SAS AMATOLA - F145
Welcome home!
Embarking on Project Phidisa

The first Hawk aircraft has arrived

Parliamentarians visited our soldiers abroad

Reflections from the heart of Africa

South Africa and Namibia sustain peace

Visiting the armies of other countries

Walking off the paper and into action

Simulated peace support operation

Honouring our legal eagles

Paying tribute to a great soldier

The proof is in the pudding

Play war games to master battle handling

Letters: Feedback from our readers

New Year’s message: Minister of Defence

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3600 tons of beauty

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FRONT COVER: Read more about the SAS AMATOLA's long voyage from Germany to South Africa and her majestic entrance into Simon’s Bay on pages 14 to 19. (Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.mil.za/magazines/sasoldier
A SOLDIER enters the New Year with excitement and eagerness to be part of the rest of South Africa in celebrating the 10th year of our democracy. Let us all join hands to make our continent peaceful and prosperous.

I urge our readers to read the New Year messages of our top leaders highlighting our achievements and opportunities for the way forward. Please read more on pages 10 to 13.

We also welcomed the long awaited SAS AMATOLA - 3 600 tons of beauty. The arrival of the SAS AMATOLA in the waters off the Cape of Good Hope on 4 November 2003 marks the birth of a new SA Navy whose latest acquisition reflects just that. The SAS AMATOLA represents a new South Africa, which alone makes it invaluable. Read more about her long voyage from Germany to South Africa and her majestic entrance into Simon's Bay on pages 14 to 19.

The fight against HIV/AIDS has also been intensified in the DOD. The Masibambisane Programme was able to reach thousands of our personnel and we have embarked on Project Phidisa, which aims to take the preparatory work done by Masibambisane forward. Phidisa will involve care and treatment for members of the SANDF and their families who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. 2004 has been earmarked as the year when Phidisa will be rolled out. Please read more about Project Phidisa on page 20.

Readers are reminded that SA SOLDIER will again, as always, issue its very popular calendar in February. Make sure you receive yours.

The March edition of SA SOLDIER will be a Special Edition to celebrate 10 years of freedom. This edition will look back into history, as far as 27 April 1994. Take note, it promises to become a collectable. Ensure you get your own copy!

New Year’s greetings.

Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor
The SANDF remains a national asset

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Caesar’s Palace in Boksburg was under siege when 300 public opinion-makers from the community and the top leadership of the SANDF descended on it on 21 November 2003 for the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda’s annual gala evening. The guests were kept on their toes by the soothing sounds of Mr Sipho Mabuse, who brought alive the memories of the 80s, with songs like Burnout and Jive Soweto, to mention but a few.

The event promotes and enhances a positive image of the SANDF and also affords the Chief of the SANDF the opportunity to thank the leaders in Government, the defence industry and the private sector for generously supporting the Defence Force throughout the year.

During his address Gen Nyanda outlined the successes, achievements and also the challenges facing the SANDF, which concern every South African. “The SANDF remains a national asset. It is for this reason that my commanders, my staffs and I endeavour to manage the SANDF in a reasonably transparent and responsible manner. You will be well aware that the SANDF’s activities at all levels are always fully aligned with and in support of the objectives of Government. During this year our leaders became increasingly involved in regional and continental affairs in the quest for peace, security and stability on the African continent,” Gen Nyanda said.

In support of Government initiatives the SANDF is now engaged in peace support operations, which pose challenges of sustainability and affordability, bearing in mind the budgetary constraints. “What a daunting task to align our new mandate with the reality of our budget! It is truly a test for our innovation and creativity. Ladies and gentlemen, in spite of these constraints, we have continued to prepare and to employ our defence capabilities to meet operations and commitments as ordered by Government. This is in our view, a huge achievement,” Gen Nyanda said.

In spite of all the challenges faced by the SANDF, it continues to assist communities in various ways. This assistance includes, among others, operations such as disaster relief, casualty evacuation, search and rescue, border protection and rural safeguarding and fighting against crime. The SANDF’s involvement in non-core business, for example supporting the SAPS in most of the above-mentioned operations, ties up resources that could be used to supplement its operations.

The SANDF is neither trained nor equipped, let alone funded, to perform policing duties. The above-mentioned constraints compelled the SANDF to implement a phased withdrawal from policing duties in the next six years. However, it does not mean that it will not be available for assistance in cases of emergency.

“As a result of the acquisition of the Strategic Defence Packages (SDPs), the new generation equipment will soon be employed in the inventory of the SANDF. The first of the four MEKO Class corvettes arrived on 4 November 2003 and the SANDF is looking forward to receiving the Type 209 submarines, the Gripen light fighter aircraft, the Hawk lead-in fighter trainers and the Agusta light utility helicopters. The South African Army Acquisition continued to engage in a number of smaller projects aimed at enhancing the Army’s capability. At the same time it is in the process of upgrading some of the Army’s main equipment.

“In April 2003 the SANDF marked the end of an epoch by lowering the old SADF flag with the emblem of a castle in a solemn ‘Retreat Ceremony’. The old flag was replaced in the hoisting ceremony by the new South African flag bearing the new nine-pointed star emblem of the SANDF. This event marked a milestone identity change for the SANDF. I am proud of the progress we have made in establishing a new identity and a rich military culture reflecting unity, shared values and traditions in our Defence Force. An entirely new range of decorations and medals was also introduced. The new decorations and medals will now reflect an image of a Defence Force which is representative of all the cultures of its citizens.

“In April 2004 the country will celebrate its tenth anniversary of freedom. The SANDF will fittingly be central to these celebrations. The SANDF has, after all, been central in protecting our new democracy and in supporting the African rebirth. We look forward to enjoying the tenth year of freedom in the glow of our people’s admiration,” Gen Nyanda concluded.

