

SOUTH AFRICAN

SOLDIER



**The new chief
of the SA Army**



SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

- 5 Welcome to our *third corvette*
- 6 Letters: *feedback from our readers*
- 10 Our Chief visited *our sailors*
- 11 Deputy Minister *visits our divers*
- 13 Equip South Africa's *landward forces*
- 14 The end of the career *of the great stabiliser*
- 15 The new Chief of *our Army takes charge*
- 16 For the sake of peace, *stability and progress*
- 18 Impact of the corvettes *on maritime warfare*
- 21 Dealing with *disaster situations*
- 22 2004 Budget and its *progressive evolution*
- 24 Remembering the fallen *of Delville Wood*
- 25 Focus on labour related *policy framework*
- 27 Working as *a unifier*
- 31 SAMHS sharpening *their skills*
- 36 War is not only about *neutralising the enemy*
- 40 Fly like a butterfly *and sting like a bee*
- 41 Women rugby *togs and all*
- 44 Africa Aerospace and *Defence exhibition*



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2

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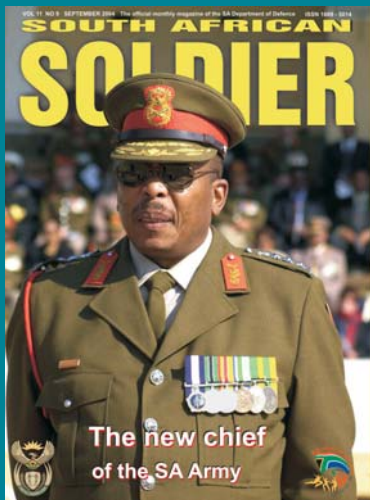
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Photo on page 2: L Cpl Anel Roos displaying her competence in rope work during the visit of our Chief. Photo on page 3: Limpopo Province was chosen as the area of operations for EXERCISE MEDFLAG 2004.



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FRONT COVER: The newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, took over the reins of command from the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano. Please read more about this on page 15. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.mil.za/magazines/sasoldier

From the Editor's desk

All eyes were on the P Wall East Dockyard Simon's Town at 14:00 on 31 May 2004, when SAS SPIOENKOP made her grand entrance into Simon's Bay. Welcoming the third born in the family of our corvettes was Ms Thandi Modise, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, families, well-wishers and the maritime community. It was the first time in the history of the SA Navy that two corvettes, the SAS AMATOLA and the latest acquisition, SAS SPIOENKOP, sailed side by side in False Bay on this glorious day. Read all about the welcoming of our third corvette on page 5.

We at SA SOLDIER salute our outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, and wish him all the best for the future. As Chief of the SA Army he will be remembered as the great stabiliser who created a firm base so that others can take the SA Army into the second decade of defence in democracy as Col Horst Schobesberger, SSO SA Army Communication stated. Please read more about General's Ramano farewell on page 14.

Everyone at SA SOLDIER also bids welcome to our newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke. According to Maj P.I. Moeketsi from SA Army Corporate Communications, General Shoke indicated in no uncertain terms that he wanted to crack the whip even harder than his predecessor did. He will, as a point of departure, concentrate on issues of military discipline in the SA Army. "It is essential to root out criminal elements and activities found in some of the Army units". Please read more about our new Chief of the SA Army on page 15.

SA SOLDIER also welcomes to the Department Mr Vuyani Sipambo, who is the Chief Negotiator for Military Labour Relations in the DOD. Mr Sipambo acts as a representative for the Department in all matters concerning military labour relations. What makes this particular appointment unique is the fact that Mr Sipambo, since he started on 1 May 2004 in this post, has made history because never before has the Department acquired a chief negotiator for military labour relations. Please read more about Mr Sipambo on page 27.

4

Remember to visit the Africa Aerospace and Defence exhibition 2004 at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria over the period 21 to 25 September. It is a show that exemplifies Proudly South African and will showcase the tenth anniversary of our democracy - the first public day falls on Heritage Day, Friday, 24 September 2004. What a phenomenal way to celebrate Heritage Day! Please read the most informative article on this prestigious event on pages 44 to 47.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

la la 31 M  nako e be e le 14:00 kua Simon'town mahlo ohle a

Go tšwa go Morulaganyi

Ke be a lebeletše tshetlegong boemakepeng bja bohlabela ge SAS SPIOENKOP e tsena Simon's Bay. Bao ba bego ba le gona ke mohumagadi Thandi Modise, hlogo ya sešole sa Afrika Borwa, mogenerala Siphwe Nyanda, hlogo ya SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, maloko, bathekgi, le badiradikepeng. E be e le la mathomo historing ya SA Navy ge diketswana tšepedi SAS AMATOLA le setlaboswana SAS SPIOENKOP di ileng tša bonwa di sesa mmogo kua False Bay mo letšatšing le la go ikgetha. Balang ka ga kamogelo ya seketswana sa boraro mo letlakaleng la 5.

Rena ba SA SOLDIER re saluta (dumediša) hlogo ya madira yoo a rotšego modiro, e lego generala Gilbert Ramano, le go mo akela mahlatse bokamosong bja gagwe. Kolonele Horst Schobesberger, e lego seboleledi sa SA Army o begile gore generala, bjalo ka hlogo ya madira o tlo gopolwa bjalo ka motho yo a dirilego motheo wa go tia woo bahlahlami ba tlo o šomišago ge ba tsena ngwaga someng wa bobedi wa tšhireletšo mmušong wa demokrase. Balang ka ga taelo ya generala Ramano letlakaleng la 14.

Rohle mo SA SOLDIER re amogela hlogo ye mpsha ya SA Army, e lego generala Solly Shoke. Go ya ka majoro P.I. Moeketsi wa SA Army corporate communication, Generale Shoke o laeditše botse gore o tlo šoma ka maatla go feta yo a mo latelago. O tlo thoma ka go hlokomedišiša taba ya boitišo (discipline) mo madireng a Afrika-Borwa. "Go bohlokwa go kumula disinyi le ditiro tša bosinyi tše di hwetšwago mephatong ye mengwe ya SA Army. Balang go ya pele ka ga hlogo ye mpsha ya SA Army letlakaleng la 15.

SA SOLDIER e buša gape ya amogela Mna vuyani Sipambo yoo e lego morerišani mogolo wa dikamano mošomong (labour relations) mo kgorong ya tša tšhireletšo. Mna Sipambo o šoma bjalo ka mmoleledi wa kgoro mabapi le dikamano mošomong. Se se dirang gore thwalo ya Mna Sipambo e be ya moswananoši ke gore go tloga mola a thomang mošomo ka la 1 Mei 2004, o dirole histori ka ge kgoro ye e se ya ka ya ba le mmoleledi wa dikamano mošomong wa sešole. Balang go iša pele ka ga Mna Sipambo letlakaleng la 27.

Se lebaleng go etela Africa Aerospace le pontšho ya tša tšhireletšo ya 2004 kua tswane boemafofaneng bja sešole bja Waterkloof go tloga ka la 21 go fihla ka la 25 septembere. Ke pontšho ye e laetšago boikgantšho ka Afrika-Borwa gomme e tlo pepentšha segopotšo sa mengwaga ye lesome ya demokrase- letšatši la mathomo la batho bohle e tlo ba e le letšatši la bohwa e lego tšatši la 24 Septembere 2004. A mokgwa wa mabonwa wa go keteka letšatši la bohwa! Balang pego ka botlalo ka ga letšatši le la mabonwa mo matlakaleng 44 go fihla ka 47.

Nelda Pienaar
Morulaganyi



Welcome to our third corvette

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

A rare moment awaited the naval community as the people's Navy lived up to its expectations. It was the first time in the history of the SA Navy that two corvettes, the SAS AMATOLA and the latest acquisition, SAS SPIOENKOP, sailed side by side in False Bay on 31 May 2004. It does not matter how many of them arrive, it still brings tears to most people.

The third of the VALOUR Class MEKO A200 SA Navy Patrol Corvettes, SAS SPIOENKOP, was named by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Ms Thandi Modise, in a ceremony that took place inside the floating Dock 12 at the Blohm and Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, on 4 June 2003. The ship got its name from the famous battle between the Boers and the British on Spioenkop Hill, near the banks of the Tugela River, on 23 January 1900.

SAS SPIOENKOP departed from Kiel, Germany, on 4 May 2004, and commenced the long passage through the Kiel Canal. She docked in Brest, France, to load equipment and then sailed to the large Spanish Naval Base of Rota, opposite Cadiz, to refuel and to afford the crew the opportunity to rest. Two French naval officers sailed with the ship from Kiel to Brest.


All eyes were on the P Wall East Dockyard Simon's Town at 14:00, when SAS SPIOENKOP made her grand entrance into Simon's Bay.

Welcoming the third born in the

family of corvettes was Ms Thandi Modise, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphwiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, families, well-wishers and the maritime community.

The proud Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Douglas Faure, said it was an honour for him and the crew to accomplish their first mission, which was to deliver the ship safely to the Chief of the SA Navy.

The ship will be placed under the functional authority of the project director and then return to administrative commission to commence the fitting out of the weapon system and combat suites.

In the meantime good progress has been made on the fitting of the weapon systems of the first two patrol corvettes. 

For the first time in the history of the SA Navy two corvettes, the SAS AMATOLA and the SAS SPIOENKOP, sailed side by side in False Bay.



SAS SPIOENKOP.

Turning dreams into reality

Dreaming to serve your country? Thirty children in the Free State were selected to attend the *Siyandiza* Young Falcon Programme at Bloemspruit Air Force Base to take the first step towards their future. This programme was held between 28 March and 3 April 2004.

To me this was one of the best and worst weeks of my life. This was but a drop in the ocean and my state of unfitness, did not make it easier. It was unbelievable.

I learnt so much, which I would never have learnt at school. Waking up to see that you are becoming your dream, was the most satisfying feeling for me and that was what kept me going.

I must admit that I missed my mother's food and my own bed, but

most of all my sleep. Looking back at it now - it was worth it.

Competing physically, not just mentally, proved to be quite relaxing. It taught me to work in groups and to trust myself.

The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. Everybody was treated equally and attention was divided equally. Overall, we felt at home - up to a point. At some stage I must admit I felt like just giving up, but the leaders and other children gave me the strength to keep going to reach out and control my emotions and to continue. Everybody was very supportive and caring.


The exercising was very tiring, but also presented in such a way that it was enjoyable. At night some of us were so tired, we did not even dream.

We were just concentrating on getting more sleep.

Nearing the end of the week, everybody became a bit tense around each other and a few fights broke out, but Sergeant Nel quickly fixed that. And how!

The best experience I had, was meeting new people. I cannot forget flying in the Oryx helicopter - which was awesome.

Saying goodbye was probably the hardest thing to do. There was a special bond that formed among all of us. As usual, all the girls cried and the guys acted really tough, but we could see the tears in their eyes.

Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity, Air Force, we really appreciate it. Hope to see you soon - Sonja Fry, Sand du Plessis High. 

We will remember them

I salute all fallen heroes from Lesotho to the DRC.

I honour all fallen heroes from high ranks to lower ranks.

I remember 14 April 2004 was a sad day in South Africa when the bodies of our fallen heroes arrived in our country from the DRC.

They will be remembered for the good work that they did, securing peace in the DRC.


Our hearts are full of sorrow. Farewell our fallen comrades...

We will always remember them... They have fought a good fight.

They have finished their course. They have kept their faith.

The SANDF and families, *aluta continua*.

The lions are still roaring! May their souls rest in peace -

Rfn B. Matlawe,
Hartbeesfontein Commando. 


Dedication and appreciation

I would like, on behalf of 44 Parachute Regiment, to thank the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, for his patriotic commitment and unwavering determination to transform the SA Army. To him the Regiment says: "Well done, *tsela tshweu!* You have done our SA Army proud".


You have left an indelible mark and your footprints will never be erased from the soil of the grounds of the SA Army that you have criss-crossed in the last six years.

44 Parachute Regiment would like to wish the SA Army Council, under the able leadership of the new Chief,

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the best of luck in the performance of its duties and functions.

A hearty word of welcome is extended to our new Chief of the SA Army. There is no doubt about the fact that Lt Gen Shoke will lead this Army well and take off from the solid ground that has been prepared by his predecessor. He has the full support of the management and, undoubtedly, the members - Officers, Chaplains, Warrant Officers, PSAP, and men of 44 Parachute Regiment. Let the good work continue unabated - Col C.N. Mhatu, Officer Commanding 44 Parachute Regiment. 

R200-00 prize for the best letter


SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. **Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za.** We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor. 

ASSUPOL AD


Page 7

New Material

News from Burundi


I am working at 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem, but am currently deployed in Burundi, and have been there since February this year and soon I will be returning to South Africa. Being here for the past five months is a new experience for me since it is my first external deployment. To be deployed in a foreign country can be quite hectic because you miss your family and loved ones. I have made new friends. It is quite a new experience to work with and interact with other forces deployed here, such as Ethiopia and Mozambique. Since the UN has taken over, you find yourself surrounded by other different forces, such as Pakistan, Nepal, Tunisia, Jordan, Nigeria, etc. South Africa should keep on playing the leading role during this peace process in Burundi -
L Cpl S. Solomons. 


I have been deployed in Burundi since February 2004. It has been my first external deployment with my

unit, 10 AA Regt in Kimberley and I find it very interesting being exposed to a truly unique, African environment. I am currently working as the Personnel clerk for the VIP Unit and Static Guard Company and enjoy my job immensely. I have made a whole lot of friends from all spectrums of forces being deployed here in Burundi, especially the Mozambicans, Ethiopians and even my very own home-grown, "Souza" colleagues. I even managed to sharpen my knowledge of my ancestral language, being French, as my grandfather originates from Madagascar. I am proud to be associated with my country and the reasons why we are deployed here. I salute my Government and especially my fellow colleagues for the immense effort being put aside in maintaining and working towards a true democracy in Burundi and I will go back with a proper image of what it is like to be true ambassadors for our country, during this peace process -
Sgt Neil Schippers. 

Through this long and challenging deployment as a woman in combat, it is a good experience for my career. I enjoyed my stay in Burundi, never mind hard times and frustration you come across during the mission as a woman. In the mission area if you are a woman in uniform you must co-operate with other fellow soldiers because it is very difficult to cope with the situation, eg limited privacy, cold water showers for six months, limited telephone calls, lots of mosquitoes and the poverty in this country. Burundi is an evergreen country with a good population, a country destroyed by war, with many innocent casualties, hungry children wherever you go, begging for money and food... - how painful it can be. I am a very strong-natured woman, but my sense of survival is strongly being tested when I left my fiancée and two lovely boys for six months to serve my country. As women in uniform, we must show the whole country that we
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

are strong and have the capabilities of being deployed among men outside the borders of the RSA. It must have been difficult for me, but I am proud to be a part of the African Union and the United Nations Mission in Burundi. We all have the potential to perform well in the deployments outside and inside the borders of the RSA, you can also be a hero on your own. Give your body and mind what it needs to help you stay healthy and strong to reach your goal in life. Combat women like me know labour and are patient, which is why I enjoyed and accepted to serve my country with pride and dignity in the peacekeeping operation. Tough times go... tough people stay! - Lt M.M. Molefe. 

I am working at 10 AA Regiment in Kimberley. I have joined the SA Army three and a half years ago. It is my first external deployment and I am here in Burundi for six months. At first, I did not want to come because it seemed so different from what I am used to in my home country, but at this stage, I do not regret my decision even a bit. It took me only two weeks to get used to the situation and environment in Burundi. For the whole duration, I am an administration clerk doing paperwork for, eg, the VIPs to go on rural trips. Being on this deployment and seeing how some Burundians suffer, I appreciate more what I am and what I have. I am proud to be here as a South African soldier, together with the Ethiopians and Mozambicans, in this peacekeeping operation - Gunner Lizel Immelman. 


I am 26 years old and from Hammanskraal Temba in the North West province. Early January this year I was busy enjoying my leave at home when I received a call from my Officer Commanding, Lt Col Dube, commanding me to cancel my leave and to report at my unit for mobilisation to Burundi. I had mixed feelings of excitement and fear because I was aware that being deployed outside the borders of RSA for six months was not going to be an easy task, but as a soldier I had to obey the command.

When the aircraft took off from Bloemspruit airport in Bloemfontein on 30 January, I was very excited to fly, although I cried because it was my first experience. I could not wait to land in Burundi in order to satisfy my curiosity on how it is, as compared to South Africa. We landed at Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi, and on our way from the airport to the Palace Base (the RSA military base) I was welcomed by many things, including driving on the right hand side of the road - I immediately confirmed that I was in a foreign country. As the only female officer in the Static Guard Company of 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, deployed among male officers, my experience in Burundi was full of challenges. It was a learning opportunity and also a tool for my development in the military environment. I was utilised as platoon three commander and was very fortunate to have S Sgt Lupuwana as my platoon sergeant. My experience was that one needs to have someone one can count on to share one's frustrations and happiness in such a long and difficult deployment. We did not only share a good working relationship, but he was always there for me as a friend when I needed him. My days in Burundi were good and sometimes bad. There were times when there was shooting incidents late at night around Mutanga Noord (our deployment area). I always knew that, when I hear the sound of bomb explosions and weapons, I immediately had to wake up, dress in my uniform with a bullet-proof vest and go outside. We always knew where to deploy ourselves around the yard to effectively defend ourselves.

There were two motivating factors that always made me stay strong and calm in those situations. Firstly, as a female, I had an obligation to prove to the male soldiers that women are also highly capable in this field of work. Secondly, as a leader I had to lead by example and believe that you can never successfully control the situation when you panic, therefore I had to stay focused. I sometimes went through difficulties during the deployment and the worst scenario was when my father was very ill. I flew

back home. On my arrival in South Africa, I only stayed for two days, and he passed away. When I went back to the mission area after the funeral, I managed to cope very well with the support of my commander, Maj Hlongwa, S Sgt Lupuwana and all members of platoon three. As women, we kept ourselves busy with recreational facilities, such as volleyball and netball. We normally competed with the local population or among each other. We held women's forums every month where all women met and discussed issues relating to women. We motivated each other and we were very fortunate to have a female chaplain and social worker and they both form part of the forum. After every forum we always had a braai and enjoyed ourselves. This really boosted the morale of the women and I can say that I made a lot of friends through that. It was difficult to communicate with the local population because they can only speak Swahili or Kirundi, which are foreign languages to me.

