, many more issues.

AIMS

At present the aims of the MRG are fivefold:

1. To provide ongoing and thorough research into specified areas of military-related research.
2. To allow progressive organizations and individuals to contribute to and influence the outcome of defence and military-related debates both in the current transition and a democratic South Africa.
3. To provide a service to progressive organizations and individuals requiring either research into and/or information on military-related research.
4. To network with both local and international organizations, think-tanks and individuals involved in research of a military or strategic studies nature.
5. To broaden the scope of military-related debate with grassroots organisations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

MRG plans to hold regular seminars in this regard. Interested parties can contact the MRG at the following telephone numbers or addresses:

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