Front, fltr: Mrs Pinky Rasekgatla, Mr Len Rasekgatla, Secretary for the SAPS, and Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, with Mr André Nepgen from CSIR Defencetek at the back.
We are not so different

In future we should not be so put off by the differences between us. If we learn more about other people, we will understand them better and even add to our own knowledge and understanding of life. We should also try to find common ground on which to build better and richer relationships.

Everyone must ask himself, has there ever been a time when you felt discriminated against? How did it make you feel? Are you treating anyone badly because you think he or she is different from you? Think of two things you can do to improve the situation, and think of how we can feel that we belong to one organisation. The SANDF is made up of many people from different backgrounds, cultures and races. Your unit is like a small nation. How will we find out? Why do you think there is a uniform? Why do you think there are badges and mottoes? As I have said, one belongs to a small unit, and it is likely that there are many differences to be found between the members because these members come from different backgrounds, cultures and religions and speak different languages. But there are things that make them come together, including uniforms, badges, and mottoes or slogans. These things help members to feel that they belong to one unit or section. The SANDF is like your unit or section: there are members from different Services and backgrounds, cultures, religions and languages groups who share one Defence Force. There are things that bring us together and make us feel we belong to one force even though there may seem to be very many differences in the way we look and act, and in the way we believe.

The first unifying factor is our national anthem and Code of Conduct and the South African flag - this brings us together. National peacekeeping and the South African flag - this means that the SANDF members. There are things that bring us together and they are called SANDF members. God created man in His image - He never said black and white. Our former President, Nelson Mandela, said South Africa belongs to everyone who lives in it; he never said black or white. Stop racism and discrimination. United we stand. Do not let uniforms separate us; it is just a symbol to show which Service you belong to. There is but one Defence Force, the SANDF, fighting towards the same goal, making everlasting peace in Africa and equipping African countries to be able to conduct peacekeeping - Cpl L.B. Mudau Funyufunyu, Louis Trichardt.

Letters of appreciation

From Zambia

I write to express my gratitude to you and the staff at 1 Military Hospital for the assistance rendered to my wife, Mrs Rosemary Chisuzi, during the period she was admitted to the aforesaid hospital. It was a great pleasure and comforting to learn that the medical staff at the hospital were readily at hand to attend to my wife when she reported to the hospital on 9 September 2003 and until her discharge on 18 September 2003. Kindly convey my sincere appreciation to the Surgeon General who facilitated a quick admission for my wife to be treated at 1 Military Hospital. I would also like to pay tribute to the senior officers’ ladies who visited her while she was there. This indeed was a wonderful gesture, which my family and the entire Zambian Defence Force will remember. Once again, on behalf of my family, and all officers men and women of the Zambian Army, I wish you, your family and all members of your Defence Force continued good health and God’s blessings - Lt Gen I.S.A. Chisuzi, Army Commander (Zambia).

From Algeria

I have been touched by the condolences you addressed to me following the crash of the C-130 army transport plane, which caused the death of its crew and civilians. I wish to express my deep gratitude for your sincere compassion and sympathy in this instance and I wish you good health and happiness, and to your friendly forces security and peace. I express to you, General Nyanda, my highest consideration - General de Corps d’Armée M. Lamari, Chief of the Algerian Defence Force.

From Australia

I am writing to thank you for the assistance provided by the SANDF to the Australian Defence Force in the recent operation involving the illegal fishing vessel, Viarsa 1. The combined efforts and wonderful spirit of co-operation of both our Defence Forces ensured a very effective outcome. Together we are sending a clear deterrent message to those who seek to poach our Antarctic marine resources. Without your help it would have been impossible for the Australian Defence Force contingent to have prepared for and efficiently boarded and taken control of the Viarsa 1 some 200 nautical miles from Cape Town.

The success of the mission was due largely to the dedication and professionalism of your staff. In particular, I would like to commend R Adm Denis Forrest and R Adm Arnè Söderlund and their respective staff. Admiral Forrest’s proactive orchestration of the strategic complexities and Admiral Söderlund’s supporting coordination of the operational aspects were instrumental to the success of the operation - General P.J. Cosgrove, Chief of the Australian Defence Force.

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.
Opinion surveys should be a two-way process

An opinion survey, as far as I understand it, is used to obtain the weakest and strongest side of a particular situation. However, it turns out to be of no meaning because people fail to be honest as they can stay anonymous. Therefore if a member’s unit falls under, eg, the SA Army Infantry Formation and the member is doing a CMI job, the person may need to answer a question such as: “How capable is your Human Resource Section?” It is confusing because the Human Resource Section of the member’s unit may be incompetent, but the unit the person is currently detached to may have a competent HR Section - the answer could be unfavourable to the wrong HR Section. It might be of more value to the DOD if it could be a two-way process. This could be achieved by requesting the member’s name, force number and unit to make the whole survey more transparent. This could lead to substantial evidence, but only if it is done properly. When the outcome of the survey is handed to the member’s immediate section head, the person is free to write his or her reflection fairly, and thus have no fear of being victimised - Cpl D. Maphalala, Kabokweni.

* The following comment was received from the Centre for Effect Analysis of Directorate Performance Audit at the Defence Inspectorate - Ed:

“Quantitative attitude and opinion surveys are conducted annually by the Centre for Effect Analysis of Directorate Performance Audit at the Defence Inspectorate. These surveys provide a forum in which one and all may make their feelings and perceptions known to the leaders of the DOD/SANDF.

The aim of these surveys is to determine the effect of policy, management and leadership on DOD/SANDF members and to provide top management/decision-makers (clients of the Centre for Effect Analysis) with management information on the perceptions of the members of the DOD/SANDF, thus ultimately contributing to healthier decision-making.

Survey participants are identified via the DOD’s PERSOL system by means of a multi-stage sampling technique (consisting of randomised, stratified and systematic sampling in one or more stages), thus ensuring that the sample is representative of the DOD/SANDF population. Should a prospective participant not be available to attend a fieldwork session owing to leave, deployment, detached duty or any other reason he or she is required to be replaced by a respondent satisfying similar biographical criteria (unit, rank group, population group, service/division and former force) as necessitated by the measuring instrument (questionnaire).