I managed, as the time went by, to learn some of the words of those languages. Burundi is totally different from South Africa. I missed a lot of things back home and throughout the deployment I learnt to appreciate my country more and I can proudly say that South Africa is a very developed country. We have to be thankful of what we have in our country and take pride in being South Africans. I missed my family a lot and especially my boyfriend, Olebogeng Maine, because he has also been deployed in Burundi since July last year until early February this year. When I arrived in Burundi, I only saw him for a week, before he went back to South Africa. I cannot wait to meet all my friends at home and also in Kimberley. I am very grateful that I was offered the opportunity to serve in the Africa Union Mission in Burundi.

During my Basic Training Course my instructor used to say: "Join the Army and see places", which was exactly the case with my experience during the peacekeeping operation in Burundi. I am very proud to be a member of the SANDF - Lt M. Ntlatleng. 



Casual Day

The Department of Defence, in conjunction with Casual Day and *Wiel* magazine, will be hosting a packed-out programme called "Loslit en La'waai" on Friday, 3 September 2004 and Saturday, 4 September 2004, at Zwartkop Raceway track in Pretoria.

Keep these dates open in your diary and come and enjoy a fun-filled day full of wheels. The project will start on Casual Day with a military parade accompanied by the SA Army Band and will end on Saturday with a music concert that will find favour with all. To celebrate Casual Day, the focus Friday will be on persons with disabilities. They will be afforded the opportunity to fly in a helicopter, participate in a wheelchair race, or hitch a ride in a racing car around the track.

Curamus will benefit by every person attending this event (whether Friday or Saturday). Who is Curamus? Curamus (meaning: "We care") was established in 1990 by the SADF. The purpose of the association was to care for members who become disabled during their service. At that time, many members were National Servicemen who became disabled during the bush war in Angola. Since the integration process in 1994, veterans with disabilities resulting from the struggle have been included in their member base. Most disturbing is the fact that the prevalence of disability in the security forces at this stage is because of crime. Many of our policemen and soldiers are shot and end up with a disability as a result of criminal activities. All these people are currently at the mercy of Curamus for much needed aftercare.

Wiel magazine invites you and your family on Saturday, 4 September, to come and enjoy a day filled with various activities - everything included in your entrance ticket.

Prepare yourself for the following:

For those of you who just wish to be spectators - a static military display, motorcar exhibitions, an air show by the SA Air Force, a flea market, a radio-controlled car competition race and an Xtreme sports show.

For those who prefer to participate - rock climbing and bungee trampoline.

For those who wish to fly - helicopter rides in an Oryx helicopter and rides in military aircraft.

For those who want to drive - Audi Advance Driving, Mercedes Benz Advance Driving, go-karts, a formula 1 simulator, 4x4 fun on the 4x4 track and a fun rally race on the skid pad.

For those who want to enjoy listening to music - music concerts (a small concert on Friday and the main event on Saturday) with artists, such as Amor Vittone, Heinz Winkler and the


Zing-Top 10 finalists.

For those who want to eat and drink - a "Potjiekos" competition, a variety of food stalls and a "bring your own braai"!

Get ready and be sure not to miss this event! All DOD members have received permission to attend this event on Friday (and are encouraged to take their families along on Saturday). It is time to support Curamus. Who knows, you might also need their services one day...

Entrance: Friday - Only R10 for your Casual Day sticker.

Saturday - R90 entrance and R10 for your Casual Day sticker (= R100). Children under 12 free.

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Our Chief visited our sailors

Article courtesy *Navy News*

General Sipiwe Nyanda recently took time out of his otherwise hectic schedule as Chief of the SANDF to touch bases with the SA Navy, certainly a welcome break and a great opportunity to get down to the coast and understand a little more of this exciting Service of the SANDF first-hand.

Arriving with his entourage (which included the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Eric Green, Chief Defence Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, and the then PSO of the Chief of the SANDF, Brig Gen Manfred Mabusa) at Air Force Base Durban by special flight at 08:00 on 23 June 2004, he joined the Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Dave Jones, for a briefing on the challenges and opportunities facing the Naval Station. They met over a cup of tea and refreshments before being escorted on a whistle-stop tour of the facilities on Salisbury Island. After "stand easy" they visited the Inshore Patrol Vessel SAS TEKWANE and toured the Naval Armaments Depot in Durban before visiting the Strike Craft Training Centre up on the Bluff, overlooking the whole of the city, as well as the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean.

After lunch at Naval Station Durban the group was whisked away to AFB Durban for the special flight to AFB Ysterplaat. En route to Simon's Town, Gen Nyanda was given a drive-by tour of some of the other outlying Naval establishments to give him a better overall field of reference and to help orientate him for the briefings and discussions which would follow.

Soon after leaving the air force base, they were briefed (without breaking stride) on SAS WINGFIELD, neighbouring Naval Stores Depot Wingfield and the Naval Staff College in Muizenberg before reaching the picturesque coast road.

They passed Southern Floe Senior Rates' and Warrant Officers' Mess, (situated practically on the beach in Fish Hoek) before cutting back uphill, past the V Adm Edwards Sports Complex to view the newly installed walls and gates along the main road through the military residential suburb of Da Gama Park and back to the coast, again with a spectacular view of Naval Base Simon's Town from the hill above Naval Publications Unit.

Before unpacking his overnight bag for the stay at stately Admiralty House, Gen Nyanda visited the Izivunguvungu Sailing Project where he watched the youngsters showing off their prowess on the water in the failing light and inspected the classroom and other facilities which have

A total immersion introduction to the SA Navy.

been set aside for the children, before making his way back to Admiralty House for dinner with the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon's Town, R Adm (JG) Koos Louw, hosted by Chief of the Navy.

The following day was spent exploring Simon's Town and the group began by visiting SAS AMATOLA, the first of the Patrol Corvettes and consequently the furthest along with the fitting of her weapons' suites and other systems. Gen Nyanda listened attentively as each aspect of the massive warship's function and capabilities was explained enthusiastically in glowing, graphic detail. Next, the group visited the minesweeper SAS KAPA, where Gen Nyanda had the opportunity of chatting with her Officer Commanding, Cdr Bravo Mhlana. After a brief flip in one of the




Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, and R Adm Eric Green, Flag Officer Fleet, on board of the SAS AMATOLA.

new small landing craft (LIMA boats) which gave everyone, usually trapped in their offices in Pretoria, the opportunity to get some fresh sea air (and a little spray) in their faces, the group moved over to the combat support vessel SAS OUTENIQUA. Walking on board through the huge roll-on-roll-off vehicle door they made their way through her massive tween-decks cargo area and after a cursory tour of the vessel, made their way to the Wardroom (officers' mess) where a spread of light refreshments had been laid out.

The group moved ashore and viewed the site preparations for Project KLARINET, the new Fleet Command Headquarters Building, before moving on to observe the progress on the upgrade to the Fuel Farm. Next, it was off to Maritime Warfare Training Centre to see all the sweeping changes there first-hand and hear about the exciting developments still on the cards. The group then visit-

ed the Adult Basic Education and Training Centre which has been established in Simon's Town's landmark "House of Many Chimneys", the old Detention Quarters (DB) Building, which has been refurbished and the cells converted into intimate little computer classrooms where learners can pick up vital skills in peaceful and private surroundings at their own pace. The final call of the morning was to the Diving Centre where Gen Nyanda was briefed on the functioning of the VCentre and the services and facilities they provide to the Navy and the broader local public, before observing classes of Naval Gymnasium Trainees enthusiastically undergoing enablement training across the sun-splashed beach and in the chilly water in the hope of being successful candidates for possible diver selection later in the year.

Most certainly suffering severe information overload from all the briefings, the group moved back to the

secluded and hallowed confines of Admiralty House, where CPO Forbes and his crew of "galley slaves" presented them with a memorable spread in true stately homes tradition. After lunch they moved up Red Hill to SANAD, the Naval Armaments Depot, nestled in the hilltop valley high above Simon's Town, and were taken on a tour of the facilities and the bunkers being modified for the Patrol Corvettes' UMKHONTO missiles. On the way back to AFB Ysterplaat, the group finished off their "total immersion introduction to the SA Navy" by viewing the facilities and discussing the many services provided by the Navy's Hydrographic Office from its hillside headquarters at Silvermine. By 17:00 they were winging their way back to Gauteng, armed with at least a greater understanding of where the SA Navy is positioned in terms of what resources and examples it has to offer the other Services and the nation as a whole. 

Deputy Minister visits our divers


The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mululeki George, paid a visit to SAS SIMONSBERG's Diving Centre on 20 May 2004. He was accompanied by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm E.M. Green and Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon's Town, R Adm (JG) J.E. Louw. The visit was aimed at providing an opportunity for the Deputy Minister to gain first hand experience of the enablement training for prospective Navy divers, as well as to see the sailing development project for young people from previously disadvantaged communities run by Mr Ian Ainsley.

The Deputy Minister visited the newly established enablement-training centre in the historic DQ building (jail) where the divers receive tuition in the theoretical side of diving. He spoke to some of the prospective divers who were busy with computer-based mathematical training and encouraged them to do their best to achieve the high standards required for becoming a SA Navy diver. Thereafter he spent time with the

divers who were busy with physical training and practical swimming exercises.

The visit was concluded with a sailing demonstration by youngsters from the Izivunguvungu Sailing Project. It was abundantly clear that the

young people were displaying excellent sailing skills while enjoying themselves.

Mr George was impressed by these fine efforts by determined young people. (Article and photo courtesy *Navy News*) 




S Lt N. Mahlangu (right) and S Lt N.R. Mtshali received their Bridge Watchkeeping Badges from Mr Mululeki George, the Deputy Minister of Defence.

Strengthening our injured soldiers

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, paid a goodwill visit to four SANDF soldiers in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria on 10 June 2004. They were injured during an attack on members of the SANDF in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 6 June 2004.

Gen Nyanda was accompanied by the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, and the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, WO1 Jakes Jacobs.

Initially six soldiers were admitted

to 1 Military Hospital on 7 June 2004. They were suffering from minor injuries and lacerations. Two soldiers have subsequently been discharged and the other four were discharged within a day after General Nyanda's visit. 

Our Chief visited soldiers in training

By PO Dennis Ndaba

The Army Gymnasium was established in June 1953 at Roberts Heights (later Voortrekkerhoogte and now Thaba Tshwane). This was a result of a need that existed for a prestige unit, where young men could be trained for military life.

On 1 January 1994 the SA Army Gymnasium was reinstated as a training unit for junior leaders in the SA Army. The rest of the base was organised and named "Military Base Heidelberg". With the closure of the SA Army Women's College in George during late 1998, the responsibility of the women's junior leader training was allocated to the SA Army Gymnasium. The intake of 1998 was the first ever joint male/female junior leader intake in the SA Army.

Currently the SA Army Gymnasium is responsible for the Officer Formative Branch, Non-Commissioned Officer Formative Branch, Warrant Officers' Training Branch, as well as the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme training. The mission of the SA Army Gymnasium is to provide transformational leaders for the SA Army.


The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, visited the SA Army Gymnasium on 28 July 2004. His entourage included the newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief Director Force Preparation, Maj Gen Paul Ramahlo, Col Marthie Visser, representing the Chief Defence Corporate Communication - Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng - and the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, WO1

Jakes Jacobs. On arrival, they were welcomed by the Acting General Officer Com-manding of the SA Army Training Formation, Col Deon Holtzhausen, Officer Commanding of the SA Army Gymnasium, Col Vuyani Ludonga, and the Warrant Officer of the SA Army, WO1 Eddie Sykes.

After the briefing by the Officer Commanding, Gen Nyanda and his delegation visited the training areas, where they witnessed instructors and students busy with their training programmes. They also visited facilities

that were being upgraded. The visit ended with a drive through the unit.

Gen Nyanda said it was both an honour and a pleasure to visit the flagship training unit of the SA Army. He also said it was encouraging to see the young soldiers injected in the SA Army through the MSD Programme displaying their skills, as it is their Defence Force.

He urged the Officer Commanding and his staff to keep up the good work and wished them well on all their endeavours. 



Fitr, front: Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, Col Vuyani Ludonga, Officer Commanding of the SA Army Gymnasium, and Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, mounting the podium at SA Army Gymnasium. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

Equip South Africa's landward forces

By Col Horst Schobesberger,
SSO SA Army Communication

“A decade of partnership in providing landward defence capabilities for South Africa and the region.”

This motto was the theme for the third SA Army Defence Industry Day, which was held at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria on 26 May 2004. The conference was attended by the then Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, and senior members of the DOD, Armscor and the Defence Industry.

Lt Gen Ramano, in his opening address, highlighted the fact that this occasion had become an important milestone for the SA Army and the defence-related industry to re-establish a long-term relationship and objective to equip South Africa's landward forces for its military obligations in the future African battlespace. He confirmed that, without our acquisition agent, Armscor, and the Defence Industry, the SA Army would not be strategically positioned to serve our nation and the region. General Ramano reminded the audience of the forthcoming end to his term in office and took the opportunity to thank the major role players in this strategic partnership for their valuable inputs and contribution since 1994.

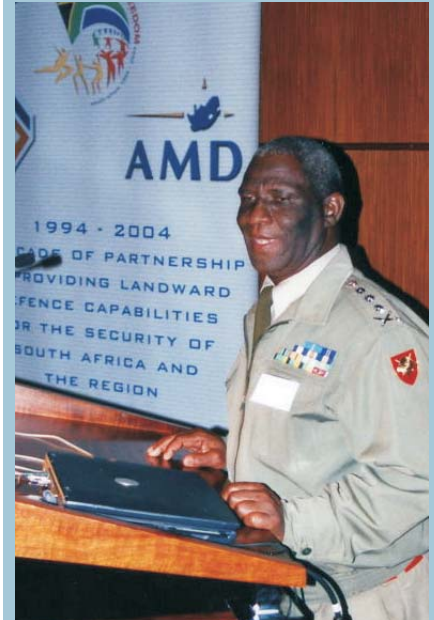
The Chairperson of the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD), Lt Gen (Ret) L. Moloi, recalled the change of approach and role the Defence Industry has undergone during the past 10 years of "a decade of defence in a democracy". He stated that the role of the Defence Industry, as stated in the Defence Review, established the grounds for the transformation of the industry. Speaking about

the difficulties the industry is facing within our international involvement, he warned that there is a threat that in the long term South African companies may be reduced to marketing agencies for their international partners, leading to the demise of local expertise. "We must guard against this," he said, "by ensuring that there is significant transfer of technology and local customisation to maintain a core level of expertise in the local market."

Mr G.J. Smith, the General Manager Acquisition of Armscor, presented a paper on "trends in the defence acquisition environment". Discussing factors influencing the acquisition process, he stated three important conclusions, namely:

- Any defence-related industry competing for the production of armaments for the SANDF will, in future, have to do so in competition with the international market.
- The DOD and Armscor can no longer afford protection to any member that is not regarded as strategically essential. Non-strategic members of the defence-related industry will therefore have to be competitive in the open market in order to survive.
- The DOD and Armscor should conclude strategic partnerships with specific elements of industry in support of identified strategically essential technologies and capabilities. The input of the Army consisted of presentations by Col Grundlingh (CJ Ops) on the African Battlespace and the Army perspective on landward operations by senior officers from Headquarters 43 and 46 SA Brigades.


The programme was enriched by the address of Mr M.R. Ramfelo, DOD Chief Acquisition, and a paper presented by Mr Moche, CEO of Denel, on



Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano during his opening address at the SA Army Defence Industry Day.

international control regimes and national controls. Mr Griffiths from Armscor Acquisition spoke about the issue of contractor source selection. Jane's Defence correspondent and well-known author of military books and articles on the African military environment enlightened the audience with presentations on trends in the defence since 1990 and a prognosis on the South African Defence Industry.

An interactive session by Maj Gen Dzulane from the Army Office rounded off the proceedings. In a small ceremony, Armscor and the Defence Industry said farewell to the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Ramano.

It was General Ramano's initiative three years ago that brought the major role players of the Army, Armscor, DOD Acquisition and the industry together at an Indaba. This coming together has been a success as has been shown by the Army Industry Day 2004. 

The end of the career of the great stabiliser

By Col Horst Schobesberger,
SSO SA Army Communication

Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

On 6 July 2004 the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, handed over command of the SA Army to the newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke.

An impressive parade formed the background of this occasion. The parade took place at the grounds of the Defence Sport Club in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria. The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphwe Nyanda, and other senior DOD personnel honoured the occasion.

The sound of the seventeen-gun salute echoed the end of the tour of duty for Lt Gen Ramano as the Chief of the SA Army. A tour of duty which started six years ago at the same venue and under the same blue winter sky. Lt Gen Ramano said farewell to the SA Army at the same time when we celebrate a decade of defence in democracy. He took over command at the time when the SA Army faced its greatest challenge - the transformation process. Real transformation started with him.

The achievements of the past six years of transformation are his achievements. His now famous statement: "we have progressed" - are no empty words.

The SA Army, under the leadership of Lt Gen Ramano, took the lead in this process and also carried the heaviest burden. Incidents like the ones at Tempe and Phalaborwa were only temporary setbacks. Lt Gen

Ramano's firm and balanced approach in overcoming these problems carried the process forward.

Visiting units and listening to the problems of his soldiers gave him first-hand knowledge necessary to understand the issues the SA Army was facing.

A new force design and force structure, including a difficult staffing process, put more pressure and demands on the leadership of Lt Gen Ramano.

We have inherited a new system and our task is to make it work, was his approach in overcoming difficulties. He paid a lot of attention to the functioning of the general support bases.

