

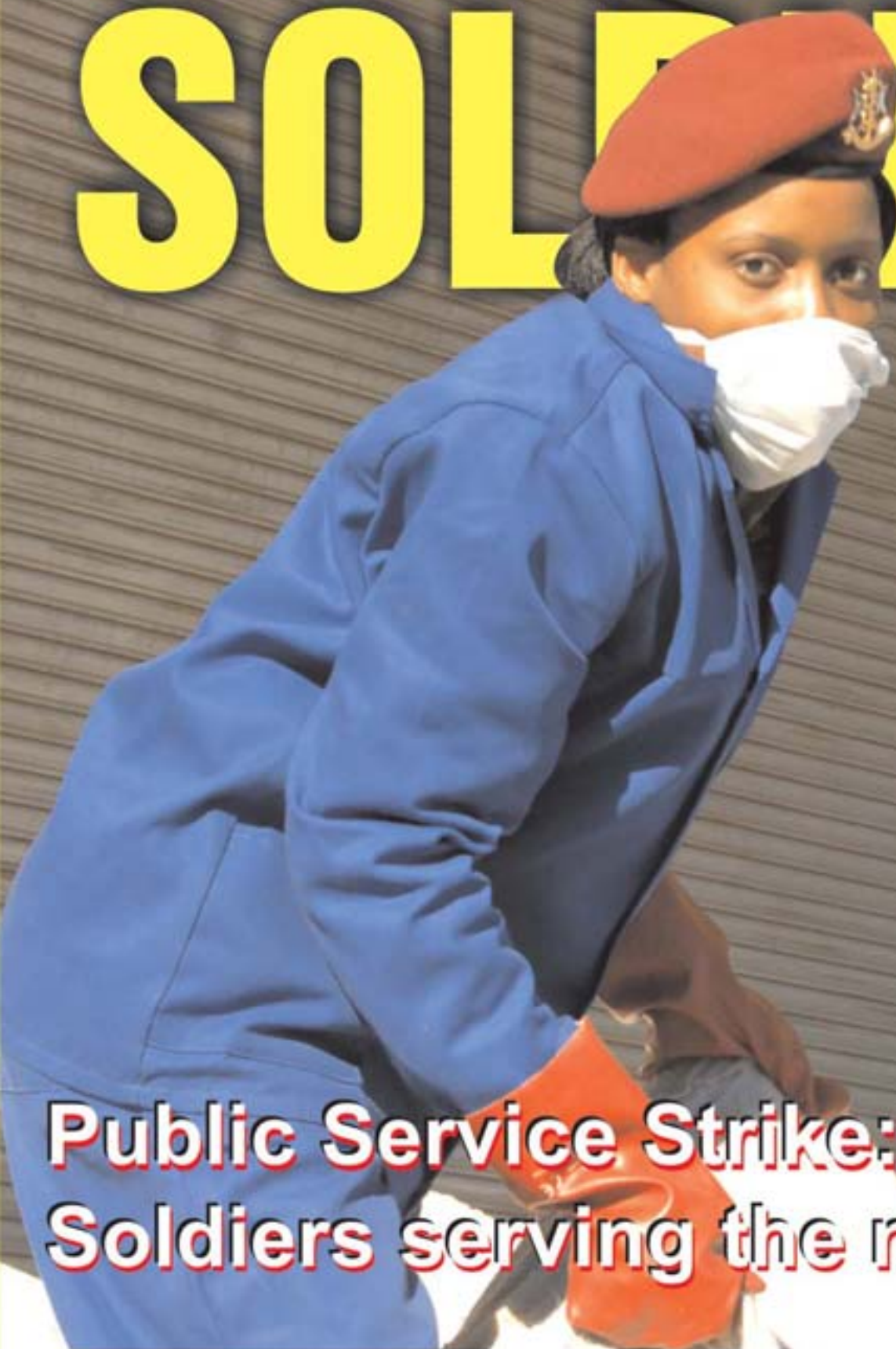
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The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER



**Public Service Strike:
Soldiers serving the nation**



defence

Department:
Defence:
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------|
| 4 | SANDF members honoured with French Medals | 16 | Anti-corruption and Anti-fraud Prevention Conference | 29 | Green Awards in the Department |
| 6 | Letters: feedback from our readers | 18 | Protecting human rights doing it for the nation | 30 | Air Power Capability Demo |
| 10 | SANDF heading towards gender equity | 21 | Africa Public Service Day | 33 | Human Resource Graduates |
| 11 | Talks on Security Sector Governance in Southern Africa | 22 | Employer of Choice Advertising campaign | 34 | Revamp of French Naval Surface Fleet |
| 12 | International Day of UN Peacekeepers | 24 | The future belongs to those that persevere | 37 | French warship with humanitarian intentions |
| 13 | SA and the Netherlands sign SOFA Agreement | 26 | National Youth Health Indaba | 38 | The military and the pink invasion |
| 15 | Bravo to retired flag officers of our Navy | 27 | Forging defence ties | 42 | SA Forces Cricket Tournament |
| | | 28 | SA Joint Air Defence Symposium | 46 | Spiritual resilience of the youth |

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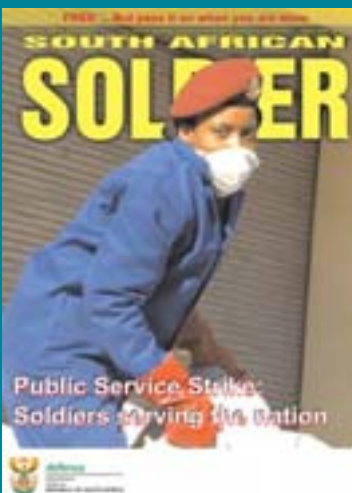
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37 Debriefing session for some staff members on board the FCS TONNERRE. (Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma)



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3

FRONT COVER: *Public Service Strike:* Soldiers serving the nation. (Pte Linhle Langa sorts out the dirty laundry.) Read all about Operation BATA on pages 18 and 20. (Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma)

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From the Editor's desk



would like to echo the words of the Mission Commander for Operation BATA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse: "I feel that all our people who were deployed in all the different areas did us proud. They worked very hard, sometimes under very difficult circumstances!"

Operation BATA was the operation that provided protection services to the SAPS and the workers in hospitals during the recent strike of public servants. Since 1994 there has not been such a large internal deployment.

It is also the Mission Commander's view that this has shown the people of South Africa that we are not just a

Defence Force of aircraft and big ships, but also an SANDF for the people. "We showed to our people that we were there for them and that we could react in no time to adverse conditions." Read all about Batho Pele galore on pages 18 to 20.

According to Brig Gen Oelofse members who were deployed during Operation BATA are now entitled to four days' official deployment leave within the next six months. You earned it. Enjoy your well-deserved rest!

Until next month!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor 

SANDF Members Honoured with French Medals

On 4 June 2007 at the official residence in Pretoria of the French Ambassador, Mr Denis Pietton, members of the SANDF were awarded the French National Defence Medal Gold and Silver for outstanding service to the French Armed Forces in South Africa and abroad.

Gen Jean Pierre Balerin, who was on an official visit to South Africa from Paris, presented the medals to the members. R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren (Director Equity Strategy Planning) was presented with the only Gold Medal. (She previously worked at Navy Foreign Relations.) The following members each received the Silver Medal: Maj Bassie Kgasoane (Air Force Relations), WO1 Manny Gounden (PRO Naval Station Durban), Ms Lilian Neumann (Navy Office Foreign Relations) and Ms Lynne Heydenrych (Directorate Language Services).


Captain Denis Fabre, the Defence Attaché in South Africa, said: "On



Mr Denis Pietton, the French Ambassador (left), congratulates WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban, on receiving the French National Defence Medal. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

behalf of the French Armed Forces he really appreciated the professional support and outstanding services that were accorded to the French Military by the

members who were decorated."

The occasion was attended by the diplomatic corps, military officers and guests. 



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ARE THERE POSITIVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE SANDF?

"Are there positive persons with disabilities in the SANDF?" This question can be asked - Well, I believe that if there are positive persons with disabilities in the Department of the Defence, they probably are loyal and hard working people. I am pretty sure that if any employees in the SANDF have such persons in their section or in their unit, they must have a positive effect on their friend(s) with disabilities!

Many people will find it difficult to answer the question - due to their limited knowledge of disabilities as such, but everyone who has been in contact with or is a friend of a (positive) person with disabilities will tell you what a privilege it is to know such a person! I personally believe "what you sow - you will reap". If you sow a positive attitude, you will receive the same in return. If you have a negative outlook then the world will push you aside. Sadly enough, many persons with disabilities experience this attitude from so-called "normal people." I do not say: "It is your fault or it is our fault," but let us (normal people and persons with disabilities) respect each other. With this positive attitude we can overcome many obstacles together.

As a person with disabilities I am




Christo du Plooy.

convinced that with a positive attitude you can overcome your "disability obstacles". Well, I have overcome some of my obstacles. I own my own house, drive my own car and make my own decisions about my life. I am a civilian member of the SANDF with cerebral palsy and a severe speech impairment. I am currently working at Wonderboom Military Base in the 3 Electronic Workshop planning office environment. Further, I do information technology (IT) support (helping colleagues with their computer problems and sometimes correcting the formulas in the spreadsheets where needed).

Although my interest lies firmly in the IT field, I believe I will be a great asset for the organisation in the future. Lately I have been developing a website for the Pretoria Military Chess Club and I am hoping that it will be published soon on the Internet.

At the end of 2006 Directorate Career Management (PSAP) held a career planning workshop at Wonderboom Military Base and I made an appointment with them to advance my career even further.

I can only express my deepest appreciation towards Mrs Karin Swart for her professionalism in leading me in the right direction, and helping me to choose the right path to advance my career. I am sure in the years ahead I will be grateful to use this tool for greater opportunities, and build my career on a solid foundation. Therefore I can only recommend career planning to anyone who has doubts about his or her own career choices, and am sure that the Directorate Career Management can and will assist you with your career options. So, feel free to choose this great opportunity to advance your career. **Christo du Plooy** 

MINI-TAPE LIBRARY CENTRE

In July 2005, with the help of Tapeaids for the Blind Pretoria, the SANDF opened a mini-tape library centre at the Poyntons Building in Pretoria. To all the visually impaired and sighted

personnel who have been making use of this centre, it has brought them many hours of interesting reading.


This is another method of reading for everyone, as one is able to listen to

these audio cassettes either in one's car on the way to work or even in one's leisure time. The catalogue consists of a range of educational and motivational audio cassettes from which to choose. The sound quality of these cassettes is of a high standard and it is recommended that all readers and non-readers visit the centre. It might just bring about a developmental change in your life.

I am visually impaired and currently working as a Senior Telecom Operator at the Navy Office switchboard in Pretoria.

George De Nobrega, CMIS Service Centre, Navy Office 

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. 

JOIN THE SA MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

All members of the DOD (serving and retired) are invited to join the South African Military Christian Fellowship (SAMCF). The SAMCF is authorised by the Chaplain General to operate privately in the SANDF. The SAMCF is for Christians of all ranks (both civilian and uniformed members) and is inter-denominational.

The SAMCF endeavours to unite and encourage SANDF military Christians through regular fellowship,

prayer and the provision of resources, both those within South Africa and those on external deployments.


The primary objective of the SAMCF is to help build up the individual members to attain spiritual maturity by meeting regularly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship and thereby giving witness to their faith in word and deed, and actively supporting the church of their chosen denomination.

The SAMCF actively supports the

Chaplains Service of the SANDF.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 sums up the role and purpose of the SAMCF.

To know more about or join the SAMCF please contact Capt (SAN) P.J. Louwrens (Ret), SAMCF National Executive Director, on 083 786 3640 or (012) 664 4116 or write to:

Capt (SAN) Rtd P.J. Louwrens, SAMCF National Executive Director, 378 Botha Ave, Kloofsig, Centurion, 0157. 

TRIBUTE

The late Colonel D.M. (Denzil) Loveland, past Honorary Colonel of the Cape Town Highlanders (CTH) and the last survivor of the officers who were serving when World War II was declared in 1939, died recently at 94 after a long period of ill-health.

Col Loveland served his regiment in some capacity or other for 67 years, an unparalleled record of service which covered almost three-quarters of his life and more than half the total existence of the CTH.

His active career started in 1936 when he joined in the CTH as a private soldier. He was soon promoted to Lance Corporal and was then selected for officer training and commissioned just before the outbreak of World War II. Like his comrades in arms he volunteered immediately for overseas service, and after a period of home service accompanied the CTH to the Western Desert in 1941.

He served throughout the desert campaign, inter alia as a specialist medium machine-gun officer, and at the final Battle of El Alamein in October 1942 - one of the turning points of World War II - the then Capt Loveland was wounded and mentioned in despatches for his meritorious conduct amid heavy fighting.

Shortly after El Alamein the CTH and most other South African regiments returned to their homeland, but the following year the CTH was selected as one of the units for the 6th South African Armoured Division, which was being formed for service against the German occupying force in Italy. He volunteered immediately for what was obviously going to be a period of savage fighting and great danger.

The CTH was temporarily "married

up" with the First City Regiment from Grahamstown and sailed for Egypt for the 6th South African Armoured Division's final preparations before embarking for Italy - he was one of six young CTH officers who were later to command their regiment in unbroken succession for the next 25 years.

He served throughout the Italian campaign and as a major and Support Company Commander he took part in the Battle of Monte Sole near Bologna in mid-April of 1945 - the last significant South African ground action of World War II and one of the CTH's most famous battles which broke the back of German resistance in Italy. A few weeks later the Germans surrendered and the regiment returned home.