It is a scientific reality that people, in general, tend to respond more honestly when they cannot be identified. Therefore, anonymous participants’ self-report questionnaires are used to obtain honest responses from participants, thus defeating any possibility of personal victimisation. This honesty of response contributes greatly to the quality of information collected and reported to top management on which, together with added information, decisions are based.

The Centre for Effect Analysis sincerely thanks you for the interest you have shown in these surveys and the suggestions you have submitted for improvement.”

Celebrations at 44 Squadron

44 Squadron - South African Air Force invites past and present members to attend the Squadron’s 60th anniversary celebrations on 12 March 2004. Interested members may contact 44 Squadron at tel no: (012) 672 3932 or fax no: (012) 672 3944 or email: prosumus@mweb.co.za for more information.

Looking for information

I did my national service at 1 Special Service Battalion, Tempe, in 1972. My father served in this prestige unit in 1939. Is there any reader who has old photographs, uniforms, books, etc of this unit, since its inception? I am also looking for the address of Kimberley Regiment and perhaps a bit of history, as my family also had links with this regiment since World War II. Does any reader have news of Sgt Ken Hawkins, S Sgt Greef and Sgt M.A. Nhlumayo, 121 SAI Bn.

WO1 Rhorbeck? - D.R. Fourie, Cindapark.

* Readers who can assist Mr Fourie can write to him at the following address: PO Box 9039, Cindapark, 1463 - Ed.

Collector items needed

Medals, badges, certificates, swords, bayonets, uniforms, camouflage, helmets, buttons, group photos, wall plaques, military beer mugs and Rhodesian and SA Border War books of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and especially those of SAS, Selous Scouts, Recce, Paratroopers and Commandos are wanted by the collector - James MacKenzie.

* Readers who can assist James MacKenzie please contact him at tel no: (021) 705 1130 or cell no: 083 683 2694 or email: militaria@netpoint.co.za - Ed.

Courtesy call

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, accompanied by a media panel, visited 121 SA Infantry Battalion at Mtubatuba on 29 October 2003. He made a firm statement that members must be aware that this is a military institution and that discipline must at all times be maintained. No matter what is happening at 121 SA Infantry Battalion, disciplined soldiers will keep the show going - Lt M.A. Nhlumayo, 121 SAI Bn.
Thank you to members of 1 Military Hospital

I wish to thank the personnel of 1 Military Hospital for the service they give their patients. I know that there are many complaints and every second person thinks he can run the hospital better than the current personnel can. The questions regularly asked are: why must you wait so long for medicine, and get treated badly in the wards?

I would like to use this opportunity to say that all these members who love to complain so much are spoilt and expect the impossible from the personnel of 1 Military Hospital. I have seen and heard of many people who complain even more about private hospitals, and they have not even been to a general hospital and seen the condition in some of the wards and the lack of trained staff that some of those hospitals experience.

I have been in 1 Military Hospital on more than one occasion and I have only received good treatment. I was in hospital again during the week of 19 May 2003 for knee surgery, and I would like to give a special word of thanks to all the personnel of Ward 14.

On Sunday, 18 May 2003, I reported to Ward 14 and was received in a friendly and professional manner. I was immediately allocated a bed and one of the nursing staff started to complete the documents, checking my vital signs and getting everything ready for my stay.

When the anaesthetist came to see me the process was explained to me in a very understandable manner. The anaesthetist advised me about the choice of anaesthetic that could be made and also how it worked and how it would affect me. This helped to put me at ease concerning the anaesthetic, because there are always so many stories in this regard. The personnel of Ward 14 were always friendly and helpful during the preparation of surgery. When it was time to go to theatre I was helped onto the trolley and covered properly with a blanket and a member of the ward staff accompanied me to the theatre waiting area.

The theatre personnel, including the doctor, received me there and were friendly and explained everything that they were doing; this helped to keep me calm and informed of what was happening around me. After coming out of the theatre I was once again fetched by the ward personnel and made comfortable back in the ward.

Within four hours a member of the physiotherapy department was with me to get me started on an exercise programme to strengthen my leg after the surgery. I was helped onto my feet and could start to walk and exercise my leg. On Tuesday, 20 May 2003, I was discharged from the hospital. This was possible because of the treatment and the manner in which I was treated. We were three patients in the room and we were all treated in the same manner.

Please convey my sincerest thanks to all the staff of Ward 14, day and night staff, as well as the theatre personnel. This was really a very pleasant experience, even though I had to undergo surgery. It was the most professional service that I have seen or experienced in a very long time - WO1 R.J. Smith, Thaba Tshwane.

Regional security in Africa

I was very happy to hear that the SANDF might play a big role in peacekeeping missions in this troubled continent of Africa. It is important to add that co-operation on security and economic issues has been developed in the southern part of the African Region (SADC).

Regional security continues to evolve as the principal vehicle for promoting greater intra-regional trade and security co-operation. As a result the Sub-Saharan region in Africa is the most powerful and attractive to foreign investment. The SANDF should help establish peace and security when necessary. The African region still has many problems. There are tribal, religious and other wars that continue to trouble our beloved continent. These conflicts must come to an end.

The end of colonial empires and the winning of independence by many African countries do not as yet signify the elimination of colonialism. The newly liberated countries in Africa must ensure a high rate of economic growth and must develop the economic structures to bring about industrialisation and also make use of reprocessing for accumulation of wealth to limit exploitation by foreign developed countries. There must be strong regional security. African countries must stop these unending wars. The task currently being tackled by the SANDF includes making peace in the DRC, Burundi, etc.

Corruption and mismanagement by many African countries are another cause of economic and political instability. We must maintain peace in our region. Power and lack of human rights in most African countries are very common. As long as Africans continue to be involved in these local and tribal conflicts, the African Renaissance will be a pipe dream - Capt M. Mrataza, Kenwyn.