His call to commanders and section heads to "take charge" and to "be in charge" will always be remembered by the ones who attended his conferences.

Lt Gen Ramano looks back on 42 years of military service. He left the country in 1962 to join the armed struggle. It was the beginning of thirty years of hardship, suffering and danger and not knowing if he would ever see South Africa again. The determination to free South Africa from the oppressive system of apartheid and a strong will to overcome the most difficult obstacles were the strongest motivators for the General.

As Chief of the SA Army he will be remembered as the great stabiliser who created a firm base so that others can take the SA Army into the second decade of defence in democracy.


It is worth highlighting the guiding message Lt Gen Ramano gave to the uniformed and PSAP members of the SA Army:

"We have progressed."



Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano.

- Stay focused on what you are doing.
- Do not be distracted by things that you cannot change.
- Follow the chain of command and let your commanders solve your problems.
- Build your relations with others on trust.
- Adopt a healthy lifestyle.
- Improve your educational status.
- Apply yourself in all situations and be an example to the community.

"I would like to wish you all well, and good luck. As members of the pride of lions, I urge you to serve the SANDF and the country with dignity, pride and loyalty. I salute you. Stay well and all the best for the future," concluded Lt Gen Ramano. 

The new Chief of our Army takes charge

By Maj P.I. Moeketsi, SA Army Corporate Communications,
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On its quest to the second decade of defence in democracy, the SA Army saw the appointment of the new Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, who took over the reins of command from the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, on the morning of 6 July 2004 at the grounds of the Defence Sport Club in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria.

Arising from Lt Gen Shoke's first interview as Chief of the SA Army with L. Oelofse from *Rapport* (12/07/04), it became abundantly clear that the new Chief of the SA Army's mission would be to harden and cement those aspirations of a transforming SA Army and to serve South Africa and its people. He indicated in no uncertain terms, that he wants to crack the whip even harder than his predecessor did. He will, as a point of departure, concentrate on issues of military discipline in the SA Army. "It is essential to root out criminal elements and activities found in some of the Army units".

On the basis of this assertion, the General mentioned that he would ascertain what is happening throughout the SA Army structures. A series of meetings with commanders and soldiers will be arranged with the view of finding out from them what his soldiers expect from their new Chief.

"You need good commanders who know how to maintain discipline without using it as a draconian management tool," said Lt Gen Shoke.

The General also highlighted the importance of "new blood" especially in the now ageing SA Army, a fact he strongly agrees to, realising his back-

ground as the former Chief Director of Human Resource Support Centre.

Lt Gen Shoke said the older generation rendered an invaluable service to the country, but a new generation is necessary to "complete the SA Army's transformation process". More trained commanders are needed in the middle management level of the SA Army.

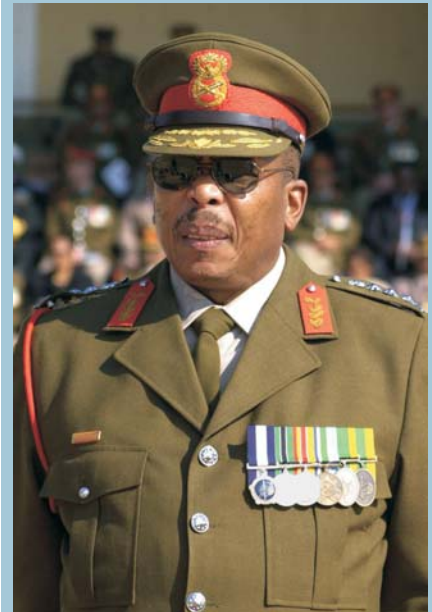
"We are negotiating with other state departments, including the South African Police Service among others, to see if we cannot transfer some of the older members to other departments and, in so doing, make place for the new generation," said Lt Gen Shoke. Although he is satisfied with the continuing process of affirmative action at most levels of the Army, the General feels the process must not be misconstrued to imply "a mere replacement of white faces with black faces. A complete change of doing things is necessary to ensure transition".

Lt Gen Shoke mentioned that his main aim is "to deliver soldiers who are combat ready", and will, as a result, focus on force preparation and training aspects of the SA Army, as well as the Reserve Force. In this way, an increase in the number of soldiers who are deployable can be actualised, bearing in mind the greater contribution to the external peace support mission of the SA Army.

"We also want to learn from other defence forces in the world. We want to do further research to improve our training."

Lt Gen Shoke was born on 15 August 1956 in Alexander Township and later completed his schooling at Orlando High School. He received his military training from Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in Angola and thereafter underwent officer's courses in Russia.

The General was a political commissar and later became the Commander of the Transvaal Urban Machinery of MK during the liberation




Lt Gen Solly Shoke.

struggle. He was part of the national underground leadership during the planning of Operation VULA.

He also became the National Co-ordinator for the Peace Process during the negotiations and was part of the work group that facilitated the integration of the former adversarial forces into the SANDF.

His Intermediate Staff Course was completed in 1993/1994 in Zimbabwe and his Joint Command and Senior Staff Course at the SA Army College.

He was, among others, Commander of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) forces deployed in Lesotho during Operation BOLEAS in 1998 to 1999.

Lt Gen Shoke is married to Charlotte and has four lovely children. He obtained a Diploma in Human Resource Management from Damelin, a Certificate in Defence Management from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Certificate in Personnel Management from the Institute for Personnel Management. General Shoke speaks nine languages and is fond of golf and soccer. 

For the sake of peace, stability and progress

By Col Belinda Martins,
SSO Promotions Defence
Reserves Division

The ability of Burundian women to organise and assemble at short notice is admirable - (something we should learn from them). 300 000 people have been killed since the conflict began, mostly women, children and the elderly.

The country is overpopulated with widows, orphans and people with disabilities, directly resulting from the conflict. Presently 20 000 troops from the opposition FNL, who did not sign the peace agreement, assembled on the borders of Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and launched attacks on civilians in an effort to provoke the government forces to an open warfare. Daily attacks take place on people around the capital city, Bujumbura.

The women who comprise 52% of the population and who participated in the process to achieve peace, in mobilisation and combat and in every other civic structure, religion and business, are presently being left out of the democratic process towards elections. They are grossly under represented in the present government structure. Women only occupy 17 of the 1 221 seats in their National Assembly. Of the 23 ministers, only three are women. Gender discrimination is evident, and in discussions with the different groups the women themselves say that they are very aggrieved that they should be experiencing this type of discrimination.

Other forms of discrimination that they are suffering cause humiliation and stifle their potential to be equals in every sphere of decision-making concerning the laws of their country, especially laws applicable to women.

A Burundian woman cannot divorce her husband. She is tied by Constitutional Law to a lifetime of commitment. Even if the relationship is abusive, she cannot file for a divorce, as custom does not allow it and the courts would not even consider an application for divorce by a

Burundian woman.

Though the economy in Burundi is agriculturally driven and 90% of this sector is managed by women, they still represent a fragment in organised business. However, much is being done by a movement that is already structured and active among a number of smaller organisations fighting for the emancipation of women in Burundi.

At the time of our arrival in Burundi, we found that the women's organisations, totalling approximately 127, were fragmented and working towards peace, political participation, representivity in decision-making and other aspects of civic concerns, religion, business, children and other social matters. They were working along ethnic, and party political lines, but this weakened their bargaining power. The men would tell them that their numbers do not constitute a quorum for recognition in government or in any other structure involved in major decision-making in the running of the country.

Having realised this, we raised this problem to every women's organisation, non-governmental organisation (NGO) and individuals with whom we communicated. They also realised this during our debate. We mentioned that a united women's front, that includes all parties across ethnic, religious and other divides, might serve


to assist them in establishing a force to be reckoned with.

The outcome of our discussions with the various groups that we met resulted in all of these organisations requesting us to facilitate a meeting for them where they could form a union of all organisations and parties. However, they were afraid to call it a coalition, and would rather call it a co-ordinating body for

the time being. We strongly agreed with them that that was the way forward. We explained that we could not just come and do things in their country. Therefore, we, as South African women, would like to start by signing a declaration of peace and solidarity with them.

The meeting was convened, and the attendance was beyond expectation. The drive and eagerness of the Burundian women were clearly displayed that day. After the dialogue, and having the women introduce themselves (for they had never met in such a manner before), they all requested to unite before the end of the meeting and form a forum of all parties, comprising business, religion and other civic structures. Thus the coalition (co-ordinating body) was formed.

However, the women requested the delegation to return and to facilitate a Peace Conference for them - the first to be held by women of all parties in Burundi. They wanted the world and Burundi to know that they were tired of war and wanted peace, stability and progress in their country - especially in view of the fact that there was still a faction at war in Burundi.

South African and Burundian women were engaged in a dialogue that was held at the Esselen Park Conference Centre, Kempton Park, over the period 19 to 21 July 2004. 



South African delegates, fltr: Lt Col J. Coetzee, Col B.V. Martin, Cdr M.A.S. Denman and Col N.C. Madlala-Msimango.

UN Day in Burundi


The first of June will be remembered in Burundi as United Nations (UN) Day. After months of preparations this day dawned and the UN took over from the African Union (AU). Under the umbrella of the AU three Troop Contributing Countries (TCC) deployed soldiers, equipment and civilian manpower to keep the parties to the conflict at bay. South Africa, as the main leading country with Ethiopia and Mozambique, also held the post of Force Commander. Maj Gen D.M. Mgwebi led the transition from AU to UN, where more countries are to be involved in peacekeeping. As Maj Gen Mgwebi will work under the UN, a

parade was held in his honour.

Guests at the ceremony included Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (South Africa), with the Ambassador of South Africa to Burundi, Mr Nhlapo, Mr Tsepe Motumi, Chief of Policy and Planning, Lt Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, Chief of Joint Operations, Maj Gen Siphon Binda, the former Force Commander in Burundi under AU, as well as Generals from France, Ethiopia, Romania and other countries were present to witness their fellow soldiers lead this country to peace.

The flag of the AU was lowered and the UN flag hoisted. The General

and all the troops under his command donned the blue beret.

Preparations for this event attracted most of Bujumbura's residents to the stadium; the marquees had already been erected the previous day, while the drill rehearsals had also been conducted frequently during the days preceding the important event. With three countries marching to the same orders, chaos was expected - but B Company of 9 SAI Bn, representing the South African contingent, rendered a superb performance. They performed according to South African standards of drill. (Article courtesy of *DC Gossip*.) 

Fruitful and prosperous solutions...

By **Matshidiso Pila**

Photo: **Elmond Jiyane, GCIS**

After intensive discussions held at the SA Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria on 14 June 2004, it was time for South African women, including those of the DOD to multiply their strength, because they really needed to do that for their sisters in Burundi. Nobody cried or laughed, all they wanted was to come up with solutions to the problems in Burundi.

These brave women were together for the Burundian and South African Women in Dialogue at Esselen Park, Johannesburg, over the period 19 to 21 July 2004.

What they have realised is that no human being has the magic power to overcome problems in life, but that it is only God who can help us to reach fruitful and prosperous solutions. As the dialogue continued each minute gave hope to our Burundian sisters, who realised how much South Africa has been through and how much it has achieved since its democracy ten years ago.


No doubt the conference was held in a safe place (country) and the outcomes would only be safer. One could see by their eyes (Burundian women) that it was what they needed, and if they were to make one wish it would

be to return to a peaceful Burundi.

Among other important matters that were discussed the one issue that kept most of them awake was the issue of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), because it is different with them because of the genocide and also because one of the tribes might want revenge should it not win the elections.

R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, the Director Fleet Human Resources, said that an important les-

son, which the Burundian nation could learn, was not to compromise their priorities to avoid civil war. This could be done by having an inclusive management board from all the integrating parties and to discuss the values, principles, objectives and culture of the new Defence Force beforehand.

It is African tradition to offer soul food to guests, and our First Lady, Ms Zanele Mbeki, invited the distinguished guests for supper at the Presidency in Pretoria on 21 July 2004. 



Fltr: Ms Zanele Mbeki, our First Lady, Mr Jacob Zuma, the Deputy President of South Africa, and Ms Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan African Parliament.

Impact of the corvettes on maritime warfare

V Adm Johan Retief, the Chief of the SA Navy, delivered the following presentation to members attending the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course on 14 May 2004.

With the acquisition of the MEKO A-200 Patrol Corvettes for the SA Navy, the Navy enters a new era as far as maritime warfare is concerned.

For South Africa, obtaining new ships at regular intervals is problematic. Hence, we seem to be able to acquire new ships at intervals of approximately 30 years. For us, change in equipment and capabilities is not evolutionary, it is, in fact, a quantum leap.

The new corvettes bring with them the technology of the twenty-first century with all its ramifications as to the integration and future employment of these vessels in our Fleet. Not only is the equipment new to us, the operation thereof and the effect on how we structure the new crews and train them to operate the equipment are all changing. To fully understand the impact of the SA Navy PC on maritime warfare for the SA Navy, it is necessary to look at some of the salient features of this vessel:



V Adm Johan Retief, the Chief of the SA Navy.

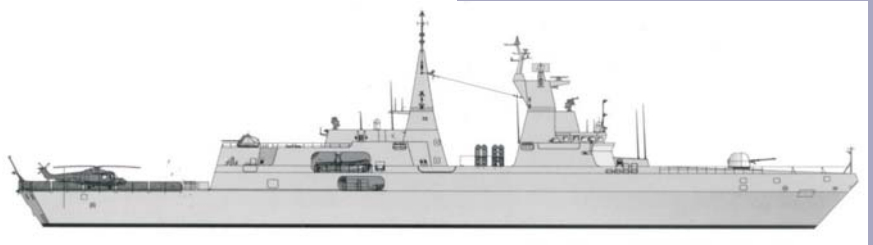
...for the SA Navy.

Sensors

- 1 x Surveillance radar (3D)
- 1 x Integrated IFF
- 1 x Optical and Radar Tracker
- 1 x Electro-optical Tracker
- 2 x Target Designation Sights
- 1 x ESM/ECM System
- 1 x LF Hull Mounted Sonar
- 1 x Super Lynx Maritime

Helicopter :

- Surface Search radar
- Electro-optical Search Capability
- Data Link



Dimensions

Design displacement	3 500 metric tons (approx)
Length overall	121.00 m
Beam overall	16.34 m
Design draught	4.4 m (approx)
Complement	104 (+ 20 reserve bunks)

Propulsion

Combined diesel or/and gas turbine driving through two controllable pitch propellers and a waterjet	
1 x Gas turbine - Lm 2500	20 000 KW
2 x Diesel engines (V16)	5 920 KW each
Maximum speed	> 27 knots
Cruising speed	>20 knots (two diesel engines)

Command, Control and Communication

- Combat Management System
- Link Control and Video switching System
- Communications Suite (Satcom, HF, VHF, UHF)
- Underwater Telephone
- Navigation Subsystem (GPS and INS)
- Tilt Measurement System

Weapons

Surface-to-surface Missiles	8 x Exocet Block II
Surface-to-air Missiles	16 x Umkhonto VLS
Medium Gun	1 x 76 mm Gun
Dual-purpose Gun	1 x Twin 35 mm
Machine guns	2 x 20 mm manually operated guns
Decoy rockets	2 x Launchers
Super Lynx	Potential to carry anti-surface missiles, anti-submarine torpedoes and a machine-gun.

Design

The design philosophy was primarily cost driven. First priority was given to the hull and propulsion. The requirement being that the ship has to have a life of at least 30 years in the rough environment of the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Second priority was given to the sensor fit. With these in place, the SA Navy can develop all the required tactical procedures for operation in our maritime environment. Third priority was given to the weapons fit. Sufficient weapons are fitted for the ship to survive in the low threat maritime environment of the Southern African Region. The concept being that sufficient allowance has been made for growth potential with regard to the weapons fit.

Further design features include

- the stealth design, primarily to improve the soft kill ability of passive missile defence;
- enclosed forecastle and quarter-decks, partly to reduce radar signature, but also to reduce wear and tear on these areas due to high sea states, as well as to facilitate the wash down of these areas in case of exposure to nuclear or chemical contamination;
- a propulsion system designed to provide for the optimum mix of propulsors for the specific environment in which the ship operates: For purposes of endurance the ship can maintain a high cruising/loitering speed on one diesel engine, running nearly as fuel efficient as a strike craft at the same speed, at higher speeds both diesels and the gas turbine can run in parallel, if a very quiet operating mode is required, only the gas turbine and waterjet can be used. The propulsion systems (diesels and waterjet) are mutually exclusive, should one suffer extreme damage,

the other can still bring the ship home. The ship has a range >7 000 nautical miles on one diesel engine;

- exhausts are so constructed to pass all exhaust gases through the transom with a two-stage cooling system in order to reduce the infra-red signature of the ship;
- a complete gas-tight citadel has been constructed with over-pressure and filtering of the air circulated, a pre-wetting system allows for the wash down of the upper-deck should the ship have to pass through a nuclear or chemical contaminated area;
- a large flight deck and hangar has been fitted, helicopters up to 10 metric tonnes (Oryx or Rooivalk) can land on the ship and be stabled in the hangar, the ship can also stable one Lynx and one LUH if required;
- a 28 day endurance before replenishment is required;
- sufficient systems' redundancy that the ship can operate for long periods (3 to 6 months) away from its home base;
- an extremely high level of automation and integration of systems enabling a small crew to operate the vessel.

Maritime warfare capability

The strike craft era

For the last two decades, the strike craft have provided the SA Navy's primary warfare capability. These ships were deployed primarily to establish a presence at sea and to do limited sea control. For the sake of efficiency, strike craft are deployed in pairs as two-strike craft control four times the area controlled by one strike craft. Strike craft have a range of 3 000 nautical miles and an endurance of seven days, which can be stretched to 14

days if required. Quality of life in a strike craft is very poor. The ship lacks facilities like dining rooms, recreational compartments and personal space. Due to its low freeboard, crewmembers are only allowed on the upper-deck in the area of the bridge and flag-deck when the ship is at sea. Both the strike craft's weapons and sensors are horizon limited.