At the end of the war, when so many veterans went on the reserve, he stayed on and in 1947 took part in the ceremonial parades during the Royal visit of that year. Ten years later he became Officer Commanding Cape Town of the Highlanders, serving till 1961.

After a short period on the reserve he returned to active service and completed the Staff Duties course, after which he was promoted to Colonel and appointed senior Citizen Force staff officer in Cape Town. He served a term in this capacity and then retired again because at that time there were very few senior appointments available for Citizen Force officers.


Thereafter Col Loveland devoted much of his spare time to regimental support activities. Among other things he was appointed a regimental trustee - a post of great importance - and became the unit's archivist and historian. In 1991 he was appointed Colonel of the Regiment, the highest honour the CTH could bestow. He occupied this post with dis-

tingtion and energy, taking full part in the Regiment's day-to-day activities, seeing it off and welcoming it back whenever it was mobilised and visiting it in camp and in the field whenever possible.

He was one of a contingent of World War II veterans to welcome HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1995 when she laid a wreath at the Commonwealth war graves section of Woltemade cemetery. He was one of the few who had actually taken part in the parades and cemeteries she had attended as the 21 year old crown princess during the Royal visit of 1947.

Then, in 2003, he retired again because he considered himself unable, owing to ill health and advancing age to perform his duties as he saw them. He was not forgotten in retirement, however, and periodically officers and soldiers would visit him along with a piper to play some of the regimental music.

But Col Loveland's story is not his alone. It also belongs to his wife Bobby, whom he met in story-book fashion. She was a military nurse in Cairo during the war, and they met and married there, and in all the years that followed she was at his side in everything he did in and with the Regiment.


A spokesperson for the regiment said yesterday that Col Loveland had been a true "father of the regiment", beloved by all who knew him, "clear-thinking, kind-hearted, soft-spoken but strong-willed, staunch in adversity, but generous in victory, and a man of rare devotion to his country and the Cape Town Highlanders". He had served both in the true spirit of the regimental motto: *Bydand*, which means steadfast. **Lt Ian Long** 

BEATITUDES (THANK YOU)


I wish to say thank you to the Officer Commanding and the staff members for the commitment and dedication displayed by the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) during my difficulties. I would also like to say again thank you for the moral support you have shown to my family and me during the difficult time we went through. I would like to thank 15 SAI Bn members who were so close to her when she left forever and the members of the staff as well.

Let me tell you this, when days are dark friends are there. You were there for me. I quote Matthew 5.3:11: "Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. When I was unable to say anything, you said something to

me, you said talk will make it. When I was unable to stand up you enabled me to stand up and talk." It is good when God calls you today and finds you prepared to join Him in his Kingdom of Heaven, as she did when called by Him. It is more encouraging to see a good community like this giving moral support to anyone in this country, irrespective of colour, gender and race. I should also say thank you to Lt Bacio Romao from Mozambique who helped me when I was unable to stand and walk, while a cloud of darkness was over my sight. Your words will be remembered all the

time. Ms Thilivhali Eunice Mabange (Munyai), who died on 6 May 2007, died like a soldier on the battlefield. She will always be remembered by these words: "Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called sons of God. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven". Her service in the DOD will always be remembered at all times. May the Lord of Peace be with you in all your undertakings, daily tasks and in making your unit a peaceful and prosperous advanced unit. "A DZIMANA U LA MALOMBE MUKOSI A PHALALANA". WO2 T.D. Munyai and family, Pretoria 

502 SQUADRON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The annual Partner and Supplier's Tea of 502 Squadron was held on 21 February 2007 at 68 Air School. The aim of the tea was to open communication channels between members of the squadron, the suppliers and partners of the squadron. The Acting Officer Commanding 68 Air School, Lt Col T.P. Sethlare, was the guest of honour. The Officer Commanding 502 Squadron, Maj W.D.H. Abrahamse, thanked all present for their professional and excellent service during 2006. He said the squadron would never have been declared the Top Protection Squadron for 2006 without the support of its suppliers and partners. He also said the squadron would rely on the support of 68 Air School in 2007 and hoped greater heights could be achieved. He thanked the members of 502 Squadron for their support and commitment in striving for excellence. He reminded everybody about the squadron's slogan: *A Hi Kokeni Swinwe* - Let's Pull Together. The tea was concluded with a capability display by the canine section of 502 Squadron. The aim of this section is to strengthen the operational readiness of the squadron through guard and patrol duties for 68 Air School. Sgt G. Mtetwa, the Kennel Master, and his dog handlers were commended for the professional display of obedience, obstacle and attack work of their dogs. 502 Squadron currently has five dogs, all of which are operational and deployed after normal working hours. Lt R. Moonsamy, email 



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AN EXAMPLE OF THE PERFECT SOLDIER

Sgt Stoffel Booyesen was born in 1974 and attended the Swellendam High School. He joined the SADF at Eersterivier and completed his basic military training at 1 SA Cape Corps (SACC) Battalion in 1991 and was transferred to 21 SACC Bn as a driver for Bravo Company. He was deployed at various places in 1991 and 1992 and in 1993 was transferred to 6 Base Ordinance Depot. In October 1993 he was transferred to Group 2 Headquarters as a driver in the transport section where he remained until 1999. Later on he worked as an

accounting clerk and in 2004 was staffed as the transport non-commissioned officer. Since joining the SA Army Sgt Booyesen has accepted military discipline as a way of life and wherever he has gone he has been an excellent example of a disciplined and dedicated soldier. Neatness, loyalty, hard working, committed, are all words with which you can describe Sgt Booyesen. Wherever he has worked he has instilled these characteristics in his fellow soldiers, and this was recognised by the previous Officer Commanding of Group 2, Col Gert Heyns, who used to

describe him as an example of the perfect soldier. This same view is held by the present Officer Commanding, Lt Col Louis Hoffman, and the Group Sergeant Major, WO1 Monde Jayiya. We wish Sgt Booyesen all of the best for his future and may all young soldiers learn from men such as him to become excellent soldiers. **Sgt N.R. Ntame, Group 2** 



Sgt Stoffel Booyesen.

PASSAGE TO GERMANY

On 9 February 2007, while other people were preparing for the annual State of the Nation Address by the President at the Opening of Parliament, families and friends of the SAS DRAKENSBERG (DKB) crew gathered at the quayside to bid farewell to their loved ones as the DKB faced north. Once more DKB was tasked to escort a Type 209 submarine, SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE (CME), to South Africa.

On the passage to Germany the DKB paid diplomatic visits to Walvis Bay, Namibia and Luanda in Angola to strengthen the mutual relations between these countries. DKB received much good publicity, especially in Walvis Bay, and the public came in small groups to view the ship. The PRO on board, S Lt Sam Khasuli, and Padre Dukwana offered guided tours to the visiting groups.

A fourteen-day passage from Luanda via Brest in France took her to Germany and the DKB arrived in Emden, Germany, on 4 March 2007. The well awaited commissioning and naming ceremony of the last two SA Navy submarines took place in Emden on 14 March. Among the dignitaries from South Africa to attend the ceremony were the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, the South African Ambassador to Germany, Mr Moss Chikane, the Sponsor of S102, Mrs Mittah Seperepere, the Sponsor of S103, Mrs Rita Ndzanga, the Chairperson of the Armscor Board, Dr Popo Molefe, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm H. vE. Bester, and the Chief of Naval Staff,

R Adm M. Magalefa.


During the proceedings on the day of the commissioning, Mrs Seperepere unveiled the SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE and Mrs Ndzanga unveiled the SAS QUEEN MODJADJI.

Directly after the commissioning ceremony, preparations started for the long anticipated passage back to SA. The DKB, accompanied by the SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE, left Emden on 16 March for South Africa, via Rota in Spain.

The successes achieved during the deployment were varied, but one that was noteworthy was the progress of the Military Skills Development Members (MSDS) members on board. The MSDS Programme is a Government initiative to develop the youth of South Africa to become self-sustainable. On the passage to Germany the DKB had 34 members of the MSDS 06 intake on board. This is a clear indication that the MSDS Programme is indeed functioning effectively, because during the passage these members acquired various skills and exposure to the SA Navy. To mention

just a few skills: flight deck handling, quartermasters, ships husbandry, shooting, boat crew, cooking, etc. These are skills that they can utilise in the corporate world should they not get their contract renewed after their MSDS term.

"To be on board DKB while escorting CME to SA marks the highlight of my career because when I joined the Navy I never thought I would acquire so much exposure within a period of 16 months. Within a period of 4 months I have been to Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, France, Germany and Spain. This achievement really makes me happy because it is an experience that I will always cherish. I can now proudly say indeed that the SA Navy is not only a career, but an adventure," said an elated Sea Matsolo after the MSDS photograph was taken.

DKB came alongside on 24 April 2007. The historical significance of the day is that the DKB was launched on 24 April 1986, which makes her 21 years old, but she is still going strong. **S Lt Sam Khasuli, email** 



The MSDS members who were on board during OPERATION SIYAKHULA. (Photo: LS Martin Venter)

SANDF heading towards gender equity

By Capt Lesley Rakhibane

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, announced the appointment of eleven Brigadier Generals and two Rear Admirals (JG) on 25 June 2007. Making the announcement at a press conference held at Defence Headquarters, the Minister signalled the intention of the Department of Defence (DOD) to speed up the development of women during this second decade of freedom.

In a move aimed at eliminating gender disparities and to empower women, eight of the new Brigadier Generals are women. This brings the total number of women Generals to twenty-five in the SANDF. Thus far only one woman holds a higher rank than that - Major General Nontsikelelo Evelyn Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Services.

Since its inception the DOD has complied with the constitutional imperative on gender equity by promoting women to decision-making levels in the Department and also through the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of gender transformation.

"Although we pride ourselves on movement in this direction, we are many years away from this ideal. While there was increasing support for equity between men and women the goal of 50/50 representation is still a long way away," said the Minister.

"What is encouraging though is that there are 64 female colonels and 230 female lieutenant-colonels in the SANDF. The ranks are important because they provide the feeder for nominations of women for the general officer rank.



Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence.

"This is also a major advance over the old order where women - even white - were not given the equal status they deserved in government institutions."

Congratulating the new appointees, Mr Lekota said: "You are where you are because of your hard work. Although you were not aware of it, we were watching you. You have a paramount responsibility to motivate and inspire your juniors and lead them with love".

Appointees with new status

Women

Col Olga Thandiwe Nodola is appointed as Director Foreign Relations and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Col Winnie Ntombizodwa Zini-Bobelo is appointed as Chief of Staff (Chief Joint Operations) and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Col Nombulelo Flora Maphoyi is appointed as Director Counter-Intelligence Process and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 October 2007.

Col Helen Mmadiipone Zobane is appointed as Director Education, Training and Development (ETD) Policy & Doctrine and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 January 2008.

Col Nontobeko Mpaxa is appointed as General Officer Commanding SA Army Combat Training Centre and

promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 December 2007.

Col Yoliswa Joyce Mavumbe-Melapi is appointed as Director Logistics and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Col Laetitia Eksteen is appointed as Director Supply Support and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Col Eugenia Choene Moremi is appointed as General Officer Commanding Area Military Health Formation HQ and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Men

Col Sithembile Martin Mokhotu is appointed as Director Human Resources Acquisition and promoted to


the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 March 2008.

Col Mbulelo Mcetywa is appointed as Director Command & Control Systems and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 January 2008.

Col Anthony Patrick Staunton is appointed as Director Base Support Systems and promoted to the substantive rank of Brig Gen, wef 1 July 2007.

Capt (SAN) Mosiwa Samuel Hlongwane is appointed as Director Naval Policy & Doctrine and promoted

to the substantive rank of R Adm (JG), wef 1 April 2008.

Capt (SAN) Asiel Elias Kubu is appointed as Director Naval Personnel and promoted to the substantive rank of R Adm (JG), wef 1 July 2007. 

Talks on Security Sector Governance in Southern Africa

By **Lebohang Letaoana**

Photo: **F Sgt David Nomtshongwana**

The government of South Africa through the Ministry of Defence hosted a seminar with the delegates from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to discuss "Security Sector Governance in Southern Africa" in Pretoria on 16 May 2007.


DCAF is an international foundation with 48 member states, three of which are African, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and South Africa. DCAF's main divisions are Research and Operations. Its head office is in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established by the Swiss government in October 2000 and its mission is to promote good governance and reform of the security sector in accordance with democratic standards. The Centre conducts research on best practices, encourages the development of appropriate norms at the national and international level, makes policy recommendations and provides in-country advice and assistance programmes.

"The purpose of this seminar was to deepen the relationship between the DACF and the South African government. We have been the members of this organisation for the last five years. Besides deepening the relationship DCAF is also to try and have this organisation assist or provide support to us in South Africa concerning security sector issues. We have been involved in this regard in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi so our understanding is that if we have these internation-

al perspectives from them (DCAF), it will inform our participation in these processes and our participation at a higher level," said Mr Sivuyile Bam, the point of contact for SA, under the direction of Mr Tsepe Motumi, Deputy Director General of the SA Ministry of Defence and the country's representative at the DCAF Foundation Council.

The DCAF members were not only here for the seminar: they also launched their book, *Women in an Insecure World*. "We have tried in this book to bring the facts together. While we initially played with the idea of writing a book about gendercide that directly relates to our work, we soon came to the conclusion that this would be too narrow an approach. Studies that look at the multiple specific aspects of a problem in great detail are obviously very important. A compre-

hensive view of the issue is also sorely needed. The data must be seen in their totality for us to be able even to begin to understand what is going on. We hope that the facts, the figures and the analysis we have brought together in this volume will help to shake up the international community, mankind ie all of us. There cannot be any room for complacency in the face of slaughter, maiming, rape, degradation and social discrimination," said Dr (Ambassador) Theodor Winkler, Director DCAF, about the book.