Hail our gallant soldiers

We are the gallant soldiers of the SANDF. We are well-trained and motivated. Our goal is to build and keep our country united under God’s banner. We fight for justice, fight to win, we do not retreat or surrender. Hail the gallant soldiers of the SANDF. We are professional soldiers of the SANDF, faithful and loyal to the SANDF and our country.

We pledge to remain disciplined, tough and fearless. We know no defeat and we are a hard nut to crack. We are combat ready to serve and protect our country, our continent and the world any time or anywhere. You can count on us for what we are -professional soldiers of the SANDF. The performance of SANDF soldiers during OP MISTRAL in the DRC and OP FIBRE in Burundi - really it shows our greatness. Keep up the high morale and strict discipline - Cpl M. Nonyondla, 13 Provost Company, currently deployed in the DRC.
Playing golf with our Chief
By Maj Fundile Siyongwana

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, hosted his Golf Day for approximately 120 public opinion makers, ranging from Government departments to the private sector. It was a sunny day which was good for playing golf.

The golfers met in their various teams to enjoy golf and interact with each other at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 17 October 2003.

After the game the players had to put aside their clubs and attend to the announcements of the results and the presentation of the awards to both winners and losers. Every player went home with something: some took the best prizes, while others collected shovels. Mr Chucky Kgosane acted as the Master of Ceremonies. The audience thoroughly enjoyed his constant jokes.

The occasion came to an end when Gen Nyanda took to the podium to thank all the donor members for providing him with the opportunity of interacting and sharing ideas with those present. He also thanked the members of the Directorate Defence Corporate Communication for making his Golf Day a success.

Commemorating Remembrance Sunday
By Capt J.K. Mokgoko, JSB Garrison Comm Officer

The annual Remembrance Sunday memorial service to commemorate all soldiers who died or were disabled in the service of their country was held in Pretoria on 9 November 2003, in various other cities in our country and in the capital cities of other countries all over the world. In our country’s capital, Pretoria, this service was held as usual at the War Memorial on the lower terrace at the Union Buildings at 11:00.

At this Memorial Service various communities, military veterans' associations and representatives of foreign countries also remembered the families of those who had never returned and of course those men and women who were disabled during active service.

One of the major memorial services in most countries in the world is held on this day in November. It became known as Armistice Day. This remembrance service is held annually at 11:00 on the Sunday nearest to the anniversary of the end of World War I on 11 November 1918. JSB Garrison on behalf of the SANDF, in conjunction with other services and divisions, was responsible for organising, co-ordinating and controlling the SANDF support to the Pretoria Memorial Service Council and the SA Council of Military Veterans Organisation in presenting the Remembrance Sunday memorial service at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 November 2003. Col (Rev) Mak Makalima of the Chaplain General's office officiated. The service was preceded by music provided by the Military Band of the National Ceremonial Guard and the posting of sentries from Pretoria Regiment, as has been the custom for many years.

The customary Last Post, Reveille and Two Minute Silence were observed, whereafter the various representatives laid a wreath, or planted a cross or the Star of David at the Memorial Wall. For the duration of the wreath-laying Piper Dave Berry from the Pretoria Highlanders played the customary Lament on his bagpipe.

Salute first ever woman admiral
By LS E. Lekonyane, NBS Career Administration, Simon's Town

Attention all the women who fought for transformation in the SANDF. The SA Navy has been blessed with the appointment of the first woman admiral ever in the SA Navy - R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala. I for one remember the first time I saw her as a Lt Cdr and I said to myself that this was one of the women we could look up to in the near future. We salute you and welcome you aboard. God bless you and give you even more courage to excel in your new appointment.
Reviewing a decade of challenges

This year will be a very important milestone in the history of both the Republic of South Africa and the South African Department of Defence, as we celebrate the first ten years of our democracy and freedom.

Exactly ten years ago we emerged on the world stage as the first democratic Republic of South Africa. In this same year the Statutory and Non-statutory Forces from across the country came together, under the new banner of the SANDF. This was the first step in our transformation process as we set an objective to live up to our slogan “Defence in a Democracy”.

The year 2004 is a year of celebration and reflection for all Government departments. This is a rare opportunity to showcase and market our achievements to the nation and the outside world. It is also an ideal opportunity to reflect on achievements and failures over the past ten years.

We will find creative ways to profile our achievements in the key areas identified at the outset through the Constitution and the White Paper on Defence, in keeping with the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the principles of the African Union (AU), and, in support of the United Nations (UN) and our obligations to the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

With regard to our achievements to date, it is imperative that all our communications and PR resources focus on profiling the DOD to the general public and all our stakeholders as both the mainstay of security of the people of this country, as prescribed in the Constitution, and, what we stand for, in terms of the Batho Pele (people first) principle of service delivery.

A relatively new and growing constituency for security and service delivery by the SANDF has been the rest of the African continent. Our Defence Force is the operational arm of South Africa’s foreign policy, both at a multilateral and a bilateral level. It is vital that we seriously embark on publicity and educational campaigns to ensure that our stakeholders and the general public correctly understand our role and responsibility in this regard.

Our support of peacekeeping operations in the DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda and Liberia on the one hand, and our general support for humanitarian and relief operations all over the continent have not compromised our ability to defend our country nor are we deserting our obligations with regard to issues of internal security and stability.

There is a collective understanding across the continent that no individual country will achieve the level of security and stability required for economic development if there is instability on its borders, and in the region in general. Our internal security in South Africa is directly linked to our external environment.

To this end, together with our SADC partners, we have made huge strides in the last year towards establishing the Mutual Defence Pact to ensure that proper early warning systems and pre-emptive measures to avoid conflict situations are in place. The SANDF has also played a major role in the development of the Africa Standby Force, a continental rapid response force, the strongest possible force to date that Africa is prepared and ready to take the lead in its security and stability.