The above does not in any way detract from the fact that these little ships are the most effective surface combatants ever deployed by the SA Navy. Their arrival rewrote the manuals on tactics in the surface warfare environment. Accepting them into service was another quantum leap for the SA Navy. These little ships are also the most complex ships that the SA Navy ever had to operate, they are even more complex than the corvettes. Due to the timeframe in which they were designed and built, these ships were fitted with both analog and digital fire control and tactical systems, thereby standing with a foot in both worlds. This is an important fact to understand, as complex as these ships are and as small and vulnerable they are in Southern Seas, the SA Navy has been operating nine of them successfully for a period of nearly thirty years! This should tell you something of the SA Navy's ability to operate the corvettes in the future.

When the strike craft are finally phased out in 2007/8 they will be sorely missed, they are warships, built to fight and they bred tough and clever sailors who could withstand the rigors of the Southern Oceans, who could think rapidly and clearly and who acted with aggression and a just a touch of arrogance.

The corvette era

It is necessary to take note of what the SA Navy PC brings us in the environment of maritime warfare. Significant changes from the strike craft era are the following:

- The acquisition of over the horizon (OTH) sensors (the Lynx) and OTH weapons (Exocet) means that the area controlled by one corvette is at least five times as large as that controlled by two strike craft. If

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

one keeps in mind that the cost of operating a corvette at patrol and loiter speeds is similar to a strike craft, it follows that the corvette is far more efficient in the execution of the task. It also follows that the corvette will be deployed alone in much of its peacetime missions.

- The surface-to-air missile (SAM), coupled to the two trackers, as well as the 3D surveillance radar, brings the corvette a far greater survivability in an air threat environment. The fact that the SAM can be deployed against up to four targets simultaneously increases the ship's survivability. Although the Umkontho is not an area air defence weapon, it can engage the following targets in defence of our corvette: aircraft, anti-ship and missiles, as well as medium and small surface targets.
- The addition of a low-frequency, hull-mounted sonar, which can be used for anti-submarine, as well as for the passive detection of surface targets, creates new opportunities.
- The 35 mm dual-purpose gun can be used in the anti-aircraft/anti-missile role as well as against medium and small surface targets. This gun is upgradeable to use AHEAD ammunition to greatly enhance its accuracy versus air-borne targets.
- The corvette's size, sea-keeping capability, the good quality of life in the ship as well as its long range and endurance, place all areas of the South African EEZ within its patrol range (the strike craft could not be deployed to the Prince Edward Island Group due to the high sea states encountered in that sea area). It also enables the corvette to be deployed along the coasts of SADC countries and even further north.
- The fact that the corvette can deploy a range of helicopters, greatly enhances the ship's role in the maritime warfare, but also in the peacekeeping role.
- The corvette's forecabin and quarterdeck are both enclosed. This provides space for refugees/survivors should the ship be required

to operate in the SAR or evacuation roles. It is estimated that up to 400 people can be carried in these spaces, albeit in some discomfort. This can be done without degrading the ship's fighting capacity.

- Good boats and spare capacity onboard to embark sailors for boarding parties, means that the ship has the ability to patrol and inspect ships at sea. It also provides the capacity to appoint a prize crew should a vessel be arrested and to be returned to an RSA port. These boats and their crews can be used to protect the ship in exposed anchorages or harbours where a terrorist threat may exist.
- The fact that the corvette is fitted with a data-link means that the ship can add greatly to the maritime situational awareness of the RSA by relaying the surface picture to its operational headquarters.

The above facts are indicative of the quantum leap the RSA has embarked upon in the acquisition of the corvettes and how this leap influences the warfighting environment of the SA Navy. There are many tasks we will be able to do with the corvette that was denied the SA Navy during the strike craft era. It also means that an immense amount of work will have to be done to integrate these ships into the SA Navy. Quite an extensive period of operational evaluation is scheduled after the first ship is operationally accepted in order to produce the required operating and tactical procedures and manuals to optimise the employment of these ships.

Shortcomings of the SA Navy PC

Budgetary limitations forced the design philosophy discussed earlier. Some of the significant shortcomings of the SA Navy PC are listed below:


- **Peace Support.** In the peace support role, the addition of a land attack weapon would add a lot of value. Currently the ship has a difficulty to influence matters ashore. The ship is designed to be fitted with a 127 mm main gun in place of the 76 mm gun, but even the 127 mm gun has quite a limited range.

One of the ways to counter this shortcoming is to deploy a Rooivalk helicopter onboard.

- **Multi-national Task Force.** A major shortcoming restricting the ship in operating in a multi-national task force, is the fact that the data-link is in accordance with South African specifications (Link ZA). It is not compatible with NATO's data-links.
- **General.** In general, the following additional systems would be required in the decade to come:
 - A longer range SAM which can be used for force protection against an air threat.
 - An anti-submarine weapon, preferably a torpedo, which could be ship or helicopter launched, or both.
 - An organic mine counter-measures' capability.

However, these shortcomings are known and are being managed by means of a delta-list controlled by Navy Office. It is also accepted that during the operational evaluation of the ship, certain other shortcomings or opportunities may be discovered.

Conclusion

The advent of the SA Navy PC is a quantum leap for the SA Navy. They place the SA Navy squarely within the twenty-first century. From a cost-efficient point of view, they are considered to be a bargain and should serve the RSA during the greater part of the first half of this century. The ships open many new avenues of maritime warfare to the SA Navy and will ensure that the SA Navy plays a major role in securing the safety of the sea in the African sub-continent. However, there is a lot of hard work ahead for the Navy before these ships become fully operational. This is also an appropriate moment to express the SA Navy's sincere appreciation for all who have had a hand in building these ships, specifically the European South African Corvette Consortium (ESACC, consisting of the German Frigate Consortium and African Defence Systems and their many sub-contractors), Armscor and the Acquisition Division of the Department of Defence (DOD). 

Dealing with disaster situations

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Limpopo Province was chosen as the area of operations for EXERCISE MEDFLAG 2004 between the USA European Command, the Department of Defence and the Limpopo Provincial Government over the period 3 to 19 July 2004. The aim of this exercise was to enhance the multi-disciplinary capability skills of the South African and American soldiers in a simulated disaster situation, and simultaneously to provide medical and health assistance to the local communities involved.

For two weeks 361 members of the Department of Defence and 214 members of the USA European Command were based in Hoedspruit and Ditholo. A combined Department of Defence/USA European Command Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) was formed and deployed to the "crisis" area. This laid the platform to jointly execute and exercise a number of objectives and activities, including:

- Conducting a mass casualty exercise.
- Training medical personnel of the USA and South Africa in areas of mutual interest.
- Enhancing the crisis response capabilities of and promoting long-term military relationships between South Africa and the USA.
- Conducting realistic medical training and providing civil engineering and humanitarian civic assistance.
- Exercising medical logistics capabilities.
- Conducting Medical Civic Assistance Programme (MEDCAP) such as patient care.
- Conducting Humanitarian Civic

Assistance (HCA) such as repairs to existing clinics.

With assistance from the Limpopo Province Department of Health a number of MEDCAP activities took place, which benefit the local communities during the exercise.


General medical, dental and pediatric care were provided at local clinics that were identified by the Limpopo Province Department of Health. More advanced care such as surgical consultations and dermatology were also offered.

Six local clinics were upgraded and about 6 000 local residents were treated for various ailments. "The event was a success, but it is also an empowering exercise for civil servants, the health sector, emergency services and disaster management. Employees from the Municipality were also trained, and the community of Bohlabela also benefited in many ways," said Councillor Caswell Maluleke, the Executive Mayor of

EXERCISE MEDFLAG 2004.

Bohlabela.

The exercise was also attended by the newly appointed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Support.

The community came in numbers to watch as South African soldiers and their American counterparts play out simulations of disasters, such as floods, aircraft crashes, mass casualty evacuation exercises, crisis response capabilities and humanitarian and medical civic assistance. US Ambassador, Cameron Hume, said he was very impressed with the exercise and that the United States will help to train nearly 2 000 South African soldiers for humanitarian and peacekeeping missions. 



During the casualty exercise Task Force members carry the body of a "victim", while the community watches with interest.

2004 Budget

By Robert Wapenaar

The spirit of a people, its cultural level, its social structure, the deeds its policy may prepare - all this and more is written in its fiscal history, stripped of all phrases... The public finances are one of the best starting points for an investigation of society, especially though not exclusively of its political life - Joseph A Schumpeter.

These were the opening words by the Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, during the National Budget debate in Parliament on 18 February 2004. He then continued by saying the following: "The Budget, and its progressive evolution, as one of the great commentators on economic development, Joseph Schumpeter, pointed out, is a powerful index of a society's values, not merely in its language and numbers, but in the lived experience of its impact on people, families, workers, businesses and organisations".

In 2002, the Government tabled a Budget in which R63 billion was added to the three-year spending plans; last year an additional R105 billion went to national departments, provinces and municipalities. This year National Treasury was able to add a further R44,5 billion to the highest priority public service delivery programmes.

Last year, the budget provided for R13 billion in personal income tax relief. This year, a more modest relief of R4 billion could be accommodated. Last year, National Treasury projected a budget deficit of 2,4 per cent for the year ahead; this year it widens to 3,1 per cent of GDP.

Taking into account the revised revenue estimate and provision for in year adjustments to expenditure, the budget deficit for 2003/04 was expected to be 2,6 per cent of GDP, up from 1,1 per cent in 2002/03 and slightly



Mr Trevor Manuel, the Minister of Finance.

higher than the 2,4 per cent estimate at the time of the 2003 Budget. The revised main budget framework provides for an increase in the deficit to 3,1 per cent of GDP in 2004/05. The main budget provides for expenditure of R368,9 billion in 2004/05, increasing to R439,0 billion in 2006/07, at an annual average growth rate of 9,1 per cent a year. Compared with the 2003 Budget forward estimates, total expenditure is increased by R9,7 billion in 2004/05. The main budget includes unallocated amounts of R1,0 billion in 2004/05, R2,0 billion in 2005/06 and R3,0 billion in 2006/07 for black economic empowerment.

...and its progressive evolution.

Main changes in Government spending over the next three years

- An additional R3,2 billion goes to provinces and municipalities for the Expanded Public Works Programme and infrastructure development.
- R2,1 billion more for the HIV and Aids treatment programme.
- R6 billion for broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Initiatives.
- R2,2 billion more for municipal water, sanitation, electricity and refuse services.
- Provinces get an additional R19,7 billion for social grants, schools, hospitals and clinic services.
- R910 million more for the restructuring of universities and technicons.
- R700 million more for land reform and R750 million for a new farmer support programme.
- R1,9 billion more for more police personnel, vehicles and IT infrastructure in the fight against crime.
- A further R475 million to improve the efficiency of the courts and to cater for vulnerable groups.
- An additional R1,1 billion to Defence for peacekeeping operations in Burundi and the DRC.

Functional Composition of Expenditure
 Estimated Principal Areas of Government Expenditure
 (as % of total)

	1990/1991	1999/2000	2003/2004	2004/2005	2006/2007
Education	20.9	21.3	19.9	19.6	18.8
Welfare	6.9	11.9	14.6	15.5	16.5
Interest	14.8	19.9	13.5	13.1	12.6
Health	9.1	11.4	11.3	11.0	11.0
Police	5.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.5
Defence	13.7	5.4	6.4	6.0	5.5
Housing	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
Comm Dev	0.9	2.0	3.0	3.1	2.9

- R850 million more to Home Affairs to improve services to citizens, especially in rural areas.

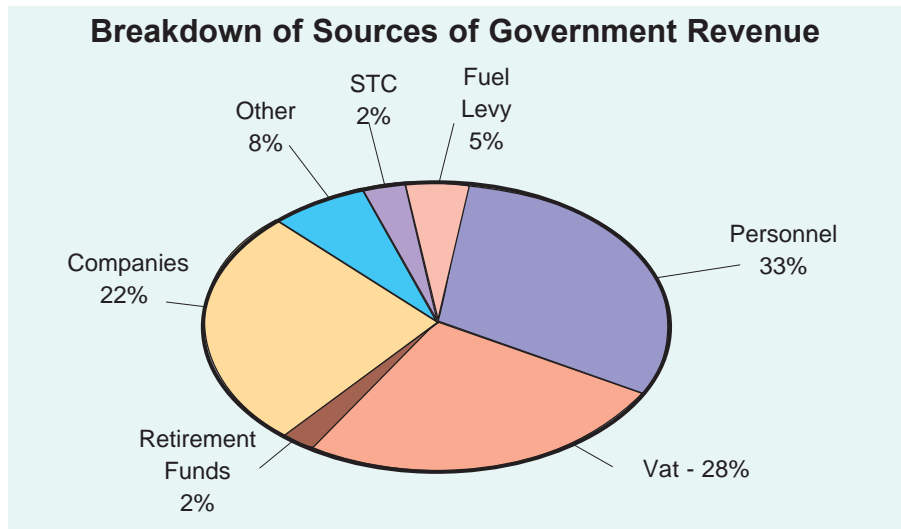
The Minister of Defence, Minister Mosiuoa Lekota, made his budget



Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence.

speech to the National Assembly on 8 June 2004. The Defence Budget for 2004 is R20,257,326,000. This is the first time the budget of the Department of Defence exceeds R20 billion.


The process of modernising the defence equipment of the department began when Cabinet approved the strategic armaments procurement programme in September 1999. From 2000/01 to 2011/12, this provides for 4 corvettes, 3 submarines, 30 light utility helicopters, 24 trainer aircraft, and 28 fighter aircraft. The budget allocations obtained by the department to fund this programme total R48,7 billion, of which the largest annual projected expenditure is R7,0 billion in 2005/06, detailed under the Special Defence Account programme. In order to ensure full operational capability of the corvettes, approval was obtained in 2002/03 to procure four additional maritime helicopters. The first of the corvettes arrived in Simon's Town on 4 November 2003. The process of fitting the vessel with combat systems will take about 18 months. The remaining corvettes will be delivered during 2004. The light utility helicopters will be delivered between 2004 and 2006. Delivery of the submarines is scheduled for the period 2005 to 2007, while delivery of the trainer aircraft is sched-

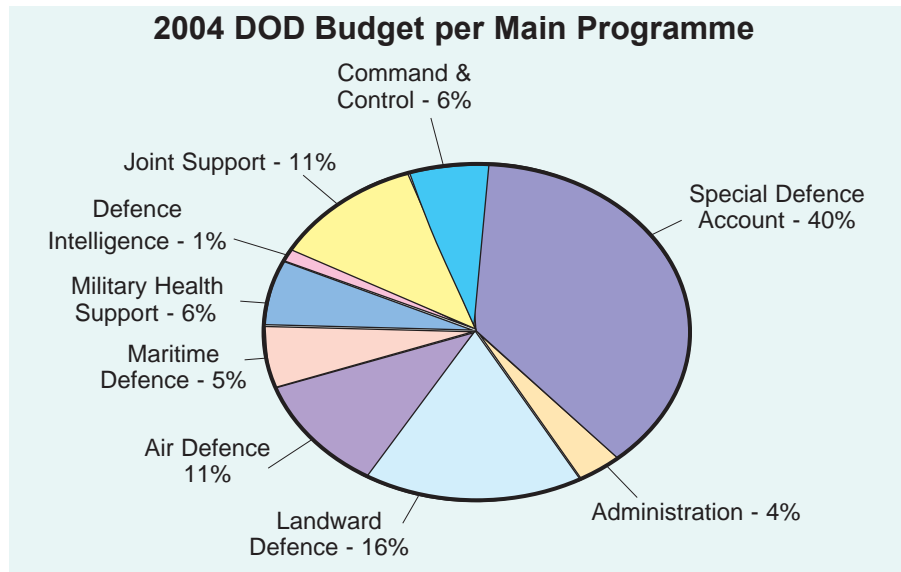


uled for between 2005 and 2006. The delivery of the fighter aircraft is scheduled to take place between 2008 and 2011.

In the long term, the Department of Defence remains focused on attaining the optimal level of competencies, technology and force structure necessary to defend and protect the Republic of South Africa and its territorial integrity. Over the medium term, the strategic imperatives are to create an affordable and sustainable force structure and to rightsize and rejuvenate its human resources. It will focus on modernising, optimising and balancing its force elements, thus ensuring alignment with constitutional and government imperatives. The Department's air and maritime defence capabilities will be enhanced during the medium term, by commissioning the weapon systems acquired through the strategic armaments procurement programme and the acquisi-

tion of four maritime helicopters. Other capabilities will be enhanced by utilising the R300,0 million allocation for the department in 2006/07 for general capacity-building.

In the short term, the focus is to prepare, maintain and employ defence capabilities and to finalise the department's restructuring. The restructuring of the department began with the review of the military strategy in 2001, which has since become an annual activity. Reviews include the Military Council periodically reprioritising ordered operations. Feasibility studies on a new force design and structure were conducted in 2002/03 and Cabinet and Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Defence is considering the implementation of the various recommendations of the studies. The process is ongoing and the target date for completing the implementation of accepted proposals is 31 March 2009. 



Remembering the fallen of Delville Wood

By Lebohang Letoana

The annual Delville Wood Memorial Service was held at the Burgerspark in Pretoria on 18 July 2004. The service was attended by guests from the USA, France and South Africa, and was conducted by Chaplain Siphon Tshelane. Brig Gen Stephanus van Schalkwyk laid a wreath on behalf of the SANDF, and other representatives were called on to lay a wreath, to plant a cross or the Star of David on behalf of their organisations. Members of the public were also called to participate in the service. The SA Air Force Military Band entertained the guests during the wreath-laying and planting of crosses.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves, and Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, Chief Defence Corporate Communication, attended the annual Delville Wood Remembrance Day ceremony in France on 19 July 2004. The following day they laid wreaths at Longueval, Delville Wood and Arques La Bataille war cemeteries.

The SANDF manages the Delville Wood Memorial Museum in France, which was built to commemorate South African soldiers who died in the two World Wars and the Korean War.