17 and 18 May were reserved for intensive talks with the South African government, including in particular the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, as well as with parliamentarians, civil society actors and other potential partners. 



Fitr: Ms Ruby Marks, Chief Director Gender: Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr Marc Remillard, Programme Manager Parliamentary Staff Advisors Programme and Demobilisation and Re-integration Programme, Mr Tsepe Motumi, DOD Chief of Policy and Planning, Ambassador (Dr) Theodor Winkler, Director DCAF, Dr Adedeji Ebo, Senior Fellow Head of African Programme, and Ms Anja Ebnöther, Assistant Director and Head of Special Programmes.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The United Nations Information Centre, in collaboration with the South African National War College, hosted an impressive commemoration ceremony of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and the opening of a photo exhibition "Burundi: From Conflict to Peacebuilding" at the Tshwane Community Library and Information Services at the Sammy Marks Building in Pretoria on 29 May.

After the hearty welcome from the programme director, Mr Masimba Tafirenyika, Public Information Officer, the SA National Ceremonial Guard presented a guard of honour after which wreaths were laid and a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of our potent advocates of peace who laid down their lives for a worthy cause in the service of humanity. Maj Gen Vusumuzi Sindane, Chief of Military Policy, Strategy and Planning, officiated at the service.

Addressing those who attended the ceremony, Ms Margaret Novicki, Director UN Info Centre, said that it

was a day to pay tribute to those peacekeepers - military, police and civilian who had given their lives in the cause of peace in troubled spots around the world. She emphasised that it was also a day to celebrate the achievements of the hundreds of thousands of peacekeepers who served and continued to serve the UN with distinction and sacrifice.

"We cannot possibly measure their vast contributions to peace around the world other than in very simple human terms - a child's life saved by removing landmines, the hope and joy restored to parents as their demobilised ex-combatant son or daughter is returned to them, the gratitude of a community as a new school is built to replace the one destroyed by war. Peacekeepers do all these things and so much more to turn around the fate of countries ravaged by years of civil war and to reignite hope in countless shattered lives," she said. She applauded the South African government for its contribution to the United Nations Operation in Burundi (UNOB) and for supporting efforts to help restore lasting peace in Burundi and to bring about national reconciliation.

In conclusion she delivered a tribute from the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon: "As we mourn those we have


lost, we pay tribute to the dedication, professionalism and courage of those who are carrying on the proud legacy of our fallen comrades in 18 peace operations on four continents".

"Peacekeepers ensure that refugees and displaced persons can return to their homes, that ex-combatants are disarmed and reintegrated into society, that children are taken off the battlefield and sent to school, that people exercise their right to vote in democratic elections, that indi-

vidual human rights are protected, not violated by police forces and judicial systems and that fields and forests are de-mined so that they can be used to sustain life, instead of triggering death. On this international day of UN Peacekeepers, I pay tribute to all the men and women serving in our operations. Your work is a source of pride for the UN every day of the year."

Also addressing the gathering, Ms Jacqueline Nijembazi, First Counsellor from the Embassy of the Republic of Burundi, expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the international community since the beginning of the peace process in Burundi. She said that Burundi had regained peace in all of its territory and Burundians were grateful for the support in terms of equipment and logistics in preparation for elections. It was the end of the transition period and the construction of social and economic infrastructures, like roads, health centres, etc.

"The Government of Burundi is grateful for the military, political and diplomatic support from which it benefited during the UNOB mandate. We are particularly proud of the successful experience of "Camp Espoir" (Camp of Hope) which is unique in the world, and where the former Burundian Army Forces and the Democratic Defence Force (former rebel movement) fought before the integration process into the National Defence Force."

Maj Gen Sindane said the SANDF was determined to achieve the objectives set by the international community under the auspices of the UN to bring about prosperity, development and to promote peace and stability. "Today marks the commemoration of the loss of the lives of men and women who laid down their lives for a worthy cause. This is an important day for us to celebrate and commemorate as we grieve for the loss of our potent advocates of peace. We acknowledge their contribution." 



Maj Gen Vusumuzi Sindane paying his respects and laying a wreath.

SA and the Netherlands sign SOFA Agreement

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The South African delegation led by the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands led by Ms Geeskelien Wolters, the Chargé d' Affaires of the Netherlands, and Ambassador Ed Craanen, the Special Envoy of the Netherlands for Africa, came together at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria for the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) on 8 June 2007.

At the signing ceremony the parties talked about the status of military and civilian personnel of their Departments


or Ministries of Defence present in each other's countries for activities related to military co-operation.

The SA Minister of Defence and his delegation warmly and wholeheartedly welcomed the Netherlands delegation and expressed the relationship between the two parties as cordial and excellent. During the signing of the SOFA Agreement Mr Lekota said: "The contribution of the Netherlands government is tangible evidence and a true manifestation of the growing partnership between our two countries in bringing peace and stability to our region". He added that the SA DOD recalled the financial contributions from the Netherlands government for humanitarian assistance and aid in

Mozambique, which had been hit by severe floods during Operation FIBRE in Burundi in 2001.

In her response, Ms Wolters said that South Africa was playing an important role in peace processes on the African continent, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. She added that in both countries South Africa was making a major contribution to the peace agreements. The Netherlands has since 2001 assisted South Africa in its role of peacemaking on the African continent. Both countries have been co-operating for several years, both politically and financially.

Ms Wolters added that this signing ceremony was taking place during the visit of two authorities from the Netherlands, Ambassador Craanen, the Special Envoy of the Netherlands for Africa, and General Rob Veltman, the Assistant Chief of Staff for International Military Co-operation. The Netherlands' visit to South Africa was a clear indication that the Netherlands supported South Africa in its efforts to bring peace to the African continent.

In conclusion Ms Wolters said: "South Africa and the Netherlands are at the start of a new project. Today we sign another contract with the SA DOD for a financial contribution of ZAR 8.5 million for the deployment of South African troops in Burundi for the protection of returning members of the FNL. The FNL is the last group to join the peace agreement." 



Ms Geeskelien Wolters, the Chargé d' Affaires of the Netherlands (left), and Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, SA Minister of Defence, shake hands after exchanging the terms of reference, which they signed during the SOFA Agreement in Pretoria.

SANDF Spouses Forum gathers

By Lebohlag Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA National Defence Force (SANDF) Spouses Forum under the leadership of Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, wife of Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF, hosted its quarterly meeting and luncheon at the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) in Pretoria on 9 June 2007.

Ms Ngwenya initiated this forum in 2005 to raise funds for charity and social support. The forum members donate clothes and toys to various institutions, such as 1 Military Hospital.

"Since June is the Month for Youth this meeting is dedicated to the well-being of children who are faced with difficult challenges, such as drug abuse and HIV/AIDS," said Ms Gail Mokoape, wife of Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, Chief Director Army Reserves.


The delegates had the opportunity to tour the CAT and were impressed with the training facilities.

The Officer Commanding, Col Sithabiso Mahlobo, said he was hon-



Col Sithabiso Mahlobo, Officer Commanding of the Centre for Advanced Training, conducting an inside tour of the training centre.

oured to receive the Generals' wives in his unit because they were the ones behind every decision taken by their better halves.

The programme ended on a high note - singing by the Mozambican Defence Force members on course at CAT. 

Closing down of Winburg Commando

By Lt Col Diederick Reinecke,
Group 24 HQ

With the recent closing down of the Winburg Commando at the Voortrekker Monument, almost 171 years of history has ended. A touching closing ceremony and medal parade were held in Pretoria in May 2007 to pay tribute to the oldest commando in the Free State - and one of the oldest in the country.


The closing down ceremony also created an opportunity for a nostalgic retrospect of more than one and a half centuries of the commando existence. The last words of Lt Col Bernard Maree, the last Officer in Command of Winburg Commando, were: "We cannot forget our old members. Each and every bivouac, training camp and

other camps will never be forgotten and will continue to exist for years to come and be part of our conversations," he said. He also thanked the former officers in command for the "passion and responsibility" with which they had managed the commando over the years.

He also expressed his appreciation to the active members who had frequently put the community's interests above their own priorities and objectives. He concluded: "And so will this event also be noted in the history books." (On 21 August 2003 Lt Col Maree was appointed as the Officer in Command.)

The Winburg Commando was established in 1836 and Andries Pretorius was appointed as the first Officer in Command. On 8 March 1848 the Orange Free State was divided into three commando regions: the Winburg

Commando, Caledon Commando and Bloemfontein Commando. A lot of other Free State commandos were established after this. The above-mentioned three commandos consisted of volunteers, although they were compensated by the government for their services in past years. The Winburg Commando participated in many field battles during its existence. The Winburg Commando included a big area between the Orange and Vaal Rivers.

Until its closure the main goal of Winburg Commando was to ensure that its area of responsibility was safe and habitable. Initially the commando should have closed down last year, but because of what the commando had accomplished, it was decided to close it down this year. 

Bravo to retired flag officers of our Navy

Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

VAdm Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, hosted a farewell function for the recently retired SA Navy flag officers at Naval Mess in Pretoria on 2 May 2007. R Adm Rolf Hauter, Chief Director Maritime Strategy, R Adm (JG) Bryan Donkin, Director Military Strategy Chief of Corporate Staff, and R Adm (JG) Gert Engelbrecht, Director Performance Audit Inspector General: DOD, bade farewell to the SA Navy and the Department.

The Chief of the SA Navy said that it was difficult to accept that the SA Navy and the DOD as a whole had lost people with vast experience. Since 1994 these officers had been elected to assist in personnel transformation and

other areas that needed to be transformed.


"They started building a new chapter of the Navy with us. We wish that they could stay longer, but in life sometimes you have to move on to create opportunities for others and for yourselves. I am comfortable as the Chief of the SA Navy knowing very well that every task assigned to these officers was carried out. The other thing that gave me joy was the positive comments that I received from other Services about the work done by these officers. We are here today to celebrate the achievements of these officers.

"It is not surprising to find today that in South Africa there are people who still do not know about the SA Navy and its role. People might not know what these members did; it is our responsibility as the military to highlight the contributions these

members made. We need to talk and write about the SA Navy personnel: that way we teach the 'outside world' about the Navy and its responsibilities and achievements. People need to have a better understanding of the SA Navy," said V Adm Mudimu.

V Adm Mudimu urged writers to write more about military issues and to educate the general public about the difference between SA Navy personnel and ordinary citizens.

He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the women who stood behind these officers. "By supporting your husbands during thick and thin in their careers in the Navy you have made a difference and for that we will be forever grateful."

To the delight of everyone present at the farewell function, the retired SA Navy flag officers reminisced about the good and the bad days in their careers. 



Fltr: R Adm Rolf Hauter, Chief Director Maritime Strategy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, R Adm (JG) Bryan Donkin, Director Military Strategy Chief of Corporate Staff, and R Adm (JG) Gert Engelbrecht, Director Performance Audit Inspector General: DOD, at the farewell function.

Anti-corruption and Anti-fraud Prevention Conference

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

As part of the Department of Defence's (DOD) attempt to fight corruption and fraud in the organisation the Inspector General of the DOD (IG DOD), Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, hosted the DOD Anti-corruption and Anti-fraud Prevention Conference in Pretoria in April 2007. The Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, led the proceedings with prayer and Scripture reading.



Mr Tsepe Motumi, the Chief of Policy and Planning, officially opens the conference.

The Chief of Policy and Planning, Mr Tsepe Motumi, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, opened the conference officially by welcoming members of the DOD, special guests and all the delegates from other sectors of society. He said there was also a lot of corruption in the private sector and that Government and other entities needed to ensure that we dealt with fraud and corruption prevention. He added that to protect our resources it should be possible to identify cases of fraud and corruption. "We need to implement appropriate measures to curb fraud and corruption and strive for a Department that is free of fraud and corruption," said Mr Motumi.

The IG DOD received overwhelming support from the Public Service Commission, the National Anti-corruption Forum, law enforcement agencies, the public, private and civil society sectors. Attending the conference were DOD PSAP members, the Acting Chief of the SANDF, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima (Chief of Human Resources), the Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief Director of Military Health Force Support, Maj Gen Lifeni Make, Chief Defence Legal Services, Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, the Chief of the Military Police Agency, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, and the Inspector Generals from all Services.

The theme of the conference was: "DOD Free of Corruption and Fraud". Several experts were invit-

ed to participate in the conference to discuss issues and the dimensions of corruption and fraud, and there were thought-provoking deliberations as all the speakers and participants had important inputs, points and resolutions to make. Mr Peter Goss, Director Forensic Services of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, was the main conference facilitator, and other guest speakers included Commissioner Koko Mashigo from the Public Service Commission and Ruan Kitshoff from the Department of Public Service and Administration.

Some of the issues discussed

- Maladministration
- Abuse of power
- Use of State resources for personal gain
- Dishonesty and improper dealings regarding public money
- Improper enrichment through an act or failure to act by members of the DOD
- Supplying of inferior goods or services
- Embezzlement
- Conflict of interests, omission of duties, abuse of privileged information, financial misconduct, nepotism, abuse of electronic communications and supplying falsified kilometre readings for vehicles, etc.

In concluding the conference Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg, on behalf of the Acting Chief of the SANDF, said that the purpose had been to gain insight into the views and experiences of DOD personnel in regard to fraud and corruption, and how to prevent these. He added that it was through



Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, the Inspector General DOD, welcomes delegates to the IG DOD Anti-corruption and Anti-fraud Prevention Conference.

this conference that the Department demonstrated its determination to help the South African nation root out corruption and fraud. "This conference must therefore be seen as a consultative process conducted by the DOD as part of Government's attempt to determine the measures that must be taken to curb fraud. The challenge placed upon the Department is always to get to the bottom of the story and assist the forces of the justice system to root out this evil practice," said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

He concluded by thanking the delegates who took part in the conference for their meaningful participation. "I want to assure you that your inputs will help us formulate the required strategy to end the source of corruption and fraud within our midst."