Self-reliance for security and stability is probably the single most important message we can deliver to potential investors and partners in our economic development and quest for delivery on human rights for the people of our continent.

At home we will continue to support the South African Police Service with the fight against crime, as an additional resource to the policing services, when and where required.

The year 2004 is also a “review year” of a decade of challenges, a time for reflection and introspection. The DOD has had, and still has, its fair share of challenges ranging from transformation and human resource issues to reputation management.

Transformation issues of gender, race and effective management will come under the spotlight more prominently than ever before. By recently appointing a Head of Communications in the Ministry of Defence we have recognised that we need to raise the level and profile of our communications function so that we can speak with one voice.

One of the biggest challenges we face is to stem the alarming and growing tendency of staff in our Department to air their grievances directly linked to our external environment.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all members and staff of the DOD for a job well done during the past year. A very special thank you to our members on duty outside South Africa who have had such a positive impact on the reputation of our country and the lives of the ordinary citizens in the places they now serve.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota
Minister of Defence
Let Africa arise from its slumber

We are at that time again when we have to bid one year “goodbye” and say “hello” to another. As we do that, we are called upon to take stock of what we have achieved during 2003 as we look forward to face the challenges of the new year.

As we came to the end of 2003 and prepare for 2004, we are excited about our country’s forthcoming 10th anniversary freedom celebrations. The DOD is participating actively in the preparations for the celebrations. And as demonstrated last year through various events, such as the launch of the African Union and the Africa Day celebrations, the DOD continues to enjoy the overwhelming support of our people. This support has gone beyond our borders to the countries where our peacekeepers are deployed.

The year 2003 has been a fruitful year for the DOD and our country in peacekeeping efforts on the continent. In 2001 South Africa deployed soldiers for the first time to Burundi, which formed part of the African Mission to protect returning exiled leaders who were crucial to the negotiations to end the civil war that was ravaging that country.

Our soldiers are still deployed there and are doing a great job, which has earned them respect among the local people. Through the efforts of our soldiers, the process of the demobilisation of combatants has started and members of the SANDF, who were later joined by their Ethiopian and Mozambican counterparts, are in charge of securing the demobilisation centres and of looking after the surrendered combatants.

Our country was successful in facilitating the signing of peace agreements between the various warring factions in Burundi. Most of the major contending groups in that country, except one, have since put their signatures on the dotted line to help bring peace and possible socio-economic development to Burundi after decades of strife.

In May 2003 I attended a conference of the South Africa-Democratic Republic of Congo Women’s Forum, which falls within the framework of the inter-Congolese dialogue. This conference highlighted the role that women can play in support of peace initiatives in Africa.

I must also mention the role that our country has played in support of the peace process in the DRC, which has led to the formation of an interim government of national unity. Despite the sporadic fighting that breaks out in some regions, the DRC is experiencing a level of peace that has not been there for a number of years. The Officer Commanding at Kindu was able proudly to announce that through the efforts of the SANDF as part of the MONUC, “Kindu (a town in the eastern Congo) was alive again”.

In March 2003 the Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry, launched Operation VUSELELA, which is a project to eradicate alien vegetation from SANDF land. This project, which is active in a number of provinces, is an effort to assist some destitute military veterans with basic income.

The year 2003 also saw the passing of the special Pension Amendments Bill which will finally address the plight of former members of the Non-statutory Forces, especially those who have retired and those who are disabled.

The fight against HIV/AIDS has also been intensified in the DOD. The Masibambisane Programme was able to reach thousands of our personnel and we have embarked on the Phidisa Programme, which aims to take the preparatory work done by Masibambisane forward. Phidisa will involve care and treatment for members of the SANDF and their families who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. 2004 has been earmarked as the year when Phidisa will be rolled out.

In 2004 we shall be celebrating the 10th year of our democracy. Let us complete the work that we had started so as to look with pride at our achievements. I call on all of us to work tirelessly to make our country proud and to make our continent peaceful and prosperous.

Let the giant that is Africa arise from its slumber!

Happy New Year!

Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge.

Deputy Minister of Defence
Celebrate the first decade of our democracy

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the functionaries of the Department of Defence (DOD) for contributing towards the success of the Department within and beyond the borders of South Africa.

The year 2003 was a challenging one, especially in view of SA’s global obligations. The DOD is playing an active role in supporting the AU’s Peace and Security Council and to support the Government in implementing NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism. This has resulted in members of our SANDF and Defence Secretariat being deployed abroad in order to foster the principle of increased security and stability in the region. The DOD was represented in foreign deployments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Ethiopia/Eritrea and Liberia. I can proudly say that they rendered an outstanding performance.

As we enter 2004 we mark the celebration of the first decade of our democracy and the whole nation will be celebrating this remarkable event. The past ten years posed significant challenges to the DOD, among them transforming the Department, introducing new policies that are in line with the democratic constitution and legislative framework, as well as entrenching the principles of equity, non-racialism and non-genderism. In 1994 the radical turnaround of political control and social architecture impacted on all systems, including those of Defence and National Security. This resulted in the shifting of priorities in Government spending, the rapidly decreasing probability of an external conventional military threat to the country and society’s demands for a more representative defence management structure. Among the highlights of the past decade were the approval of the White Paper on Defence in 1996 and the Defence Review by Parliament in April 1998. The White Paper on Defence made pronouncements on Defence Policy that served to guide transformation specifically with respect to required outputs. The Defence Act and the National Conventional Arms Control Act were also tabled and approved. Our Department has played an important role in the normalisation of South Africa’s diplomatic relations globally. Agreements have been entered into and bilateral structures serviced with numerous countries in Africa and abroad. Funding agreements were concluded with Belgium, the EU, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway to support South African peace support deployments in Burundi. The DOD also received foreign funding from Netherlands for humanitarian aid to Mozambique in 2001. As part of the requirements for civil control of the DOD it was essential that the Finance Division had to be reconstituted. In 1998 the entire finance function was demilitarised reporting exclusively to the Secretary for Defence. By so doing, the onus of financial control passed into the domain of the Secretary for Defence. The Acquisition and Procurement Division has fared exceptionally well in the past ten years. The Acquisition Policy has been produced to address the shortcomings that were identified by the Joint Investigating Committee into the Strategic Defence Packages process. This will ensure that the Capital Acquisition process is fair, transparent and allows for strict control in accordance to the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. Under the command of Inspector General DOD, the Anti-fraud Directorate was established in October 2002. This is in line with the national anti-corruption strategy and we hope that in the next decade there will be a vast reduction in cases of fraud and corruption. The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate has successfully developed and promulgated policies on the Prevention and Elimination of Unfair Discrimination towards People with Disabilities, as well as the DOD Policy on Equal Opportunities and Affirmative Action. The biggest challenge is the implementation of these polices at divisional and unit level in order to meet our representivity targets.