The Battle of Delville Wood

This most famous battle was fought by South African soldiers in France during World War I and is always suitably remembered on the Sunday closest to 16 July every year.

In 1916, 1 SA Brigade found itself part of 9th Scottish Division at what was known as the Western Front in Europe, during the Great War 1914-1918. The South African Brigade under the command of Brig Gen H.T. Lukin, was made up of four infantry regiments, namely 1 SA Infantry




Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, Chief Defence Corporate Communication (left), and Col Z.A. Makalima, our Acting Chaplain General, after laying a wreath at the Arques La Bataille war cemetery. (Photo: Mr Kenny Black)

(Cape of Good Hope Regiment), 2 SA Infantry (Natal and Free State Regiment), 3 SA Infantry (Transvaal and Rhodesia Regiment) and 4 SA Infantry (SA Scottish Regiment), mainly from the Transvaal.

On the evening of 15 July 1916, the South African Brigade was called upon to assist in clearing the village of Longueval and to capture Delville Wood, adjacent to this village. They went in and after heavy fighting during which they were harassed by German snipers and intense bombardment, managed to recapture the village, which was by now reduced to a few ruins and rubble. They now moved into Delville Wood, which was later described by some of the survivors as "Devil's Wood", meeting up with fierce resistance and intense bombardment.

There was a lack of reinforcements, much suffering, numerous acts of bravery, personal sacrifices and an

excessively heavy toll of human lives. It was in the rainy season and the excessive mud increased the men's suffering and discomfort. On the evening of 15 July 1916, the South African Brigade went in with 3 153 men, 121 officers and 3 032 other ranks. On the morning of 17 July 1916 only 750 men in total came out alive, out of that carnage in Delville Wood. Of these only 143 were relatively unscathed and the remaining 607 were wounded. The wood itself with its dense undergrowth also suffered from the heavy artillery shelling, and it was reduced to a few stubs and broken branches, half buried in mud.

It is the task of the Pretoria Memorial Services Council to stage memorial services, such as this one - so that the people here in the capital city of our country can remember the brave deeds of those who sacrificed their all for the security of all the world. 

Launching our Labour and Service Relations Co-ordinating Forum

By Nomonde Vuthela

Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Department of Defence Labour and Service Relations Co-ordinating Forum was launched at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 21 July 2004. The Forum is designed to advise the top management of the Department of Defence on how to implement labour and service relations related policies. To ensure realignment with the policy frameworks of the Government.

The Forum will co-ordinate labour and service relations related matters in the DOD and serve as an interface between strategic direction, policy development and execution. The group is composed of representatives from all four Services, Divisions and specialist staff.

Speaking to SA SOLDIER Adv Segokodi Thoka, Director Labour and Service Relations in the Department of Defence, said: "This is to give expression to the approval by the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) for the establishment of this Forum". The PDSC granted the approval for the establishment of the Forum on 21 June 2004.

Functions of the Forum


According to the Constitution the functions of the Forum are as follows:

- To serve as co-ordinating body on labour and service relations related matters.
- To analyse the regulatory framework and inputs from other State Departments/Institutions/NGOs and their implications on the DOD.
- To consider labour and service

relations inputs for consolidation and submission to higher authority for further guidance and/or final approval.

- To advise the Human Resource Staff Council, Services and Divisions on labour and service relations related matters.
- To consider inputs on labour and service relations policy matters.
- To monitor tendencies and trends with regard to labour and service relations related matters in the DOD.

Take Note - "The primary functions of the Forum are as stated in its Constitution, therefore it is advised that all labour and service-related matters must be dealt with in terms of command channels of the DOD," Adv Thoka emphasised.

Adv Thoka and Ms Thuli Manzini, Director Human Resources Policy Management, are the Co-Chairpersons of the Forum. The Forum will meet bi-monthly. 



Adv Segokodi Thoka.



Ms Thuli Manzini.



The Department of Defence Labour and Service Relations Co-ordinating Forum.

The opening of **Sebokeng** complex

By Col Horst Schobesberger,
SSO SA Army Communication

When the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, cut the ribbon at the entrance to the newly revamped and renovated Sebokeng complex and declared the facility officially open, another symbol of our achievements in a decade of defence in democracy became visible.

The four formation headquarters were previously located together with other formation headquarters and structures of the Army Office in the Bester Building at the Dequar Road Complex in Pretoria.

The situation was not conducive to a good working environment, expecting our members to provide the necessary staff and administrative support to their Level four structures.

Overcrowded offices in a building that was built many years ago as a temporary structure created problems. The Government campaign of "Batho Pele" spells out the principles of people first and service delivery. It is one of the cornerstones of our new democracy and is also valid to our Defence Force.

In creating excellent working conditions for our soldiers in the new complex, we applied the principle of "people first". This will enable them to deliver services of a high standard to their formations, the SA Army and our people as a whole. The core business of the SA Army is force preparation and this new complex will play a critical role in creating an environment where planning, direction and control of this process can take place.

It all started when, in the status report of Project COPERNICUS responsible for consolidating and coordinating the housing requirements for headquarters and other structures, a decision was made in April 2001 to accommodate SA Army type formations in the Potgieter Street complex (the current Army Office). Should there be insufficient space, other possible options would be investigated in conjunction with the SA Army, for example converting the Ad Astra

Mess into an office block. The first meeting in this regard took place on 16 April 2001.

Various other facilities were inspected. After the SA Air Force made the existing Ad Astra facilities available, planning started.

The total cost was R15,6 million and the funds came from the operating budget of the SA Army, a heavy burden if one takes the tight SA Army budget into consideration. At a time when the Army is battling to maintain existing facilities, the completion of this project is not only a relief in this regard, but also a great achievement.


It is also important to mention that all facilities in the complex are aligned with prescriptive OHS rules and regulations.

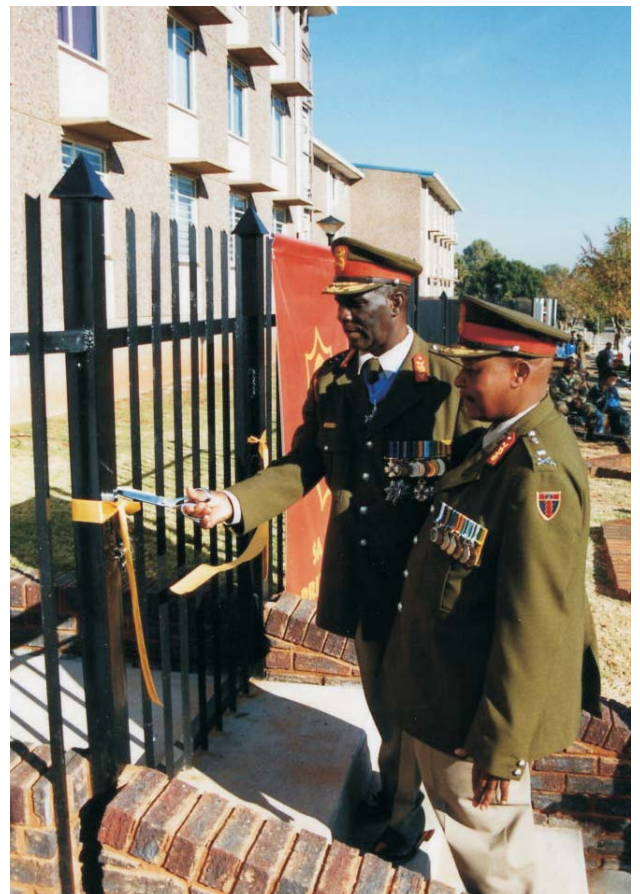
An important issue in this project was the selection of the right name for the building complex. It had to spell out our African heritage and express the purpose of the place.

The name "Sebokeng" was chosen. It is a word in the Sotho language, which means "a place where people with different backgrounds and from different places stay and live together and work jointly towards a common goal". It is an excellent name highlighting the purpose of this complex.

On the issue of security and maintenance Lt Gen Ramano stated that "Vandalism, theft and other disorderly behaviour will not be tolerated. Section heads are responsible for ensuring that such incidents do not occur and disciplinary action is to

be taken against offenders. Another issue that needs the attention from all of us is the aspect of military security. Sebokeng must be out of bounds for thieves with keys. Access control, office security, key control and the safeguarding of equipment must be enforced. Information must be protected. The four formation headquarters must not become silos, but must act jointly to overcome the above-mentioned problems".

General Ramano also thanked all individuals, DOD structures, Government departments, institutions and companies who contributed to the success of creating Sebokeng. The opening ceremony was attended by senior DOD personnel. The National Ceremonial Guard provided a colourful background in performing their ceremonial duties. 



On 2 July 2004 Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano cut the ribbon at the entrance to the newly revamped and renovated Sebokeng complex, while Brig Gen Mandla Notshweleka, the GOC SA Army Artillery Formation, is looking on.

A step further into the future

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

Mr Vuyani Sipambo is the Chief Negotiator for Military Labour Relations in the DOD. Mr Sipambo acts as a representative for the Department in all matters concerning military labour relations. What makes this particular appointment unique is the fact that Mr Sipambo, since he has started on 1 May 2004 in this post, has made history because never before has the Department acquired a chief negotiator for military labour relations.

"My negotiations include representing the Department when it goes to dispute resolution forums, such as the Military Bargaining Council and the Military Arbitration Board," said Mr Sipambo in an interview with SA SOLDIER magazine.

Mr Sipambo is expected to negotiate in an environment where the participation of members in UNION activities is a relatively new aspect. According to him, many challenges lie ahead in his new job because, as the first chief negotiator for military labour relations, he must now set and establish a trend.

"There are a lot of challenges, both on the side of labour and on the side of management. I think both parties have not come to grips with what entails engaging around the bargaining table," he stated. "This places me in a very strategic position and it gives me the opportunity to work as a unifier, to act as a catalyst, where I must ensure that the principles of the organisation remain intact and also that employees continue to enjoy their rights without any hindrances."

Happy to contribute in the making of history, he continued: "This is a new

portfolio and I am charged with the responsibility to entrench it and ensure that it succeeds, I think it will be easier for my successor. There are new challenges that have been opened up for military management which were not known before and those are the challenges that I am faced with," Mr Sipambo continued.

He is confident that he is the best man for the task - "It is up to me to see that it works," he stated. "I like negotiations because there are no hard and fast rules. You need to be a pragmatist and you need to think on your feet and act."

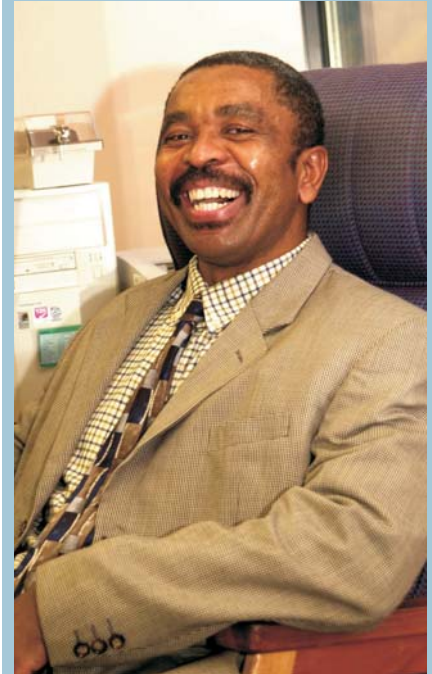
Mr Sipambo's negotiation exploits date as far back as 1982 when he worked with Cyril Ramaphosa, a unionist turned businessman, and Marcel Golding, yet another reputable negotiator in the mining industry. "Two very fine negotiators that this country has", Mr Sipambo said.

He had close working relations with Mr Ramaphosa in the early days of the formation of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa. He was part of a group of members tasked with recruiting for the union. "People were very sceptical and they did not understand the concept of unionism and Mr Ramaphosa relied on us to recruit," he said, thinking back. "First I was a unionist," said Mr Sipambo, a former member of NUM.

He was later "headhunted" by Gencor Mines and worked for the company in Venda as a senior labour relations manager. "My background is largely in the private sector doing the same job as a labour relations manager as I was called," he said.

In the years to follow, he then worked for Fedix, a catering industry, as a labour relations manager and again he was engaged with the unions. "In my personal view that is where I succeeded in terms of representing the


Working as a unifier.



Mr Vuyani Sipambo, the Chief Negotiator for Military Labour Relations in the DOD.

organisations because this was an organisation that works as a contractor," said Mr Sipambo. "The kind of success that still shines is that, while I was at Fedix, I never lost a case with the unions," he recalled proudly. He also worked for Molapo Technology - also as a labour relations manager.

Mr Sipambo was born in the Free State and went to school in Matatielie where he matriculated. He then travelled to the United States where he studied and specialised in labour relations. "I love reading and discovering new ideas, I regard books as people sitting and waiting to talk to me," he said humorously as he revealed a little more about himself.

"I also enjoy playing around with children because to me that also represents management." 

Mother Nature at her best

By Matshidiso Pila
 Photo: F Sgt David
 Nomtshongwana

One wise man once said that people should always appreciate what they have, because no matter how much money you have, nor how poor you are, there is one thing that we may all share, and that is Mother Nature. This might be the reason why Mother Nature is celebrated worldwide, because she is so precious. It does not matter who you are; she gives life to everybody.

By presenting the annual Environmental Awards event, the DOD recognises the importance of nature. The Environmental Awards ceremony was held at Army Support Base Durban on 3 June 2004.

On the way to Durban the audience from Pretoria, which included the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Jack Gründling, had the pleasure of witnessing Mother Nature at her best. They were afforded the opportunity to honour Mother Nature during the whole of that week - Environmental Week. When the guests visited the units they were welcomed by the popular divas of Durban, the Mahloko-door to door and wall to wall were much appreciated. The Master of Ceremonies was Maj Andrew Moeti. Mr Gründling presented the floating trophies and awards.

Army Support Base Durban was awarded the first trophy - presented by the Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency. Army Support Base Durban was chosen as the runner-up in the Environmental Education and Training and in the Integrated Waste Management categories. Sterkriver


Training Area also performed well by being awarded the Association of Clean Communities Award for Integrated Waste Management and by being the other runner-up in the Environmental Education and Training category.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management was awarded to SAS SAL-DANHA. The fifth trophy to be awarded was the Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management, which was awarded to Naval Base Simon's Town. Army Support Base Potchefstroom was the winners of the Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Training. The SA National Parks Floating Trophy Military Integrated Environmental Management was awarded to Air Force Base Overberg.

The last trophy to be awarded was the Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services, which was open for individuals or teams employ-

ed within the Department of Defence, or a civilian outside the organisation, whether involved full-time or part-time in military environmental matters. The winner of this prestigious trophy was Cdr Adri Liebenberg of the Logistics Division.

Mr Gründling congratulated Air Force Base Overberg for being the only military base that has fully implemented ISO 14000 and also the only military base that is ISO 14000 certified. "This is a major milestone in the history of the Department and ushers in an entirely new frontier in Military Integrated Environmental Management," Mr Gründling said.

"I am proud to announce the establishment of an interdepartmental Department of Defence Water Efficiency Programme with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, as well as Rand Water. This programme aims at consolidating and co-ordinating the efficient use of water in the Department," he added. 



Awards for life!

Female Commander cares for Mother Earth

By Cdr Adri Liebenberg,
SO1 Environmental Policy
at Chief Logistics
Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

A management tool for ensuring environmental compliance through personal and organisational empowerment.

The Department of Defence is subject to governance by civil society represented by an elected legislative. In this sense the Department is subject to all legislation issued by Government, as well as any national norms and standards fostered by civil society in the spirit of healthy civil-military relations.

As is the case with any other legislation issued by Government, the Department is not exempt from any environmental legislative provisions that have a bearing on its core business and it is obliged to comply. This obligation is reflected in the Corporate Environmental Policy Statement for Defence, which states the following:

"The Department of Defence shall, in compliance with the environmental obligations placed upon it by the Constitution, national and international regulatory provisions and within the constraints imposed from time to time by nature of its business, protect the environment through pro-active measures of Military Integrated Environmental Management; accept responsibility for use of the environment entrusted to it; minimise the impacts of its operations on the environment by means of a programme of continual improvement; promote open communication on environmental issues to all interested and affected parties; train and motivate its members to regard environmental considerations as an integral and vital ele-

ment of their day-to-day activities."

In order to honour this commitment the DOD established an environmental policy capacity at level 2 to ensure environmental compliance through the development, implementation and monitoring of internal environmental policies based on national and international legislative provisions. This capacity is personalised in the form of Cdr Adri Liebenberg, SO1 Environmental Policy at Chief Logistics. She is responsible for developing departmental environmental policies and for ensuring the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Defence based on the ISO 14 000 international standard for environmental management.

She obtained her BSc (Hons) degree in Natural Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch in 1988, after which she joined the SA Navy in 1989. She was transferred to the Facilities Directorate in 1998 after serv-

ing a period of nine years at the Navy Office as SO1 and SSO Environmental Services, responsible for managing and directing the environmental function within the SA Navy.

During the annual Defence Environmental Awards ceremony held at the Army Support Base Durban on 3 June 2004 Cdr Liebenberg was awarded the Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services in the DOD for 2003. This nomination was based on the development of a management tool for ensuring environmental compliance through personal and organisational empowerment, a comprehensive user-friendly departmental guide to international, national and provincial environmental legal compliance for all military commanding officers within all the Services of the Department.

As Chapter 8 of the White Paper on Defence relating to land and environmental issues transfers the responsibility
(Continued on page 30)



Mr Jack Gründling, Chief Financial Officer, awarded Cdr Adri Liebenberg with the Conservamus Floating Trophy, while Brig Gen Siphon Ndabula, Director Facilities, looked on.

(Continued from page 29)

ity and accountability, directly to commanding officers of military installations, to ensure that "the planning and execution of military activities will take account of the environmental implications and not jeopardise the long-term potential of the land and other natural resources". This tool is invaluable to empowering these members to ensure legal compliance relating to the environment within their specific core functions and thereby reduces the environmental liability of every base and unit commander in the Department.

