Letters: Feedback from our readers

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Unique learning and training culture

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Training body and mind

Pipe Major competed in triathlon abroad

Vote for a winner

Competition: Phone and win

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FRONT COVER: SANDF celebrates International Day of Disabled Persons. Read more on page 38. (Design: Visual Communication)

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

There is so much to be proud of about South Africa at the moment. In 2002 we hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the African Union, also not forgetting that a South African, Mark Shuttleworth, went into space.

One cannot be proud of South Africa and at the same time not being proud of the SANDF. The SANDF is so much a part of our country’s progress and stability. The SANDF played a huge role in the success of hosting the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the African Union. The SANDF has the privilege of being the guardian angel of South Africa.

This year South Africa, together with Mozambique and Ethiopia, will contribute to a peace-keeping contingent that is designed to take the Burundi peace process to a much higher level, revealed the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, at a joint press conference with his Mozambican counterpart, Lt Gen Tobias Dai.

"We see this mission as vital in creating the conditions necessary for our region and continent," underlined Minister Lekota. "It is part of a global effort to ensure peace," said Lt Gen Dai. Read more about this on page 10.

When you read this, we will have hosted the 2003 Cricket World Cup. We are also proud of Bafana Bafana for their outstanding performance in the FIFA Soccer World Cup last year. The SANDF celebrated the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3 December 2002. Fun Olympics formed part of the activities of the day, which included wheelchair races for people with disabilities and the DOD top structure, field events, quad games, basketball, chess, pool, ballroom dancing and other recreational activities. As the name said - Fun Olympics - it was nothing less than heaps of fun! Read all about it on pages 38 and 39.

We also focus on the significance of honours. Every modern country in the world - with the possible sole exception of Switzerland - has honours for wearing on appropriate ceremonial and state occasions. (For more details read pages 28, 29 and 30.)

Read the article on teaching music to foreigners on page 22, as well as the inspiring article on music and electricity that brought rain on page 23 - Showers of blessings!

SA SOLDIER greetings!

Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor

Van die redakteur se lessenaar

Daar is tans soveel in Suid-Afrika om op totre te wees. Gedurende 2002 was ons die gasheerland vir die Wêreldberaad oor Volhoubare Ontwikkeling en die Afrika Unie; ons moet ook nie vergeet dat Mark Shuttleworth, ’n Suid-Afrikaner, ’n ruimtevaart onderneem het nie.

’n Mens kan nie op Suid-Afrika totre wees sonder om ook tegelykertydig op die SANW totre te wees nie. Die SANW vorm so ‘n groot deel van ons land se vooruitgang en stabiliteit. Die SANW het ‘n groot bydrae gelever tot Suid-Afrika se sukses as gasheerland vir die Wêreldberaad oor Volhoubare Ontwikkeling, asook die Afrika Unie. Die SANW het die voorreg om die beskermengel van Suid-Afrika te wees.

Die Minister van Verdediging, minister Mosiuoa Lekota, het tydens ’n gesamentlike perskonferensie met sy Mosambiekse eweknie, It genl Tobias Dai, bekend gemaak dat Suid-Afrika, tesame met Mosambiek en Ethiopië, vijarasal bydra tot ’n kontingent wat ontwerp is om die Burundi-vredesproses na ’n veel hoër vlak te neem.

"Ons beskou hierdie missie van die allergrootste belang ten einde die nodige toestande in ons streek en kontinent te skep," het minister Lekota beklemtoon. "Dit vorm deel van ’n globale poging om vrede te verseker," het It genl Dai gesê. Lees meer hieroor op bladsy 10.

Teen die tyd wat u hierdie redakteursbrief lees, sal Suid-Afrika reeds die Wêreldbeker-kriekettoernooi aangebied het. Ons is ook totre op Bafana-bafana vir hul hul uitstekende vertoning verlede jaar tydens die FIFA Wêreldbeker-sokker-toernooi. SANW het op 3 Desember 2002 die Internasionale Dag vir Gestremde Persone gev��. ’n Pret-olimpiade, wat rolstoelresies tussen gestremde persone en die DVD-topstruktur, velditems, spele vir kwadruplieë, basketbal, skaak, biljart, baldanse en ander ontspanningsaktiviteite ingesluit het, het die deel van die dag se aktiviteite uitgemaak. Soos die naam “Pret-olimpiade” impliseer, was die dag met hope pret gevol. Lees meer daaroor op bladsy 38 en 39.

Ons fokus ook op die betekenis van eerbewyse. Elke moderne land in die wêreld, met Switserland as die enigste moontlike uitsondering, beskik oor eerbewyse wat op gepaste seremoniële en staatsgeleenthede gedra word. (Verdere besonderhede hieroor verskyn op bladsy 28, 29 en 30.)

Lees die artikel oor “museiekonderrig aan buitelanders” op bladsy 22, asook die inspirerende artikel op bladsy 22 oor musiek en elektrisiteit wat reën gebring het - strome van seën!

SA SOLDIER-groete!

Nelda Pienaar
Waarnemende redakteur
Epilogue or new beginning
I appreciate the opportunity to address a subject that is as South African as cultural diversity and reconciliation - AIDS. We as South Africans are in many ways bound by AIDS owing to the widespread nature of the disease. Should we fear the future or embrace the opportunity to stand together as a nation against an enemy that knows no boundaries to culture or race?

The only tactic that would ensure total victory over this adversary is instilling in our youth a set of moral values. Contrary to today's norm of having as much sex as you like, just as long as it is safe, we should go back to religion and underlying cultural principles. This kept our ancestors safe from this disease - love truly, not randomly. I would like to submit a poem that I worked on, but never completed until now. This is dedicated to our youth in keeping the legacy of all that is South African alive (literally):

A little boy's prayer
Dear Jesus, my name is Kagiso and my dog's name is Peggy,
I can only speak softly, so please try to listen closely.
I am reading my picture Bible book and have to ask You, because only
You know how painful it was dying lonely on a wooden cross.

Why did You give Your life to save so many bad girls and boys?
Why not punish them by taking away their dolls and toys?
Mommy said You sacrificed Your own life out of love,
So why did You give Your life to save so many bad girls and boys?

I am reading my picture Bible book and have to ask You, because only
You know how painful it was dying lonely on a wooden cross.

May I bring Peggy, I promise she'll be good.
I'll even bring along some of her favourite food.
Do You have phones in heaven, Jesus, for me to call
My friends on earth so they don't worry at all?

Please tell Mommy, she's already with You,
That I'll bring her red roses from my garden that I grew.
She always made me laugh and told me to enjoy life every day
And not to be sad when one day she had to go away.

I know You are very busy in heaven every day,
But You must please make time for us to play.
I hope You and Mommy will be waiting for me at Heaven's Gates,
When I can no longer live on earth in this center…

...for little children with AIDS? AMEN
- Capt Josephus Kriek, Air Defence Artillery Formation.

Gratitude and plea
With great respect, I would like to thank our Officer Commanding and the people at the Army HRS, especially Warrant Officer Khan, for making it possible for us to acquire a duty vehicle. We were offered a SAMAG 70 which runs from the Army Gymnasium, Heidelberg, to Group 18 in Doornkop.
The vehicle has become very precious to us. In fact it has become a part of us.
To demonstrate our love for it we call it by different names; some call it Pajero, others call it Rolls Royce and I call it Troop Carrier.

Much as we love our Pajero, it can become a serious hazard. During winter it is so cold in the back of the truck that a lot of members fall sick.

Uncomfortable as it is, we travel long distances and some of us are starting to complain of backaches. Women soldiers have extra complaints. Rainy seasons are another story altogether.

We kindly appeal to anybody or any unit within the SANDF to come to our rescue. Many units are demobilising, and therefore we believe that there might be a bus in good condition that can be donated to us by any unit that doesn't need it. We are in need of a 40-50 seater - WO2 E.B. Nkomo, Heidelberg.

* Members who can assist our soldiers in need can contact WO2 Nkomo at tel no: (016) 340 2205 or cell no: 083 495 8275, or RSM D. Prins at tel no: (016) 340 2273, or Mrs A. Marais at tel no: (016) 340 2201 - Ed.
Whose tradition is it anyway?

Please allow me to give my two cents’ worth in reply to Col H. Schobesberger’s letter, "Whose military tradition is it anyway?" - published in SA SOLDIER, November 2002.

In my opinion, tradition is the lifeblood of any military organisation! Why do Army NCOs still wear chevrons when they could have been recently changed to something else? Why do the Navy’s Admirals wear swords in their rank insignia that point backwards?

Why do some Army Corps wear their lanyards on one shoulder while the rest wear it on the other shoulder?

Why do South African military insignia have to follow specific heraldic principles and be approved by the State Herald? The answer lies in tradition. To quote Funk and Wagnall’s Standard Dictionary, tradition is the “knowledge, doctrines, customs and practices transmitted from generation to generation”. The same source indicates that tradition is “a custom so long continued that it has almost the force of law”.

Col Schobesberger asks why a black Reserve Force soldier should accept the traditions of the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles. My answer is: why not? Any soldier who accepts a unit’s traditions will be accepted into that group and teamwork is what enhances the capabilities of a military organisation. Is the Army not a “pride of lions” working together as a team?

Tradition exists even in the Regular Force units. Armoured unit personnel traditionally wear black berets, and have done so since the first greasy and oily tanks rolled across the battlefield. Paratroopers are intensely proud of their maroon berets that have their origins in the berets of the British “Red Berets”.

I challenge Col Schobesberger to openly suggest that paratroopers give up their distinctive headgear on the grounds that it is an antiquated white tradition. Even traditions that emanate from colonial armies still remain in modern African states.

The November 2002 issue of SA SOLDIER has a photograph of Botswana soldiers clearly showing a WO1 wearing his rank only on one side; a Lance Corporal wearing a beret hackle; and a military policeman wearing the traditional red headdress and brassard of the MPs. If these traditional items of dress were so bad surely Botswana would have unceremoniously dumped them when they gained their independence in 1966.

My impression of the Colonel’s letter, and taking into consideration his references to “integrated forces”, is that it is solely aimed at the traditions of the “racist” and “elitist” Statutory Forces.

Might I remind the Colonel that the Constitution only allows one military force in this country and that is the SANDF. If the Non-statutory Forces had their own customs and practices, now is the time for their integrated former members to make them known so that they may take their place alongside the proud traditions of the former Statutory Forces.

- WO1 S.D. Olley, Thaba Tshwane.

All traditions should be honoured, just as we honour all soldiers who have fallen, irrespective of whatever side they fought on. After many years of turmoil in our land we have finally achieved what many thought would be impossible, unity and peace among former enemies. This peace is directly threatened though, if inflammatory and irresponsible ideas such as those Col Schobesberger promulgates are enforced.

Let us take what traditions came with us, amalgamate them and live up to our national motto, "Unity in Diversity" - S Sgt F.S. Seymour, Ladysmith.

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.
Whose tradition is it anyway?

The answer to the Colonel's question is quite simple. It is the heritage of every member who has chosen to serve his or her country in military uniform. Regardless of the origins of any individual or unit, they are now part of the SANDF as of 27 April 1994.

I see it as our individual duty to take whatever makes us effective and efficient members from this collective inheritance and to nurture it for the future. If there are particular traditions that do not appeal to us as individuals, then let us leave them for those who value them. If particular traditions mean something to the members of a unit, then those traditions will survive. If, however, they are, or become meaningless, then they will die out within a generation. I have been fortunate to attend a number of functions where some of the regiments referred to in the Colonel's letter have been involved and the members present represented a cross-section of the population of South Africa. The most recent of these occasions was the Mayor of Johannesburg's Remembrance Day Parade on 10 November 2002, where once again a fully representative parade consisting predominantly of members from Reserve Force units, wearing the traditional dress of those regiments, marched, exhibiting every sign of pride in their units and the SANDF.

If the traditions of these regiments are offensive or alien to them, then why are recruits joining these regiments and participating in even the most esoteric regimental traditions with every sign of sincerity and enjoyment? If the history of the Buffalo Volunteer Rifles is grossly offensive to a person of Xhosa extraction, then why did Col Gugile Nkwinti accept the position as Honorary Colonel of that Regiment? If a soldier or officer currently serving in the SSB is not to be proud of the heritage of the Regiment and the Armour Corps because it predates 1994, then from where must they derive their personal pride and discipline?

I would argue that we have so little heritage in our SANDF that to willy-nilly remove aspects of it merely on the basis that some or even the majority of units predate 1994 would unnecessarily erode morale. If cases exist where particular battle honours or regimental anniversaries are demonstrably eroding esprit de corps or otherwise negatively impacting on the operational effectiveness of units, then certainly such cases must be dealt with with all haste, but also with the necessary insight and sensitivity. Let us not deal with these potentially sensitive issues on a knee-jerk basis and without full and proper staff work. It is the responsibility of those appointed as staff officers to enable our Generals to make fully informed decisions on these matters on the basis of facts and not emotions. To attempt to handle this issue in any other way is to risk destroying traditions unnecessarily and laying the SANDF open to potential embarrassment. It is something of great concern to me, in my capacity as SO1 Heraldry, that no units appear to have been made responsible for perpetuating the traditions of some of the forces that were combined to form the SANDF. The end result of this oversight is that this part of our heritage will become the end result of this oversight.

During a discussion I had on military heraldry and traditions with the State Herald of the Russian Federation, he mentioned that they are attempting to find a mechanism to revive and perpetuate the specific histories and traditions of Tsarist Regiments (abolished 1917) in units of the current Russian Armed Forces in order to promote esprit de corps. He considered us lucky to have a depth of military heritage that has proved resilient enough to survive several constitutional changes. It is therefore important that we do not permit any of the traditions that could potentially enrich the SANDF and promote esprit de corps to be lost through unthinking neglect - Lt Col Eddie Watson, Pretoria.

Whose tradition is it anyway?