One of the key challenges that the Government is faced with is the fight against the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and providing treatment and care to those who are infected and affected. In support of Government initiatives the DOD has launched the Masibambisane (AIDS Awareness Campaign) and went beyond this by recently launching Project Phidisa to make better and prolong the lives for those living with the virus. Although the DOD has vigorously undergone the transformation process, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed. Among them is the entrenchment of the principle of civil control over the military. This is a key feature of a democratic society. It should be understood that the armed forces play a significant role as an instrument of State policy in realising our goals of a new democracy. The armed forces, however, like all other Government departments must remain subordinate to the elected Government and respectful to civil supremacy. This can only be achieved through the institution of appropriate oversight and control mechanisms at both the parliamentary and executive levels and utilisation of programmes within the armed forces. The journey that we have travelled from 1994 to the present has not been an easy one. As we enter the second decade we must utilise the lessons learnt from the first decade to make the 20 years in our democracy a greater success. I wish you a prosperous New Year!

Mr January Masilela
Secretary for Defence

Mr January Masilela
he year 2003 was a successful year for the SANDF. I want to thank every soldier whose outstanding performance inside and outside South Africa ensured that the SANDF successfully fulfilled its obligations.

The SANDF is looking forward to a very exciting year. One reason for this is that more strategic defence package equipment will be delivered when three more corvettes arrive in South African waters. The first Hawk lead-in fighter trainer is already undergoing test flights in South Africa and this year five fully qualified light utility helicopters are expected to be delivered to the SAAF. These helicopters will be the first of the new equipment to enter operational service.

In 2003 joint and multinational exercises were held to align procedures for conducting future operations. This year the SANDF has again planned joint and combined local and international training exercises because of the high premium it places on the preparation of our forces.

During 2003 African Chiefs of Staff met in Ethiopia to discuss the African Standby Force. This rapid response force is part of a long-term initiative to ensure lasting peace and stability in Africa. This year the Chiefs of Staff will meet in Mozambique for further discussions regarding this Force.

The SANDF will continue to support the Government’s peace initiatives on our continent. During 2003 South Africa became the leading nation to contribute soldiers to the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB). The SANDF currently has 1 523 soldiers deployed in Burundi, which makes it the largest contributor to the mission in which Ethiopia and Mozambique are our partners.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 1 402 deployed SANDF members are doing extremely well. We have established a Task Force in the eastern DRC and our contribution this year will definitely again make a huge contribution towards the peace process. Because of the DOD’s already overstretched budget, external deployments can only take place in accordance with the budget allocation. However, the SANDF will do its utmost to fulfil its mandate and honour its internal and international obligations.

During 2003 much progress was made in institutionalising the Human Resources Strategy 2010. Rejuvenation of the SANDF’s human resources component is necessary, as it will ensure a sufficient number of mission-ready members at all times. To achieve this goal, a new service system, the Military Skills Development (MSD) System, was implemented during January 2003. There are currently 2 057 MSD members in the SANDF and this year’s intake will add an additional 1 377 members.

Ministerial approval was granted for an exit mechanism, which will form the core enabling mechanism to make the new service system function effectively in future. The exit mechanism will enable the SANDF to advance towards an effective, efficient and economical human resource composition. Progress has been made in developing the second part of the new service system, the Core Service System, which will be implemented towards the end of this year.

The challenge of enhancing representivity at all levels will again receive attention this year. There is, however, a need to retain scarce expertise with a view to introducing the new main equipment and systems, which will be carefully considered.

The SANDF does not differ from the rest of South African society and it is therefore also affected by HIV/AIDS. The SANDF will continue combating the disease because it is losing valuable expertise, which could seriously affect our mission readiness and the Defence budget in future.

I salute members of the SANDF for their professionalism and discipline without which it would have been impossible to undertake the various missions we are engaged in. However, there are some members who besmirch the name of the SANDF through acts not worthy of those associated with the organisation.

The year 2004 will be a special year as the SANDF, together with the nation, will celebrate ten years of democracy. I want each and every member to participate in and enjoy the celebrations. The SANDF has made astonishing progress in transforming itself to become the Defence Force of the nation.

The SANDF has been vital to securing the new democracy and should celebrate it with pride. Thanks to all personnel who consistently worked hard and contributed towards the SANDF’s successes during the past year. I look forward to an interesting and challenging year.

General Siphiwe Nyanda
Chief of the SANDF

General Siphiwe Nyanda.

Chief of the SANDF.
3 600 tons of beauty

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana and Cpl Elias Mahuma

To the SAS AMATOLA, the biggest warship in our land - Welcome home! The arrival of the SAS AMATOLA in the waters off the Cape of Good Hope on 4 November 2003 marks the birth of a new SA Navy whose latest acquisition reflects just that. The SAS AMATOLA is a reward for a Navy with vision and foresight.