It also guides these members and other military and PSAP personnel in the Department to understand the environmental pressure relating to their core business, to ensure their environmental compliance and thereby ensures an acceptable level of environmental performance by the DOD. The guide is divided into sections, which relate to the environments of land, air, marine and coast, as well as

a section on environmental education and training.

Each of these sections discusses a number of core and support activities, which have an impact on the specific environment. These activities are handled according to the following criteria:

- List of national environmental legislation that applies to the activity.
- List of provincial legislation that applies to the activity.
- List of local legislation that applies to the activity.
- Other legislation that impacts on the activity.
- List of departmental environmental policies that apply to the activity.
- List of other departmental policies that impact on the activity.
- Minimum requirements in respect of the activity.
- Compliance indicators.
- Implications of non-compliance.

The "Guide to Environmental Compliance for Commanding Of-

ficers" has been distributed to approximately 700 commanding officers, environmental personnel and heads of sections within the DOD. It is also widely used as course material on military developmental courses, such as the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme, the Resource Management Course for Line Commanders and the Joint Warrant Officers Programme.

This was not the first time that Cdr Liebenberg was awarded this prestigious award. In 1993 she received this accolade for the development and implementation of the first naval order on the conservation of the marine environment. This included ensuring system adjustments in order to manage different waste streams such as oil, garbage and sewage at sea and along the shore, requirements for the disposal of waste at sea, and the protection of marine life at sea.

For more information on this guide contact Cdr Adri Liebenberg at tel no: (012) 339 5275. 

Equally important ranks

By Matshidiso Pila
Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

"May every soldier make his or her mark" - these are the words that the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg lives up to and that is why students trained at this unit always keep their morale high.

On 19 April 2004 students of the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme from 3 SA Infantry Battalion (3 SAI Bn) in Kimberley started with their weapons training course at SA Army Gymnasium to qualify in weapon training. They also underwent a "Vasbyt" field phase for three days at Wallmannsthal at the end of May.

SA SOLDIER spoke to two of the students on their first day and after they have completed the "Vasbyt" phase. It became apparent that their morale has changed for the better - they were even tougher than before. They all looked forward to start work-




Being soldiers under training...

ing at their different corps.

Shannon Snyders and Barry Gordon, who are both non-commissioned officers (NCOs), said that they are a bit disappointed for not qualifying as officers, but they now realised that the SANDF also need soldiers like them, and that non-commissioned officers and officers are equally important and needed in the SANDF.

Shannon said the experience in the

field - "Vasbyt" - has been tough and very challenging, but with the support of her friend and the instructors she has made it. One needs to have lots of responsible friends in order to achieve good results during your training. Barry could not agree more.

Barry intends joining the Engineering Corps, while Shannon would like to become a member of the Intelligence Corps. 

SAMHS sharpening their skills

By Lt Marius Pretorius,
3 Med Bn Gp

"The SANDF is a weapon of national importance, and I see the other ranks as the cutting edge thereof. It is therefore meaningful to sharpen this weapon by means of training and re-training. This competition is one of the best ways to determine the degree of sharpening that should take place. I further believe that we owe it to the citizens of this country to be the very best we can be."

These were the words of the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, at the closing ceremony of the Non-commissioned Officers' Operational Skills Competition presented at the SA Combat Training Centre (SA CTC) in Lohatla. This annual event was presented from 9 to 14 May this year. Once again this spectacular event was well planned and organised by the SAMHS Warrant Officers' Advisory Board under the watchful supervision of WO1 Rodney Wilson, the Warrant Officer of the SAMHS.

According to the speech delivered by the Surgeon General, the aim of this competition was to

- achieve the necessary levels of force contingent readiness;
- build a strong team spirit; and
- create zest for competition between the different units within the SAMHS.

In his opening address, the Warrant Officer of the SAMHS stipulated a detailed outline on specifically what was expected of each individual participating team. WO1 Wilson elaborated on the necessity of leadership and the importance of teamwork throughout the exercise.

For some of the competitors, this was their first visit to the SA CTC. The team spirit, although a bit shaky on arrival, was lifted through collective song and dance as the twenty-three teams prepared to start their helicopter evacuation drills. A very patient Capt P. Botha (pilot and crew commander), Lt D. Ridler (co-pilot) and F Sgt E. Teich (flight engineer) of 22 Squadron spent most of their valu-



Medical evaluation during the competition. Photo: (Sgt Nicky Claase)

able time explaining the drills to the teams and assisting them with their preparations.

Once again, each team consisted of five members, of which one had to be female. The competition consisted of various evaluation exercises to which each team was subjected. The route marches consisted of a given grid reference that needed to be plotted with military precision to ensure arrival to the next evaluation checkpoint. The evaluation exercises included deliberate fire with the R4 and R5 rifle, observation skills, driving and maintenance skills, using the Mfezi radio equipment, map work and navigation and level 3 protocol patient evaluation.

"I am a sucker for thrills, and this competition truly makes me feel alive, like a soldier," a tired Pte Cindy Coetzee from Area Military Health Unit Limpopo exclaimed.


The routes they marched seemed more accessible than those of the previous year, as fewer teams were reported lost this year (except for those who hoisted their flags in the graveyard). During these marches, little was said among the individuals, as the determination of going forward faster grew visible on each tiring face.

At each evaluation checkpoint, no energy was wasted on loose conversations. Both concentration and skill were equally applied as the team

members embraced their capacity to do better than their rival compatriots.

The SA CTC offered the ideal environment with all its hardship, presenting extreme hot and sunny days and freezing cold conditions at night. At no stage during the competition did any of the participants enjoy the luxury of indoor accommodation, as they had to endure the outdoors of the Great Kalahari.

"We are the best and this is the actual opportunity we have where we can apply our true skills," a confident S Sgt Maope from Area Military Health Unit Free State said. The excellence of the teams' performances and skills are measured from both within the ranks of the SAMHS and by external specialists. "Much applause is actually needed, at unit level, to praise each participant as each individual gave his or her best to achieve success," said WO1 D. Steyn, RSM of Area Military Health Unit Limpopo.

The formation sergeant majors took ownership of the execution part of the competition. These members were seen leaving the base long before sunrise only to return mostly after sunset to ensure the fluency of the competition. Between the busy schedules, effective planning was executed to arrange a very successful surprise birthday party for the Warrant Officer of the SAMHS. 

A barrier-free working environment

By Nomonde Vuthela

The Chief Director Equal Opportunities, Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe, officially opened barrier-free facilities at GSB Bloemfontein on 3 June 2004, which will enable members with disabilities easy access to amenities.

The official opening of the ramps and accessible toilets for people with disabilities in the Bloemfontein region is a small part of a project that the Equal Opportunities Directorate has been engaged in.

The Equal Opportunities Directorate is currently instrumental in the adapting of barrier-free access at nine units/bases to cater for the needs of people with disabilities in the DOD environment.

Considerable progress has been made in the nine units/bases as the DOD further attempts to cater for the needs of its employees with disabilities.

The Directorate finalised the barrier-free access plans with the support of the Chief Financial Officer, Plenary Defence Staff Council and the Army Office.


Officiating at the ceremony, Maj Gen Sedibe said that the EOCD is passionate about putting diversity on the agenda and delivering results. She said: "This here today is the indication of such commitment".

"Discrimination on the grounds of disability is essentially about failure to accommodate the needs of people with dis-




Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe unveils the barrier-free access placard at GSB Bloemfontein. (Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo)

abilities and therefore employers have a responsibility towards them," Maj Gen Sedibe added.

She emphasised that the work environment has to be conducive to all members in order to maximise individual capacity and potential. 

Create your own world

Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, the Chief of the SA Air Force, bestowed a commission on Capt Edwin Jerry Williams, who became the first member with disabilities to be commissioned in the SA Air Force. The commission parade was held at the SA Air Force College on 10 June 2004. Capt Williams joined the SA Air Force on 10 January 1990 and rendered services at various units, such as AFB Potchefstroom, 10 Air Depot and Air Force Station Thaba Tshwane. As a youngster he loved sport and distinguished himself as a soccer player. Sadly his left leg was amputated during October 1992 owing to a soccer injury. He has served within the SA Air Force for the past fourteen years. During 2002 he was staffed at SAAF HQ Unit as a warrant officer class two. In the same year he obtained a diploma in Purchasing Management at the Pretoria Technikon. "I believe in myself and I make use of opportunities granted to me.

God gives me power and strength to achieve my goals," said Capt Williams. During 2002 he applied for the Officers' Formative Course and two years later he was accepted. He successfully completed the course, which commenced on 15 February and ended on 11 June 2004. On his Commissioners Parade he said he was proud to be in the SA Air Force and would like to thank the SA Air Force for the opportunity given to him to prove his capabilities. "Without a mission one is lost; it is very important to set goals in life and work very hard to achieve those goals. Success does not come easy, you must work hard to make your dreams come true. It was my dream to become an officer one day and it did happen. To the youth my message to you is, do not let someone create your world for you. You are the master of your own destiny. Stay focused on your goals and work hard to achieve them," said Capt Williams. 



Col C.D. Schoeman, Officer Commanding SA Air Force College, and Capt Edwin Jerry Williams. (Article and photo courtesy of SA Air Force)

Africa in motion

By Nakedi Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

Africa is in motion from the east to the west and from the north to the south. Indeed, Africa was in motion when delegates from the youth commission of all the nine provinces came together for a youth festival that was held at the Mankgwe Military Base in Rustenburg from 11 to 16 June 2004.

Altogether 1 250 youths formed part of the youth festival. Four trains were used to transport the delegates to Mankgwe Military Base.

Trains were chosen to symbolise and commemorate the movement of youth and their development through


the ten years of freedom.

The aim of this festival was to combine the youth from all the nine provinces and to hear their views on the country and to let them discuss important issues about the country, such as the economy.

Every day the youth had a plenary session where they discussed issues such as the cultural heritage of South Africa, identity and understanding, as well as how the Government works. Several organisations, such as the Unsombomvu Youth Fund, the SA Reserve Bank, the South African Freedom Park Trust and Government departments gave presentations on how their organisations work and on how the youth can benefit from them.

Pelisa Nkunjana from Gauteng Province felt that as young leaders

they need to speak with one voice so that they could be heard, and as the majority of youth had voted, they needed to be taken seriously. For Sherries Arries it was a great experience, especially because she had to mix with people from different cultures and backgrounds and learned about their cultures.

Capt (SAN) Rusty Higgs, SSO Navy Public Relations, was also present - as he always says - to bring our Navy to the people. He explained to the youth what the SA Navy was all about, and gave tips to those who were interested in the SA Navy. The youth were very excited and could not wait to hear the speech of President Thabo Mbeki, which was delivered during the annual youth rally on 16 June (Youth Day). 



Delegates from the nine provinces, front, fltr: Pelisa Nkunjana (Gauteng), Zolelwa Xawuk (Eastern Cape), Jo-ellen Taylor (Western Cape), Sherries Arries (KZN) and Gabriel Mabe (NW). Back, fltr: Lerato Mofokeng (Mpumalanga), Girat Molokoane (Free State), Nshengedzene Mabuda (Limpopo) and Nomathemba Machakela (Northern Cape).

The SANDF Group Life Scheme

Compiled by Brig Gen Sakkie Hurd (Ret), Manager of the SANDF Group Life Scheme

The Group Life Insurance Scheme (the Scheme) was instituted in 1979 as a service benefit for military personnel. The Scheme provides for immediate financial support for dependants on the sudden death or disablement of a breadwinner. The Scheme operated on a non-profit basis and derives the major portion of its income from monthly premiums that are recovered from the insured members of the SANDF. The Scheme was previously subsidised from State funds.

The express need for immediate financial support for dependants on the sudden death or disablement of a breadwinner led to the institution and implementation of the Scheme in 1979. It was designed to provide death and disability cover for all uniformed members of the SANDF performing military service. The Scheme was instituted in terms of section 87(1) (rA) of the Defence Act, Act No 44 of 1957. Furthermore section 2 of the Finance Acts Consolidation Act No 78 of 1992 was promulgated to empower the Minister of Finance to enter into an agreement with an insurer to indemnify the latter against losses sustained under a scheme providing insurance for persons rendering military service.

Since its establishment in 1979, the Scheme has proved to be indispensable in alleviating the distress of military personnel and their dependants as a result of death and injuries sus-

tained in military action. Thousands of beneficiaries have enjoyed the flexibility and speed with which insurance money has been made available. Claims of some R350 million have been paid to date (2003). The Scheme provides the necessary confidence to all those joining or integrating into the SANDF, so that the risks they may encounter are provided for.

The consortium of long-term insurers who administered the scheme gave notice in late 1994 that they wished to withdraw from involvement in the Scheme owing to the changed circumstances of the SANDF, arguing that the continued existence thereof was independent on a consortium of insurers because of the changed circumstances brought about by the advent of democracy in South Africa and the abolition of National Service. However, the Scheme still served a vital role in compensating members for the high risks commensurate with military operational service. After a thorough investigation by the SANDF and the Department of Finance, it was concluded that, in addition to the above, it was, especially important for service in the Defence of the Republic and potential service in peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions. The Scheme was redesigned to operate without any direct State subsidy, so that the underwriting of benefits by the State, as provided for in section 2 of the Finance Acts Consolidation Act No 78 of 1992, should be restricted to claims resulting from service in defence of the Republic as defined in the Constitution.

The basis on which the Scheme

...Its Management Board is chaired by our Surgeon General.



Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General. (Photo courtesy of Milmed)

operates is that it is operated and managed by a private institution appointed by the Management Board, and the death and disability benefits are reinsured with a single insurer who has successfully tendered for the position.

Management of the Scheme

The ministerial responsibilities and accountability for the Scheme lie with the Minister of Defence as from the date of the implementation of the Defence Act, 2002. The Minister has appointed a Management Board in terms of the regulations of the Scheme that are responsible for its sound management.

The Board is currently chaired by the Surgeon General, and consists of representatives from each of the four Services, the Finance, Policy and Planning, Defence Reserves, and Joint Support Divisions, the Sergeant Major of the SANDF, and four representatives from Military Trade Unions. Assisting the Board are a number of co-opted specialists, such as a medical doctor appointed by the Surgeon General, a legal officer, a communications officer and a principal officer appointed by the Chief of Joint Support.

The principal officer is the link between the Department of Defence and the administrators of the Scheme.

Benefit and premium structure of the Scheme

The Scheme provides benefits to members of the SANDF under all circumstances and guarantees death benefits to its members, irrespective of the cause or place of death.

The Scheme thus covers its members while they are on deployment outside of the RSA. As from May 2004 the Scheme also covers PSAP employees of the Department of Defence who are deployed with the SANDF as provided for in section 56 of the Defence Act, 2002.

The Scheme has been designed to provide benefits to two categories of members, namely those with dependants and those without dependants. The 2004/2005 benefit structure of the Scheme is as follows:

Death benefits:

- Members with dependants:
A lump sum of R90 000.
- Members without dependants:
A lump sum of R60 000.

Disability benefits:

- A R100 000 lump sum payment to

a member who is permanently and totally disabled, directly and exclusively as a result of a bodily injury or an illness and who is totally and permanently and continuously prevented - even with further in-service training either with the employer or any other employer from following the regular occupation (occupational class) he or she practised immediately before, and from following the occupation which he or she, in view of training and experience may reasonably be expected to follow with any employer, and experiences loss of income (excluding pension). This benefit will not be paid if the disability is due to:

- negligent or wilful exposure to danger;
- participation in criminal activity;
- civilian detention;
- intentional self-inflicted injury, and
- cannot be cured by surgery or any other medical treatment which can reasonably be expected to be undergone;
- A R50 000 lump sum payment to a member who is permanently and totally unfit for further service in the SANDF (commonly known as GP), and has been discharged from the SANDF by the Minister based on the findings of a medical board, directly and exclusively as a result of a bodily injury or an illness and is totally and permanently and continuously prevented - even with further in-service training or re-mustering within the SANDF from following the regular occupation of a soldier in any post commensurate with his or her rank, training and education.

The two categories of members pay a different premium on a monthly basis.

It is the responsibility of each member to pay the correct premium as follows:

- Members with dependants pay a monthly tariff of R100-37, of which the operational risk reserve account pays R7-53 (7,5%). The member thus pays a premium of

R92-84. Members of the Reserves, and PSAP deployed with the SANDF, pay a daily tariff based on actual days deployed or called up.

- Members without dependants pay a monthly tariff of R69-91, of which the operational risk reserve account pays R5-24 (7,5%). The member thus pays a premium of R64-67. Members of the Reserves, and PSAP deployed with the SANDF, pay a daily tariff based on actual days deployed or called up.

Dependants are defined as a spouse (or spouses) and include a life partner of a member, his or her children of any age, his or her parents, or any other person who the member may feel is his or her dependant. This data is not kept on PERSOL, and it is the responsibility of the member to ensure that the correct premium is paid every month.


The Scheme also does not require any member to undergo a medical examination before he or she is accepted for cover, and death benefits will be paid out within 24 hours of the administrators receiving all the required claim documentation from the Department of Defence.

The payment of disability claims is a much longer process as all the medical evidence has to be obtained and evaluated by the SAMHS and the insurer before a decision is made.

Claims procedure

The procedure for claiming benefits is as follows:

- In the event of your death, the Department of Defence will automatically institute a claim on behalf of your dependants. For this reason it is important that your unit is aware of who your dependants are and where they may be contacted.
- Should you become disabled you must institute a claim yourself. A claim form is available from your unit for this purpose.

If you require more information, you should contact your unit, or write to the Principal Officer of the Scheme via the normal service channels. 

War is not only about neutralising the opposing force

By Capt (SAN) E. van der Walt,
SSO Communication
Military Legal Service Division
Photo: WO2 Tania Kettles

During May 2004, the headlines of all local newspapers brought to our attention the atrocities allegedly committed by the invading forces in Iraq.

At the same time the Military Legal Service Division presented an International Humanitarian Law Course at the SA Army College that was of current interest. The participants attending the course came from all over the country and represented all four Services and different specialised fields of expertise.