Evaluation

SA Soldier interacted with some of

the attendees who aired their views of and attitudes towards the conference. The following views are worth mentioning:

** The attendees expressed a positive attitude towards the IG DOD and they felt that a conference and workshop of this nature should have an effect all the way down to the lowest sectors of society to protect the poor and the weak from the corrupt practices of those in positions of power.*

The IG DOD said that deliberations and resolutions at this conference had helped a great deal and the DOD had gained much more insight into the establishment of an effective corruption and fraud prevention strategy in the DOD. He added that resolutions made at this conference would not remain paper resolutions, but were going to be presented to the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC).

Here follows some questions addressed to the IG DOD:

Corruption and fraud are serious problems not only in the DOD, but in our country generally. Which channels must the broader society follow to report any irregularities?

IG DOD: "Government cannot function effectively if the public

believes that its officials are corrupt. The Public Service Commission has established the National Anti-corruption Hotline for use in the respective national, provincial and local governments to help the public report corruption and fraud."


What can you say to those members of the DOD who are afraid to be victimised or dismissed for reporting corruption, especially in cases where senior managers are involved? What protection do they have as whistle-blowers?

IG DOD: "There is the Protected Disclosure Act (Act 26 of 2000). This Act provides protection for those who make disclosures about any form of corruption or irregularity, and the DOD undertakes to protect the identity of all whistle-blowers."

Contact details

The following facilities are available for reporting criminal activities, corruption and fraud. (Your identity when you report corruption, fraud or any irregularity will not be revealed.):

- Fraud hotline: 0800 767 323
- Telephone: (012) 312 4859
- Facsimile: (012) 312 4999
- Email facility: sosdaf@tiscali.co.za
- Postal address:

Defence Inspectorate (DOD),
Directorate Anti-corruption and
Anti-fraud, Private Bag X671,
Pretoria, 0001 



Fltr: Maj Gen Mxolisi Petane, Inspector General DOD, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, and Mr Peter Goss, Director Forensic Services of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, at the conference.

The SANDF provides support to the nation

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Elias Mahuma

"Since 1994 there has not been such a large internal deployment," revealed the Mission Commander for Operation BATA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse (General Officer Commanding Mobile Military Health Formation). Speaking to *SA Soldier* Brig Gen Oelofse stated that through Operation BATA the SANDF had shown the ability to support another State department.

He also related just how much the strikers were against the deployed military members all geared to help out, going as far as to call them "strike breakers", but added that our members stood firm and conducted themselves as professional soldiers.

Operation BATA took off on 1 June 2007 when the SANDF was requested to provide support to the Health Department during the wage strike by the public service workers. "The initial request was for support in KwaZulu-Natal and in the Eastern Cape ... because it was thought that at that stage those were the two places most affected by the strike," the Mission Commander explained. The request soon changed as the strike worsened and there emerged a new demand for the military to




The Mission Commander for Operation BATA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse, speaks to *SA Soldier*.

deploy in each and every province of the country.

"At the height of the strike from 12 to 16 June we had the most people deployed with over 5 000 members deployed in about 89 different hospitals," he added. Categories such as nursing personnel, emergency care ordinance, so-called "general assistants" who perform duties such as cleaning, laundry, kitchen and porters became the most needed personnel. "We had some members working on the hospital switchboard," continued Brig Gen Oelofse.

"Then the police also requested the SANDF to assist with security and the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Navy made available members who were then posted to the hospitals to render static security elements to make sure that the infrastructure was protected and that people who worked and patients were protected from intimidation."

The strike has since officially been called off, so as part of the DOD demobilisation policy the last of the deployed members were expected to have reported back to their respective units within the indicated time frame. "Members who were deployed during Operation BATA are now entitled to four days' official deployment leave within the next six months," Brig Gen Oelofse said. "As the Mission Commander I feel that all our people who were deployed in all the different areas did us proud. They worked very hard, sometimes under very difficult circumstances!" It is also the General's view that this has shown the people of South Africa that we are not just a Defence Force of aircraft and big ships, but also an SANDF for the people. "We showed to our people that we were there for them and that we could react in no time to adverse conditions." 

Protecting human rights

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Providing media coverage on SANDF members deployed at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, affectionately known as "Bara" to most South Africans, has got to be one of my most intense experiences yet. "Bara" Hospital is the largest hospital in Africa with about 88 patient wards, but the unforeseen and unpredictable public service national strike brought the enormous institute to a virtual standstill.

The wage dispute between the "Government" and "workers" who put



Col Gustave Erlank, Officer Commanding 8 Medical Battalion, deployed at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto speaks to *SA Soldier*.

Doing it for the nation.

down tools and went on protest marches meant that all things stopped moving. Heeding the call to provide damage control the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) deployed most of its members to public hospitals where the sick were left in dire straits.

SA Soldier's visit on 19 June 2007 to 8 Medical Battalion Unit erected inside "Bara" Hospital grounds in response to the state of emergency is probably the closest I will ever come to a scenario

overflowing with casualties, like the battlefield makeshift hospitals I have seen so often in movies.

The Officer Commanding 8 Medical Battalion, Col Gustave Erlank, told the SA Soldier team that on an average day the hospital has around 2 000 bed patients. On the day that we visited, the number had dropped to 1 100. "The maternity ward was the busiest section all along," according to the Officer in Charge, who added that the maternity and gynaecology wards were the biggest in terms of space, volume and demand, with almost 50 "normal" births a day, excluding the caesarean section patients.

8 Medical Battalion had already seen two weeks of deployment by 19 June 2007, with a total of 117 staff members working two twelve-hour shifts, around the clock.

"We are handling this as a military operation even though we are giving health support to the hospital," he added. "We have an Operations Room where we receive requirements from the hospital on what personnel and medical assistance is needed in the wards."

The unit members also transported the dead from the ward to the morgue. "Most of the work is concerned with casualties," Col Erlank continued.

>> on page 20

Right: Three soldiers hold a short discussion before making their way into the maternity and gynaecology wards - also said to be the most demanding areas of the operation.



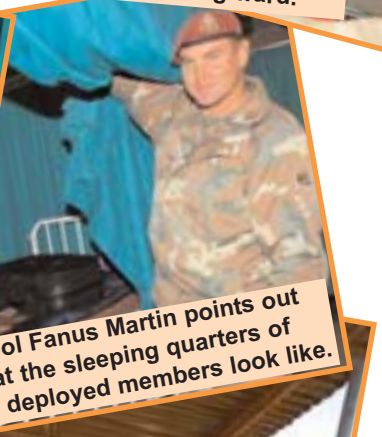
The Operations Room: Every morning begins with the mapping out of a daily plan.



Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members from the SAMHS Training Formation in Pretoria prepare for a day's work before leaving the women's sleeping ward.



Cleaning up - "Cleanliness is next to Godliness".



Lt Col Fanus Martin points out what the sleeping quarters of the deployed members look like.



Cpl Patricia Khumalo helps to wheel a patient.



Two soldiers walking an admitted patient to a different ward with the hope of finding one more vacant bed.



Cpl Patricia Khumalo and S Sgt Agnes Tladi see to a patient in the admissions ward.



Pte Linhle Langa sorts out the dirty laundry.

>> from page 19

"There was also a big need for the laundry to get done and a lot of effort was also put into the kitchens. The medical health core function is to look after people and to see to it that people's well-being is taken care of, but we have also got psychologists and social workers to work with my members on a daily basis." The deployed team included Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and older serving members new to an extreme experience of this nature.

"We are handling this as an operation, strictly with command and control elements," Col Erlank said. "We also had 44 infantry soldiers under command, who were responsible mainly for the security."


"The communication and support we received from the hospital staff and patients were very good. They appreciated what the members of the SANDF were doing. They did not know that the military was made up of so many Services and Divisions."

With compassion he said: "This was not for ourselves. It was for the people that we were doing it".

Special thanks to Lt Col Fanus Martin, Maj Steve Masipa and Maj Molefe Rapoo who, despite the disparity of the situation and the stressful working conditions, drove the SA Soldier team around the different points of the hospital, patiently informing us about their work.



Members transport two toddlers from the children's ward into the theatre.

Indeed! We witnessed members of the SANDF, visibly and with conviction, protecting the constitutional rights of fellow countrymen: free health service in a democratic South Africa. 

ATE hosts ENSP

By Lorris Duncker, Director: Business Development

ATE was honoured to have been able to support Brig Gen E. Mann, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College (SANDC), by providing an Industry Input to the curriculum of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) No 15/07.

The SANDC is the most senior education and training facility in the Department of Defence (DOD) and the SA Civil Service. It focuses on the study of national strategy and security and the management of national strategic policies and issues.

The aim of the ENSP is to prepare selected officers and officials in the rank group Brigadier General/Colonel/civilian equivalent for appointment to top-level posts in the DOD and at national level. The ENSP consists of 36 programme members from the DOD, other State departments and international representatives from Belgium, Germany, Egypt, Ghana, Rwanda, Burundi and Botswana.

ATE used this opportunity on 26 March 2007 to present itself as a South African registered, private and independent defence company. ATE specialises as an *Integrator of Mission Systems* in the fields of fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, unmanned air vehicles (UAV) and land vehicles. The *Integration of Mission Systems* is

categorised as follows:

- Integration of new mission systems in new platforms (typically a new avionics system in a new aircraft).
- Integration of new mission systems on old platforms (typically upgrades of earlier generation helicopters and land vehicles with new weapons/logistics system).
- Development of completely new mission systems (typically UAVs).


The invited ENSP group viewed the ATE facilities, and in particular the HAWK Avionics Integration Benches, the upgraded Russian Mi-24 Helicopter (Superhind MK III) and the VULTURE Tactical UAV System of the SA Army. As an ISO 9001 company that was recently awarded the accolade of Technology Top 100 Company, ATE stressed the need for Africa to address the military needs of the African continent. The upgrade of existing equipment, including spares, training and logistics, has already been put in place. This is often the more cost-effective option of satisfying military needs than the procurement of modern and expensive foreign equipment.

With this end in view the Superhind III Helicopter was presented to the ENSP as a platform upon which has been integrated a 20 mm turreted cannon, night vision equipment, INGWE anti-tank missiles (5 km range), and chaff and flare dispensers. The existing Russian based logistic support package was transformed into a Western based, comput-

erised logistics package so as to make the helicopter system more adaptable to countries operating Western equipment.

ATE recommitted itself to having the SANDF and Armscor as its prime local customers and presented the following two local programmes to the ENSP:

- The HAWK (lead-in fighter trainer) Navigation and Weapon System (24 aircraft) with the hardware ATE successfully developed and certified, namely the complete Software System (audited by BAE Systems). This is the first time that South Africa has embarked on the certification of flight critical software and the development of new software of this complexity and magnitude (one million lines of code).
- The VULTURE Tactical UAV System capable of performing target acquisition, fall-off-shot detection and artillery fire correction for the SA Army. It is a fully automated system from launch, through flight, and includes recovery. This system additionally offers the capability of performing reconnaissance during the day and night at a 200 km range.

It was indeed a privilege for ATE to have received the ENSP and the SANDC and ATE look forward to continuing their relationship with the DOD. 

Africa Public Service Day

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

In response to the call by the Minister for Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, to select 18 to 22 June 2007 as Public Service Week, the Premier of the North West Province, Ms Edna Molewa, together with the MEC's and other Government officials gathered at the Mafikeng Embassy Hall in the North West Province to celebrate Africa Public Service Day and the launch of Public Service Week on 18 June 2007.

The theme of the occasion was "Promoting Good Governance, with Emphasis on Anti-corruption and Ethics". In her opening address Minister Fraser-Moleketi explained to the invited guests what it meant to be a public servant and what public service was. She stated unequivocally that public service was a calling and a responsibility. She added that humility towards the needy was the greatest attribute of a civil servant.

The Premier of the North West


Province said that when we speak of the people we are speaking about the nobility of the public service. "As our theme - 'Promoting Good Governance, with Emphasis on Anti-corruption and Ethics' - public service is about good governance, and that begins with compliance with our own policies, processes and procedures," said Ms Molewa.

The Public Service Week is an integral part of an ongoing revitalisation of the Batho Pele (People First) campaign, which is aimed at building a greater sense of morale and pride in public servants' endeavours to translate the people's contract into reality through the provision of quality services.

The DOD is compelled, like all other Government institutions, to contribute towards youth development and to invest in the future generation for the SANDF. Also present from the DOD was Mr Phillemon Motsepe, Deputy Director HR Governance, and Ms Buyiswa Nkunjana, Assistant Director HR Governance.

The main attraction of the day was the DOD/SANDF career exhibition, which also featured the SA Air Force Siyandiza Programme (We Are Flying)

and the SANDF Reserves (SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and SAMHS) as part of the DOD's campaign to uplift our youth. The purpose of the exhibition was to recruit and expose the young, inspired and motivated South African youth and members of the public to consider the DOD as the Employer of Choice and to inform them about career opportunities and options available in the DOD/SANDF.

Young people were thrilled by the military exhibition and Siyandiza aviation awareness programme. For those intending to follow careers as air traffic controllers, pilots, navigators or engineers in the SA Air Force, the Siyandiza Aviation Awareness Programme came to their rescue. The Siyandiza Programme is also introduced to the youth during schools visits, air displays and major science and technology career exhibitions in various provinces in South Africa. Another programme for Siyandiza is the Young Falcons Development Initiative where learners who are interested in aviation can be selected. It is recommended that learners should have passed Physical Science and Mathematics to be eligible. 