I write this letter as response to the letter published in the SA SOLDIER of November 2002 by Col H. Schobesberger "Whose Military tradition is it anyway?". I find your opinions on the traditions of units and, especially, Conventional Reserve Force units, disturbing. I trust that you yourself are not part of such a unit, as to understand the traditions you have to be part of such a unit and experience it in entirety. Traditions are not about race, religion or politics. It is about understanding and strengthening the bond between current serving soldiers and those that have served in the past. It is about understanding what was done, what is being done and what will be done. That very same tradition that you are trying to lock away is exactly what is keeping a lot of Reserve Force units alive; these traditions are keeping valuable members in the system.

I am Afrikaans speaking and serve in a unit that was formed in the British Army to fight the Boers. I bear no grudges, for these days are long past. This unit's traditions were kept alive throughout the purging of things British during the early sixties in the Defence Force. No amount of "Veldkorning" or "Kommandanturing" could kill these traditions, and surely a "toast to the horses", for example, can be accepted by all, for everybody accepts and understands that these are the traditions that are kept alive. It is for each member to decide whether he or she accepts a unit; the member is not forced to stay. Honouring and remembering all of the men and women who have fallen for whomever and whatever under the banner or colours of a unit is the most noble and respectful thing to do, for in the moment of passing, race and politics were probably far from mind. These are the types of traditions honoured, not race or politics based traditions.

Do not try to kill regiments and units by trying to enforce or air your rather uninformed opinion. These units are greater than you, Colonel, or any mere individual trying to incite disrespect of traditions and further race-based decisions in an organisation which should respect the rank and uniform and not the colour of the individual wearing it. I implore you, Colonel, do not interfere with units that carry the souls of men and women who sacrificed their lives for whatever cause, just for the sake of your own righteousness.

I trust, Colonel, that you marched through the ranks from Private in 1994, to Colonel now in 2003, otherwise how could your rank or any other achievement pre-1994 be respected by the "majority" of the current Defence Force? Remember: "The men fall out, but the regiment marches on".

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers, for he who today sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother" - no mention of race. Let us keep it that way! - Verlyn Troskie, Heidelberg.
Whose tradition is it anyway?

At its most recent meeting in December 2002, the Advisory Committee of the South African National Museum of Military History Chairperson, Lt Gen Andrew Masondo, requested me to write to you to express our disquiet at the unfortunate and divisive and sad letter from Col H. Schobesberger ("Whose tradition is it anyway?" published in SA SOLDIER, November 2002).

The Advisory Committee represents wide constituencies of historians, veterans' organisations and serving members of the forces and many others with an interest in preserving military heritage. It is the view of the National Museum's Advisory Committee that the opinions on military cultural heritage expressed by Col Schobesberger are culturally, educationally and militarily wrong and quite misconceived.

The Colonel's opinions reveal a surprising lack of perspective on the wide sweep of military history and heritage. They are not grounded on any consideration of the meaning of military heritage and, indeed, they are based on a very narrow and superficial interpretation of the entire scope of military heritage in any country.

The SANDF is characterised by a consolidation of the cultures of seven different forces. It is also characterised by a high degree of political friction. But none of this is new to the South African military scene. It was to be found in the Union Defence Force established from among the wide range of South African and British soldiers who came together in one force.

They did so despite the bitter war that destroyed the lives of 40 000 South Africans, black and white, between 1899 and 1902. Friction was intense again when the two World Wars broke out in 1914 and in 1939, and from 1948 to 1960 when the National Party government took over and the then Minister of Defence, F.C. Erasmus, attempted to force a narrow interpretation of military heritage on the Defence Force.

In the past the Defence Force overcame friction. Although it retained a culture that was foreign to many members, a One Force Concept survived to give the particular identity that has survived politicians and politics.

Military heritage grows from the past, bad or good. New traditions of the new armed forces are added to strengthen it. As Erasmus found, it cannot be invented or forced. Still today, several regiments remain in the new Defence Force that had fought for imperialist Britain. They have battle honours on their colours that include battles against the forces of the Boer republics. Yet many Afrikanders served in those "English" regiments in the following decades and accepted the battle honours and helped earn new ones, especially in the two World Wars.

Other countries have done the same. On independence in 1947, India's army retained identities expressed in regional colours on which there are still battle honours won when the regiments were "British". It has taken fifty years for the German Federal Republic to live down the ghastly heritage of 1933 to 1945, but eventually today, in Dresden, they have a museum that commemorates the heritage of all - not excluding that of the forces of East Germany.

Were we to adopt Col Schobesberger's views, should we ignore the 250 black soldiers who lie in the cemetery at Arques la Bataille, or the hundreds who drowned in the SS "MENDI", the gallantry of Corporals Lukas Majozi and Job Masego and other World War heroes - or even of the men who fell at Rorke's Drift and Isandhlwana - because it all happened before 1994?

Military history makes it clear that without the black soldier, South Africa's contribution to the World Wars would have failed. That this is fortunately not the official attitude is apparent from the inclusion by the Minister and Parliament of the subject of military heritage in the new Defence Act - without any restrictions. Yes, black soldiers were frequently treated with shocking disregard for their humanity in the past, but does that make the history that they helped build any the less? Is it to disappear as though nothing was achieved through their contributions?

The soldiers in our Defence Force have been down this road before, especially under the National Party Minister, F.C. Erasmus. Do we really want to repeat the process of dividing soldiers politically? Does the Colonel not recognise the One Force Concept? - Prof D.F.S. Fourie, Pretoria.

Against abuse

I fully support the campaign against women and child abuse. We as a nation must take this campaign seriously because people we care about are abused daily. But there are also men who are abused. This letter is dedicated to them as well, since they also have human rights that must be protected. Our sisters and brothers are suffering at the hands of cruel, heartless and abusive girlfriends and boyfriends. The nation must blow the whistle on any form of abuse, whether the victims are children, women, men or the elderly.

The justice department must impose stricter or harsher sentences on such offenders. Abusers should be sent where they belong - behind bars. The sooner we expose those rotten potatoes in our society, the better. Let us support the campaign against abuse and volunteer as witnesses when evidence is sought at the courts, to ensure that justice is done - Lt S. Matli, Tempe.

Not black, not white

I write this letter in response to a letter published in the SA SOLDIER of November 2002.

To Mr Eric Baloyi ("Representivity and equal opportunity in the SANDF as part of transformation"), who states bluntly that white people are not historically peacemakers, I ask the following: Are black people historically peacemakers? After taking into consideration all of the faction fighting that took place in South Africa, do you honestly think that white people are getting rich out of this?

Secondly, it is not only white people who cannot tolerate blacks. There's a good majority of black people who cannot tolerate whites. "Those" whites were and are there because they are knowledgeable in their respective fields, not to get rich. Remember that if South Africans are labelled as arrogant, that includes you! Stop discerning between white and black. If the individual wears a South African uniform, he or she is a "South African soldier!" - Verlyn Troskie, Heidelberg.
South Africa, together with Mozambique and Ethiopia, will contribute to a peace-keeping contingent that is designed to take the Burundi peace process to a much higher level, revealed the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, at a joint press conference with his Mozambican counterpart, Lt Gen Tobias Dai.

The press conference, held on 21 January 2003 at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria, marks the first of many such consultations to follow between the three governments. Minister Lekota noted that, despite Ethiopia’s absence at the media address owing to issues of distance, the talks have, however, begun on a high note.

According to Minister Lekota, there was a further signatory to the ceasefire between the transitional government and the armed groups of Burundi and, as a consequence of that development, South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique have been asked to co-ordinate a single effort to examine what contributions can be made.

In the Minister’s own words, “To initiate a process by which our respective Defence Forces can begin to consult and determine the contributions our Defence Forces could make.”

Mr Lekota went on to say: “We are very keen to fulfill the commitment of our two countries to contribute to this important mission, which has been progressing very slowly.

“There is a lot of work that needs to be done yet; we need, for instance, to consult with Ethiopia, and we would need to visit Bujumbura to consult with the Minister of Defence,” continued Mr Lekota, who in addition mentioned the importance of taking into account consultations with Foreign Affairs and the United Nations on the actual funding of this new mission.

“We see this mission as vital in creating the conditions necessary for our region and continent,” underlined Minister Lekota. In the spirit of bringing peace through a mission that is specific to Burundi, both South Africa and Mozambique have declared to do their very best in order to ensure the success of the peace-keeping mission. As the Mozambique representative, Lt Gen Dai, put it, “It is part of a global effort to ensure peace.’’

On 3 February 2003 a second press conference was held at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. This time the Ethiopian Minister of Defence, Mr Abadulla Gameda, was also present, which was a breakthrough in as far as the deployment of the three African Nation’s peace efforts to Burundi.

Minister Lekota noted that South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia would be able to carry out the mission successfully.

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**An alliance for peace in Burundi.**

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**Part-time making a**

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**SA SOLDIER | MARCH 2003**
The correctness of the decision by the South African government to deploy SANDF soldiers in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on delicate peace support missions has been proven by the resounding successes so far gained in efforts to bring about peace in the Great Lakes.

This was said by one speaker after another during a recent goodwill visit to the Great Lakes at the end of last year by senior SANDF officers accompanied by a representative from the Presidency, a group of well-known music entertainers and members of the media, who included an SABC/TV crew, City Press, Beeld, as well as Defence Television and SA SOLDIER.

The goodwill visit, led on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF by the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt Gen Mojo Motau, culminated in the achievement of what was unthinkable before the SA deployment: the successful staging in central Bujumbura of a musical show dubbed “Thriller in the Great Lakes”, a show that featured Ray Phiri and part of his renowned Stimela outfit, as well as a Burundi volunteer difference

fact that the vision and the culture set by the Commander, Col Sipho Ms, have permeated throughout the force. Their mission is well understood by all ranks,” said Brig Gen Andersen.

Brig Gen Andersen continued: “Although to date there has been limited deployment of Reserve Force members, they are already fulfilling key roles.

“The flight crew who flew us to Bujumbura were largely Reserve Force and we were met at the airport by Col Petrus Hills, a Reserve Force member of the SAAF. SA Army Reserve Force members, Maj Hendrik Nepgin (46 SA Brigade HQ), WO2 Gerhardus Lourens (46 SA Brigade HQ), and Sgt Craig O’Farrel (Transvaal Scottish), two of whom are on the second term of duty, fill key posts in the logistics area.

“WO1 Johann du Preez, a member of the Territorial Reserve, is RSM of Vaal Commando.

“I was delighted to see the One Force policy being so successfully implemented.”
Ray Phiri of Stimela, members of the Army Band and a Burundian local band performing during the festival.

band and an SANDF musical group.

Lt Gen Motau told the deployed soldiers that 2002 had marked yet another year of South Africa’s humble but consistent and deliberate efforts towards peace and stability on the African content.

“This peace drive was not inspired by an abundance of resources and capabilities for which we found no use. Neither was it inspired by the pursuit of any selfish gains or parochial interests,” said Lt Gen Motau just before the handing over of Christmas parcels to the deployed soldiers.

South Africa’s peace initiatives were inspired by an African spirit that yearned to see the African continent achieving peace, stability and prosperity. Addressing himself directly to the deployed soldiers, Lt Gen Motau said: “You, and indeed those who came (to the Great Lakes) before you, continue to do us proud through your sterling efforts. And, in the process, you are undoubtedly busy writing a proud history for our country in the discharge of its international obligations.

“Through your effort, and indeed that of those who came before you, we too can proudly stand in front of the community of nations to be counted among those nations that single-handedly committed their best sons and daughters to support a nation in distress.”

Speaking at the same occasion, the Chaplain General, Maj Gen (Rev) F.F.S. Gqiba, said it was not by accident that the visiting SANDF team had brought along a huge media contingent.

“This was planned to ensure that “a true picture is painted”. He urged members of the media to feel free not only to talk to any of the deployed soldiers, but also to write objectively about what they had seen with their own eyes.

Having described the attributes of a good commander and a good soldier, Maj Gen Gqiba said: “As professional soldiers, we consider it as our duty to be part of this process of trying to heal the scars and wounds that exist on our continent. We should, therefore, remain strong, steadfast and never ever lose focus.” Also addressing the deployed soldiers, the Director General of the Presidential Task Team, Mr Welile Nhlapo, conveyed President Thabo Mbeki’s greetings to the soldiers, whom he said were making South Africa proud to be a good example in the international arena in the course of pursuing peace in this volatile part of the continent (the Great Lakes region).

The Officer Commanding RSA Contingent Command in the UN peace mission (MONUC), Col Ashton Sibango, said his command structure was ready to receive the SANDF battalion group expected to be deployed in the DRC for UN peace support operations that include disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, resettlement and re-integration (commonly known in MONUC circles as “DDRRR”).

This deployment will constitute the single largest deployment of soldiers by any country involved in the DRC peace mission.
A part of the “Sixteen Days of Activism: No Violence against Women and Children”, senior DOD personnel visited Soweto on 5 December 2002 to interact with the public and show support for the campaign.

The group consisted of female senior officers and civilians of the SANDF and members of the Gender Forum. The continuous fight against violence and abuse against women and children necessitates continuing promoting and enhancing the positive image of the SANDF within the community to increase its visibility.

The first stop of the visit was the Takalani Home for the Mentally Handicapped in Diepkloof Zone 6, which is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation catering for 360 people. At the centre Ms Thandi Modise, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, joined the group. After a brief tour through the Takalani Home, Ms Modise said visits like this offer an opportunity to observe and show our humanity to those who are less fortunate. "I am overwhelmed by so much love, care, beautiful smiles and faces full of hope," said Ms Modise.

Chief Director Equal Opportunities (EOCD), Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe, said the visit will change perceptions and show that the SANDF is accessible to all. “As part and parcel of the community, we are committed to projects of this nature and we want to show our solidarity so that initiatives like this reach greater heights,” said Maj Gen Sedibe.

The next stop was the Hector Pietersen Memorial and Museum situated in Khumalo Street, which was erected in 1990 to honour the youth who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom and democracy. Hector Pietersen, age 13, was one of the first students to be killed during the 1976 Student Uprising in Soweto. The last stop of the visit was Wandies Place in Dube, where the group was treated to a sumptuous lunch of African delicacies.

