



# 2016 SA Army Writing Competition

**Theme: The Future SA Army Force Deployment Strategy (How We Fight)**

**1st Prize R10 000**  
**2nd Prize R7 000**  
**3rd Prize R3 000**

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE 2016 SA ARMY WRITING COMPETITION

- Entrants** (Pte to Col). Only members in the ranks of private to colonel may enter. Only SA Army members may enter the competition. Members of the Future SA Army Strategy project team, as well as lecturers and researchers of the Faculty of Military Science (Military Academy) are not allowed to enter. Academic assistants as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students of the SA Army at the Military Academy may and are encouraged to enter.
- Number of Authors.** There may be only one author per paper. No co-authored papers (papers written by more than one author) will be allowed. No more than one paper may be submitted by the same author.
- Length of Papers.** Papers should be a minimum of 2 000 and a maximum of 4 000 words. Papers outside the length restrictions may be penalised.
- Electronic Format.** Papers must be submitted in electronic format only. No hard copies or faxes will be accepted.
- Publication.** The organisers may submit papers for possible publication in the SA Army Journal. The organisers will have the discretion to determine eligibility for submission for publication. The submission of papers for possible publication does not guarantee publication. The organisers have no obligation to submit papers for publication.
- Copyright.** The SA Army reserves copyright of the winners' papers.
- Plagiarism.** Any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification. The direct copying of text or parts thereof from other papers, articles or sources, except for the purpose of its use as a quotation (with source reference) will result in disqualification.
- Source Referencing.** Each entrant must have detailed source references in addition to the bibliography. It is compulsory to use endnotes, footnotes or the shortened Harvard method for detailed source references. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in penalisation.
- Technical Layout.** The Conventions of Service Writing must be used for the technical layout of the papers. This rule must be read in conjunction with rule 7.
- Original Work and Verification of Sources.** All papers should be the original work of the entrants. Papers submitted to other competitions where results are still pending are not eligible for entry. Entrants may be required to verify their sources within 72 hours. Entrants may also be asked to take part in telephonic interviews in the event that plagiarism is suspected and to verify sources. If entrants do not cooperate in this regard they will be disqualified.
- Language and Spelling.** Papers with poor language and spelling will be penalised.
- Submission of Entries.** Entries should be submitted in electronic format via email to the appropriate address identified by the competition organisers.
- Closing Date.** No entries will be accepted after **30 September 2016**. It is the entrant's responsibility to confirm that the paper was received by the organisers before the closing date. No hard copies or hand-written papers will be accepted.
- Mark Sheet.** The mark sheet of the Military Academy's Guidelines for the Writing of Assignments and Staff Papers will be used as one of the tools to determine the prize winners. Aspects like originality, logical flow, relevant facts, the quality of research, arguments, breadth, depth, synthesis, conclusions and recommendations (among others) will also be considered to determine the best papers.
- Evaluation and Judging of Papers.** From all the entrants the Future SA Army Strategy project team will select seven finalists. From the finalists a panel of judges will determine the first, second and third prize winners. The Future SA Army Strategy project team will establish a panel to determine the prize winners from the finalists.
- Panel Quorum.** A quorum should at least decide on the prize winners, although this may be done without a formal meeting and can be done by means of electronic correspondence or telephone. A quorum for the panel will consist of the Chair, two organisers and two additional members of the panel.
- Decision on Prize Winners.** The majority of the panel or quorum has to agree on the prize winners. If no majority vote can be obtained for a prize winner, the Chair will determine the relevant prize winner/s.
- Disqualification.** Entrants who fail to comply with any of the above-mentioned rules, will be disqualified.
- Quality of Papers.** Should the papers not be of the desired standard, the organisers and/or panel reserve the right not to appoint any winner or award prizes.
- Decisions.** The decisions of the panel will be final.
- Enquiries.** For enquiries contact Capt M.G.A Whittle at 012 355 2874 or 082 441 4478.

## BACKGROUND

One of the challenges currently identified within the SA Army is the lack of a reading and writing culture within the organisation. In order to address this it was decided to facilitate an annual writing competition for members in the ranks of private (Pte) to colonel (Col). The aim is to encourage thinking about contemporary and future challenges that the SA Army may face, as well as to develop its members' reading and writing skills. This contributes to the concept of creating a learning organisation.

## THEME

The theme for the 2016 SA Army Writing Competition is **'The Future SA Army Force Deployment strategy'** i.e. How do we fight?. Members entering the competition are encouraged to generate their own topic within the confines of the theme. They are free to discuss their choice of topic with the organisers in order to confirm its relevance. Adjudicators are not aware of the identities of the authors of the papers they mark. All marking is done following a triple blind system.

## TITLE PAGE

All papers should have a title page with the following information of the entrant:

- Title of paper
- Force number
- Rank and name
- Unit
- Appointment
- Cell phone number
- Work telephone number
- Work fax number
- Postal address

**All entries must be addressed to:**

**saarmywritingcompetition2016@gmail.com**  
**Closing date: 30 September 2016**