CO Queen Letlhage (left) and CO Emmanuel Rametse manning the expo of the SA Air Force Siyandiza Programme.

DOD *Employer of Choice*

By Defence Corporate
Communication: Defence TV crew
Photos: Rudi Coertzen

The DOD Human Resource Strategy 2010 has identified several strategic issues that hamper the SANDF's meeting operational commitments as instructed in the Constitution.

Without young skilled human resources, the Department of Defence (DOD) will not fulfil its constitutional operational obligations. The timely recruitment of young healthy recruits equipped with the appropriate skills and qualifications will greatly depend on the successful implementation of an integrated marketing strategy and marketing communication at various levels.

Defence Corporate Communication

(DCC), specifically Communication Support, therefore embarked on a two year Military Skills Development System (MSDS) marketing campaign in support of the DOD Human Resource Strategy 2010. The MSDS is a mechanism that supports the Strategy which seeks to assist in rejuvenating the SANDF by providing training and skills development opportunities. The aim of the campaign is to profile the DOD as the *Employer of Choice* in order to recruit suitable members for the MSDS and other difficult mustering.

The objective of the campaign includes creating awareness of the DOD, promoting the DOD as the *Employer of Choice* and, last but not least, instilling that feeling of being proud to be a member of the DOD, specifically among own forces. Corporate Communication Support (Defence TV and Visual

... Advertising Campaign.

Communication) followed a multimedia approach to combine the full weight of the advertising techniques and multimedia options available to reach the target audience. The campaign comprises both radio and television advertisements supported by printed material, such as posters, pull-out banners, leaflets, DVDs on careers, bus and taxi advertisements, billboards, "mix-it", and regional print media. The television advertisements will also be broadcast on in-flight media on commercial airlines, tour buses and at shows and exhibitions.

Linked with Government's Programme of Action, the campaign




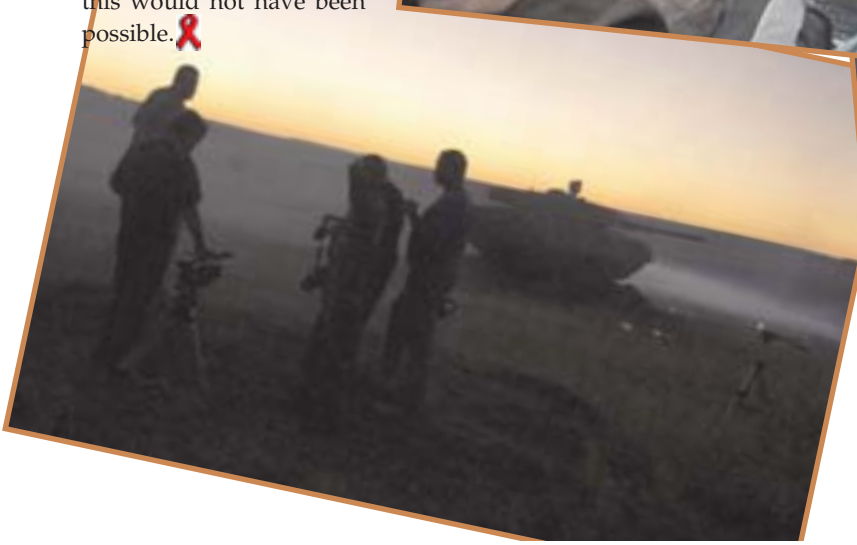
Cindy Ludick, Defence TV Executive Producer, in conversation with Etienne Nesor, Director of Photography B-Hive, during the shooting of TV commercials at Naval Base Simon's Town.



kicked off in June 2007, which was Youth Month. It was for this reason that Defence TV visited bases across the country over the period 7 to 18 May 2007 to produce these TV adverts, while at the same time gathering stills. This was history in the making, as it has never been done before.

Apart from a few obstacles here and there, all four Services gave their co-operation, which enabled the Defence TV crew to complete the production in the record time of two weeks. These advertisements are being broadcast at present on national TV and radio stations. They are also accessible on the DOD Intranet at: <http://cdcc.mil.za:8080/> and the DOD website at: www.careers.mil.za.

Defence Corporate Communication would like to thank all the Services for their excellent co-operation during the making of these adverts, as without their support and co-operation this would not have been possible. 



The future belongs to those that persevere

By Nomonde Vuthela
 Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Demystifying a vice makes it less intriguing. Exposing a deed kills all the excitement for those that are still planning to experiment! Somehow a word-for-word narrative from someone "who's been there and done that" flattens the anticipation of an adventure. So when a senior ranking officer in the Department of Defence gets up on stage and starts talking about alcohol

and drug abuse, goodness! What a blow to great fun.

SA Soldier provided extensive coverage of the June 2007 National Youth Month. Included in the media coverage were two separate gatherings hosted by the Director of Transformation in the SA Navy, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile



R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, Director of Transformation in the SA Navy, celebrating National Youth Month.



Young sailors from the SA Navy commemorate National Youth Month in Cape Town.



Able Seaman Noxolo Jaji encourages her counterparts to make better choices.

Litchfield-Tshabalala, in honour of all the young people serving in the DOD.

The first of the occasions was the SA Navy Youth Celebrations commemorated at Parrow in Cape Town on 13 June, later followed by an event held in recognition of all the young members of the DOD at the Pretoria Naval Mess on 21 June. At both events R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala repeatedly emphasised that daily decisions determine destiny. She was also of the view that young people needed to be told and reassured them that adverse experiences do not automatically mean failure and that no matter what the experience, one could still

move forward.

"I drank only over the weekends, but would drink heavily to make up for the five days I stayed sober," she admitted. "I did matric twice, but today I'm studying for my Ph.D. and nobody remembers that I did matric twice."

"The future belongs to those who dream it: it does not belong to those who sit in their failures," she said, adding: "I didn't always have it together." R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala told the youngsters that the DOD was only interested in a person's mentality. Using as an illustration the Biblical tale of the fight


"Know who you are and understand your traditions,"

says R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala

between David (a shepherd boy) and Goliath (a giant), she urged her audience to be like David who was not threatened by Goliath's physical appearance, but instead chose to view his opponent as a target he couldn't possibly miss.

"Know who you are and understand your traditions," she stated, implying that self-assurance begins from within after one has found self-acceptance. She expressed the view that it did not matter whether one liked one's roots, culture, religion or history because at the end of the day the fact remained that all of it would still have an impact on the person.

"I was raised as a Litchfield and, in order to understand my strengths and weaknesses, I took both the good and the bad that came with my name." She explained to her listeners that "visions" or "dreams" for a better future should stem from thorough introspection and honesty. Stressing that a dream on its own is not enough, she said: "What I believe will determine my expectations".

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, made a guest appearance at both occasions and encouraged young employees to occupy each moment with constructive thoughts for a healthy self-image. 

National Youth Health Indaba

By Lethube Phasha


Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Department of Health held its annual National Youth Health Indaba and recruitment drive in Kimberley from 25 to 29 June 2007. More than 500 learners came and really enjoyed the exhibitions.

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, was invited to deliver a speech on the first day at the opening gala dinner. Mr George spoke about 16 June 1976 and highlighted its significance in the struggle for the emancipation of the people of our country. He also urged the youth of today to uphold the values that are in line with liberated people, so that they should remain indebted to the youth of yesteryear and look to their achievements.

The Deputy Minister of Defence quoted Franklin Roosevelt: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future". He added: "The DOD wants to become *the Employer of Choice* to young people; and not as a last resort for unemployed youth."

On the morning of 27 June learners from in and around Kimberley were collected and taken to 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment where they were given presentations on careers in the DOD and also a chance to ask all the questions they had about the Department as a whole. Then they were whisked off to 3 SAI Bn where they had the pleasure of seeing Lt J. van Rooyen, a military pentathlon champion, in action. The learners also looked at the exhibitions in town and climbed onto some Ratels

that were on display. The day was very fruitful as most of the learners were not aware of the many careers the SANDF offered. For most of them this was a day that was out of the ordinary and full of essential knowledge: knowledge they could definitely use to their advantage. 



The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, delivered his speech at the opening gala dinner during the National Youth Health Indaba.



Learners from Kimberley, with SANDF members, having a taste of the military.

Forging defence ties

By Lt Col Catherine Rabotapi
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Today's environment is characterised by growing interdependence among countries, which necessitates that states have robust bilateral and multilateral relations across the world.

It is, therefore, noteworthy to mention that capable and dedicated young officers make up a sizeable component of the human resource element and perform the bulk of the tasks allocated to the Section Rest of World at Defence Foreign Relations. Were it not for their efforts and commitment, relations with armed forces outside Africa and the Middle East would not be as sound as they are at present.

SO1 Americas

"It is very challenging to work at DFR because it is where one learns about the bilateral relations we have with foreign countries and also the involvement of the SANDF in multinational exercises," said Lt Col Catherine Rabotapi, SO1 Americas. She has been working at DFR since 1 July 2003 under Section Rest of World. "My responsibilities are to provide overall management and co-ordination of all DOD/SANDF foreign relations representatives in the Americas and through liaison with armed forces representatives in the RSA. When foreign military representatives visit the DOD it is my duty to accompany them and arrange/appoint a suitable SANDF representative to assist. I am also responsible for arranging all visits to foreign countries (Major General and lower) in collaboration with the Services, Divisions, DFA and foreign representatives," concluded Lt Col Rabotapi.

SO2 Europe


Her colleague Maj Prince Masinga, SO2 Europe, had this to say about working at DFR: "I learn everyday from my work experiences and the people I am surrounded with at all times". He

was born at Winterveldt, near Mabopane, and grew up at Madidi Village in North West near the border of Gauteng. He joined the SANDF in 1995 and did his Basic Military Course at SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

"I was a Non-commissioned Officer (Cpl) for three years and thereafter became an officer in 1998. In 1999 I commenced with my studies at the Military Academy in Saldanha, studying Human Sciences, and then graduated in 2002. I was then transferred to the Infantry Formation HQ in Pretoria where I served for three months. I then applied for a post at Defence Foreign Relations and was successful and staffed as SO3 Europe. I started working as SO3 Europe in March 2003. My tasks and responsibilities are to monitor, co-ordinate and assist in bilateral relations between the RSA and European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and France, etc. I arrange official visits, military exercises, defence committee meetings, conferences, etc. I also have over and above tasks, such as being the Soccer World Cup 2010 rep, Batho Pele rep, Security for Info and Systems rep, and Corporate Identity Co-ordinator. DFR is a wonderful environment, but also challenging and stressful at times. It requires personal sacrifice, devotion,

commitment, patience and a sense of humour. I have an opportunity to serve, interact and liaise with senior SANDF officials and foreigners alike.

SO3 Australasia

Capt Betty Thobela SO3 Australasia, joined Defence Foreign Relations on 2 May 2002. "When I joined the DFR the directorate had just moved from Defence Intelligence and I am one of the members who built DFR, as one knows it today. I was still a Lieutenant when I came here," said Capt Thobela. "Working at DFR has taught me a lot about myself and about the organisation. It has taught me to think on my feet, always have a plan B, to plan, to be inquisitive (in a good way), to do proper research, to read as much as one can about other countries that are of importance to the RSA and to be a workaholic. DFR has also taught me a lot about defence diplomacy, interaction with other government departments and working hand in hand with members of foreign defence forces. It also allows one to understand our co-operation with other countries and to make sure that the signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) are serviced for the benefit of the SANDF. DFR is the only Division where we are kept up to date with SANDF activities as they relate to other countries. 



Fltr: Lt Col Catherine Rabotapi, SO1 Americas, Maj Prince Masinga, SO2 Europe, and Capt Betty Thobela, SO3 Australasia.

2007 SA Joint Air Defence Symposium

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma

Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo

The 2007 South African Joint Air Defence Symposium (SAJADS) was held at the CSIR International Conference Centre in Pretoria from 30 to 31 May 2007. This prestigious military event was organised and co-hosted by the SANDF and Armscor.

This biennial event had the theme: "The establishment and maintenance of a joint air defence capability". It was supported by other global forces and forces within our SADC region. The SAJADS theme was chosen to promote air defence co-operation and interoperability in the diverse environment of the African continent where conventional and asymmetric situations with dissimilar technologies of varying levels of sophistication exist.


The 2007 SAJADS was a success and drew the attention of other State departments, local and foreign speakers and representatives. The attendance exceeded 450, including a Defence Force contingent of 280. Altogether 24 papers were presented over the two days, with a good balance between Defence Force, institutes and industry. Among the 24 presenters were some from abroad, including countries such as Germany, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands,

Switzerland, Sweden and Zimbabwe.

A media briefing was conducted by R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, Chief of Fleet Staff, Brig Gen Les Lombard, Director Command and Control (SAAF), Brig Gen Stephen Marumo, GOC SA Army Air Defence Artillery, and Mr Callie Potgieter, Programme Manager (Armscor). They all indicated that to be a globally competitive organisation it was necessary to share and build capacity and competencies by co-operating with other global forces. The gathering was meant to promote interaction with the intention of raising issues of common concern such as global peace and of African continent.

The timing of the 2007 SAJADS was most opportune as our country is presently preparing for the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup. With regard to the World Cup, questions were asked about how the SANDF was going to monitor situations that might pose

serious threats to human security. Brig Gen Lombard responded that the SANDF was working together with the SAPS and other law enforcement agencies and the SADC armed forces. "Common objectives were identified, and activities such as interoperability, information sharing, joint intelligence and other security arrangements are in place in order to establish a secure and safe environment," said Brig Gen Lombard.

R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, Chief of Fleet Staff, enthusiastically told SA Soldier that the symposium was well planned with very good SANDF and international military participation. He added that views expressed at this prestigious gathering would be packaged to assist in our regional stability. "Much was discussed and the symposium is going to help us in building a common picture of air power and to establish a common framework of co-operation." 