Lt Cdr Julia Kamberipa from Directorate Defence Corporate Communication talking to one of the children at Takalani Home.
For some time now, there have been investigations regarding the effective transformation of the SA Navy Dockyard (East Yard) in Simon’s Town, in line with the Ministry of Defence directives in this regard. After much deliberation it was decided that, taking the Dockyard’s unique environment into consideration, it would be in the best interests of both the SA Navy and the Dockyard itself, that it should become a separate entity under Armscor as a public-public enterprise. As a result Armscor has been tasked to lead the transformation process through a phased approach in co-operation with the SA Navy and the Defence Secretariat.

The first phase comprises a “snapshot” study, known as a Due Diligence Study, and this will focus on the present state of the Dockyard. It is essentially an Audit of Business covering sixteen aspects such as processes, systems, policies and business systems. This will carry on until March 2003. A professional firm of management consultants, Price Waterhouse Coopers, has also been appointed to assist with this study.

Both Armscor and the SA Navy are confident that the completion of this study will result in a better understanding of the Dockyard and its operations, thus contributing to the successful transformation of the Dockyard in order to enable it to carry out its function even more efficiently in future.

Anyone wishing to know more about this process may contact Mr Richard Hutton at tel no: (021) 787 3715 or Mr John Sutherland at tel no: (021) 787 3280. (Article: Courtesy SA Navy Info Bulletin 14/02)

SA Navy Dockyard transformation

Save lives on our roads

The Thaba Tshwane and the Waterkloof Military Police Offices participated jointly for the first time with the Gauteng Traffic Department, ensuring that all road users “Drive for Life” and “Don’t Drive Others to Death”. This initiative came after the Traffic Department requested assistance from Military Police concerning military vehicles.

According to Maj Deon van Rooyen, Acting Area Provos Marshall, this was an opportunity for our members to reduce the unauthorised use of military vehicles. This drive started on 2 December 2002 and will continue until 31 March 2003. The MEC for Public Transport, Roads and Works, Mr Khabisi Mosunkutu, launched the seven traffic control centres and the Incident Management Programme for Gauteng on 10 December 2002 at the Buccleuch Interchange at the N1/N3 split.

This Control Centre received the Outstanding Satellite Office for November 2002 and has ten Military Police members working there. Mr Mosunkutu saluted all uniform staff that participated in OPERATION BLUE LIGHT over the period 6 to 28 November 2002. He said this proved that Gauteng performs its traffic law enforcement duty to the benefit of all road users in the province.

(Article by PO Dennis Ndaba, Photo: F Sgt Tania Kettles)

Safeguarding our coastline

Rural safety, in co-operation with the SAPS, is one of the primary objectives of the Reserve Force. Overberg Commando is one of the units responsible for, among other things, safeguarding the coastline. Their area of responsibility includes more than 1 600 farms and has a coastline of more than 300 kms. Given the vastness of the coastline, abalone poaching is a big problem and seems to be a spinner for the gangs that are operating illegally in the area.

Overberg Commando was involved in Operation NEPTUNE, which was initiated to fight abalone poaching in co-operation with the SAPS. The successes they have achieved are outstanding. The planning was done on a daily basis in conjunction with crime intelligence from the SAPS over the period 6 to 28 November 2002. Over that period more than ten vehicles and a boat belonging to the poachers were confiscated and abalone estimated to be worth more than R5 million was seized. Altogether twenty people were arrested for illegal poaching.

The Officer Commanding Overberg Commando, Lt Col M.J. Delport, showered praises on his soldiers and he believes that this is just the beginning of bigger things to come. “A long journey begins with the first step,” Lt Col Delport said.

(Article by Cpl L.W.Z. Ntola, Communication NCO Group 2 HQ)
Reflect on the horrors of war

Article and photo courtesy
Col R.M. Blake, Military Attaché
People’s Republic of China

On 11 November 2002 sounds from a musical instrument not usually associated with China drifted into a cold winter breeze at the South African Embassy in Beijing. Cpl Liam O’Flaherty, Pipe Major of the South African Military Health Services Pipes and Drums, was playing the Piper’s Lament on the bagpipes.

Ambassadors, Charge d’Affaires, ministers, embassy officials, defence attachés and spouses representing 34 countries gathered at the South African Embassy for Remembrance Day, which is commemorated each year at an embassy in Beijing.

This year the occasion was hosted by HE Thembu M.N. Kubheka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the People’s Republic of China for the first time since formal diplomatic ties were established in 1998. Owing to the uniqueness of the occasion the Surgeon General of the SAMHS agreed to allow Cpl O’Flaherty to participate in the official ceremony.

After welcoming all to the occasion, the Master of Ceremonies, Mr Patrick Manana, invited Ambassador Kubheka to the podium.

In his speech Ambassador Kubheka noted that Remembrance Day is not a “celebration of war”, and said the occasion rather allowed us to “reflect on the horrors of war and its tragic consequences”. He referred to the two World Wars and the creation of Apartheid, which not only saw the deaths of countless civilians, but also had a “deep physical and psychological impact”. In the recent past genocide in Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Burundi, as well as the events of September 11, Bali and Moscow, all remind us that, “Today is...a day to contemplate, to focus on and imagine how wonderful and invaluable peace...would be”.

However, Ambassador Kubheka reminded the audience that “human-kind is not at peace with itself”, and that the terrible lessons of the past had not been heeded. He called on those present to take cognisance of our failings and suggested we should recommit ourselves to tolerance, respect for the dignity of others and the right of all to live in a peaceful world.

He emphasised the need to respect the United Nations, which was created in the aftermath of war for the promotion of peace, and said that, although not perfect, it is “all we have”.

In conclusion Ambassador Kubheka said that when the commemoration was over “…we should leave with one purpose: peace and reconciliation and respect for all humankind in culture, religion, racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity”.

After the Ambassador’s speech the poem “In Flanders Fields” was read. The Piper’s Lament, “The Flowers of the Fields”, played by Cpl O’Flaherty, and two minutes of silence in memory of fallen soldiers and civilian casualties took place before the laying of wreaths by the diplomatic community commenced.

As host Ambassador Kubheka laid the first wreath for the Republic of South Africa, followed by the Dean of the Beijing Military Attaché Corps, Brig J. Gordon Kerr, and the countries represented at the occasion.

A special word of thanks is directed to South African Airways who were the main sponsors and made the attendance of Cpl O’Flaherty possible, while Denel (Kentron) generously agreed to provide financial assistance towards the printing costs of the programme and invitations.

Even in a country as far afield as the People’s Republic of China, Remembrance Day has special significance and it was a privilege to hold it at the South African Embassy in 2002.

Ftr: Mrs L.D. Kubheka, Ambassador T.M.N. Kubheka and Cpl L.M. O’Flaherty.
The biggest medal parade

Compiled by Maj Merle Meyer, Communication Officer Infantry Formation

S chanskop Regiment, recently renamed the Tshwane Regiment, made history on 3 December 2002 by presenting the biggest medal parade of Reserve Force members since the establishment of the Infantry Formation. This parade took place at the SA Army College, which proved to be an appropriate venue for such a historical event. Over 200 Reserve Force members attended the parade and over 100 medals were presented. Several members of the surrounding commando units also received good service medals, including a Southern Cross Medal presented to the Officer Commanding of the Bronkhorstspruit Commando, Lt Col F.P.J. Steenkamp.

The name “Tshwane Regiment” was recently approved to be in line with the area where the Regiment is situated. This Regiment was originally established as the Yskor Pretoria Commando in 1969 and over the years several commando units and regiments, such as Hillcrest, Munitoria, Regiment Pretorius and 2 Regiment Noord-Transvaal were amalgamated with Regiment Schanskop.

Over the years the members of the Regiment have been deployed outside the country. They have also been deployed as far away as the Soutpansberg Military Area, and during numerous elections the members again ensured that such elections could take place peacefully.

Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi, the General Officer Commanding of the Infantry Formation, was the main functionary at the event and he emphasised the important role of the Reserve Force and said that more money will become available in the future for training and deployment. He also said how proud he was of the Regiment for presenting such an excellent parade, and this was confirmed by several of the senior military and civilian guests who attended the parade. The members of the Regiment completed this historical event by singing the unit marching song as they marched off. The words of this song were written by Rfn Vincent Motadi:

“We are the members of the Tshwane Regiment
Under command of Col Roos.
We are soldiers of South Africa.
We are the pride of Africa.
“Tshwane Regiment you make us proud.
Our officers we love you all.
We are members of Tshwane Regiment
Under command of Col Roos.”

Members of Tshwane Regiment march while singing the unit marching song.

The military strategy provides for the promotion of regional and international security through military co-operation in support of foreign policy. Visits are one of the means within the military strategic objective of promoting security. The DOD is now more involved in the development of military strategic partnerships. This corresponds with the guidelines laid down by the Minister of Defence, namely that there is a corresponding need for foreign visits and to exploit foreign learning opportunities.

The work of the soldier and the diplomat must be integrated in a meaningful way. Towards the end of 2002 the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, visited the armies of France, Sweden, Algeria and Cuba.

In addition to the objective set by the military strategy, Lt Gen Ramano and his team also compared the standards of our transformed SA Army with international standards.

The nature and character of these armies were as diverse as their histories. The emphasis of the visit was on all aspects of force preparation and the way these armies handled transformation.

These are some of the observations made by the visiting group:

Algeria

The history of the Popular National Army (PNA) of Algeria goes back to the Algerian Revolution, which took place between 1954 and 1962 and was an
Exploit foreign learning opportunities

Comparing standards.

Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano talks with soldiers of the Swedish Army undergoing urban training. The Chief of the Swedish Army, Maj Gen Sandqvist, is looking on.

Cuban soldiers in training at a Tank Division.

anti-colonial struggle against the French. Their proud history is not only displayed in the national Army Museum, but in each of the regimental museums one will find in all units or training institutions. One of the photos displayed in the national Army museum shows our former President, Nelson Mandela, receiving military training together with freedom fighters of the National Liberation Front in Algeria during the early sixties.

The importance of Algeria lies therein that their President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, is also one of the architects of Nepad. The Algiers - Pretoria Axis, as the Commander of the Algerian land forces spelled it out, is an important link in the implementation of the African Union and Nepad.

The visits by Lt Gen Ramano and his team included the Military Academy, the School of Armour and the Special Forces Training Centre.

The acceptance of English as an international language in a country where French is the second official language can be seen in the computer-based English language training conducted in most of the PNA training institutions. Another observation was the introduction of computer-assisted training in the same institutions. Computer-based driving and gunner simulations in their School of Armour confirm this new approach. The most impressive part of the visit was the practical demonstrations by special force soldiers at their training centre. This included martial arts, SWAT tactics and combat shooting. These demonstrations were not only impressive, but showed the high standard of training in the Algerian Army.

A well-turned out guard of honour in each of the Headquarters and units was an indication of the importance allocated to formal regimental duties by the Algerian Army.

Cuba

The history of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) is closely connected with the history of Southern Africa. The epic Battle for Cuito Cuanavale, where Cuban forces fought in Support of Angolan FAPLA forces against units of the SADF and Unita changed the political landscape of Southern Africa.

Negotiations which followed the Angolan campaign led to the independence of Namibia and contributed to the creation of a democratic South Africa. Cuban officers and soldiers who have served in Angola are very proud of their internationalist contribution to freedom and democracy in the subcontinent. Thousands of them paid the ultimate price. Sometimes one wonders if the youth of our country are still aware of and recognise the sacrifices of Cuban soldiers in Southern Africa. Lt Gen Ramano and his team visited the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (Min Far), the 1st Armour Training Division, the Western Army Headquarters, the underground complex of Tunnel 4, the Guira Agriculture Division HQ and the Military Industry Unit Research and (Continued on page 18)
(Continued from page 17)

Development Centre.

The collapse of the Soviet Union created immense problems for Cuba and its armed forces. Improvisation and self-reliance enabled the Cubans to overcome the so-called "Special Period". Cubans are strong patriots and are proud of the achievements of the Cuban revolution.

Monuments and museums display the deeds of Cuban revolutionaries of the past centuries. Jose Marti, Antonio Maceo and the world-famous Che Guevara are some of them. The regular armed forces are backed up by a strong territorial militia which acts as the eyes and ears of the security apparatus of the country.

Their military academy also provides education in academic subjects and is strong in the evaluation and study of military history.

Military equipment is mainly of former Eastern Bloc Origin. The Cubans are putting a lot of effort into the upgrading and maintenance of this equipment, based on the specific challenges the Cuban forces are facing. The world around Cuba may have changed, but not the revolutionary spirit of the Cuban people.

France

The French Army underwent a transformation process during the last six years, which included:

- Change from a conscript to an all-volunteer professional army.
- Adaptation to the new geopolitical-sociological and financial environment to become a modern Army, able to face any situation.
- Becoming an Army of employment and action permanently engaged in several theatres outside the national territory.
- Being self-sufficient in armament.

The French Army consists of 137 000 regular soldiers backed up by 30 000 Reserve Force members and 30 000 civilians - 85 000 soldiers can be deployed at any time. The Army has two major types of commitment: either symmetrical conflicts between conventional armies, or asymmetrical conflicts, characterised by numerous implications for civilians and the military, as well as terrorism or guerilla warfare operations. The ninety regiments are the fundamental army basic cells: all are operationally deployable and designed for operational training and engagement.

Lt Gen Ramano and his team had the opportunity to visit the Army Command for Doctrine and Higher Education (CDES), the Command for Basic and Advanced Military Education (Cofat) and the Land Force Command (CFAT). A lot of emphasis is put on academic training within the military education system. Fifty percent of officers are drawn from the NCO Corps. These are NCOs who have achieved a certain educational standard, who perform their duties exceptionally well and are within a certain age group.

The Reserve Force is structured into organic reserve force companies or squadrons, which form part of the existing ninety regular force regiments (one company or squadron per regiment). Individual reserve force members augment the regular force members in individual posts throughout the Army.

