Focus on CSIR
Technology for
Special Operations

With the focus on Military Behavioural Science Research from an African Perspective, this capability is well positioned to make a significant contribution to knowledge generation in this area, on the African continent.

BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE CAPABILITY
Focussing on Military Behavioural Science Research that supports African Military Organisations.

The CSIR established expertise in this domain in 2004 to support unique Behavioural Science requirements in Specialised Military Contexts.

Current Research Areas include:
- Psychometrics
- Recruitment and Selection
- Training. Research on the selection of personnel is linked to training, selection occurs before training, and the success of selection procedures is evaluated in terms of the success of the selected personnel in training.
- Psychological Resilience
- Motivation and Morale
- Leadership Development / Effective Communication
- Organisational Strategic HR
- Organisational Climate Surveys
- Group behaviour
- Social processes
- Cultural Studies

Research projects include quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Research studies a combination of cognitive and non-cognitive characteristics that contribute towards a successful career within specialised military organisations in Africa.
The research being conducted focuses on the specialised African soldier operating in diverse and dangerous environments within the African context. With the continent’s multi-cultural (individualistic and collectivist) composition, the meaning and understanding of concepts such as “achievement”, “happiness”, “motivation”, “success”, “leadership”, “determination” and even “intelligence” may differ significantly between the various cultural groups. As part of our work we identify, explore, measure and contextualise non-cognitive attributes like, among others, achievement motivation and resilience during Specialised Forces Training, in order to contribute to the improvement of Qualification rates through a combination of Quantitative and Qualitative research.