Ftr: R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, Chief of Fleet Staff, Brig Gen Stephen Marumo, GOC SA Army Air Defence Artillery, Mr Callie Potgieter, Programme Manager (Armscor), and Brig Gen Les Lombard, Director Command and Control (SAAF).

Green Awards in the Department

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The annual DOD Environmental Awards ceremony certainly belonged to the Army Support Base Potchefstroom as they scooped most of the awards at AFB Ysterplaat on 7 June 2007. This event coincided with National Environmental Week.

The award ceremony visibly recognises and celebrates the achievements in terms of environmental performance of military bases, units, individuals and teams.

ASB Potchefstroom took home the Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management and the Keep eThekweni Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management. They were also the runners-up in the Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency, the National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency, the Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management and the Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness.

"As governmental and public expectations regarding the sustainable management of military impacts on the environment as well as international and national environmental legislative provisions increasingly continues to impact on its core business, the DOD strives to ensure that these expectations are honoured through the incorporation of environmental considerations into its military exercises and operations, thereby ensuring sound environmental performance," said Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, who was the

main functionary at the awards ceremony.

He added: "The integration of environmental issues into all military activities and life cycle management of military equipment supports the principles of efficiency, economy and effectiveness as advocated by the Public Finance Management Act and yields tangible and non-tangible benefits that would ultimately result in ensuring the long-term sustainable utilisation of facilities and equipment."

"The array of projects in the respective individual and team contributions is indeed unique in their achievements. The development of a soldier's field guide for armour training, the co-ordination and management of the Environmental Considerations in Operations project and implementation of water efficiency initiatives all contribute to the environmental performance of this department," concluded Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

Winners

Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency: AFB Langebaanweg
National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency: AFB Ysterplaat
Keep eThekweni Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management: ASB Potchefstroom
Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management: SAS SALDANHA
Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management: ASB Potchefstroom
Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness: Naval Base Simon's Town
SA National Parks Floating Trophy for Military Integrated Environmental Management: AFB Overberg
Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services: Lt Renier van Wyk from AFB Makhado. 



The Officer Commanding of ASB Potchefstroom, Col Phillip van Dyk, and Lt Lorraine Perumaul, an environmental officer at ASB Potchefstroom, displaying their certificates and trophies after the award ceremony.

Air Power Capability Demo

By Sgt Thabang Bapela, *Ad Astra*
Photos: Sgt Dawie Nel

In a spectacular show of air power the SA Air Force demonstrated its air dominance at Roodewal Bombing Range in Limpopo on 4 May 2007.

Among the SA Air Force aircraft that took part in the demonstration were a Rooivalk from 16 Squadron, a Hawk and Cheetah C/D from 2 Squadron, Oryx helicopters from 17 and 19 Squadron, an A109 light utility helicopter from 17 Squadron, a Caravan, a C130 from 28 Squadron and a Casa 212 from 44 Squadron.

Also participating were members of 500 Squadron Task Force demonstrating the helicopter insertion techniques on landing, fast roping and rappelling,

and members of Army 4 Brigade with mortar bombs.

Another helicopter demonstration consisted of a stretcher hoist, a cargo sling and Oryx fire-fighting capabilities, including a *bambi* bucket able to hold 2 500 litres of water.

The demonstration served to display the core capabilities of the SA Air Force, which exposed not only the sharp end of its capabilities in terms of firepower in the air, but also the Army's joint contribution to this air power in terms of paratroopers, infantry and tactical air support.

The General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Siphon Mangethe, in his speech said that the event was aimed at demonstrating the SA Air Force's air power capabilities, particularly with reference to joint operations. He also

added that the integration of these aircraft with their complex on-board systems, and requirements for highly integrated logistics support, will call for a major effort from the SA Air Force.


He emphasised the ever-increasing demand for air operations to attend to humanitarian emergencies, both internally and externally, while the peace support missions would undoubtedly continue to grow.

The Officer Commanding of AFB Makhado, Brig Gen Chris Delpont, said that South Africa played an important role in the Southern African Developing Countries (SADC) where it was seen as the big brother that could at short notice play an important role in peace support missions and other diplomatic initiatives



A109 light utility helicopter stretcher hoist demonstration.

associated with regional security.

Furthermore, these potential scenarios highlighted the need for the retention of a viable air capability to ensure effective participation in any mandated military operation that could be sanctioned by either the United Nations (UN) or the African Union (AU), he said. 



Oryx helicopters fly past.



C130: Synchronise run-in with re-supply - light load.



Rooivalk cannon attack.



Oryx and A109 light utility helicopter demonstration of cargo sling.

Protection at its best

By Lt Col Reggie P. Leburu,
Consultant *Ad Astra*

500 Squadron in Pretoria is just one part of the SA Air Force that does not have any room for laziness and frivolity. One would be inclined to agree readily that even a casual look at individual members of this squadron is likely to tell you that these people belong to a special breed of the SA Air Force, created just to protect the nation.

When you meet these men and women, the first thing that strikes you about them is the politeness they exhibit. A fact that is clearly manifested in these soldiers' vibrant personalities is their frisky way of attending to their tasks with so much agility and the speed at which they move whenever they go from one place to the other.

These men and women are called "Task Force Operators".

Sitting in the office with two "Task Force Operators", Capt Rapule Boshomane and Lt George Manabela, in Pretoria on 19 April 2007, *Ad Astra* expected these two men to share with the public the nature of the work that is usually carried out by them in a special unit of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Based on the unique responsibilities that this unit is charged with it became quite apparent that it is an outstanding unit within the SANDF.

According to them the Task Force Operators perform a number of tasks, such as peace enforcement, search and rescue missions and humanitarian tasks. Other tasks are nature conservation, protecting very important persons (VIPs), members of the SANDF or acting as cash-in-transit escorts.


The two officers spoke about what is known within the Task Force as the "Force Multiplier". This means that members of this Task Force can be called in to add capacity to members of the South African Police Service (SAPD) anytime when the need arises.

Sometimes for certain tasks the presence of members of the Task Force is essential. The most important of these tasks performed by members of the Task Force, is to safeguard the President of South Africa and his Deputy twenty-four hours a day.

There are courses that individuals need to do to qualify as Task Force Operators, include reconnaissance and para-trooping. In addition to this there are also specialised courses, such as tracking, rope work, parachute dispatching, mountain climbing, helicopter dispatching, sea survival, land and bush survival and fire-fighting. It goes without saying that both Capt Boshomane and Lt Manabela have been through this rigorous training for them to be where they are today.

The following are some of the operational tasks that these officers have undertaken: OPERATION BOLEAS in Lesotho on a peace enforcement mission, OPERATION FIBRE in Burundi, OPERATION TRITON in the Comoros Islands, and humanitarian services such as OPERATION ATLAS in Mozambique, OPERATION PHIDISA in Madagascar, OPERATION LYNX in Mozambique and OPERATION LITCHI also in Mozambique.

Lt Manabela, currently the Wing Commander at 500 Squadron, is the first black parachute instructor in the history of the SA Air Force. Capt Boshomane is the first black person to become a Wing Commander, and also the first black officer in the Task Force.

These two young Task Force Operators will continue serving the SA Air Force and the SANDF to the best of their abilities. 



Two Task Force Operators, Capt Rapule Boshomane (left) and Lt George Manabela.

Human Resource Graduates

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

A Human Resource Management Certificate Ceremony was held at Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 11 May 2007.

Three members of Functional Competency Authority and twelve facilitators of Personnel Service School completed a certificate Human Resource Management through an accredited training provider, *Regenesys*. The core of facilitators is now qualified and eligible to present the Human Resource Management Certificate to learners at Personnel Service School (PSS) at National Qualification Framework

(NQF) Level 4.


The project started in June 2006 and all members enrolled were found competent. It is the first milestone in the DOD for a qualification to be presented through Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) to a training provider, and is soon to be implemented as a qualification for HR learners, one that is portable nationally.

"After intensive investigations and discussions with *Regenesys*, workable and effective solutions were reached on how to present accredited Human Resource training," said Lt Col Hardus Oosthuizen, SO1 Research and Development. The process consisted of three phases, namely accrediting of a core of facilitators at PSS, accrediting PSS as a training provider and qualify-

ing a core of facilitators at PSS as Human Resource Management subject matter specialists.

"Credit must go to the learners for their hard work and dedication they put into this course," said Mr Sean Rosyn, Facilitator *Regenesys*.

Brig Gen J.J. Smit, Acting Chief Director Human Resource Development, said that as the Department they would continue with the development of members in the DOD. "Your challenge now is to become the master practitioners," said Brig Gen Smit.

Further development to qualify a core of facilitators to present a Human Resource Management Diploma (NQF Level 5) is currently being investigated. 



A few of the facilitators (graduates), fltr: Cpl Ephraim Zulu, Maj Wayne van Zyl, Mr Sean Rosyn (Facilitator Regenesys), WO1 Maria de Villiers, Lt Col Hardus Oosthuizen, Maj Susan Voges and WO1 Paul Mwandla after receiving their certificates.

Revamp of French Naval Surface Fleet

By CV (R) Michel Perchoc,
former Commanding Officer of
Ouragan LPD in Kosovo

The French Navy's surface fleet has recently undergone critical re-structuring through the acquisition of a series of newly designed, state-of-the-art vessels, the purpose of which is to meet maritime challenges well into the 21st century.

First, two 22 000-ton LHDs, *Mistral* and *Tonnerre*, will replace the two existing LSDs, *Ouragan* and *Orage* in 2006-2007.



Secondly, the 7 000-ton *Horizon*-class air-defence frigates *Forbin* and *Chevalier Paul* will replace the existing frigates *Suffren* and *Duquesne* in 2008-2009.

Thirdly, seventeen multi-mission *FREMM*-class 6 000-ton frigates will begin to replace ten anti-submarine frigates (*Tourville*-class and *Georges Leygues*-class) and the seventeen *Aviso* type frigates, beginning in 2011.

Mistral Programme

The multiplication of international crises since the fall of the Berlin wall has demonstrated the requirement for

vessels with the dual capability of both transporting intervention forces and, in times of emergency, evacuating nationals from conflict zones. Unanticipated natural disasters (eg earthquakes, tidal waves or cyclones) further require a means to assist civilians through the deployment of these kinds of multi-tasked amphibious vessels.

The *Mistral*-class LHD-LPD was designed to meet these variable and multi-dimensional operational requirements.

Responding to the constraints of naval budgets, the *Mistral* programme utilises technological advances to reduce vessel operating costs by as

much as 30%, including, substantially reduced crew numbers and life cycle maintenance requirements.

In September 2004, the acceptance trials of the first of the new *Mistral*-class (aptly named "*Mistral*") began at Brest, which involved 14 separate sea voyages. After these trials, Commanding Officer *Frédéric Jubelin*, who was familiar with amphibious vessels as the Commanding Officer of *Ouragan* LSD, expressed his opinion that *Mistral* was endowed with superior qualities and outstanding potential.

This was confirmed by three critical tests - the sea-going endurance trials initiated at the beginning of 2006, the 45-day operation to evacuate French nationals from the Lebanon theatre in July and August 2006 and the international exercise *Brilliant Midas*, held in the Mediterranean in October 2006.

Endurance Trials and Military Assessment

Contracts between the Government and purchasers through official technical and builder trials were accepted,



followed by official naval tests conducted at Brest in three phases - functional testing of the platform and platform equipment up to peak values, testing of barge and vehicle embarkation and disembarkation, and testing of deck landing and take-off of different types of helicopters (Navy and Army).

A three-month voyage checked the vessel's overall endurance capabilities, its ability to navigate in tropical climates and its preventive maintenance policy.

Contract specifications were then rechecked point by point. Finally, a favourable recommendation for commissioning was issued by France's Joint Navy/Procurement Office Commission.

Commissioning by French Navy

On February 26 the admiral commanding ALFAN (*Force d'Action Navale à Toulon*) took over *Mistral* for the official military assessment phase and, from May to July 2006, the ship operated in military scenarios to confirm compliance with naval performance requirements.

The Navy's conclusions were highly favourable, with the assessment that "the platform installations meet the military requirement to a high level of satisfaction. The concept of an electrical vessel is very successful as well as the highly advanced automation of the installations".

Humanitarian Mission in Lebanon

Sea trial results were put to the test in the Lebanon crisis in the summer of 2006 and culminated in the rescue of thousands of French nationals and foreigners trapped in the conflict zone in operation Baliste. The operation turned into a life-sized validation of *Mistral's* design through the evacuation of nearly 5 000 refugees and the transportation of over 1 500 pallets.

Several important lessons were learned from the Lebanon crisis:

(1) Simultaneity of Operational Activities: The Baliste operation demonstrated the feasibility of conducting a range of amphibious operations simultaneously (landing of heavy materials in round trips of barges from

the dock apron), helicopter operations (flight deck showed very high potential), command functions, hospital missions, at the harbour and at sea.

Through computer control of the pods and the bow thruster the dynamic positioning system automatically kept the ship either in a fixed position given at a preferential heading, or on an imposed course and speed in order to compensate for wind and drift, the platform being kept within a small zone.

This facilitated the manoeuvring of both helicopters (subject to wind and platform movement) and shipborne barges.

The Lebanon crisis proved that *Mistral* could simultaneously disembark a large armoured force (armoured vehicles, lorries, engineering equipment, etc) and evacuate refugees using its helicopter fleet (20 to 30 depending on the type).



(2) Joint Forces Command: Approximately 100 persons participated in equipping the 800 square



>> on page 36

>> from page 35

metres Command Centre, making sure that the links between the Command & Information System and the Air-Land and Joint Operations theatre were working correctly. The data were transmitted in real time to Paris (France).