Uniformed soldiers can be seen patrolling national key points or areas (eg airports, stations and government buildings) together with paramilitary police and the gendarmes. The aim is to prevent terrorism and to reassure citizens in their daily life.

Sweden

The Swedish Army is a mirror of a mature and democratic society which has not known war for the last 200 years. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Sweden’s military non-alignment, aimed at the country's ability to remain neutral in the event of war in Sweden’s vicinity, was retained. Sweden is now redefining its view on security. It seeks co-operation with all international and European security organisations and regional cooperation with neighbouring states.

The Army consists of 225 000 members, which includes 80 000 home guards. Its strength is down from a mobilisation strength of 800 000 during the Cold War. There is a selective national service system.

Training concentrates on the core functions of the soldiers and regimental training, eg, drill plays only a minor role. Self-discipline and self-empowerment are the basis. Basic war-fighting skills dominate training. There are no sergeant majors in the Swedish Army and junior soldiers are given more responsibilities than in the SA Army.

Lt Gen Ramano and his team visited the National Defence College, the life guards regiment (infantry), the WAXHOLM amphibious regiment (marines), the Swedish Armed Forces International Centre (PSO), the upland regiment (EW, signals) and the army command (similar to our Army Office). The Swedish International Centre, which has been in existence for thirty years, every year trains about 2 500 officers from forty different countries. It is developing a multinational and multifunctional computer-assisted training environment for peace-support operations. Most Swedish soldiers speak English, and Nato procedures regarding command and control have been adapted. International activities are one of the main tasks of the Swedish armed forces.

The National Defence College combines academic and military studies within one system. The Swedish Army is very proud of its history. It has to be mentioned that their Army museum does not display the heroes of past wars, but the horror of war.

The Swedish Army is different from most other armies, but so is their whole society.

Conclusion

The visits always included discussions and talks between Lt Gen Ramano and his counterparts in the various countries. Courtesy visits to our South African embassies, where briefings by the diplomatic staff were given, were a useful addition to the visiting programme.

One of the conclusions which can be drawn after visiting such diverse armies is that each country will have its own tailor-made approach, but that there are also many common issues which we can all share.
Codification is the key to modern logistics

By Lt Col A.F. Kriel, Acting SSO Codification and Cataloguing, Chief Logistics (Joint Support Division)
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On 18 January 1945, after World War II, the United States of America focused on the problem of codification of items of supply. President Roosevelt requested the development of an efficient item identification system which would avoid duplication owing to different names, different manufacturers or different references. Any item of supply had to be identified in a universal way by means of coding.

Some years later, all the signatory countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation adopted the American system and called it the “NATO Codification System”. The National Codification System (NCS) in South Africa came into being on 8 May 1962 by virtue of the mandate, approved by the Minister and Secretary of Defence, to implement the NCS in accordance with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) policy and procedures.

- One item = One Stock Number
- Producing country = Codifying country

Continued on page 20

Ftr: Col W. Moeller (Representative of Germany), R Adm (Ret) B.W. Visser (former Chief Logistics), Brig Gen Z.J. van der Merwe (Director Systems Support), and Lt Col A.F. Kriel (Acting SSO Codification and Cataloguing) during detail codification discussions on 25 September 2002.
The role

The RSA National Codification Bureau, situated at Chief Logistics, is the single authority for the formulation and monitoring of codification in the DOD. Many countries across the world have a National Codification Bureau which is the single authority for codification and which acts as the manager of the NCS. Currently several Government departments in South Africa and countries across the world are also utilising the NCS.

Internationally a National Codification Bureau (NCB) has been created within the military environment, which is entrusted with the following functions:

- To formulate and implement codification policies to provide a uniform system of item identification and nomenclature to describe, classify and number each item-of-supply in user inventories so that a given item is controlled by a single National Stock Number (NSN).
- To improve the operational readiness of the DOD by prescribing methods of item identification, increasing NCS processing efficiency and providing adequate and timely codification data to maintain optimum logistic support.
- To provide a means of monitoring the item range on codification data so users can operate their materiel management systems with the minimum number of items essential to support logistic operations.
- To assemble and maintain a central codification data base/file, integrated to include item identifications (characteristics/references) and selected technical and matériel management data for each item of supply incorporated in user inventories.
- To promote optimum interchange of codification data among all users and with foreign countries when requested.

NATO sponsorship

While visiting Europe in September 2001, R Adm B.W. Visser (Ret), now former Chief Logistics, and Lt Col A.F. Kriel finalised six years of negotiation.

They obtained a NATO sponsorship agreement for the RSA NCB, from where NATO stock numbers, codification data and codification tools can be obtained under the approved sponsorship agreement from the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) or other countries utilising the NCS discipline according to Allied Codification Publication (ACod-P1).

Visit to the RSA

During September 2002 Col Wilfried Moeller, the Director of the German NCB, visited the RSA NCB from where certain detail codification agreements between the RSA and Germany were discussed. Col Moeller stated that the standard of the RSA NCB and the different Services codification departments are of a high standard, specifically the NCS.

Advantages of the NCS

All items of supply within the DOD are National Stock Number (NSN) driven and are created, updated or registered against an assigned NATO Stock Number via codification on the NCS. The NCS is the cornerstone of the logistics systems and must distribute Total Item Record (TIR) data to all DOD logistic systems, in support of the DOD objectives. NATO Codification is awakening in more and more countries, owing to the benefits, such as joint operations, resulting from the use of a common logistic language.

The NCS provides users with a uniform and common system for identifying, classifying and assigning a NATO Stock Number to material. The NCS is a widespread supply language that facilitates interoperability, curbs duplication, permits interchange ability, maximises logistics support, and allows substantial financial savings to be realised. The NCS is an "invisible partner" in the day-to-day business of logistics, and has been also adopted by 27 non-NATO nations under a specific programme that allows exchange of Codification data by applying NCS disciplines.

Codification is founded on the philosophy of the "Item of Supply" (IOS) concept. This portrays an object, or group of objects, which has been defined in detail to meet a specific requirement. An IOS can consist of one or many "Items of Production", i.e., a product of a specific manufacturer, having equivalent "fundamental characteristics".

The advantages of the NATO Codification System are numerous and can be viewed in the following major areas:

Operational advantages

- Significant contribution to equipment standardisation, the promotion of item interoperability and reduction in the cost of ownership.
- Visibility of information regarding military items of supply, thereby increasing the effectiveness of rationalisation of inventory management and improving distribution to support operational needs.
- Accurate item data that allows users to find items and equipment and reduce replenishment lead times.
- The use of state-of-the-art computer technology improves the recording, processing and dissemination of vital item data management information through easily accessible databases.
- Single Supply Language that is understood by users and simplifies technical dialogue.
- A tool to ensure that configuration management data is current.
Economic advantages

- A National database allows acquisition project managers and system designers to screen items which are already codified and part of the inventory, instead of designing or producing a new part. This capability has a dramatic impact on preventing new items from being unnecessarily introduced into the inventory. It eliminates experimentation and reduces the cost of gathering unnecessary item data.
- The coupling of multiple manufacturers and suppliers to a single NATO Stock Number allows procurement agencies to:
  - avoid unnecessary procurement where other users hold surplus items;
  - exploit the potential of multiple supply sources, putting an end to monopolistic suppliers;
  - reduce the number of items performing a like function which has a spin-off in reducing the inventory items carried with the additional cost savings regarding administration and storage space; and
  - reduce or cancels duplicate inventory items, which has a similar benefit.

What are the challenges?

The first challenge is to retain and develop a sufficient professionally qualified management group of personnel to sustain the DOD codification capability, because very few members understand the unique environment of codification.

Training of all DOD members on all levels regarding the identification of the correct items to enhance logistics and data integrity must take place.

Data cleanup exercises within the different services must be pursued in close co-operation with commodity and weapon system managers.

A culture must be adopted by all DOD members that codification is not only the allocation of numbers, but that it plays a leading role in the sustainability of data integrity in support of modern logistics. Any logistics system is as good as the data within the system. However, via codification, it is the key to modern logistics.

Pilot of the centuries

Test Flight and Development Centre (TFDC) Test Pilot, Lt Col George Muller, achieved another major personal milestone when he flew his 1 000th hour in the Astra trainer aircraft. Lt Col Muller began his flying career in the SA Air Force in 1974 and flew helicopters, as well as fixed-wing aircraft. He did the Test Pilot course in 1989. Lt Col Muller, who now has nearly 7 000 flying hours in the SAAF, has also achieved the 1 000 hour milestone on the Impala and Puma. Fltr: The acting OC of TFDC, Lt Col “Chippy” Cross, was on hand to congratulate Lt Col Muller when he landed from his flight on 12 December 2002, and the occasion was celebrated with a glass of champagne.

(Compiled by Lt Paul Arendse, TVOS)
After the instruction from the Senior Director of Music for the SA Army, Lt Col R. Buczynski, to schedule a music course for foreign students by the SA Army Band Cape Town, the Director of Music SA Army Band, Capt C.D. Nicholls, accepted the challenge and organised the course. The SA Army Band Music Course (Botswana/Namibia) was held in Cape Town from 5 April to 25 October 2002.

Seventeen Botswana Defence Force and four Namibian Defence Force Military musicians attended the course at the SA Army Band, Cape Town. Various band members taught the students musical skills, such as basic instrument care, posture, breathing theory of music and practical musicianship. This was performed over and above their normal tasking, and time was created to fit the lessons into the Band’s hectic schedule.

Prof Sean Kierman of the University of Cape Town gave the students two Master Classes. The first class focused on correct breathing methods and breath control. After the lecture, all the wind instrumentalists were presented with a “Wind Song” breathing apparatus to practise for improved breathing sustainability and greater lung capacity. The second lecture concentrated on embouchure and tone production. This included all the facial muscles that are employed to produce sound through the instrument. Players from the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra presented lessons to students who play instruments not found in the SA Army Band structure. All the students performed a UNISA Practical Music examination.

All the students were expected to audition for a functional grading at the end of their six-month course, equivalent to what all SANDF bandmen/women are required to take prior to employment in one of the SANDF bands. All four Namibian students attended a similar course in 2001, and were gladly welcomed back to attain a higher functional grading.

The Cheryl George School of Music was responsible for the theory lessons. Afterwards all the students sat a UNISA Music theory examination. During their stay the students had the opportunity to attend various activities, which included a violin concerto at the Cape Town City Hall, a Gala Concert with the SA Army Band Cape Town and a host of operatic soloists, such as Aviva Pelham and the “South African Three Tenors”, a performance of the opera “The Barber of Seville”, a full-day jazz workshop with internationally renowned jazz percussionist, Ephraim Toro, various parades and memorial services, as well as other performances of the SA Army Band Cape Town.

The Consul General of Botswana invited students from Botswana to celebrate their National Day at his residence in Constantia. They all had a wonderful time and were glad to meet other Botswana nationals as they were all feeling rather homesick.

It wasn’t all work and no play, however, the students were treated to a team-building exercise at Ouderkraal on the Atlantic seaboard and a trip to Stanford in the Southern Cape for a riverboat braai, as well as a trip to the Cape Town Waterfront.

In his farewell speech to the students, the Officer Commanding GSB Youngsfield, Col E. Muller, commended the members for the high moral and disciplinary standard they demonstrated throughout the course and told them to pass the unit’s greetings to their respective commanding officers. The Officer Commanding also promised to upgrade the facilities so as to make the Unit a better place, if not the best, for future students to reside in.

SA SOLDIER 1 MARCH 2003
Music and electricity brought rain

By Lt Col R.A. Buczynski, SO1 Music Services

On the morning of 4 December 2002, the National Ceremonial Guard Band, under the direction of Band Master WO1 Alan Wright, set out to the Dinaletsana Primary School. The band travelled to Rooival Village near Jericho, which is approximately 88 kilometers west of Pretoria, where they performed for the pupils aged between six and thirteen.

On their arrival it began to rain, but a tent was promptly erected to prevent any further disruptions. A warm welcome by the Principal, Mrs N.M. Phokontsi, made up for the weather, while the medley of songs performed by local school choirs soon erased any depression caused by the rain.

Adult members of the community who were in attendance were in good spirits as they were also celebrating the installation of electricity in the village and primary school. The National Ceremonial Guard Band helped celebrations along by performing military band items and a few Christmas carols.

The intermittent rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the participants or young audience, who responded with unbounded joy to the music.

But the best was yet to come, as a "hands on" workshop followed the concert, giving the learners from local schools an opportunity to handle the musical instruments to their hearts’ content.

Outreach concerts in rural areas are an important activity of the military band.

This is especially evident when striving to win the hearts and minds of our future generations, as well as giving our precious children an educational insight into the military music culture of the SA Army.

Growing from strength to strength

By L Cpl A.T.H. Holtzhauzen, Corporate Communication Clerk Klerksdorp Commando

Klerksdorp Commando is one of twelve commandos under command of Group 30. The Officer Commanding of Klerksdorp Commando, Lt Col F.J. Holtzhauzen, and his personnel always strive to deliver sterling service to the various communities in their region. Communication operations form an integral part of the command structure, and they not only promote Klerksdorp Commando, but also the SANDF.

Klerksdorp Commando excelled at the gala function of Group 30 last year. They received various awards in the following categories:

- Intelligence and Corporate Communication (first place for the forth consecutive year), Training (first place for the third consecutive year), Military Security (first place in 2002 and second place in 2001), Operations and Personnel (first place in 2002), Occupational Safety and Health (first place in 2002), Operational Evaluation (second place in 2002), Logistics (second place in 2002), Signal (second place in 2002), Transport (third place in 2002), Best Unit (first place in 2002 and 2000 and second place in 2001) and Best Officer Commanding (first place in 2002 and 2000).