Born in Germany and officially christened the SAS AMATOLA by the First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, in the Blohm and Voss shipyards in Hamburg on 7 June 2002, this ship becomes the first of four corvettes to be acquired by the SANDF. The other three are to follow in due course, but all four vessels will be acquired from a single main contractor, viz the European South African Corvette Consortium (ESACC), which is responsible for delivering a total vessel. The SAS AMATOLA represents a new South Africa, which alone makes it invaluable. However today’s world is such that value in the form of dollar signs must be attached to property: 6 billion rands are what the Defence Force was prepared to pay for the SAS AMATOLA and her sisters. It is a symbol of strength, development and growth despite all the challenges and changes the SANDF has had to undergo.

There was a dire need for the SAS AMATOLA. In 1985 the SA Navy lost its capability for effective sustained
operations with the retirement of the last frigates from service and also lost the critical component of effective surface operations (organic helicopters). Furthermore, the Navy was reduced to a 400-ton strike craft for South Africa's maritime operations, which have to be conducted over a vast area.

In the mid-1990s a new surface combatant project was launched to restore the SA Navy. It was intended to acquire Navy fighting ships with high endurance and mobility, effective maritime helicopter capability, and effective defence capability against aircraft and missiles. The ships needed would have to possess basic anti-submarine capability, and be capable of being used for peace support, crisis response, surveillance patrol, and the protection of South Africa's marine resources and the environment and disaster relief and humanitarian aid operations.

The SAS AMATOLA is 121 m in length, has a beam of 16.34 m and a 6.5 m draft. Because the ship is designed primarily to fight, it was built with good damage control capabilities.

No other ship in the world is built quite like it. The SAS AMATOLA has two MTU V16 diesel propulsion engines and one General Electric LM 2500 gas turbine engine making it the only ship in the world with this type of propulsion. On diesel propulsion alone the ship moves at 23 knots, on gas turbine alone 24 knots and on both it sails at a maximum speed of 30 knots.

It is also the first SA Navy ship to have gender flexibility. Lt Sanette Wolmarans is evidence of that: she is one of the ship's company and Navy personnel who underwent intensive training in Germany. On board Lt Wolmarans is an officer of the watch, which post entails navigation when at sea. Speaking to SA SOLDIER, she said the experience had been so great that putting it into words was difficult. She went on to say - "It has been the biggest opportunity of my life".

The morning following the SAS AMATOLA’s arrival in Simon’s Town saw the accommodation ladder of the classy warship lowered to the media and invited guests. Upon arrival everybody was bid welcome by the Officer Commanding SAS AMATOLA, Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson, the man who led the ship’s company for six weeks at sea to bring our most prized possession home.

The extremely lucky group of people on board were treated to an experience; just a little taste of what the SAS AMATOLA can do. Wow! Everybody stood on deck and swayed with the movement of the ship. The majestic SAS AMATOLA cuts through water when in motion, and sends the water up into the air when at maximum speed. Everybody was so thrilled by the occasion that the one person who got seasick stood out like a sore thumb.

The Navy support personnel conducted tours around the enormous ship. We were taken into the operations command and control room, canteen, laundry room, and basically every corner of the ship, including the sweetest smelling place of all - the kitchen or galley in naval terms.

It was a ship fit for a king because even the newly crowned, His Majesty King Leruo of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, could not miss out on the event. On SA SOLDIER investigating why his Royal Highness was so far from his kingdom, King Leruo said that he had always had a deep passion for the SANDF.

"I wanted to be a fighter pilot," the King confessed. But unfortunately such opportunities were not open to black South Africans when he was growing up. His Majesty said that he was impressed to see young black people rising to a level of such commitment and determination. "I would like to see naval officers coming to Pokeng to teach young people about the Navy," requested the King.

A second reason contributing to the King’s presence on board the SAS AMATOLA was that the Bafokeng Tribe owns shares in SA Chrome. Thyssen Krupp, one of the builders of the ship, produces stainless steel and needs chrome to produce steel; a very binding relationship therefore exists between the Bafokeng who provide the necessary chrome to Thyssen Krupp. The SAS AMATOLA made good business.

A very proud Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, also stood on deck with the rest of us. This is what he had to say to SA SOLDIER, "We watched it grow over the years from a little bit more than a line of steel to an actual ship; it is very good and will last South Africa thirty to forty years".

"It is just the thing this Navy needs to exert its presence at sea, and of course it is designed to project economic power," declared the Chief of the SA Navy.
A new era has dawned for our Navy

By WO1 Manny Gounden,
PRO Naval Station Durban

n event such as this comes but rarely in the history of the SA Navy when a ship captures the hearts of those present who see its majestic entrance into Simon’s Bay. Attention was focused on the SA Navy’s new arrival. The first VALOUR CLASS Meko A 200 Patrol Corvette of the SA Navy, SAS AMATOLA, under the command of Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson, arrived in Simon’s Bay on 4 November 2003 at 14:00 to a tumultuous welcome from the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, members of the SA Navy, the maritime community, families and well-wishers.

In recognition of the Project Director of Project SITRON, R Adm (JG) Johnny Kamerman was lowered by an Oryx helicopter on to the SAS AMATOLA before coming alongside. R Adm (JG) Kamerman had been based in Germany to oversee the project. The helicopter was being used to capture the historic moment of SAS AMATOLA’s arrival against the classic backdrop of Table Mountain for the benefit of the media.

The First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, on 7 June 2002 named the corvette the SAS AMATOLA.

The SA Air Force’s Dakota, Albatross and Shackleton aircraft welcomed her with a spectacular fly-past as she entered False Bay for the first time.

The SA Navy’s SAS DRAKENSBERG, SAS ISAAC DYOBHA, SAS GALESHEWE and SAS MAKHANDA took turns in sailing past to cheer her on her approach to Simon’s Bay.