(3) Life on Board: The troop accommodation facilities met the needs of 450 forces personnel for 45 days, in addition to the 160 crew members - altogether 610 persons permanently on board. Moreover, the crisis demonstrated that it was possible to transport up to 1 500 refugees for 24 hours (transit of about 1 000 km).

In brief, the evacuation of thousands of civilians from the Lebanon conflict zone was managed successfully, with 45 days of non-stop operations completed efficiently and with the highest of humanitarian standards possible under trying circumstances.

Brilliant Midas International Exercise

European naval forces are currently engaged in an intervention capacity improvement process aimed at enhancing the ability of NATO and the UN to respond to various levels of theatre crises and situations of armed conflict.

The French Navy is intimately involved in this exercise, providing power projection (aircraft carrier) and force projection capabilities (amphibious vessels) as part of the European engagement.

As part of this



process, the *Brilliant Midas* joint international exercise in the western Mediterranean in October 2006 brought together 35 vessels of 10 different nations (USA Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, etc.), with the French Navy commanding amphibious forces for Air-Land operations.

Altogether 150 officers and senior ratings from various countries were united under *Mistral's* Command and Control Centre to monitor the disembarkation of 1 600 men with their 115 vehicles and hundreds of helicopter manoeuvres, both by day and by night.


Night operations (watercraft, helicopters) under *Mistral's* lead proved to be a great operational asset: special operations, fast surprise landing, etc. In 11 days of intensive operations *Mistral*, in full configuration, used up less than 10% of her endurance capacity without re-supply.

Excellent Results

This brief summary has shown that the *Mistral*-class can transport and support armed forces required for international peacekeeping and reinforcement missions.

In the event of a humanitarian disaster, a tsunami, an earthquake or an epidemic, the ship can be transformed into a fully fitted floating hospital, with support infrastructure virtually comparable to that of a town of 25 000 inhabitants. The ship can be available on the spot in a few days with helicopters and ambulances to transport the wounded. *Mistral* has the endurance necessary to remain at sea for extended periods and to deploy assets with great efficiency and without tiring the crew.

Concluding Comments

What is a successful naval vessel? It is a vessel that lives up to the expectations of the Navy that ordered it. As this report shows, *Mistral* meets those requirements perfectly and fulfils the modern Navy's strategic needs. 



A French warship with humanitarian intentions

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

At a distance the FCS TONNERRE looks like a floating Hilton Hotel! Designed by the French for the French Navy, the fantastic warship is built for force projection and command. SA Soldier was fortunate to be part of a team of local media invited on board the FCS TONNERRE for a sailing trip from Simon's Town to Cape Town on 26 June 2007.

Everything about the morning of the visit to the FCS TONNERRE was spectacular; members of the media were taken on a tugboat and ferried across seemingly emotional waters, while the FCS TONNERRE floated in the middle of the ocean awaiting our arrival.

The FCS TONNERRE is on her "maiden" voyage, which is a trip around the Atlantic to test her endurance following a very good performance during her first test trials in her mother country. She was visiting South African waters from 25 to 30 June 2007 and will return to France on 24 July 2007.

Once on board the FCS TONNERRE, the culture was everything French, from the welcoming greetings in a dominant

foreign accent, right down to the petite sized coffee cups, sugar lumps and "typically" French menu. We were then taken up to the fifth floor in a lift; to a media briefing and information report on the FCS TONNERRE and her sister ship, the FS MISTRAL.

At a press conference held at the Waterfront in Cape Town the next day the Officer Commanding FCS TONNERRE, Capt Philippe Hello, told members of the media that the warship had the size and shape of a cruise-liner and that sailors needed a comfortable ship to function and serve effectively. "I think that the FCS TONNERRE is a fine ship and this is a very good opportunity for seamen to learn and work," he said.

"We need to know how to excel."

Another side to the mission is that the visit provides an opportunity to display the know-how of the French Defence manufacturers. This trip will also attempt to prove that the SANDF systems are compatible with those of the French. "We have already made many agreements with African countries to work together," said Capt Hello. 



Capt Philippe Hello, Officer Commanding FCS TONNERRE.



The FCS TONNERRE sailing in South African waters.

The military and the pink invasion

By Commander Adri Liebenberg,
Acting SSO Environmental
Services

Many of you have probably seen the beautiful pink flowers growing in large numbers along the roadside, in grasslands and on many military bases and units, especially in the Gauteng, North West, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces during the summer season. A natural reaction would be to stop and cut the flowers to take home. Ever wonder what it is?

BEWARE!

Attractive as its flowers may be, this plant spells trouble for our environment. It is the worst kind of invasive alien weed, and has been lurking prettily and silently for some time. It not only replaces veld grasses as food for cattle, but degrades the soil and edges out colonies of indigenous grassland orchids and wild flowers.

The pom pom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*) is

indigenous to South America and belongs to the daisy family. It is a tall unpalatable herb with several erect green or purplish stems with light purple to pink flower heads. Hundreds of seeds are dispersed by a single flower head. The fleshy tuber-like roots deprive the soil of nutrients and water, making it difficult for wild flowers and veld grasses to establish and flourish in its vicinity.

It gradually replaces the more palatable plant species as a result and tends to become one of the only surviving plant species in grazing areas. It reproduces from its roots and through the dispersal of its seeds. This is the reason why the weed has become so widespread. By allowing its stems, leaves and flowers to die back in winter and store plenty of nutrients in its roots it is able to survive frost and fires and is one of the first plants to start growing in spring. If the spread of this weed is not controlled, it will take over the entire grassland biome in South Africa.

In order to stop this weed in its tracks and avoid a potential environ-

Pink pom pom weed is taking over the grasslands on military properties!

mental disaster the Department of Agriculture, assisted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has established the Pom Pom Project Inter-governmental Co-ordinating Committee. As it is a national department responsible for the management of one of the largest land portfolios and as an adjacent land user, the Department of Defence (DOD) is legally compelled to contribute to the success of this national



The pom pom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*).



effort. From December 2006 a spraying programme was instituted through the Working for Water Programme and in co-operation with Gautrans. The DOD will participate through the Operation Vuselela initiative and be


involved in this committee. However, these mechanisms are not sufficient to address the control and spreading of the pom pom weed within the military environment. All members can contribute to this effort by becoming involved in the introduction of organised control measures or ad hoc eradication actions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Report the location of new infestations of pom pom weed to the environmental officer.
- Do not pick any flowers for aesthetical purposes.
- Do not transport plants to other regions.
- Individual plants occurring in gardens or on pavements must be eradicated as follows:
 - ▲ Spray with a registered herbi-

cide. The active ingredients of the 2,4-Dipicloran chemical is used by farmers in the spraying of pom pom weed. Consult the environmental officer for assistance in determining the correct herbicide to use.

- ▲ Alternatively, cut off the pink flower heads and put into an intact bag to avoid the dispersal of seeds from the flowers.
- ▲ Take out the rest of the weed without leaving any roots or parts of roots in the soil.
- ▲ All parts of the weed must be kept isolated and disposed of by burning.

For more information on the pom pom weed, contact Maj Eric Mali at tel no: (012) 339 5311 or the Working for Water toll free information line: 0800 005 376. 

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Clubs and putters

By Lt Col Karin Watts,
PRO SANDF Golf

The annual SANDF Golf Championships took place at the King David Golf Club in Cape Town over the period 16 to 20 April 2007.

The Inter-service Championship was played on Monday, 16 April 2007. Teams from the SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and SA Military Health Service competed in three divisions. The morning saw the teams playing foursome matchplay, which is an alternate

shot format, and in the afternoon they played singles matchplay. Ultimately the SA Air Force was victorious in both the A and B Divisions, and the SA Navy triumphed in the C Division.

The SANDF Championship commenced on Tuesday, 17 April 2007. The format was individual medal stroke play over 72 holes. The course was in a good condition and, luckily for the players, the playing conditions were a lot better than they might have been.

For the past two years the SANDF Golf Head Committee has endeavoured to increase the involvement of female golfers at all levels by inviting

all women with an official handicap to the tournament, regardless of their handicaps. This event is an excellent opportunity for them to be exposed to golf at a competitive level. This year a total of ten women took part, five in the open divisions and five in the upcoming women's division (handicaps of 19 and higher). The winning upcoming woman was Lt Col Ina Schultz from the Chief Directorate Army Force Preparation.


After 72 holes Lt Col Karin Watts from Defence Intelligence in Pretoria emerged as the 2007 SANDF Golf Women's Champion. WO1 Frans Smith from 3 SA Infantry Battalion held on to win the men's title. The winner of the veterans' division was WO2 April Prins of Naval Base Simon's Town.

The Inter-regional Golf Championship was played at the same time as the SANDF Golf Championships. Here the Western Cape emerged as the comfortable winner.

The following members were selected for the SANDF team that played against a Western Province team on 21 April 2007:

WO1 F.P. Smith, Maj C. Collins, Maj S.J. Venter (Captain), S Sgt P. Layman, F Sgt W. de Lange, WO2 A. Prins, WO2 D. van der Merwe, Capt J.Q. van der Walt, Maj I. Henrico (Reserve) and Col P.C. Snyman (Manager).

South Africa is the host country for the 4th World Military Golf Championships scheduled to take place at the Gary Player Country Club at Sun City over the period 29 September to 5 October 2007. Before the event trials will be held to select an SANDF team, which will consist of six male and two female players.

SANDF members are welcome to come and support their team during the tournament. 



The Patron of SANDF Golf, Maj Gen A.J. Landman, congratulates Lt Col Karin Watts on winning the women's title.

Saving for retirement just got easier

If ever you've been reluctant to invest in your retirement because of taxation, then now is the time to do so. The recent abolition of retirement fund tax (RFT) has given South Africans plenty of reasons to smile, says Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager for Old Mutual.

Poor saving habits and a lack of retirement provision amongst South Africans compelled government to abolish the taxation of growth on retirement fund investments. Through this bold step, government hopes to encourage people to provide for their retirement and at the same time reduce their financial dependency on the state.

Good reason to save for retirement

If you've been smart enough to save for your retirement, no retirement fund tax effectively means more money in your pocket at retirement. Wilson added that this move has made retirement funds the most tax efficient savings vehicle yet. "Not only will this positive step encourage people to save, but it will make a noticeable difference to people's living standards during their retirement years."

Increase your contributions

Members of employer retirement funds are encouraged to increase their contributions up to the maximum tax-deductible limit of 7.5% or invest in a retirement annuity - if they do not already belong to a fund. The reduction in personal income tax, also announced by the Minister of Finance during his 2007 Budget Speech, will make available extra money to put into retirement or any other savings vehicle of their choice. "Consider investing this extra money in your retirement, as too many people

are left destitute during a time that is supposed to be their golden years."

Enjoy maximum retirement income

With the average retirement fund tax at just over 20% during the last decade, retirement contributions over a period of 35 years would have been reduced by more than 10%. The situation is exacerbated if you'd changed jobs and preserved your retirement fund by transferring it to your new employer. You would have lost up to 16% of your retirement income if you were to retire at age 60.

Old Mutual is committed to helping all South Africans make informed decisions about their financial future. For more information on how to maximise your income at retirement, or any other aspect of your financial plan, speak to your Old Mutual financial adviser, or broker.



SA Forces Cricket Tournament

By Capt Rina Schoonraad,
Vice-President SANDF Cricket
Association
Photo: PO Rodney Brown

While the 2007 ICC-Cricket World Cup was presented in the West Indies, the SANDF cricket team prepared themselves in the background for participation in the SA Forces Tournament. This tournament took place in Bloemfontein in March 2007. Teams that competed were the National Cricket team of the SANDF, the SA Police Services (SAPS) and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

The first game was played on 27 March at Bobbies Park where the SANDF played against DCS.

Match summary: SANDF: 191/9 in 50 overs - PO Rodney "Scara" Brown 68 (91 balls), S Sgt H. Jaftha 21 (34 balls), Gnr W.C. April 21 (31 balls). DCS: 194/6 in 42.2 overs won the match with 4 wickets to spare.

The best bowlers for the SANDF were Lt C.P. Campher (10-0-54-3), Sgt Nico Pretorius (8-0-24-2) and L Cpl Freek de Laan (5-0-22-1).

SANDF played against SAPS at Schoemans Park:

Match summary: SAPS: 167 in 39.3 overs. The best bowlers for the SANDF were L Cpl Freek de Laan (10-3-17-6) and Maj Quintus Eksteen (10-0-48-1).

SANDF: 169/4 in 43 overs - Maj Quintus Eksteen 78* (85 balls), Lt C.P. Campher 33* (41 balls) and Sgt Craig Denton 26 (67 balls).

Each participant/player had an opportunity to be elected for the SA Forces Team that would have played against the South African Rural Cricket Association (SARCA) Cricket Team on 30 March 2007 at Good Year Park, home ground of the Eagles Franchise



Fitr: Maj Quintus Eksteen (Best Batsman) and L Cpl Freek de Laan (Best Bowler) SA Forces Tournament.

and Free State Cricket in Bloemfontein.

The SA Forces side was announced at the Protea Hotel on the fourth evening of the scheduled match against the South African Country District (SACD) Cricket Team. The SANDF stood proud when six of its members were included in the thirteen man squad of the SA Forces Cricket Team. These members were Maj Quintus Eksteen, Sgt Craig Denton, PO Rodney "Scara" Brown, Sgt Nico Pretorius, PO Henk du Preez and L Cpl Freek de Laan.

Three members of the SANDF Executive Committee were also elected for the SA Forces Executive Committee, and their appointments were as follows: Col Neville Majola (Vice-President, Capt Rina Schoonraad (Secretary) and PO "Spider" Abrahams (Director Amateur Cricket).