Brothers-in-arms

Brothers Rob and Craig Brown enjoy an evening function at the BVR Regimental Drill Hall in September 2002. WO2 Rob Brown is a serving Sergeant Major in the old traditional regiment “First City”, while his brother Craig is a serving Sergeant Major in “The Buffalo Volunteer Rifles”, which is one year “younger” than “First City”. The brothers grew up in army camps and drill halls as their parents both served in the Defence Force. Their father was the late S Sgt Bill Brown and their mother is Mrs Joan Brown (better known as Mrs “B”). Note the unique regimental “mess dress” worn by members of these old regiments.
Let their glory shine

By Maj Merle Meyer, Communication Officer
SA Army Infantry Formation
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On a sunny, clear Sunday morning on 26 January 2003, all Infanteers gathered to honour their fallen heroes at a memorial service conducted by Chaplain C.B. Bosiki, who is the Infantry Association Chaplain. This event took place at the monument at Fort Klapperkop, Pretoria, which was built in honour of all fallen soldiers.

Members of the SA Army, military veterans’ organisations, families and friends of the fallen Infanteers laid several wreaths.

Brig Gen P.H. Vosloo, the Chief of Staff of the Infantry Formation, addressed the guests and brought honour to all the fallen Infanteers by quoting the third verse from the “Ode to the fallen” by Lawrence Binyon:

“They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odd uncounted.
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old. As we that are left to grow old.”

Brig Gen Vosloo emphasised that the Infantry does not make a distinction of which former force any member belonged to, but that all Infanteers will be remembered. He said: “Infanteers are always the first ones into battle and, because they are the foot soldiers, they are the most vulnerable. Infanteers came under fire in Burundi, but their good training ensured that they were not seriously injured.”

During last year the Infanteers were the ones who supported the SAPS with the internal stability situation, patrolled our borders, provided protection at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the launch of the African Union. Our Infanteers ensured peace, stability and security in our own beautiful country.

It is important for us to remember our fallen heroes, but more important we must live for the future and remember “Gladium Practamus”, meaning as Infanteers we wield the sword. The 49th anniversary of the Infantry was also celebrated at this event. Next year the Infantry plan several events to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

When we think of the fallen Infanteers, we remember that they have ensured that our country is a free and democratic country. Let their glory shine upon our tears!

Wreaths were laid at the monument at Fort Klapperkop that was built in honour of all fallen soldiers. Maj Gen M. Paul Ramahlo laid a wreath.

Rest in peace

The late Lt Col Dalisu Zungu (23 July 1963 - 4 January 2003), also known to many members in the SANDF as Padré Zungu, was laid to rest on 11 January 2003. Lt Col Zungu hailed from Mpumalanga (Hammersdale) and matriculated at Ekusa High School. He taught at Phezulu High and Wozamoya High School. He trained as a minister at St Beds (Umtata) and served in the following churches: Chesterville, Sobantu, Madadeni, Hammarsdale and St Faiths Cathedral.

Lt Col Zungu not only read for his Honours and Masters Degree at the University of Natal, but also enjoyed a career as an educator at the University of Natal and Durban-Westville, respectively, and later in Ulundi. Thereafter Lt Col Zungu served in the SANDF as a Chaplain (with 4 SAI Bn and Chaplain General) and later as a Military University Educator at SANDF COLET.

Lt Col Zungu will be missed and remembered as a man of deep faith who was very analytical, a debater, communicator and an extrovert with a profound interest in people.

It is our honour to pay tribute to Lt Col Zungu, the person who in the very short time that he was in the SANDF and in particular SANDF COLET, touched many of our lives in a very special way.

Lala NGOXOLO Mfo ka - Manzinii.
Siqohlala siku khumbula. (Rest in peace, Son of Manzinii. We will always remember you.) (Article by Maj F. Jacobs, SANDF COLET)
During August 2002, SA Special Forces Brigade and the SA Police Service (SAPS) held a joint training exercise at the Verdracht training terrain of the SAPS. During this exercise members of the SA Special Forces Brigade assisted in fighting a runaway bush fire in the area.

The bush fire was fanned by a whirlwind and erupted into an inferno several meters high. Some Special Forces members were trapped and others managed to escape. Two soldiers died on the scene and four more men died later of their injuries in Medical dedication rewarded

1 Military Hospital. The Intensive Care Unit, High Care Unit and Trauma Unit of 1 Military Hospital, as well as members of the SAMHS Training Formation’s Nursing College did their utmost to treat the injured.

The loss of Maj G.S. Zulu, WO2 E.V. Vavarirai, Sgt N. Makumbane, Sgt B.A. Nkwanyana, Cpl B. Mathebula and Cpl M.N. Mavango of SA Special Forces Brigade is greatly felt and these soldiers and their families will be remembered.

On 12 December 2002 Brig Gen L. Rudman, the General Officer Commanding SA Special Forces Brigade, and a Special Forces contingent of nine members paid a special visit to 1 Military Hospital, where members were rewarded and thanked for their dedication and warm-heartedness. 1 Military Hospital received a Certificate of Commendation.


Brig Gen Rudman expressed his deepest appreciation for the work that is being done by the Intensive Care Unit and High Care Unit and said that the SA Special Forces Brigade value and appreciate the dedication and professionalism of the members of 1 Military Hospital. He mentioned that SA Special Forces Brigade is a close-knit family and that they are sometimes put into interesting and dangerous situations, though never intending to end up at 1 Military Hospital. The professional approach of 1 Military Hospital to handling cases of trauma is a very reassuring factor in the minds of all Special Forces members involved in training and operations.

Brig Gen Rudman and Brig Gen Sedibe agreed that the close relationship which has been formed between SA Special Forces Brigade and 1 Military Hospital is built on professionalism and dedication.
The Director Social Work (DSW) regards the promotion of socially healthy military families as one of its strategic objectives. To achieve this goal, endeavours have been directed towards the establishment of empowerment programmes for soldiers’ wives so that they can be self-sufficient and self-reliant.

The reason is that they need to find their niche in their communities, because the military as an institution demands that they get on with their lives even when their spouses or partners are not at home owing to deployments or military development courses.

In pursuance of this objective, the DSW has mobilised and engaged various stakeholders. The following organisations heeded the DSW’s call for resource allocation and support:

- Foreign Military Attaché’s Wives Association - Members of this organisation showed interest in the mobilisation and development of the wives of lower ranking officers and decided to contribute good quality second-hand clothes to the DSW together with a sum of R1 500.00. DSW gave these to the Molopo Women’s Organisation based at 10 SAI Bn. The clothes donated by this association were sold in a jumble sale and the money gained is now used to provide catering services to 10 SAI Bn on the 15th of every month, with the permission of the Officer Commanding. The R1 500.00 was used to cover the costs of training the women in beadwork. By acquiring specific skills they are able to establish small enterprises which link up with the initiatives pursued by the Department of Trade and Industry.

- Pitseng Catering Services - When discussions were held with the Pitseng Management, this organisation proposed that their commitment and support be put on paper. Both the DSW and Pitseng signed a memorandum of understanding to the effect that this organisation will contribute thirty percent of the profit made in tenders which they have secured from the DOD towards the women’s empowerment programmes organised by this Directorate. Thus far, Pitseng has donated a TV, video, table with chairs for thirty children, ferns, books, mattresses and recreational facilities to the Molopo Creche. Pitseng also provided...
training for twenty soldiers’ wives at 21 SAI Bn. On completion everyone received certificates from the Hospitality Academy. Five women were subsequently employed by Pitseng.

- Hoxies Foods - This organisation has also come on board as from 1 October 2002. Monthly they deliver fruit juice, cereals, milk, burgers, fish fingers, butter and jam to the same crèche. This support from Hoxies Foods has made it possible for the Crèche not to increase the monthly fee of R100 per child, despite the high costs of food. The two pre-school teachers’ salaries and the water and electricity is paid from the Crèche fees. Through this process, the culture of paying for services is promoted.

- SAMHS HQ’s Secretaries Forum - Heeding President Thabo Mbeki’s message of Volunteerism, the SAMHS HQ’s secretaries organised toys and equipment and donated them to the Tshwelepele Crèche. The decision to embark on this project came about after they were briefed by the DSW on the importance of promoting socially healthy military families. This donation has contributed to the quality of pre-school education at 10 SAI Bn and clearly demonstrated that we all can make a contribution towards building a better life for all.

The partnership that DSW has established with Pitseng Catering Services and Hoxies Foods also demonstrate explicitly what can be achieved when private companies concretely plough something back into communities which have been previously disadvantaged. Their contributions and donations have made a difference in the lives of the Molopo Military Community.

But why 10 SAI Bn? The answer is that this is a pilot project exploring what can be achieved in endeavours to empower soldiers’ wives. This unit is located in the North West Province in Mafikeng and is within driving distance from Pretoria. This means that the DSW is actively involved in the mobilisation of resources. The intention is to establish similar projects in all provinces. However, it is important to start small so as to learn and improve before spreading to other areas.

The empowerment of soldiers’ wives is regarded as practical support to soldiers’ families. Research conducted within the SANDF indicates that the majority of members are married or live with partners. Often there is sharp conflict between the desire to lead a normal life and the requirements of military service. Studies conducted within the SANDF and in other military forces also show that family problems lead to troubled soldiers and poor military performance during deployments. Studies also show that soldiers can cope with stress better if they know that their families are being catered for during their absence.

Based on these findings, family support must be regarded as critical in order to maintain mission-readiness. William Tycumsch Sherman, General US Army 1864, stated: ‘Man has two supreme loyalties - to country and family... So long as their families are safe, they will defend their country, believing that by their sacrifice they are safeguarding their families also. But even the bonds of patriotism, discipline and comradeship are loosened when the family itself is threatened.’

The situation therefore calls for the establishment of a tripartite alliance between the soldier, the family and the SANDF as an institution. Units, in which Commanding Officers exhibit care by expressing concern for the welfare of their soldiers, will experience high productivity levels and cohesion.

Progress achieved thus far at the Tshwelepele Crèche would not have been possible if the Officer Commanding was not receptive to DSW’s proposals. The establishment of the crèche at 10 SAI Bn has served the dual role of exposing children to pre-school education and freeing women to pursue activities which will ensure their development and promote self-reliance.

Soldiers’ wives involvement in such efforts will therefore enable them to find their niche in society, and consequently the struggle to make ends meet can be tackled. By empowering women, we will be empowering the nation. To ensure the mission-readiness of the SANDF, organisational support is required to promote socially healthy military families.
Building pride and morale

Brig Gen (Prof) Deon Fourie, a Reserve Force member
Photos: Courtesy SA National Museum of Military History

Every modern country in the world - with the possible sole exception of Switzerland - has honours for wearing on appropriate ceremonial and state occasions. They are called honours because they are usually meant to honour the actions of people who have, by their courage, merit, or devotion to duty, benefited the country, community, or environment in various ways. The service may have been on one particular occasion or over a long period of time in paid careers or as voluntary workers, part-time or full-time, for commendable duty.

To receive honours is regarded as honourable because the head of state awards them, because there are few distinctive honours and because they are usually awarded sparingly to selected people with careful consideration of the grounds for honouring them. When there are very many honours in a country and when they are awarded indiscriminately, they become cheap and meaningless. They are then not respected and bestow little or no honour on the recipients. If individual departments and provinces are allowed to bestow honours, this lessens the value of all honours in a country.

When honours from the President are mixed up with other unofficial awards, they also lose their value. There are many such unofficial "medals" in some countries. Some are for sport and similar activities so that they do not even form part of the regular uniform. Recipients in their Services are allowed to choose to wear them with "honours" as they wish. In South Africa, in contrast, because honours come from the President, representing the nation, they must be worn on the appropriate uniforms and recipients may not exercise a choice. Nor may unofficial medals or similar devices be worn with official honours.

In Africa - as elsewhere in the world - honours have been accepted as essential to building pride and morale. In Botswana one finds the Presidential Order of Meritorious Service and the Presidential Order of Honour. In Kenya - using the honorific name given to the first President, Jomo Kenyatta - there is the Order of the Burning Spear; in Ghana the Order of the Black Star; Nigeria has the Order of the Niger and Lesotho awards the Distinguished Service Order of Moshoeshoe.

In Malawi there is the Grand Order of the Lion, in Zaïre there were the Order of the Leopard and the Order of the Zaire. On other continents one finds, for example, in Lebanon the National Order of the Cedar, in Bolivia the Order of the Condor of the Andes. Apart from the orders there are also many decorations and medals for the various armed services.

Ghana has the Efficiency Medal, Kenya has the Campaign Medal for operations, in Egypt there is the Military Medal of Courage and Kuwait has the Liberation Medal for the war against Iraq in 1991. In Singapore there is the Prugat Gagah Perkasa (Conspicuous Gallantry Medal). India's decoration for bravery is the Vir Chakra (VrC) - ranking with the British Victoria Cross; Pakistan's equivalent is the Nishan-i-Shujaat.

Military honours have a long history. Military commanders everywhere have always realised that rewards lead to further deeds of courage or of merit or they encourage warriors to remain at their posts. For example, when he argued in favour of instituting the Order of the Legion of Honour as an honour for bravery and for merit, Napoleon Bonaparte, the famous conqueror of Europe and First Consul of the French Republic, said: "In a republic, soldiers performed great deeds largely through a sense of honour".

In the history of the black peoples of South Africa there were various awards made by kings and chieftains to their brave or devoted soldiers. Among the Xhosa leopard skins were awarded and blue crane feathers were distinctions for brave war services. Among the Zulu, there were special decorations for warriors who had distinguished themselves in war. For bravery in battle there were brass armbands, ingxotha, as well as necklaces of interlocking wooden beads, known as iziqu, cut from the Umzimbete or uMyezane tree, the wood of which was reserved for the King alone. Tonga and Bakwena heroes had the right to wear, as honours, antelope or goat horns, and necklaces with little pieces of wood carved in a special manner, charred in the fire, or scars on their left sides to record the number of enemies slain in battle.

In the Zulu army long service was recognised in a similar way by war shields (isiHlangu). These were of different colours of hides that distinguished the senior-age regiments - the amaButho - from the younger. White was for the regiment first established - the amaWombe. As time passed, shields that were entirely white reflected the greatest honour of seniority and battle experience, not bravery as is sometimes thought.

