

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE - EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DE AND E-LEARNING

Abstract:

The paper explores the nature of professional military education in the South African military from a historical perspective. The discussion is introduced with a discussion of education in both the pre-1994 South African Defence Force and the revolutionary armies who fought the apartheid regime. From this discussion it will be clear that never did education featured very prominently in the South African military.

In the second part of the paper, an effort is made to provide an outline of the need for education in the contemporary South African military. The approach in this part of the paper is wide and draws to a large extent on the educational needs of African militaries in general. The paper concludes with an overview of the most challenging education issues the South African National Defence Force needs to address in order to professionalise the development of its manpower.

The most important issues in this regard includes the ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the South African military bureaucracy, uneducated and inexperienced directing staff at military institutions of higher learning, the lack of resources, discipline and research, and – above all – the imperative for transformation, affirmative action and representivity.

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