



SPEAKER ABSTRACTS FOR THE EXPEDITIONARY LOGISTICS WEBINAR ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024

ORGANISED BY [SIGLA](#), STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Dr Ronald Ti, King's College London

'Logistic lessons learnt from Ukraine: Ignore at your peril'

At first glance, the logistics of major joint operations on display in the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war compared to the expeditionary logistics required in typical Southern Africa operations appear to be quite dissimilar situations. This talk will present the parallels and equivalencies between the two showing that lessons observed from Ukraine need to be heeded by the SANDF and are ignored to its peril.

Professor Abel Esterhuysen and Dr Evert Jordaan, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University
'Fit for purpose? A strategic evaluation of South African operational logistics'

The paper provides an outside-in and top-down perspective on logistics as a strategic reality for the South African military. The underlying argument highlights the criticality of logistics for strategic effect, especially during expeditionary operations. South African strategic effect, throughout history, is predicated on the successful conduct of deterrence, internal stability, and expeditionary operations. The paper evaluates South Africa's capacity and challenges to sustain expeditionary operations, particularly in the Southern African Development Community. South African logistics, as the science of planning and execution of the movement and maintenance of forces, is considered within the context of what is unfolding within society at large and the institutional realities of the South African military.

Mr Eben Barlow, CEO Executive Outcomes

'Learning from the private military domain: managing logistics for expeditionary forces in Africa'

Apart from peacekeeping operations, African armies seldom conduct operations that can be construed as truly expeditionary. Current cross-border operations, however, present numerous challenges that are directly related to operational sustainability, poor training, equipment deficits, and antiquated and unbalanced force structures. These challenges and deficits manifest in domestic area operations as well. This talk will cover the power conundrum and the inability to project hard, soft, smart and sharp power, uncertainties and challenges, lines of support as well as the principles of Composite Warfare logistics and supply chains along with delivery approaches to sustain operational momentum.



Col (ret) Roy Marais, CEO RCM Strategic Sustainment Consulting

A Bottom-Up View of Logistics in the South African Military’ - Joint Logistic (Supply Chain) Concepts for the SA Military

Military logistics is inseparable from combat. Moving forces to hotspots around Africa, providing for their needs while deployed, and bringing them home as tensions subside are all part of the complex process of military logistics. Meeting the challenges of coming decades will require a substantial logistics capability, and the nature of that capability will differ from what it has been in the past. Current and future military needs requires our forces to have a smaller logistics train (more teeth; less tail). The logistics supply chain must be flexible and able to be deployed quickly to meet these needs. Enhanced logistics processes can help the SA Military to produce more combat capability. Successful implementation of this change is essential, and will have far-reaching impact on the people, business processes and technology infrastructure of the SA Military, its allies, and Military Related Industry partners. Military logistics is **expensive**. Moving large numbers of people and considerable heavy equipment and cargo drives cost in an obvious way. Other factors also drive cost. One such factor is the uncertainty of future requirements, and the impact of this uncertainty on readiness. To prepare for uncertain events, military planners' budget for “stockpiles”, “war reserve materials”, and a reserve transportation capacity. These reserve or excess capacities provide the means for combat commanders to react very quickly to events that would otherwise overwhelm their normal based logistics support. Presently, the SA Military is engaged in realigning its supply chain requirements aligned with the Defence Review 2015. The transformed military supply chain must be far more effective, robust, and less costly than it is presently. The SA Military Supply Chain, like our military force, must be able to react to the unexpected quickly, appropriately, and effectively.

Dr Thomas Durell-Young, US Naval Postgraduate School

‘Why defence planning doesn’t work’

It is the rare Western defense official who will state that they are satisfied with their existing defense planning methods and systems. In the case of Central/Eastern Europe, there is hardly a country that can claim that they have been able to produce a ‘viable’ defense plan since independence in 1990/1911. The region provides a good case study of civil-military relations in a large group of young democracies. It also offers a good data set of countries with similar defense planning pathologies to determine causation, as well as suggesting some practical solutions. A close survey of essentially all institutions reveals lacunae in: policy frameworks, operational planning analysis to determine capability gaps in the current force based on objective data, and predictive cost models; all of which are needed to support informed decision-making. Western defense advising has also been terribly ineffectual and largely based on experts’ own lack of knowledge of how defense planning actually works.