The significance of honours.
Types of honours

Honours usually fall into six categories when we speak of awards such as the decorations or medals meant especially for members of the SANDF. There is also another category of honours - that of orders. Orders are actually given to associations or groups of people whose achievements, devotion to duty and meritorious actions have been recognised. In the beginning orders were given to small armies and only warriors belonged to them. Today, in contrast, orders are open to any people who have achieved in the arts and sciences or who have served with merit and devotion in government, the armed forces and the public at large.

An order may consist of several ranks, usually five, but sometimes only three. Customarily, members are admitted first to the lowest rank and then, as they continue to render meritorious and devoted service during their careers, they may rise in the orders upward to the highest rank. Recently President Thabo Mbeki replaced the previous South African orders with three new national orders to recognise South Africans’ devotion and merit.

The new orders are the Order of Mapungubwe - for excellence and exceptional achievement; the Order of the Baobab - which may be awarded for meritorious work related to security; and the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo to recognise the contribution of foreigners. Orders are open to civilians, police, fire services and others, as well as to people serving in the armed forces. The various uniformed services often have medals and sometimes decorations similar to those awarded to the armed forces. However, there is a preference to award merit by admitting them to one of the orders.

Apart from orders there are several categories of other honours. Firstly, there are decorations and medals awarded for bravery in the face of the enemy. There are usually three levels of bravery with bars worn on the ribbons to represent subsequent awards. The new bravery decorations for the SANDF will be the Nkwe ya Gauta, Nkwe ya Selefera and Nkwe ya Boronse (the Golden Leopard, the Silver Leopard and the Bronze Leopard). Then there are honours for leadership, meritorious conduct or devotion to duty. In South Africa there are also usually three levels of merit. Bars also represent subsequent additional awards of these decorations. In this category our new decorations will be the Iprothiya yeGolide, Iprothiya yeSiliva and Iprothiya yeBhronzi (the Golden Protea, the Silver Protea and the Bronze Protea).

Orders, decorations and medals for bravery and for leadership, merit and devotion to duty are considered to justify special recognition by allowing the recipients the privilege of writing the abbreviations of the names of the decorations and medals behind their names. Those used at
(Continued from page 29)
present for bravery include HCS in the SANDF, the NSS (for APLA) and the SBS (for MK). For merit, there are the SM and the MMM and so on. Incidentally, these abbreviations are called post-nominal letters or abbreviations, not titles as people sometimes mistakenly say. Titles attached to any honours were actually forbidden for South Africans by a resolution of Parliament in 1925.

For actions demanding not quite the high levels of achievement required for decorations and medals, there is the practice of mentioning by name deserving members of the forces in the despatches sent by Force Commanders to the President during or after campaigns or other operations. Such people would be mentioned for brave or meritorious conduct, leadership, devotion to duty, praiseworthy service or other distinguished conduct not meriting decorations. Personnel whose names are mentioned receive a miniature emblem of the national coat-of-arms to wear on the ribbon of the relevant campaign medal or the General Service Medal or directly on the jacket when they have no campaign medal.

A fourth category of honours is that of campaign medals. Those that one will see frequently in the SANDF are the Pro Patria Medal, the Southern Africa Medal, the South Africa Operations Medal and the Medal for Operations in Southern Africa of umKhonto weSizwe and APLA and, of course, the General Service Medal. They are all meant to signify that the wearers have served in campaigns and various other operations. Special campaign medals may be awarded from time to time as occasion demands. To mark a significant campaign or operation, clasps are often added to the ribbons of the medals to show where or when the medal was earned. A General Service Medal is usually instituted to indicate service in brief or “minor” campaigns or other operations and it will be used for several years. In the new series to be awarded by the President, a new medal for general service, the Tshumelo Ikatalo, will replace the present GSM for the same purpose. In later years yet another may be instituted.

Fifthly, there are medals for long service, good conduct and loyalty. A long service medal is awarded for completion of prescribed periods of service marked by good conduct and loyalty in the SANDF. The new medal with bars for additional periods of ten years will be the Medalje vir Troe Diens.

At present there is a wide variety of existing military honours to be seen on the chests of members of the SANDF. They include not only the bravery, merit and service decorations and medals awarded by the President to the SANDF, but also those available to former members of MK and APLA. The new series that the President is to introduce will be far fewer in number. They will serve the same purpose of honouring deserving members of the SANDF and will include the various actions now provided for by several different honours. They will be worn with pride by the personnel of the armed forces alongside honours previously awarded.

Lastly, there are commemoration medals, such as the Unitas Medal, which may be awarded from time to time to mark special occasions. There have been few in modern South African history. Before the Unitas Medal the Union Commemoration Medal in 1910 was the first, and after that there were only the three Coronation Medals of Kings George V and George VI, and Queen Elizabeth II.

Selection of references
For those interested in further reading the following may be found in libraries:

- Fourie, DPS and Brownell, FG A Guide to Decorations and Medals awarded to umKhonto weSizwe and the Azanian People’s Liberation Army. To be published.
- Zimbabwe Warrants 1 to 6 of 1981 and Warrants 1 to 3 of 1982.

The author of this series of articles has served as a part-time soldier and sailor since 1950 - in the 2nd Regiment Botha, the SA Marines, the SA Navy, the Pretoria Regiment, at the SA National Defence College, as Director, CF Liaison, on the Staff of the Chief of the Army and on active service as acting SSO Operations, Windhoek. In civilian life he taught Strategic Studies at the University of South Africa. Previously he chaired the State Heraldry Council and the Council of the SA National War Museum. He is a member of the SANDF Advisory Panel on Honours. He has published widely on military affairs and he first contributed to this magazine in 1961.
Compiled by Maj M.H. Gilliver, Officer Commanding 15 Maintenance Unit

In 1999 the centenary of 15 Maintenance Unit was celebrated. Besides being South Africa’s oldest logistic unit, it also has the status of being the SA Army’s oldest surviving support unit.

Taking the position of this unit into account, it makes sense that discussions on how to celebrate this milestone began in the mid-1990s. Although formal dinners, parades and commemorative silver were all adequate suggestions, the idea to publish a substantial, well-illustrated regimental history stood out.

After more than five years of work, this dream became a reality when Through Desert, Veld and Mud: The History of 15 Maintenance Unit 1899-1999 by H.R. Paterson & M. Levin was published in May 2002.

The extensive amount of time which was invested in this project comes as no surprise. At best, the Unit’s own records were chaotic and, at worst, many records had not survived at all. These difficulties were not only restricted to records, but extended to photographs as well. Exposure to the sun and water damage rendered some unusable, while members who had later died, emigrated or were untraceable had taken others. Undertaking such a project in the face of such obstacles required commitment, perseverance and, admittedly, an amount of foolhardy courage. However, it is probably owing to the difficulties attached to this task that the Unit takes such pride in the finished product.

15 Maintenance Unit owes its origins to the Anglo-Boer War. Just weeks prior to the outbreak of the War, the Colony of Natal realised that it had no logistic unit. It hurriedly created the Natal Volunteer Transport and Commissariat Department in Pietermaritzburg. This was the precursor of what is today known as 15 Maintenance Unit, based in Durban since 1926.

Despite the revolution in transport over the past decade the role of the Unit has hardly changed. Transporting supplies has always had its difficulties and the Unit has had to develop innovative ways of combating them. The photograph on the cover of the book shows a team of 24 oxen struggling to pull a single two-wheeled cart across a swollen Tugela River. Contradictorily, during the 1914-1915 German South West African campaign, the scarcity of water had the Unit resorting to camel trains to drag supplies across the desert in the scorching heat. Equally perilous were the melting snows and resulting mud of the Italian campaign (1944-1945). A special type of courage was required to drive heavily laden ammunition trucks along narrow, winding slippery tracks in the Apennine mountains, with the threat of German bombardment looming overhead.

The hardships endured by the soldiers while trekking through desert, veld and mud often went unappreciated, especially the role of black and coloured volunteers, whose support was depended on (perhaps more than any other corps) by the logistic units. Apart from loading and unloading supplies, they controlled the teams of mule and oxen during the Anglo-Boer War and again during World War I. World War II saw them driving the trucks that transported thousands of supplies for South African soldiers.

The success of any campaign depends on the components of the army working together at the highest level of efficiency. Yet, the role of a unit such as 15 Maintenance Unit is often downplayed in official military histories.

On its 75th anniversary in 1974, 15 Maintenance Unit received the Freedom of the City of Durban. To mark the Unit’s centenary celebrations the book Through Desert, Veld and Mud was published. Through the completion of this project it has become the first logistic regiment to publish its history, not only in South Africa, but possibly in the British Commonwealth. This in itself is a special achievement in South African military history.

The book is available from selected bookshops in South Africa at a recommended price of R250.00. It’s also obtainable from the 15 Maintenance Unit, PO Box 806, Durban, 4000 (Tel No: 031-369 1731).
The 100th Pilots Wings Course has indeed proved itself. With the assistance of dedicated instructors and ground crew, the students overcame an array of problems to meet the deadline of 5 December 2002.

In January 2002 the fleet of Astra aircraft experienced problems with the nose-wheel actuators, so the students only started flying in late February. As the students were already behind the programme, flying training was carried out over weekends as well.

With each student having to do 144 training flights, the dream of achieving wings seemed impossible.

On 5 December 2002 a total of 28 students received their Pilot’s Wings at the SAAF Wings parade held at Langebaanweg Air Force Base. This 100th course has been one of the few courses to achieve a 100% pass rate.

Various students received awards during the parade: 2 Lt E.V. Gryffenberg received the Inkawzi floating trophy for the highest overall percentage, as well as the Air Command floating trophy for obtaining the highest percentage in the theoretical phase of the Pilots’ Wings Course. 2 Lt L. Potgieter received the Air Force Board floating trophy for the highest overall percentage during the flying phase. 2 Lt A. Naik received the SAAF Association floating trophy for showing the most overall improvement during the same course.

Pilots’ Insignia, Pilot Commando Insignia, the Navigators’ Insignia, the Flight Engineers Insignia, the Electronic Operator’s Insignia, the Electronic Technician’s Insignia, the Telecom Operators Insignia, the Flight Attendants Insignia and the Load Masters Insignia were also awarded during the parade.

2 Lt S. Signer received four trophies: the 80 Air Navigation School Ground School Trophy for obtaining the highest percentage during the theoretical phase of the Navigators’ Wings Course; the SITA Simulator Floating Trophy for the highest percentage during the simulator phase; the Community of Hopefield Flying Trophy for obtaining the highest percentage during the flying phase; and the Air Navigation School Floating Trophy for the highest overall percentage on the Navigators’ Wings Course.

Sgt J. Olivier was awarded the Monster Wilkens Floating Trophy for obtaining the highest overall percentage during the Flight Engineers Course.

The Top Student Electronic Operator Course Trophy was awarded to F Sgt J.A. Hauptfleisch for being the overall best student during the Electronic Operators’ Course.

The Top Student Electronic Technician Course Trophy was awarded to Sgt W.S. Buitendagh for being the overall best student during the Electronic Technician Course. The Emsie Schoeman Flight Attendant Floating Trophy was awarded to Sgt A.M. Moema, who has overall shown the best performance as a student flight attendant.

**Honorary award**

The Chief of the SA Air Force also presented the Honorary Award,
During 2002 the Air Force Board decided that 2 Air Servicing Unit (ASU) in Ysterplaat and 8 ASU in Langebaanweg are to be combined as one unit, 2 ASU, situated at Langebaanweg, with the Ysterplaat part known as 2 ASU Detached.

Certain existing maintenance functions at 2 ASU Detached have been identified for future privatisation, while 8 ASU is to be re-named 2 ASU.

A change of command took place on a parade held at Langebaanweg AFB on 28 November 2002, when Col V. Cloete handed over the command of 2 ASU to Lt Col D.J. Blom. Col Cloete was the previous OC of 2 ASU and Lt Col Blom the previous OC of 8 ASU.

8 ASU has a relatively short history as a Unit, owing to the fact that it has developed from previous Base Aircraft Maintenance Sections at the base. 8 ASU was established as a self-accounting unit on 1 April 1999, and Lt Col J.M. van den Berg was appointed as the first Officer Commanding of the Unit. He served in this post until December 2000. Lt Col D.J. Blom was appointed as Officer Commanding 8 ASU as from 1 March 2001, and served in this post until the Unit’s name was changed to 2 ASU on 28 November 2002. The main function of 8 ASU was to render maintenance support to the Astra aircraft fleet. 2 ASU was established on 1 November 1984 as a lodger unit at Ysterplaat AFB. The primary reason for the establishment of the Unit was to divorce the intermediate and unit level logistic activities from the operational level activities in the Cape Town area. This entailed the amalgamation of 2 ASU with the maintenance and manufacturing workshops of Ysterplaat AFB. During that time 2 ASU was known as 2 Air Depot.

In 1990 the logistic support activities in the Cape area were further rationalised, culminating in the amalgamation of 11 Air Depot with 2 Air Depot in March 1992. On 13 February 1998 the Unit’s colours (ensign) were presented to the Unit by the late Mr Joe Modise, the then Minister of Defence.

Col V. Cloete handed over the command of 2 ASU to Lt Col D.J. Blom (left).

Boeing 727-260 with Ethiopian Airlines, where he accomplished 3 300 flying hours.

Honorary Colonel Nomvete has, since 1994, been involved in Aviation Management in one way or another. He was appointed as Marketing Manager for Atlas Aviation, Director Marketing for Denel. He served as an Executive Director on the Board of Transnet where his responsibilities included the Aviation and Property portfolios looking at, among others, South African Airports and its subsidiaries. These included Apron services, Aircrfts, Alliance Air and Connex Travel.

The criteria for a person to be appointed as an Honorary Colonel include having an accepted and credible standing in the community, a love for aviation, a serious interest and involvement in the unit or squadron and in keeping the SA Air Force and its traditions alive.