Although the course was focussed on the training of military legal personnel, the attendance of other officers was imperative to ensure cross-pollination of knowledge and experience.

The lecturers were officers of the Military Legal Service, namely Col P. Mardon, Col A. Retief and Capt (SAN) D. Gillespie. All three are internationally qualified and are regularly invited to lecture in other countries. The Head of Delegation of the International Red Cross in Southern Africa addressed the course as guest speaker.

The aim of the course was to equip the participants with comprehensive specialised knowledge of the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) as integral part of International Humanitarian Law. In essence, the LOAC aims to provide principles that allow commanders to wage war against an opposing force with maximum effect, but at the same time minimise the suffering of those who are caught up in a war without being any threat to the warring parties.

Practical training by means of group discussions of various practical scenarios afforded the participants the opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired during the lectures and to arrive at possible solutions in accordance with the LOAC.

Many perceptions exist regarding




Participants of the International Humanitarian Law Course.

the LOAC - some people regard the LOAC as a humanist concept which only restrict commanders in the waging of war, while others regard the LOAC to be aimed at the mitigation of human suffering caused by war or to humanise war. However, the LOAC is a compromise between military essentiality and humanity without undermining the objective of the application of military force. The most important principles of the LOAC that guide the conduct of operations, are the principles of military necessity, no unnecessary suffering and proportionality. There should always be a clear distinction between combatants and civilians, as well as between military objectives and civilian objects. Commanders must comply with the principles of the LOAC during the planning and execution of military operations.

Compliance with the LOAC addresses the interests of all human beings, as the LOAC is in accordance with basic morality. When a combatting force acts according to the rules it enhances the reputation and consequently the influence of that nation. An important aspect of the course was the proper behaviour when handling prisoners of war or civilians during armed conflict.

As spelled out in the Geneva

Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols, civilians, prisoners of war, wounded and sick people, medical personnel and chaplains are entitled to respect for their lives and dignity. They must be protected and treated humanely. This should be true for all warring nations, but is it?

South Africa is a party to these Conventions and Protocols and the country, as well as all its subjects is therefore bound by it. Non-compliance will not only undermine the credibility of the nation, but will also have legal implications in that it will result in criminal and civil liability. The South African Law places a duty on the SANDF and its members to comply with the LOAC. The essence of this all is to sharpen the minds of the participants to the principles of the Law of Armed Conflict and to sensitise their hearts to the fact that war is not only about neutralising the opposing force and achieving military objectives, but it is also an often unavoidable part of human interaction and as such, should be approached as humanely as possible. Ultimately the Law of Armed Conflict allows soldiers to attain military goals effectively while minimising the terrible effects of war on innocent people and humanity in general. 

Celebrating ten years of democracy

By Maj M. van Staden,
Service Corps Regional Office PE

Democracy is such a buzzword in South Africa these days, but do we know what democracy really means? If we look at the explanation of the word "democracy" in the dictionary, it states that democracy is firstly a government in which the supreme power is exercised by the people directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections. Secondly, "democracy" is the absence of class distinctions. I thought for a moment about the meaning of all this and I asked myself: is South Africa after ten years of democracy really what the word is meant to be? I must say yes, I truly think so. Looking at the SANDF - I must say that we have come a long way since 1994. I think that we have walked down the right pathways since then. However, it was not an easy road without obstacles and stumbling blocks.

Everybody is afraid of change and afraid to be changed. However, in most of the cases, change is for the better. Looking at the integration of all forces into the SANDF, the same thing happened - people were scared and uncertain, but in the end it was worthwhile. People of different groups are now integrated as one, they are now equal. Everybody gets opportunities, which they may grasp and make the best use of. People are more empowered and free to express themselves.


On 23 April 2004, we as soldiers in the Port Elizabeth area had our own parade to celebrate ten years of democracy in our country, South Africa, and also to celebrate ten years of democracy in the SANDF. It was a parade in which all four Services were integrated. It was a stirring moment to see all the forces combined on one parade ground, and I felt proud to be part of this new democratic SANDF. In addition to the parade there was an exhibition where the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service had their place in the sun and where the people could learn a little bit more about them.

After the parade, the public were invited to attend a SHIELD function sponsored by the Reserve Force Division. During this event, people were told more about the SANDF - how we could be of service to them and how they could be part of us - democracy that reaches out over borders. The whole day was one to be proud of.

Feedback by Lt Mark Kelbrick

A very large static display comprising equipment from all four Services was planned to coincide with a review parade that also had members of the local units involved. The parade was attended by members of the public, local government and schools in the Port Elizabeth area. In true SANDF tradition, the parade was conducted with the precision that has come to be expected from the SANDF. The static display was also very colourful, with an SA Air Force Harvard and plenty of flashing lights from the Emergency Services and the Military Police. The SA Navy and the Reserve Force were also well represented by SAS DONKIN.

Feedback by WO2 A.L. Smith

On 23 April 2004 Port Elizabeth Commando held a display at Army Support Base Port Elizabeth to celebrate our 10 years of democracy. Port Elizabeth Commando displayed three armoured troop carriers called "Veldskoen" and a Mamba. Different weapons were also displayed and were very popular with the public, teachers and learners who attended the celebrations. Camouflaged uniforms and step-out dress were draped around two dummies that looked very smart. A video was also shown throughout the day, highlighting various aspects of the Reserve Force. A few of the eating utensils were also displayed, eg a "varkpan", and a "dixie". This raised quite a laugh from the visitors. Promotional items were handed out to the guests, as well as brochures explaining the reasons why a Reserve Force should be in existence. Distance education training was also displayed and numerous questions regarding this aspect were asked and answered by Cpl S. Groenewald and Rfn J. Erasmus, who manned the stall. 



Visitors at the exhibition to celebrate ten years of democracy.

Aviation

By Lt Zola Nombida, Corp Comm Officer, SAAF Museum
Photo: Sgt V.K. Vaarland


The Air Force Museum has taken the lead in educating learners about aviation and its heritage. More than 3 000 learners from over thirty schools visited the museum from January to June 2004. Of those 90% were from predominantly black schools from Gauteng, Mpumalanga, the Free State, the Northern Province and the Northwest Province. Our objective is to reach all nine provinces so that all learners can become educated about aviation and the heritage of the Air Force Museum. We are managing with a degree of success to take our message to the learners and students because our aviation orientation educational programme does accommodate all school grades, from crèche, day care centres and tertiary institutions. We also inform the learners about *Siyandiza* and the Young Falcon programmes, which offer better opportunities and understanding of the SA Air Force to aviation enthusi-



Children from Little Lamb Crèche in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, enjoying their visit to the Air Force Museum with members of the SA Air Force.

asts. When learners from grade 9 to 12 visit the Air Force Museum, *Siyandiza* representatives from the *Siyandiza* Central Office, which is also situated at the Air Force Museum, are always invited as part of the programme to brief the learners about the *Siyandiza* Programme. As a result the learners do benefit from these briefings because most learners outside the

Gauteng province still do not know about the *Siyandiza* Programme - let alone the Young Falcon Programme.

Schools are encouraged to make bookings prior to their visit to Lt Zola Nombida at tel no: (012) 351 2314 or 351 2290 or cell no: 073 142 0536. For more information about the *Siyandiza* Programme phone Cpl Pillay or any staff member at tel no: (012) 351 2210. 

"Take-a-girl-child-to-work"

By Capt T.N. Snyman,
SO2 Communication SA Army
Combat Training Centre

Cell C launched a national campaign to introduce schoolgirls to possible career opportunities provided by the South African workforce. The SA Army Combat Training Centre joined the "Take-a-girl-child-to-work" initiative by Cell C and invited twenty schoolgirls from Postmasburg and Postdene to spend a day with the SANDF at Lohatla.


On 27 May 2004 the excited girls were transported in two Ratels to Lohatla where, upon their arrival, they were treated to snacks and refreshments and introduced to their tour guide. Soon after they returned to the Ratels and were whisked off to the indoor shooting range. Sgt Jackie Eloff briefed them on the R4 and R5 rifles

and then the girls got the opportunity to test their shooting skills. While some of the girls were shooting, the rest of the group was kept occupied with some weapon drills to strengthen their biceps muscles.

Sticking to strict timings, a vital military custom, the girls were then rushed to the simulators for a crash course in Driving-and-maintenance Practice Part 1 on Ratels and trucks! Under the watchful eye of the Chief Tester, Maj Johan Joubert, twenty would-be drivers were enticed to seriously consider an adventurous Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme in the SANDF.

Fortunately, before the girls could be issued with military drivers' licenses they had to scuttle to attend their next appointment, a farewell parade, as VIP guests of the outgoing Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano!

Their conduct was impeccable! Pretty soon these VIP guests received about just as much attention from the official photographers and cameramen as the dignitary did. Their accompanying officer explained the proceedings and customs of the mechanised parade to them and pointed out certain interesting actions during the parade.

After the parade the girls got back onto the Ratels and set off for the Air Operation Training Centre in Lohatla, from where they were airlifted by an Oryx helicopter and flown back to their schools after a briefing by the co-pilot. The inquisitive girls who remained behind after the first trooping had left were clearly very excited. Judging by their questions the SANDF might soon have more female gunners and drivers than we anticipated. Real girl power?! 

Different and magnificent

By Matshidiso Pila

Photo: Courtesy of 5 ASU Photo Section

Various VIPs from the different sectors of society attended the Chief of the SANDF's annual Golf Day, which was combined with a visit to military units in Phalaborwa in June 2004. The aim of these events was to inform the guests about our Defence Force and to give them a comprehensive overview of the capabilities of the military in Phalaborwa.

This year's Golf Day of Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, was different from the previous ones. It began with a visit on 10 June 2004, which was held at Hans Merensky Estate in Phalaborwa. From Pretoria the guests flew to Hoedspruit Air Force Base to experience not just the SANDF on the golf course, at the Services Golf Club, as is the custom, but to experience the SANDF or aspects of the SANDF in general.

The visitors were enthralled by the demonstration of the Special Forces, who staged a counter-attack in a crisis situation, and a vlermuis attack. "The Special Forces are my strategic asset - they are the 100% combat ready unit of the SANDF, ready 24 hours for any eventuality," Gen Nyanda informed his guests.

The next day was set aside for playing golf - four-balls. "Military people, you should know are straight talkers, even though their golf shots are not that straight," was one of Gen Nyanda's remarks. He had asked members of the general staff and other senior members of the Department to form groups with the guest players. Gen Nyanda did this so that at the end of the visit his guests should understand more about the Department of Defence in general and about the SA National Defence Force.

During the prize-giving function



A healthy mind in a healthy body - Gen Sipiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, leads by example - definitely ready for the greens...

that evening Gen Nyanda said: "The spreading of leaders of the Defence Force and the Department of Defence might well have affected the results of many a four-ball. But this visit is more about acquaintance, friendship and understanding than winning".


He also said that it would be remiss not to spare a thought for the courageous men and women of the SANDF who are deployed in the various theatres of conflict on the continent, in particular those in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), especially because of the increasingly precarious nature of their deployment.

"Nearly a week ago, two of them lost their lives in an accident, which involved a shooting incident. They have not yet been laid to rest, and the wound of loss is still fresh with us. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to observe with us a moment of silence in their memory," Gen Nyanda requested his guests at the prize-giving function.

"These young men and women are your ambassadors in uniform. They pioneer the path of the African

Renaissance. They are the harbingers of the economic regeneration of the continent through their selfless sacrifice. If you see many enterprises, such as Vodacom, Mvelaphanda, MTN, Escom begin to make forays into the DRC and other former conflict areas, it is because of these intrepid trailblazers. If you see the stature of our President rise in international affairs, it is in great part due to the sacrifices of these patriots. Their lives should be celebrated because they usher in the dawn of the African Renewal," Gen Nyanda continued. He also thanked the main sponsor, *Microsoft*, as well as all the other sponsors that made the events memorable.

To conclude, Gen Nyanda mentioned that recently he had received a photo of a four-ball he played. It had an interesting quotation, which he paraphrased: "All good shots are accidents, and all bad shots are good exercise."

"Collectively, on average therefore, in fact in all probability, we at least had a very good exercise - can we toast to that!" 

Fly like a butterfly and sting like a bee

Capt Michelle Strauss, a 29 year old Physical Training Instructor of Cape Town, who works at the Southern Military Police Regional HQ and Sgt Dennis Bogenhagen, a 35 year old fire-fighter of Bredasdorp, who works at the Test Flight and Development Centre (TFDC), are both members of the Cape Town Military Martial Arts Club.

Capt Strauss and Sgt Bogenhagen attended the SA Championships at the Carousel near Pretoria in September 2003, as members of the Western Province Kick-boxing Team. Both were selected for the South African National Kick-boxing Team to represent South Africa in the World Kick-boxing Championships held on Corfu Island, Greece, in May 2004.

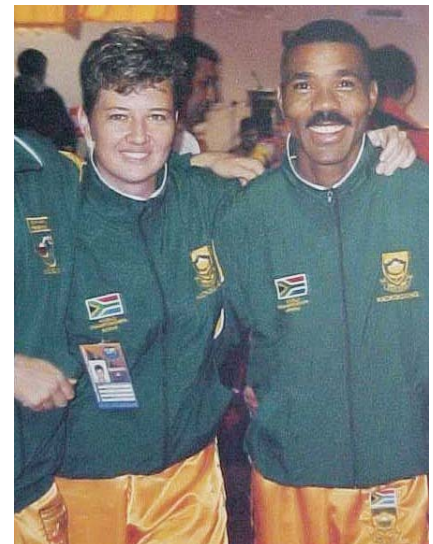
Almost 1 500 world-class kick-boxers, representing more than 65 countries, participated at the World Kick-boxing Championships. The standard was exceptionally high, as could have been expected at this level of competi-

tion. Capt Strauss and Sgt Bogenhagen did South Africa and the South African National Defence Force proud by performing better than ever. All their hard work and dedication over the past few years paid off.

Capt Strauss participated in the Full-contact Kick-boxing and Thai-boxing divisions, winning a silver medal in the Full-contact Thai-boxing division and a bronze medal in the Full-contact Kick-boxing division. Sgt Bogenhagen became the world champion by winning the Light-contact Kick-boxing division.


S Sgt Josh Cloete, the trainer of Capt Strauss, feels honoured and proud of the achievements of both fighters. "They left a sting in the flesh of their opponents..."

Both fighters want to thank the SANDF sponsors and individuals who contributed financially to their expenses. Without financial support these fighters' dreams would have remained only dreams. They would also like to



Capt Michelle Strauss and Sgt Dennis Bogenhagen.

extend special thanks to friends for their support and contributions.

Within the last four years the Cape Town Military Martial Arts Club has produced five members who received national colours for martial arts. 


Invite to the Oyama karate tournament

The KZN Military Oyama Karate Club is to host its annual tournament at Lords Ground Military Base, Old Fort Road Durban, opposite McDonalds Restaurant, on 16 October 2004 - the fourth of its kind. Registrations start at 08:30 and close at 10:00 - 10:30 is the first bout.

The following divisions will be catered for, males: under 50kg, under

60kg, under 70kg and Open category, as well as females: under 65kg and Open category.

The event is organised in the name of the military club and may not be open to monopoly whatsoever, although the event is open to all. All SANDF members interested in attending, may contact Cpl B.S.S. Chamane at tel no: (031) 369 1414 so that a letter


of invitation can be forwarded to them. Over the past two years the tournament has been blessed with the presence of Brig Gen Lindile Yam, the Director of Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, who is once again invited. *Any enquiries may be directed to Capt Alfred Linda, Chairperson KZN Military Oyama Karate Club, at tel no: (031) 369 1013.* 

Badminton Air Force Championships

Air Force Base Makhado hosted the annual Air Force Badminton Championships from 17 to 21 May 2004. Players came from different parts of the country representing their units. The tournament was graced by the presence of Brig Gen Wallis who is the Patron of Badminton in the SA Air Force. Two teams were set to play

against the Limpopo Invitation Team on 19 May.

The SAAF B Team lost while the A Team played a draw with the Limpopo Invitation Team. The prize-giving ceremony was held at the Adams Apple Guesthouse. The Inter Unit results were as follows: the winner was AFB Waterkloof and the runners-

up were South Side (AFB Ysterplaat and AFB Langebaanweg) with AFB Makhado in the third place. The top three Senior Men were: F Sgt J. Scheepers, WO2 J. de Klerk and Sgt J. Strydom and the top three Senior Ladies were: Maj D. van Rensburg, WO1 A. Palmer and Maj M. Botha. (Article by Sgt Ntsiki Mantshongo) 

Women rugby togs and all

By Capt Anet Veldsman and Capt Shelley Venter, both members of the Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Club

Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo

A well-established Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team is yet again performing excellently.

The Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team was established in January 2002, and competed for the first time in history in the SANDF Rugby Week in Upington. The team won the tournament for women. Eleven women from this team were selected for the South African National Defence Force Women's Team.

The team then took part in the 2002 Blue Bulls Women's League. Altogether seven teams competed and they achieved third place in the league, which was a tremendous achievement. From this league six Pretoria Defence women were selected for the Provincial Blue Bulls Women's Team.

The 2003 season kicked off with similar achievements. Again the team took part in the Blue Bulls League. The league was split into an A and a B division, of which the Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team won the B division with great match statistics.

Another highlight for 2003 was the visiting England Women's Team, which played against the Blue Bulls Women's Team in Pretoria, as well as the Washington Furies from America. Five women from the Pretoria Women's Rugby Team faced these ferocious players who had been playing rugby for twenty years in America. This event was proof of the commitment of SARFU to Women's Rugby in South Africa.



No where to go - good defence from scrum half, Arlene, and centre, Fiona.

It is 2004 and the women rugby players are still going strong... Intensive training has taken place since January this year. The team gets together for training every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 18:00 to 20:00. This has resulted in its winning three of the four warm-up games played to date.