Three trophies were awarded during the evening and the cricket team of the SAPS were the winners at the end of

the week. Maj Eksteen (SANDF) received the trophy for the best batsman with an average of 85 runs in the tournament and L Cpl De Laan (SANDF) received the trophy for the best bowler of the tournament with bowling figures of 15-3-39-7. (Current SA Protea bowler Charl Langeveldt received this trophy after the last tournament that was held in 1996.) The trophies were presented to the various members by Mr Max Jordaan (Director Amateur Cricket from Cricket South Africa) and Mr Leon Crawley (President Free State Cricket).

At the end of the tournament, the SA Forces Team (SAF) played against the SARCA Cricket Team at Good Year Park. For most of the players this was a true honour, as they had never played on a provincial field before.

All matches in the tournament were played according to Standard International 50 Over Game rules (which included 4 power play sessions), as had

been used during the recent ICC-World Cup in the West Indies. The game at Good Year Park was also played according to these rules. SARCA won the toss and asked SAF to bat first. Rain interrupted play with the score on 20/1 after 9 overs. The game continued after an hour's delay and SAF managed to score 227/8 in 50 overs (Retief Kriel (DCS) 73, PO Rodney Brown 38, Maj Eksteen 28 and Lemmetjies (SAPS) 28).

SACD reached the total of 228/4 with 4 overs to spare.

There is a possibility that the SAF Cricket Team can participate in the 2007/2008 season in the SA Rural Cricket Association Tournament. In the early 1980-1990 era, the SANDF did in fact participate in this very same tournament that produced former SA national players like Darryl Cullinan, Brian McMillan and Peter Kirsten. However, Mr Max Jordaan must still discuss this aspect with Cricket South Africa, and the SA Forces Executive Committee is very excited about this possibility. For this team to participate as a team in a national cricket tournament scheduled by Cricket South Africa

(CSA) means that the SAF team will then receive recognition from CSA.

SANDF President's XI

The SANDF President's XI played three matches during the week. The match summaries were as follows:

Schoemans Park XI: 268 all out

SANDF President's IX: 250 (49.3 overs) - Sgt Randolph May 88 (89 balls) and Lt Mark Coetzee 33 (46 balls)

SANDF President's XI: 207 all out - Capt Rudi Gerber 44 (58 balls), S Sgt AB Scheepers 43 (51 balls) and WO2 André Bosch 28 (15 balls)

SAPS Development XI: 137 all out (M. Zeeland 8-2-19-5)


SANDF President's XI: 312/7 after 50 overs (PO Henk du Preez 140* (126 balls) and Gnr W.C. April 68 (49 balls)

SAPS Invitation XI: 313/9 49 overs

As the previous SA Forces Tournament took place in 1996 in Paarl, it was a pleasure and honour to have played in this tournament. Mr Max Jordaan, Director Amateur Cricket of Cricket South Africa (CSA), applauded the SA Forces Executive Committee for their willingness, effort

and co-ordinating arrangements, which enabled the tournament to take place within the short period of time available. He assured the committee that CSA would have struggled to present a tournament of this nature with the limited budget and the time that was available.

Cricket as a sport stepped forward as the winner at the end of the week and it proved that the SANDF deserved to compete against its competitors at national level and to build sporting friendships with its counterparts through sport.

The SANDF Cricket Association would like to make use of this opportunity to invite all members who are interested in the game of cricket to get involved with the game and to be part of the next SANDF Cricket Championships that will take place in Port Elizabeth in December 2007. The cricket representatives in the various regions should be approached if one needs more information to get involved with cricket in one's area or to be possibly earmarked for the next championships. 

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Spiritual resilience of the youth

By Chaplain S.J. Dithipe,
Infantry Formation

John 15: 1-4 & 16-17 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."

Spiritual Resilience can be defined as: "The ability of human kind to spiritually bounce back after their lives have been tormented and bent by life challenges".

This article is aimed at empowering the youth to cope with different life challenges in the DOD and beyond.

The interview that I had with most of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) youth, especially those at the Infantry School, has made it palpably clear that the youth are aspiring for greater heights.

It is a fact of life that the youth are not going to find it easy to sail to their set destinations as there will always be obstacles between them and their goals, eg peer pressure often leading to substance abuse and teenage pregnancy. When I asked the youth at the Infantry School how they planned to overcome these challenges, their response was "through discipline, determination, focus, dedication" - among others. This is the kind of response that one can get from the average youth in the country and elsewhere, but the question remains: how



Chaplain S.J. Dithipe.

many of our youth can live up to their goals? Those who are able to are always the ones who are strong enough to cope with the challenges encountered on their way to their goals. It is regrettable to mention that many of them cannot cope with challenges, for they quickly stumble and succumb to problems once these are encountered.

It is in this respect that I would like to refer the youth to the important missing link that is more often than not neglected in their attempts to reach their goals, namely "Spiritual Strength". Most of our youth have compromised the spiritual side of their being. They need to know that reason without divine assistance is futile.

Created For A Purpose: My message to the youth in the DOD is that God has created every one of them for a purpose. God values each one's life and it is through each life that God wants to get to the divine goal.

It is therefore important that they remain connected to their source of creation (God) if they are to live fruitful and spiritually resilient lives.

Christ illustrates the importance of remaining in God through the vine, as depicted in Scripture above. He says: if the branches of the vine are to live up to

their purpose of bearing fruit, they must remain in the main stem. The importance of remaining in the main tree according to Christ wants the branches to be connected to their source of life. The branches of a vine can only bear fruit and survive by getting adequate nutriment from the main branch.

It is thus my prayer that the youth, and everybody else within the DOD, should like branches of the vine be attached to their spiritual source to survive and to meet stressful challenges caused by long-term separation as a result of internal and external deployment, long courses and transfers, because God is the only source of power, wisdom, protection and strength to help us cope with challenges. It is only when we are connected to God that we feel like the little mouse who was crossing a bridge over a very deep ravine with an elephant. As the elephant and the mouse crossed the bridge, the bridge shook. When they got to the other side the mouse looked at his huge companion and said: "Boy, we really shook the bridge, didn't we?" - John C. Maxwell 1987:17

When we walk with God, that's often how we feel - like the little mouse with the strength of an elephant. After crossing life's troubled waters, we can say: "God, we really shook that bridge, didn't we? When we walk with God we will be able to overcome drug and alcohol abuse, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, stress and depression caused by long separation from our loved ones.

Remaining in God brings about a purposeful life. There is a difference between a person who lives a purposeful life and the one who lives a life without purpose, ie a person who just occupies space.

This can best be illustrated by electric wires. For the electric wires to live up to their purpose, that of conveying

electric power to wherever it is needed, they have to remain connected to their power source or station. If they are not connected to the power station, they become redundant. Similarly if one is no longer connected to the spiritual powerhouse one can no more convey that spark of fire that is always needed to lighten and warm up human life.


Verse 17 of the above Scripture requires us to move from spirituality into ethics. It admonishes those who are connected to God (spiritual source) to live in accordance with the Divine will. It says: "This is my command: Love one another."

When people are spiritually resilient they are able to display their interconnectedness with themselves, God, other human beings and their physical organic world through their deeds. They should be able to translate their spirituality into ethics by loving, respecting, appreciating and accepting one another. It should not be difficult for spiritually resilient members of the

DOD to love one another regardless of their cultural, racial, faith, economic, political, and social background. We are expected to convey continuously the spiritual spark or fire to all people unconditionally.

It will only be through the spiritual spark of members of the DOD that the "Ubuntu" Spirit will prevail among them. This is the kind of the Spirit that a person can quickly sense when it is there, and when it is not there. For example, Bishop Desmond Tutu said: "Ubuntu means the essence of being human, you know when it is there, as you know when it is absent. It speaks about humanness, gentleness, hospitality, putting yourself out on behalf of others, being vulnerable; it embraces compassion and toughness. It means not nursing grudges, but willing to accept others as they are and being thankful for them. It excludes grasping competitiveness, harsh aggressiveness, being concerned for oneself, abrasiveness. (in Prozniesky, 1996, p 9)

Spiritual resilience therefore requires us to reach out to our neighbours as the vine reaches out to people through its fruit, and as God reached us through Christ. It would be appreciated if the youth in the DOD could play a role similar to that of electric wires connected to the power source, ie be a power station to lighten up life around them. They should as well connect themselves to the right spiritual source, which is God, so as to allow the Holy Spirit to convey the spiritual spark through their hearts to others. It is only when the youth are in constant relationship with God that they will be able to be spiritually resilient and touch others' lives in challenging times.

It is only when the youth and believers are connected to God that the power of the Holy Spirit will empower them to act out their Christian moral convictions. Christian morality is not unwillingly forced by an external authority, but is a result of a people's spiritual connectedness in God. 

Cyclist ready for 2008 Olympics

By Capt (SAN) Elmarie van der Walt,
SSO Comm Defence Legal Services
Division

Lt Col Gysie van der Niet, B Comm, LLB, is a military law practitioner who is currently the Officer in Charge of the School for Military Justice in Thaba Tshwane. Despite his busy schedule he is also an active sportsman.


In 2002 Lt Col van der Niet was a Northern Gauteng badminton player who also took part in cycling races to improve his fitness. During one of these races he was involved in an accident in which he broke his spinal cord and he was left a paraplegic. In May 2005 he was ready to take up cycling again, this time as a paraplegic, now racing with a handcycle. He started to take part in as many races as possible as it once again gave him intense enjoyment. His training was also intensified despite the unpleasant and dangerous road and traffic conditions in the city. Training often has to be done on an indoor resistance trainer. The training and regular participation started to bear fruit and his times improved all the time.

On 7 April 2007 the preliminary



Lt Col Gysie van der Niet racing with his handcycle.

paralympic team for 2008 was announced and Lt Col van der Niet was one of the nominated members. This nomination follows two first places at the South African Disabled Cycling

Championships that took place in the Paarl from 5 to 7 April 2007. Five years after an accident that could have left him despondent, he is on top again - an example to all of us. 

SANDF Sailing ... behind the scenes

By R Adm (JG) Bryan Donkin,
Chairman SANDF and SA Navy
Sailing (March 2001 to April 2007)
Photo: Ms Karen Engeldoe

Sailing in the SANDF is an institutional sport that often brings the participating teams into the limelight. However, the people involved in the work behind the scenes seldom get acknowledged or thanked for their dedication and hard work to ensure that the sport itself benefits and that the organisation it serves gets the credit it deserves.

Within SANDF Sailing there are several people in this category. Unfortunately, this article does not have the space to mention and thank all those involved in the task of managing sailing and the SANDF interests in this area. But there are some whose efforts must be mentioned.

Cdr (Rtd) John Martin is one of these. In 2003 John volunteered his services to the SANDF Sailing community to manage and train a team of sailors for the Naval Yacht Umoya Omusha and concentrated his efforts on the development of individuals previously not exposed to sailing as a sport. Under his guidance, and often with his hand on the helm, Umoya Omusha, campaigning as MTU Fascination of Power, competed in almost every major regatta or race held on the South African coastline. This included participation annually in the Maputo to Durban Vasco da Gama Race and the 2003 and 2006 South Atlantic Races. In fact, between 2003 and 2006 the yacht covered more than 27 000 nautical miles - possibly further than some of the operational vessels of the Navy! The results speak for themselves. Almost every regatta or race resulted in podium positions, and the trophy cabinet at Defence Yacht Club


(Western Cape) is full.

But more importantly John introduced many new faces into the sailing scene. These members are steadily becoming more and more competent as sailors. Lt Hansom Matsane, LS Johannes "Moose" Mmile, PO Andre Bestha, CPO Joe Narainsamy, AB Andrew Mashingane, Jerome Ndelela (better known as "fingers" and "toes" respectively) and PO "Greens" Groenewald are just some of those who have benefited from John's leadership and instruction.

But for sailing to take place there needs to be strong support behind the scenes in terms of club administration. The Defence Yacht Clubs in the Western Cape, Boland and KwaZulu-Natal have been ably led by their Club Commodores, Capt Roger Steven-Jennings, Lt Col Kobus Rabie and Cdr Dave Jones respectively. They have been consistently and willingly supported by their committees, and the names of Mrs Lorna Rynhoud, CPO Garth Gordon Davies and Warrant Officer Graham Willows all stand out when one reflects on support of sailing in general and the annual SANDF and SA Navy Sailing Championships in particular. These championships have been held in Saldanha for the last three years and the support rendered by the Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Kesaval "Marlin" Naidoo, and the staff of SAS SALDANHA has been outstanding.

Finally, for any sport to survive there has to be a strong base of administrative support at the corporate level. The sailing community has been priv-

ileged to have had the services of Cdr Bram Weller as Secretary of the SANDF and SA Navy Head Committees for Sailing since 1993. During this lengthy time in office Bram has excelled in managing the budgets (often under hostile conditions), ministerial approval for participation in races outside SA national waters, annual inputs for sports awards and the general administration of the sport.

One of Bram's greatest successes was the successful pursuit and award of a Lotto Fund allocation towards the development of sailing within the SANDF. These funds are being used primarily to train and qualify SANDF sailors with the appropriate South African sailing qualifications. Over and above these duties, Bram has participated extensively in CISM activities. He has participated regularly as Sailing Coach, Team Manager and on occasion as Head of Mission. This participation has resulted in his being appointed as the only SANDF representative to be a member of the CISM Technical Sailing Committee. His participation both in CISM and in the more recent IBSA sailing initiatives has ensured that SANDF Sailing has earned respect in the world of international military sailing. 



Ftr: Able Seaman Andrew Mashingane, Captain (SAN) Roger Steven-Jennings and Able Seaman Khumbulani Ndelela.

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