The role of an Honorary Colonel is to interact with the unit or squadron in respect of the community and to support the unit, the SAAF and the DOD. He or she must pay regular visits to the squadron, attend parades and functions and should promote the squadron and its particular functions.
Sixty-five years of co-operation

By P.W. Butler, Rector Centurion College
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

he above, in a nutshell, describes the symbiotic relationship between Centurion College (CENCOL) and the Armed Forces that has survived and flourished for the past sixty-five years.

A major contributing factor to this long and successful association is the unique learning and training culture that has developed over a number of decades between the College and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

An influential person in military circles, during a recent visit, described this relationship as unique. He said that nowhere else in the world was there a similar affiliation between a Technical College and the Armed Forces.

During the past twenty to thirty years about 40 000 SANDF students have been sent to Centurion College for practical training. Twelve thousand of these students were maintained by the SANDF, and the rest were employed by private industry.

Centurion College presently provides eighty percent of the SANDF’s Technical Training in the Tshwane area and this utilises twenty percent of Centurion’s training capacity.

The SANDF is mandated by the Government to safeguard the country against any onslaught, and to this end needs to be in a continual state of optimal preparedness. A vital and axiomatic factor in the pursuit of preparedness is the continual availability of specialised, current, effective and time-tested technical training, orientated to the unique and peculiar requirements of the SANDF.

This requirement was recognised and accepted several decades ago, and culminated in the establishment, in January 1937, of a specialised College, at Robert’s Heights (later Voortrekkerskroogte and now Thaba Tshwane), to meet the then Union Defence Force’s requirements.

The School for Technical Training was initially a subsection of the Aircraft and Artillery Depot. Centurion College therefore started as a military college and, despite several name changes, has remained essentially, but not exclusively, a military College. The College has, however, always put its facilities and expertise at the disposal of private industry, the community and the country.

The prime motivation for a campus integrated with the military training environment is to ensure an efficient, cost effective and centralised military-controlled learning environment. In times of tension this environment will provide for adequate levels of security for military personnel (the SANDF’s most valuable asset).

The ability to mobilise personnel quickly is enhanced by this single location concept, the basic precept being to muster forces in the shortest possible time. Regardless of the current stable environment in the country, the military must be in a position to implement required reactionary processes at short notice. The current single location concept allows for this process without jeopardising the ability to continue training.

Presently the College consists of the following Faculties: Engineering Studies, Business Studies, Practical Workshop Training and Skills Courses. A wide variety of academic and skills courses are offered and practical workshop training commences with basic training for beginners and progresses to advanced levels where students are prepared for trade tests.

These courses are all based on the Competency Based Modular Training model. Practical workshop training courses have already been submitted to SAQA for registration and all workshop lecturers have already successfully completed courses in training assessment.

An agreement of co-operation and a progressive relationship exists with the Pretoria Technikon regarding Engineering and Business studies.

Discussions between Centurion College and the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) have reached advanced stages in the creation of a
Technolab and Technocity, in partnership with the University.

A unique learning and training culture that is the result of decades of mutual co-operation and respect links the SANDF and Centurion College. This is generally considered to be one of the major contributing factors to the success of SANDF training at Centurion College.

Apart from the technical, academic and practical training provided by Centurion College, they are always prepared to initiate and present specialised training for the SANDF. In the past courses have been presented in photography and television production. Courses in the advanced planning stage include Product Knowledge, Life Skills, Leadership Development, and an EB 2000 - computer-based preliminary Training course. A recent course on Mentorship for senior SANDF personnel was well received, and the participants have requested follow-up sessions.

The SANDF, in partnership with Centurion College, undertakes community development projects. One such programme is a joint venture between 68 Air School and Centurion College at Olievenhoutbosch informal settlement, where assistance is given to the school. Computers have been donated and installed, and assistance provided for a school-feeding scheme, with the help of Old Mutual.

The SANDF, acting as a training facilitator for the SADC countries, has brokered several courses for SADC forces at Centurion College.

Several top-ranking members of the SANDF, and many prominent civilians and civic leaders, are past students of Centurion College.

The SANDF relies on Centurion College for the provision of total training packages, including preparation of syllabuses, scheduling and the logistical arrangements. Centurion College subscribes to the SANDF tenet: “First time always right”.

Over the years Centurion College has, together with the SANDF, done research and pioneered many Technical programmes.

Centurion College has always maintained the high standards required by the SANDF, and this has been to the benefit of all students and organisations associated with the College.

An important development at Centurion College, from which South Africa and the SANDF will benefit, is the Training Contract between SAAB of Sweden and the College, signed on 8 May 2002.

Apart from being a multi-million Dollar

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contract scheduled to run for six years, it has several other important aspects. Agreements have been reached with various firms and the SANDF for the provision of training. Some examples follow.

A venue has been equipped with the necessary computers and technology to present the EB 2000 Electronic Training Course. This is a computer-based primary course that prepares students for more advanced electronic studies. It eliminates the need for components and hardwiring. The SA Air Force has sent many students on this course.

A pilot course to retrain 44 retrenched motor factory workers for re-employment was presented for the Joint Educational Trust (JET). Practical courses in welding, electrical wiring, motor mechanics and auto electrical, as well as life skills and computer literacy, were included in the sixteen-week, full-time course.

An Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Centre has been built, and communication literacy in English and numerical literacy classes are being presented. These courses are presently fully enrolled with ex-MK and ex-Apla soldiers being prepared for integration into the SANDF.

Negotiations have been initiated with the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) to provide a wide spectrum of training courses for their management and administrative personnel at their head office, regional and centre level. The personnel are situated throughout the country and the training will accordingly be provided on a block-release system.

A Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine-training centre has been established at Centurion College and has been equipped with CNC machines donated by SAAB. The machines have been installed, are fully operational and are being utilised for training.

Application for accreditation of the Centre will be submitted as soon as the relevant Education and Training Quality Assurance body (ETQA) is in place.

During November 2001 two lecturers from Centurion College underwent training on Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machines in Linköping, Sweden. This was in terms of an exchange agreement for personnel, and these lecturers have prepared course material and are presenting CNC Training Courses. As soon as unit standards for these courses are available, they will be submitted to the SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for accreditation.

An important highlight of the SAAB/CENCOL agreement was the implementation of the bursary scheme on 29 April 2002. Eighty-four students who were awarded bursaries funded by SAAB commenced their studies at Centurion College. These bursaries are a significant boost to the upliftment of the disadvantaged and this is clearly indicated by the relevant statistics:

Eighty-one bursaries were awarded to black students, two to white students and one to an Indian student. Genderwise the distribution is sixty-eight males and sixteen females. The enrolments are nineteen for engineering studies and sixty-five for practical courses.

Application for accreditation of the Centre will be submitted as soon as the relevant Education and Training Quality Assurance body (ETQA) is in place.

The lecturer exchange programme provides for regular overseas training for CENCOL staff to stay abreast of the latest developments.

The CNC and other high-technology training resulting from the agreement will in the near future be of inestimable value to the country in view of the equipment being imported.

The Gripen and Hawk fighter aircraft purchased by the SA Air Force from Sweden will be delivered from 2006. Denel aviation is already manufacturing some of the components, and the demand for high-technology training will escalate rapidly. This envisaged escalation must be accommodated. CENCOL are indeed fortunate to have reached an agreement with SAAB and the other Swedish firms, for apart from high-technology, they can gain a very important culture, that of emulating the Swedish concern for "quality". This culture is deeply ingrained and their slogans all seem to address quality.

South Africa desperately needs to adopt and propagate this important Swedish mind-set throughout the country’s industry.

South African delegates who have had the privilege of visiting firms and technical training centres in Sweden are all of the opinion that their training is of a very high standard. We in South Africa are therefore indeed pleased and proud to have them as training partners, and look forward to utilising their expertise for the benefit of all South Africans.
Reserves create awareness

By LS B.C. Khuzwayo, Reserve Force Division Promotion Clerk

In the spirit of renewal and transformation of the Reserves, we are gathered here to experience commitment to the Reserves. For many years the name of the main lecture room in the Paratus Building of SA Army College was known as the Commando Room. This lecture room is used for lectures to the Senior Command and Staff Duties Courses.

These were words uttered by Maj Gen Ian Deetlefs, the Chief of Defence Reserves, during the opening of the Reserve Force Lecture Room at SA Army College. The event took place on 21 January 2003.

With the appointment of Brig Gen M.E. Petane as the Commandant of the SA Army College in 2000, the name was changed to “Lecture Room No 1”. All SA Army formations were approached to redecorate lecture and syndicate rooms in the Paratus Building. Each training facility was going to be decorated to reflect the main qualities of the responsible formation. As a result, the Reserve Force Division was responsible for redecorating “Lecture Room No 1”, now known as The Reserve Force Lecture Room. This was to reflect the corporate culture of reserves.

Maj Gen Deetlefs expressed appreciation for the good work done by the Reserve Force Division, specifically Mrs Jenny Render as the regional co-ordinator. He congratulated Mr Mike Fletcher and Mr Chappy Holtzhausen from Defence Corporate Communication for their good artwork in the Reserve Force Lecture Room.

During the function the General also mentioned the new publication, “The Reserve Force Volunteer”. This is the third annual edition, which has swelled to 84 pages. Maj Gen Deetlefs emphasised that this publication was the result of good work from Reserve Force staff and units. This publication is distributed nationwide and internationally, and will reach more than 75 000 readers.

In conclusion Maj Gen Deetlefs mentioned the Bus advertising campaign, which creates awareness of the SANDF Reserves to the general public. In total 100 Putco buses have been issued with the SANDF Reserves advert on the back window. This is a good campaign for reserves since these buses travel countrywide, from our northern borders in the Limpopo Province to the southern tip of Africa. The smooth running of this campaign was the good work of Comutanet, the advertising company.
By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The DOD demonstrated to the disabled community and South African society its commitment to promoting equal opportunities for disabled people, raising awareness about their needs, potential and their contribution by celebrating the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3 December 2002.

The International Day of Disabled Persons is a recognised event in South Africa, where the emphasis is placed on the empowerment and upliftment of people with disabilities.

The activities started with a Disability Workshop at the Gauteng Disabled Persons Sport Centre, which was opened by the Chief Director Equal Opportunities (EOCD), Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe. The workshop provided a useful platform, not only to discuss the barriers and plight of disabled persons in the DOD, but also to market the EOCD’s Disability Section.

It also created awareness in respect of the newly approved DOD’s Policy Guidelines on the prevention and elimination of unfair discrimination towards people with disabilities.

“The most important fact that we have to take cognisance of in today’s society, and even in the work environment, is that people with disabilities face many barriers every day. This ranges from physical obstacles in buildings to systemic barriers in employment and civic programmes. Yet often the most difficult barriers to overcome are the attitudes other people have towards people with disabilities. Why is it that people’s most pervasive negative attitudes are focused on individuals’ disabilities rather than on their abilities?” said Maj Gen Sedibe.

The DOD, through the EOCD and the active participation of the disabled and non-disabled must, however, strive to ensure that people with disabilities are able to play a full participatory role in the DOD working environment and society at large.

The EOCD, however, recognises the fact that those barriers which are depriving people with disabilities of services and facilities, as well as many others, are the result of prejudice born out of ignorance and misconceptions.

“It is, therefore, very important that steps are taken to remove these barriers and eradicate widespread discrimination against people with disabilities. They should also be offered equal opportunities to live and work independently with dignity and freedom. We should enable them to contribute and enrich of our society in accordance with their skills and talents. The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate would like to urge people with disabilities, in partnership with

Fun Olympics.

Ms Moekie Grobbelaar and Mr Wessel Du Toit showing their expertise in ballroom dancing to the DOD members.
the non-disabled, to remove the obstacles and barriers that society has put in front of them. Only through such collective and sustained efforts will we be able to minimise and ultimately eliminate the prejudice and unfair discrimination that has become a daily occurrence,” added Maj Gen Sedibe.

After the workshop delegates were invited to a disability gala function at the Sir Pierre van Ryneveld Hall, Air Command. During his address, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, said that nothing substantial and of lasting value can be achieved in the DOD without actively involving people with disabilities in the struggle for equality, self-respect and independence. They and all those who believe in creating a just DOD free from discrimination, must support all departmental efforts aimed at achieving equal rights for all, for disabled persons as well as the non-disabled.

However, it is important to note that people with disabilities in the DOD still struggle to be recognised because they have to deal more with perceptions and attitudes with regard to their capability and adequacy, as well as with a hostile environment in which they work. These aspects therefore also have a very negative impact on the appointment and employment of people with disabilities in the DOD, which will make it difficult for the DOD to reach the target of employing 2% disabled personnel by the year 2005. The stereotype of disabled persons is that they should be pitied and given charity or that they and the society in which they live should forget that they have a disability.

The implication of these impressions and images is that there can be nothing positive or beautiful or strong or powerful or productive or useful about people with disabilities. Yet most disabled persons possess all these traits and many more.

“Only when we recognise the diverse contributions of those who wear "labels", will we move away from the "disability" label of disabled persons and look for the complexity and individuality we take for granted in ourselves. Through our interactions with those with disabilities, we stand to learn valuable lessons that will lead us to greater appreciation of diversity in all its forms. Diversity enhances and enriches,” said Mr Masilela.

During the opening of the Fun Olympics, Maj Gen Sedibe reiterated that people with disabilities must be empowered to increase their self-reliance in order for them to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. The Fun Olympics also included wheelchair races for people with disabilities and the DOD top structure, field events, quad games, basketball, chess, pool, ballroom dancing and other recreational activities.

Mr Kobus Swart and Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe congratulate Ms Roselle Rudd after she completed the tandem jump.

Sign language

On 4 December 2002 Mr Kobus Swart, SO1 Disability Equal Opportunities, handed a Beginner Sign Language Certificate to Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, Chief Director Defence Corporate Communication (CDCC), who attended the course at the Wits Language School over the period 3 June to 12 July 2002, completing it successfully. (Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana)
Training body and mind

By Capt Alfred Linda, Chairperson KZN Military Oyama Karate Club

The KwaZulu-Natal Military Oyama Karate Club held its first annual tournament at Old Fort Military Base in Durban on 12 October 2002.