The league started on 16 April 2004 and the Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team played against the Correctional Service Women's Rugby Team, which has been a well-established team since 2000. Although the Correctional Service Women's Rugby Team won the game, credit was given to the Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team for the excellent rugby they played.

The league is still confronted with many challenges, but the Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Team looks forward to each one of them.

Other provinces are encouraged to establish women's rugby teams. Our first ever Springbok Women's Rugby Team has been selected and will play in the 2006 Women's World Cup.

During the 2004 season the Wales Women's Team toured South Africa.


The SANDF Rugby Week again took place this year in Durban over the period 27 June 2004 to 3 July 2004. SANDF women rugby players from all over the country were included in the Rugby Week.

There the SANDF Women's Rugby Team was selected. This team will play against the Natal Sharks Women's Rugby Team prior to a Vodacom match.

The Pretoria Defence Women's Rugby Club would like to thank

Amandla CMM, Manitu SA, AB Logistics, Virgin Active and Peri Wiehahn for their much appreciated donations.

Capt Ingrid Botha was selected for the Springbok Women's Rugby Team, while her twin sister, Capt Natasha Botha, was selected for the Blue Bulls Women's Rugby Team.

S Sgt Heidi van der Berg and Sgt Charmaine Swart were selected for the Blue Bulls Women's Rugby Team, while Maj Marnene Smit was appointed as the assistant coach in training. 

From dawn to dusk

By Col Zirk Lourens, the PRO for the Comrades Marathon

There are few events on the SA sporting calendar that generate as much interest, excitement, pride and national unity as the Comrades Marathon. The exact distance of the 2004 Comrades Marathon is 86,75km, about 600m longer than the last "up run", held in 2002. A Comrades Marathon "up run" is by no means a race for the fainthearted. It consists of 54km of energy-sapping, uphill running and provides the ultimate test of human endurance. Many runners claim to prefer the "up run" over the "down run", but logic dictates that when all else fails, gravity will pull you downhill, while only sheer guts and flagging energy reserves can power a runner uphill in the final stages of a Comrades Marathon.

On 16 June 2004, as the Durban City Hall clock struck 05:30, thousands of runners began their epic journey of 87km to Pietermaritzburg. A journey that stretched body and mind to the limits, a journey in which athletes will experience many highs and lows. A journey in which the athlete fights a battle, not against a team or opponent, but against himself. A journey in which all men and women are equal, as all have the same hills to climb and the same road to tread to be able to achieve their goal - a challenging event that is a great leveller. The Comrades Marathon changes forever the lives of all those it touches. It provides valuable experience which participants are able to take forward in their daily lives. It provides a lesson in assessing and accepting a challenge, planning and preparation, depending on your fellow beings, looking defeat in the eye and yet not accepting it. It makes one realise one's hidden talent.

A total of ± 12 100 athletes entered this year's race. Altogether 220 DOD/SANDF runners completed the race.

The Defence Force had a special stand at "The Oval" in Pietermaritzburg where all the families and friends of the runners got together watching

the race as the runners enter the stadium. The stand could be identified with the National Flag, SANDF flag and our four Service flags. Banners were displayed in front of the stand for easy identification. Members of the Area Military Health Unit KZN provided physiotherapy services at the SANDF stand located at the "Finish" and assisted persons who was in need of medical care on completion of the race. They also manned a water point at 40km into the race.

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was PO Nhlanguhla Khanyille from the SANDF Athletic Club KZN (Naval Station Durban). His overall position out of ± 10 108 competitors who finished, was 102nd in a time of 06:41:00.

In the second position was Col Gideon van Zyl from the SANDF Athletic Club Bloemfontein (RFIN) in a time of 07:07:59, an overall position of 260th and in the third position was Cpl Kgosietsale Taele from SANDF CG (35 ING GR) in a time of 07:13:10, an overall position of 305th.

The first woman running for the SANDF was S Sgt Michelle Niewoudt from SANDF Athletic Club Durban (GSB Ladysmith) with a time of 10:40:40 and an overall position 6 216 and the 743 position among the lady runners.

The first Defence Reserve Force man were Mr Sheldon Wiggil of Natal Carbineers Athletic Club in a time of 08:12:37 in an overall position 1 076. Also from Natal Carbineers Athletic Club, as the first lady, in a time of 08:31:28 and an overall position 1 462 and the 65th position among the lady runners was Ms Vicky Brookes. Col Zirk Lourens (08:49:03) and



Col Zirk Lourens and Mr Richard Hammill congratulate each other on their achievement of 20 consecutive Comrades Marathons, with their "Double Green Numbers".

Richard Hammill (10:45:05) completed their 20th consecutive Comrades Marathon. The last SANDF runner to make the cut of time of 12 hours was Rfn Milenyane Thomas Kholumo of SANDF AC Bloemfontein, in a time of 11:59:15.

The following ten runners obtained their green numbers by completing their tenth Comrades Marathon: Sgt Johnny Malgas from the SANDF Athletic Club Eastern Province (07:49:38), WO2 Llewellyn Coetzer from the SANDF AC Bloemfontein (08:33:32), Rfn Paulos Mosiea from the SANDF AC Bloemfontein (08:49:25), WO2 James Mollentze from the SANDF AC Bloemfontein (09:28:13), Mr Sean Phillip O'Flaherty from the Reserve Force - Natal Carbineers (09:30:02), Mr Thembinkosi Mkhize the Reserve Force - Natal Carbineers (09:59:56), WO1 Marthinus Janse van Rensburg from the SANDF AC Bloemfontein (10:07:04), CPO Wilson Perumal Govender from the SANDF AC Durban (10:40:42), Sgt Franco Swart from the SANDF AC Pretoria - Reserve Force (11:46:57) and CPO Gonasagren Moonsamy from the SANDF AC Western Province (11:56:17).

Impressive running career

Col Zirk Lourens, Officer Commanding 10 Air Depot, Mainholding Depot for SAAF, started his running career during 1983, while he was seconded to the previous Ciskei Defence Force, as the Officer Commanding of the Composite Depot of Ciskei Defence Force. He was also one of the founder members of Ciskei Defence Force Road Running Club.

The first Comrades Marathon, in which he participated, was held in 1984. Since then, he has completed twenty consecutive Comrades Marathons over a distance of 87km to 90km. His best time was 07:44 min in 1993. Col Lourens has run over 39 000km during the last twenty years in preparation for the Comrades Marathon. His training normally takes place at 04:30 (winter and summer) for ± 1 hour to 1½ hours, during the month of January to June, after which he rests for six months. In so doing he has also completed fourteen "Om die Dam" Ultras (50km), fifteen "Wally Haywards" (42km), eleven City to City Ultras (50km) between Pretoria and Johannesburg and seven Two Oceans

Marathons (50km) and ± 120 Marathons (42km) as part of his preparation for the Comrades Marathons.

Col Lourens has also been involved in road running administration since 1984. He has served on the SANDF Road Running Association and is presently a co-opted member to the committee. He is also the PRO for the Comrades Marathon, Two Oceans Marathon and the "Voet" of Africa Marathon. During the Comrades and Two Oceans Marathons, Col Lourens conducts live television interviews regarding the SANDF participation in road running in the RSA and he writes articles for SA SOLDIER on the above events.

He said that "Comrades" has been a passion for him and a way of living and that he sincerely believes it is indeed both a privilege and a blessing to finish or even take part in this annual pilgrimage between Durban and Pietermaritzburg. He believes that each year the Good Lord shares the wonderful experience with all of those who take up this challenge to complete the "Ultimate Human Race".


Col Lourens' next goal is to com-

plete twenty-five consecutive Comrades Marathons.

Another sterling running career

Assistant Director Richard Hammill, Budget Manager Defence Intelligence, began running marathons in 1983 as part of endurance training for soccer. Over the past 21 years he has completed over 48 000km, which includes 142 races of 42km (marathon distance) and longer.

Richard has to date completed twenty Comrades Marathons with a best time of 07:59. Other races which he has participated in include fourteen "Om die Dam" Ultras (50km), twelve "Wally Haywards" (42km), twelve City to City Ultras (50km), twelve "Jackie Mekler Ultras" (50km), nine Pretoria marathons (42km), nine "Jock of the Bushveld Ultras" (54km), seven Two Oceans Ultras (56km), seven "Korkie Ultras" (56km), five Iron Man Triathlons (163km) and two 100-milers (160km).

He serves on the committee of the Pretoria Military Marathon Club, of which he has been a member for the past 21 years. 

Congratulations MILMED

By Tshidi Pila

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

MILMED magazine, the periodical of the SA Military Health Service, celebrated its 20th birthday on 25 June 2004.

As this is a major milestone in the history of the SA Military Health Service, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, launched a special birthday edition of MILMED. Retired members, colleagues, and friends of MILMED and the SAMHS were present to witness the moment and to share in the festivities.

The Surgeon General encouraged the MILMED staff to keep up their good work and asked SAMHS members to write even better than before with the pens, which were distributed during the celebration. In closing, he shared the following prayer:


"Lord, thank you for languages



Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General, cutting the birthday cake with Maj Gen (Ret) Ken Ingham, Col Paul van der Merwe and Maj Gen (Ret) Giep Booysen (fltr) looking on.

that impart ideas, describe dreams, convey compassion and enable expression of thoughts and feelings. May we be careful in our communication, respectful in our conversation, tolerant in our differences, patient in

understanding, and mindful of the dignity of each person you have created. Amen".

He then invited his former colleagues to join him in the cutting of the birthday cake. 

Africa Aerospace and Defence exhibition 2004

By Col Bobby Keller,
SANDF Chairperson Recreation

Preparations are once again under way for the staging of Africa's premier aerospace and defence exhibition at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria over the period 21 to 25 September this year. It is by far the largest event of its kind in Africa, and this year it promises to be even bigger and better than any of its predecessors.

The first three days of the exhibition are reserved for trade delegations and invited VIP guests, followed by the two public days that will offer a superb flying display in addition to the static exhibits. A great deal of interest is being shown by local and some overseas industries in exhibiting their products, including many smaller companies who have innovative item-specific product lines aimed at the commercial aviation sector.

Putting together an exhibition of this magnitude is certainly no easy assignment; consequently a team of dedicated experts has been assembled to manage this mammoth task. There are four main stakeholders that constitute the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) organisation, namely the Commercial Aviation Association of South Africa, Aerospace and Maritime Defence Association (AMD), Armscor and the SA Air Force.

The management of the exhibition is made up of several committees, the Policy Committee being the most senior, followed by the Executive committee, which appoints a Show Director to co-ordinate the activities necessary to plan and organise the exhibition. The championship of these two committees is rotated among the four stakeholders with every exhibition, 2004 being the Air Forces' responsibility. Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, the Chief of the SA Air Force, heads up the Policy Committee while the GOC Air

"Vision without action is just dreaming, action with no vision is just passing time, but with vision and action, you can change the world" - former President Nelson Mandela.

Command, Maj Gen "Lappies" Labuschagne, chairs the Executive Committee.

South Africans can look forward to an exhibition and air display of international standard that has no equal on the African continent. It is a show that exemplifies Proudly South African and will showcase the tenth anniversary of our democracy - the first public day falls on Heritage Day, Friday, 24 September 2004. More information regarding the AAD 2004 can be found



Youth Programme busy with scale model, "Make and Take".



SANDF Recreation Championships.

on the exhibition's official website at: www.aadexpo.co.za.

Youth programme

A policy decision to improve the corporate social investment of the AAD has led to the establishment of a youth committee under Col Bobby Keller of the SAMHS, a committee that is working hard at many youth related activities. Youth programmes and the AAD are synonymous with the highly successful aviation awareness programme of the SA Air Force - *Siyandiza*, which will be presented at the show.

A new approach is envisaged for 2004 with an integrated youth programme, which will also allow participation by all youth at the show. The focus of the youth programme is science, mathematics, technology, as well as awareness of careers in the defence and aviation industry. The following participation is planned:

- Programmes for the land, sea and air industry.
- High school Grade 10 to 12 learners to participate.
- Presenting a "Scale Model Make and Take" for a thousand children of the Youth Programme.
- Youth participation during the public days.

The projects available for the youth

to participate in will be:

- The creation of a 1 by 2 m art panel in any medium depicting "10 Years of Freedom" or "Defence in a Democracy".
- The building and painting of a plastic scale model kit of a 1/72-scale model armoured vehicle, a 1/72-scale model aircraft and a 1/700-scale ship model.
- A paper plane diorama made of scrap material.
- Design, building and demonstration of a science, mathematics or technology project of a futuristic defence or aviation solution.
- Pipe or brass bands of schools, wargaming tournaments, personal computer LAN strategy and virtual aviation competition.
- The youth will present their projects at the stalls for judging, as well as communicate them to the trade delegations on the trade days and to the general public on the public days.

SANDF Recreation Championships 2004

The first SANDF Recreation Championships was held in 2003, as the start of the activation of recreational activities for soldiers in their leisure time. The event was hosted by the SAAF Museum, Zwartkop, and fifty members from units countrywide

entered the various categories.

The next championships will take place from 21 to 25 September 2004 during the AAD at Waterkloof Air Force Base. Services, Divisions, Formations and Units are invited to prepare their teams in advance for the respective categories and are challenged to compete against the current champions at the 2004 event. The following categories will be presented at the championships:

- Virtual Aviation. A competition flight plan will be flown over the five days and all virtual aviators are invited to enter the competition.
- Battlefield re-enactment. A variety of eras and forces will be enacted as demonstrations and as part of the competition.
- Militaria collecting. A wide selection of items will be on display and entered as part of the competition.
- Wargaming. Team and individual wargamers are invited to enter for the various tournaments. Warhammer, Mechwarrior, DBM, ancients, etc will be available.
- Scale modelling. During 2004 a large competition is envisaged for all the SANDF scale modellers. A competition for all scales and classes will be available.

For SANDF members who want to make a start in the above recreation activities there will also be developmental projects. Members will be issued with scale models to build and paint, workshops, etc will be presented on wargaming, virtual aviation and wargaming. There are a large number of modellers, wargamers, militaria and battlefield re-enactment enthusiasts in the Reserve Force that can participate. We hope to see increased participation from members of the Reserve Force in 2004.

Other recreational activities planned for SANDF members depend on the registration and interest:

- Slot car racing track will be available for a championship race.
- LAN gaming network will be available for a strategy game competition.
- Doll's house collecting competi-

(Continued on page 46)

(Continued from page 45)

tion will be available.

- Restored military vehicles and equipment by SANDF members and museums.

There will be awards, prizes and trophies available in all categories for individuals, formations and units. There are many members actively involved in these activities in the SANDF, who are not yet registered with the recreation chairperson to participate in recreational activities. For general information about recreation and to register for the championship contact the SANDF Chairperson Recreation, Col Bobby Keller. To find out more about the recreational activities please contact the following:

- Virtual aviation - Lt Col Harry Mole at tel no: 012 312 2767.
- Battlefield re-enactment - Col Trevor Dawes at tel no: 012 672 3596.
- Militaria collecting - Col Dudley Wall at tel no: 012 674 5574.
- Wargaming - Maj Conrad van Rensburg at tel no: 012 312 2610.
- Scale modelling - Lt Col William Marshall at tel no: 012 674 5638.

Masibambisane

The Recreation Championship participants during the event will show their support for the DOD's HIV/AIDS awareness campaign by wearing their *Masibambisane* T-shirts as official dress for the event. The theme for the 2004 Recreation Championships is: "Contributing towards a Healthy Military Community". The theme confirms that recreation forms an integral part of military training to contribute to the development of personality, the attainment of good health, and the improvement of physical attributes, greater personal fulfilment and a better and more wholesome utilisation of leisure time.

The identified potential aviators of the AAD Youth Programme will eventually end up in careers in the DOD. It is therefore imperative that they adopt a healthy lifestyle at an early stage to ensure a good health status by the time they report for service. Various activities are planned for the youth programme to create aware-

ness for HIV/AIDS.

Africa Militaire 2004

Africa Militaire will join this national ten years of democracy celebration programme by planning the largest scale modelling, model train, toy, collectables, militaria, book, multimedia and military preservation show ever to be presented in the Southern Hemisphere. A few highlights so far:

- Revell will be appointed as the Patron of the First Plastic Scale Modelling World Championship to be presented.
- A special feature will be the display of the internationally acclaimed "Suffering of War" photographic portrayal of the Anglo-Boer War hosted by the War Museum in Bloemfontein. A launch of the book, signed by the authors, containing the 182 photographs, will be done during the *Africa Militaire*.

The following will be on display at the AAD:

- The display and competition of 3 000 scale models will be complemented by unique scale model clinics and workshops.
- MILCON: A national level wargaming championship with a "Golden Zulu" model competition.
- Working model train layouts.
- A slot car racing championship.
- Display of restored military vehicles and motorcycles.
- International and national model

and militaria traders with books, magazines, comics, collectables, cards, toys, etc.

- Exhibitions by military museums and historical societies.
- A LAN gaming and virtual aviation network.
- Battlefield re-enactment demonstrations including the "Age of Artillery" exhibition.
- A variety of veterans, Reserve Force, military, cultural and historical exhibitors with military bands performing.
- The following prestigious awards will be available:
 - Best of class winners - Shaka Zulu Statue.
 - Best category winners - Africa Militaire Shield.
 - Special Awards - The Sword of Job Masego and The Spear of Africa.

Contact details

For more information about the Youth Programme, the SANDF Recreation Championship and the *Africa Militaire* contact the following persons: Col Bobby Keller at tel no: 012 671 5493, 083 661 5694 or email: general@africamilitaire.net or Capt Kobus Kapp at Cell no: 083 450 8905 or email: wasbeer@mweb.co.za or Anelga Penwarden at tel no: 012 671 5493 or fax no: 012 663 8552. Please visit our web site: www.africamilitaire.net for on-line registration to participate in the various programmes and information about all the events. 



Africa Militaire.

**Armcor Advert
(Repeat page 48
Aug 2004)
now on page 47**

Page 48
use AAD Ad
(Repeat Advert,
Aug 04,page 47
now on page 48)