The turn out was tremendous. The tournament was graced by the presence of Director SANDF Sport, Brig Gen Lindile Yam, and his wife. The standard of the tournament was very high. Capt Alfred Linda, the Chairperson of the KZN Military Oyama Karate Club, was not only overjoyed by the turnout, but also by the fact that Brig Gen Yam was there to witness the event.

History

The KZN Military Oyama Karate Club is a non-profit club, which seeks to promote karate among Defence Force members and to maintain good relationships while promoting the sport in the civilian community.

The Club was established on 17 September 1997. It has entered into more than five national events and one SANDF Championship. The Club obtained four gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze medals in the SANDF Championships 2001. The Chairperson and the instructor of the Club is Capt Alfred Linda, who currently holds a 3rd Dan black belt.

Sensei Linda started karate at school in 1979 under Brown belt (Sensei Sabela). In 1982 he joined the Red Hill Kyokushin Karate Dojo under Shodan A. Manqele. Owing to some problems he left the Dojo in April 1983. In 1984 he joined the Ziphembeleni High School Oyama Karate under (brown belt) Sempai Mbonisi Mbhele.

In 1985 Sensei Linda joined the Red Cross Oyama Karate Dojo under the then Sensei Alpheus Sabela. Sensei Linda has been training under Sensei Sabela, who is now a shihan, until the present.

Sensei Linda has been teaching karate since 1985. He has produced four shodans (black belts). He maintains that karate must be regarded as a religion through which those who choose it become followers of the late Sosai Masutatsu Oyama (the founder of Kyokushin Kai Kan Karate).

Statement on crime

We from the KZN Military Oyama Karate Club are aware and cautious of the seriousness of the problem faced by the leadership of the country and that of the provinces, as well as local leadership, in bringing about awareness about the problems relating to crime, violence, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and child and women abuse.

We are aware that crime is a problem that currently cripples our community at large. Our parents cannot be free any more. They are consumed with fear that their homes might be broken into. They cannot drive freely on the roads for fear that their cars might be highjacked. They are also fearful that on pay-day, while they are in a queue at a bank teller to draw their money, they might be robbed by the youth who they were responsible for bringing up. A fear that they might not be able to get home the next day after work consumes them as they may be hunted for their money by the same youth they were responsible for bringing up.

Ladies and gentlemen, Karatekas, we want to say that crime can be eradicated if we stand together and say: enough is enough. We must get our children involved in community-based programmes where they are taught the values and norms of society.

We want to request that our youth be encouraged to attend karate/martial arts lessons as this is the only form of self-defence that is offered at little or no cost.

If a child gets involved in this art, the following happens: his or her mind is filled with the understanding that fighting or violence is not an answer. His or her mind is subconsciously trained to overcome unforeseen stress brought about by the fear of crime, rape and or violence.

Women abuse

The raping and beating of women has also brought about the need for our sisters to join in karate so that they are not harassed and found to be easy victims.

Rape and abuse in any form is inhuman. Beating a woman, be it your wife, girlfriend or fiancée, is insane. It is high time that we all stand up as Karatekas and say: enough is enough. Our sisters, mothers and daughters are not play toys to be beaten and raped by whoever feels like beating or raping them.

Karate, through the teachings of the late Sosai Mas Oyama and his followers, is here to teach and free women from the slavery of being easy targets. Through karate they will be able to defend themselves against hooligans who lack reasoning power.

To our brothers out there we say that beating or raping women does not constitute manhood. People who beat women do not have the mind to reason between insanity and valuing life.

Karate will teach those who are interested to learn more than just discipline. The following will also be taught:
Violence is not an answer.

Dogs will fight over a bone just because they can’t find a common understanding of how the bone can be shared.

Once a fight begins the end must be victory or defeat. (He who studies the Martial arts studies the way of the soldier - “samurai”)

Those who follow the teachings of the late Sosai Mas Oyama are taught to refrain from violence and to respect their superiors.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is our enemy, as we understand that has so far managed to evade the firepower of all the forces of the world. It is one enemy that has so far not been defeated by the use of firepower. It is a dangerous vehicle travelling at a very high speed and has so far not been slowed by the enforcement of traffic laws. It is a criminal that has so far been able to escape arrest. It is a convict that has so far escaped a life sentence.

We are aware of all this; we are also aware that it is only a matter of time before we stand together and fight it. It is just a matter of time before the world achieves complete victory over this enemy.

We want to caution all our brothers and sisters about the deadliness of HIV/AIDS.

We want to urge you to join in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Please remember that a healthy mind comes from a healthy body. Training might not only assist you to avoid the above, but also to enhance your reasoning power.

He or she who trains regularly and possesses a healthy body, thus a healthy mind, may not be tempted to commit what a weak body does. People who fail to condomise and who are rapists are doing so because they are mentally weak and, therefore, unable to reason correctly. A man who is man enough has a conscience and will not beat and rape a woman. He thinks before he acts.

A woman who trains is fit and in a position to defend herself and, therefore, may not easily becomes a rape victim. She cannot be forced as she can be if she is harmless and cannot defend herself.

Those who are often at training have less or no time for destructive things, such as drugs and substance abuse, which imprison the reasoning power of the individual concerned.

We appeal to all our brothers and sisters to stand up and join hands in the fight against crime, HIV/AIDS, women abuse, child abuse and substance abuse. Let those who know and have a better understanding teach those with less knowledge and understanding.

Karate/Martial arts is one of the sports that is taught to our youth which can be individually practised, but it is also a sport that can help to create a climate conducive to all persons not being victims. We know that karate cannot be used against projectiles fired from a gun, but a surprise defence will always see you finding your way out of trouble.

We, who are practising Kyokushin karate and who are followers of the late Mas Oyama’s teachings, want to urge all our brothers and sisters to start today and do something that they will be remembered by.

Sensei Kok leads the way

During the annual award evening of the Pretoria Military Sports Club (PMSC) several members of the karate club were awarded for their achievements of which one is certainly notable.

Capt André Kok of the SAMHS Training Formation was awarded with the Veteran Sportsman of the Year trophy. His achievements include, among others, a silver medal at the Japan Karate Shotokai (JKS) World Championships in Japan in 2001. He graded to the level of 6th Dan in 2001. Capt Kok also was the coach for the Junior SA Team at the JKS World Championships in Japan during 2002 and he won the National JKS SA Championship Veteran Division with two gold medals in 2002. Capt Kok was also appointed as the Director Tournament Training on the JKS SA Chief Executive Management Board.

In November 2002 he was also awarded with the Sportsman of the Year trophy at the SAMHS Sports Award evening. Sensei Kok was appointed as the national coach for the SA Senior All Styles Karate Team which participated in Madrid, Spain from 18 to 23 November 2002.

With such outstanding achievements, all the PMSC Karate Club members would like to say: “Congratulations, Sensei Kok, well done! Keep going strong!”

(Article by Maj Otto Lambrechts, DOD Logistic Support Formation)
Firefighter becomes karate world champion

Compiled by Lt Paul Arendse,
Corporate Communication Officer TFDC,
Photo: WO2 Marius Nel

Sgt Dennis Bogenhagen, a 34-year-old firefighter at the Test Flight and Development Center (TFDC) in Bredasdorp, made the SANDF proud by becoming the Firefighters Karate World Champion in the Kumite (fighting) division for men under 70 kg.

The competition was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 26 October to 1 November 2002 with sixty different countries participating. Sgt Bogenhagen won the semi-final against a Korean Karatika and the final against a French opponent.

Sgt Bogenhagen won a bronze medal in South Africa in 1998, a silver in France in 2000 and reached his goal by winning a gold medal in New Zealand in 2002. This is undoubtedly a very special achievement. Sgt Bogenhagen had to finance the trip of R25 000. He wants to thank all the SANDF sponsors and individual donors who helped make his dream come true.

He also won the trophy for the Champ of Champions during the SAAF Karate Championships and was chosen to lead the SAAF Karate Team as team captain. Deservedly, he also won the TFDC Sportsman of the Year Award for the Year 2002.

Pipe Major competed in triathlon abroad

By Lt Col G.A.G. Fuller,
OC 1 Med Bn Gp Clinical Wing

Pipe Major Thomas Fuller of 1 Medical Battalion, the SAMHS Reserve Unit in Durban, represented South Africa at the World Triathlon Championship 2002 in Cancun, Mexico, last year. He was placed 23rd in the 20-24 age group and 120th overall. He took over leadership of 1 Medical Battalion Group Pipe Band in 2001 at the age of 21 and the Band enjoyed a successful season, with promotion to South Africa’s 2nd Highest Grade (International Grade 3) for the 2003 season.

In 2002 Pipe Major Fuller was also successful in individual competitions, winning the Best Military Piper, the March Competition and the Previous Winners’ March, Strathspey & Reel at the Witwatersrand Piping Society’s prestigious 100 Guineas event in April last year. He is also the Natal Champion and he won the Gold Piobaireachd (classical music) and the overall winner’s prize at the Royal Scottish Gathering in Johannesburg in October last year.
**Vote for a winner**

In 2000 the International Military Sport Organisation (CISM) Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office (ESALO) Chairman, Brig Gen J.A. Jansen, announced that from the year 2000 the CISM ESALO Annual General Assembly would vote for a winner of the Solidarity Trophy every year. The two main criteria used to vote for a winner are the country’s efforts to carry the message of “Friendship through Sport” and the country’s efforts to support other countries in the region.

At the 2002 Annual General Assembly, which was held in Arusha, Tanzania, South Africa was voted for the third time in succession the winner of this prestigious trophy. During 2002 South Africa hosted or participated in the following activities:

- South Africa held the first CISM ESALO Pistol Shooting Championships (male/female) in Pretoria over the period 17 to 23 February 2002. Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa participated.
- South Africa hosted for the first time in Africa a Military Pentathlon Tournament in Bloemfontein from 11 February to 11 March 2002. Austria, Germany, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Lesotho, Sweden and South Africa participated.
- The First Africa Military Games was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 27 April 2002. Twenty-seven countries competed and three countries were observers. South Africa made a good impression by taking 56 medals (28 gold, 26 silver and 2 bronze), which made them the overall winner of the Games. Solidarity was shown by helping some of our friends from Swaziland and Lesotho with air transport to and from the Africa Military Games.
- South Africa attended the CISM 57th Annual General Assembly in Opatija, Croatia. The SANDF was also represented at the Common Wealth Games in Manchester, England, from 19 July to 7 August 2002. Two officials officiated at the Games and four athletes took part in the competitions. Between the three pistol shooters, four silver and five bronze medals were won.
- South Africa participated in the 50th Military Pentathlon World Championships in the Netherlands. The South African team came 15th out of 30 countries.
- Three delegates attended the 39th World Military Swimming and Life Saving Championships in Warendorf, Germany. A workshop on swimming training and coaching, in order to gain knowledge and experience in the field, was also attended. A lot of attention will be given in future to the training of soldiers in the field of swimming and life-saving. While in Warendorf they visited the German Armed Forces Sport School in order to benchmark the structuring of the SANDF Joint PTSR Training Centre (Sport School). This was very important in order to align the policy and direction of the Joint PTSR Training Centre with that of international trends.
- The SANDF also participated in the 46th CISM World Military Amateur Boxing Championship in Dublin, Ireland, from 5 to 17 September 2002. One bronze medal was won in the 48 kg division.
- South Africa hosted the first Military Attachés/Advisors CISM ESALO Pistol Shooting Fun Day on 2 October 2002 in Pretoria. Altogether 21 countries’ delegates participated in this fun event.
- At the 2002 CISM “Regional” Golf Championship at Fort Bliss, Texas, USA, South Africa, Canada and the USA took part over the period 19 September to 7 October 2002. South Africa came second.
- The SANDF also participated in the 30th World CISM Military Parachuting Championships in Oran, Algeria, from 14 to 25 October 2002.
- The CISM International Military Symposium was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 9 to 15 November 2002. As the symposium dealt with Strategic Planning, the CISM Board of Directors appointed Brig Gen Albert Jansen as Director of the Symposium.
- The 3rd CISM Board of Directors Meeting for 2002 was held in Simon’s Town from 25 November to 2 December 2002. South Africa played host to this very important meeting of CISM.
- The 2002 CISM ESALO Annual General Assembly was held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 9 to 14 December 2002. As the host of the CISM ESALO Liaison Office and a member of the ESALO region, South Africa was represented by four delegates.
- The Following RSA members serve on CISM commissions: Brig Gen Albert Jansen as President of the Planning Commission, and Lt Col Wolfgang Steinbach as a member of the Discipline Commission. The following members are members on the following CISM Technical Sport Codes Committees: R Adm Eric Green (boxing), Lt Col Mark Bruyns (golf) and Lt Col Johan Zietsman (military pentathlon).
South African Air Force Fund Competition

This is not a lotto. Your chances of winning prizes are even greater. The SAAF Fund in association with the Linric Club offers you the opportunity of winning prizes by simply making a phone call. The Linric Club has for the past three years assisted SAAF Fund members with a wide range of benefits, such as providing discounted accommodation, holiday and travel services, to buying a product, for example a car, cellphone, hi-fi, tyres and spares at the best possible prices.

By answering one easy question you stand a chance to win the following prizes:

- A week’s holiday out of season at any one of the SAAF Fund holiday flats.
- A midweek holiday break, Monday to Friday, for four (4) people, self-catering.
- A day in the life of an Air Force pilot. By visiting an Air Force Base you will get an insight into the exciting life of an Air Force pilot.
- A cash prize of R500-00.

The question is: Which holiday and travel club is associated with the SAAF Fund?

The closing date for this competition is 30 April 2003 and the names of the winners will be published in SA SOLDIER and in the Ad Astra Newsletter in June 2003.

Please phone our competition line with your answer at cell no: 082 234 5800. All calls charged at normal cellular rates.