The SAS AMATOLA left the German Naval Base of Wilhelmshaven on 15 October 2003 and sailed up the Jade River to the North Sea. She entered the port of Brest in France on 17 October 2003 to take on spares and departed on 18 October for Portugal. On 20 October she sailed up the River Tagus to Santa Apolonia in Lisbon, Portugal, and remained alongside for three days.

She spent thirteen continuous days at sea on the journey from Lisbon to Simon’s Town and covered approximately 7 082 nautical miles on her long voyage from Germany to South Africa.

Her active port and starboard stabilisers were switched on to navigate along the treacherous Angolan and Namibian coasts where the ship experienced sea state five with constant waves breaking over the bow.

LS Aaron Singh, a mechanical ship’s rating, said: “The SAS AMATOLA represents the new Navy; let us make the transition to the new Navy with new ideas for a better Navy. The journey is historic and the delivery crew, like myself, are part of history that will be remembered for many years.”

PO Seretse Moche, an electrical fitter on the SAS AMATOLA, also commented that the ship represented the cutting edge of technology and he felt...
The National Flag is hoisted on the SAS AMATOLA alongside Lisbon harbour in Portugal.

really proud to be chosen to serve on this ship.

Built by Blohm & Voss Shipyard in Hamburg in Germany, SAS AMATOLA is a stealth frigate, 121 metres in length. She displaces 3600 tonnes and has a top speed in excess of 30 knots. The ship has an extremely potent platform with very low signatures and stealth features. SAS AMATOLA is going to be fitted out with her full combat suite in Simon’s Town.

Background

In 1985/86 the last of the PRESIDENT CLASS frigates was decommissioned from the SA Navy. There were no immediate replacements to conduct maritime operations in the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf area, bearing in mind that the SA economy relies heavily on foreign trade and that ninety percent of imports and exports pass through our six well-developed harbours/ports. The shift in maritime operational responsibility moved quickly to the nine missile carrying strike craft with no helicopter capability. The strike craft formed the Strike Craft Squadrons 1 and 2 based in Durban and Simon’s Town.

The SA Navy launched a project in 1994 to ensure a maritime operational programme for ships with maximum endurance, quick mobility, helicopter capability, anti-submarine capability and defence against aircraft and missiles. They also had to be capable of evacuating personnel during conflicts, and be used for peacekeeping. Crew comfort was considered for endurance periods.

South Africa becomes a new democracy

With the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, the emphasis was placed on Reconstruction and Development Programmes (RDP) and the need to address the country’s socio-economic priorities. This led to political debates on the need for the SA Navy to have new ships. With democracy the armaments industries of the world opened their doors to South Africa. An opportunity was taken to acquire new ships and submarines. Our Daphne Class submarines were purchased from France and the President Class frigates from the United Kingdom.

When the operational requirements for new ships and submarines were presented to the Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, he ruled that it would be inopportune to commence these projects until a proper reconsideration of South Africa defence requirements had been concluded and that such a reconsideration had to be inclusive of the country’s population. This led to the White paper on Defence, which was approved by Parliament in 1996, and the Defence Review, which was similarly approved by Parliament in 1998.

To coincide with its 75th anniversary in 1997 the SA Navy, under V Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson, went on an extensive marketing campaign to gain support for the acquisition of new ships and submarines.

Having determined the size and shape of the new SANDF, the acquisition process for new ships and submarines commenced and culminated in the signing of contracts for four patrol corvettes and three submarines on 3 December 1999 between the Government of South Africa and a consortium consisting of Blohm & Voss GmbH, Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AAG, Thyssen Rheinstahl Technik GmbH, Thales Naval France and African Defence Systems.

Project SITRON covered the acquisition of corvettes and Project WILLS the acquisition of submarines.

Justification for the purchase of corvettes and submarines

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, in his address to the SA media representatives soon after the (Continued on page 18)
arrival of the SAS AMATOLA, said: “The acquisition of corvettes and submarines is fully justified in the White Paper for Defence and the Defence Review”. He further added, "Through a distillation of the Constitution, the Defence Act, the White Paper and the Defence Review, the main roles of the SANDF are the following:
- Defence against aggression;
- Protection of the people of South Africa (and their interests); and
- Support for the international obligation of South Africa.

"The sole purpose of going into battle is to win and neutralise the enemy. One always negotiates from a position of strength. The corvettes will act as a deterrent and to fight against an aggressor and the protection of the country’s people.

"A value system was used to obtain ships and submarines. The RSA added counter-trade.

"The Type 209 submarines are also a major component to deter and fight an aggressor. They are difficult to detect in the vast ocean and can inflict great damage on a potential aggressor, from a small target to an aircraft carrier.

“The corvette with its missiles, helicopter carrying capability and excellent sea control can defend and deter an aggressor.”

**Signatures (hot spots)**

**Stealth features**

The signatures of a warship can be defined as the items that will easily give away a ship's locality and hence allow it to be easily detected.

In the case of the MEKO A-200 several measures are incorporated to keep the ship signatures as low as possible.

The radar cross-section (RCS) signature has been significantly reduced by the X shape of the hull, as well as the clean superstructure, which minimises strong reflections from any one angle of incidence. Computer simulations were used to design the optimised structural angles.

The infra-red (IR) signature has been greatly reduced by removing the traditional funnel, a step that eliminates the critical hot spot most ships have midships.

On the SA corvettes, exhaust gases are passed aft, as well as to the transom through the outlets just above the waterline where they are cooled by sea water injection. The use of the proven air-conditioning concept, using a large amount of recirculated air, avoids hot spots normally caused by exhaust air.

Further measures such as a well insulated shell, which includes machinery spaces above the waterline, minimises localised heat transfer and associated hot spots.

The acoustic signature is kept low through the streamlined shaping of the hull and a sharp, special bow design. The optimised propeller and water jet design, combined with the excellent hull shape, provide very good flow conditions even at high speed. Further acoustic measures are the encapsulated and elastic mounted propulsion and generator engines with their similarly elastic mounted ancillary systems.

The magnetic signature is reduced through a triaxial degaussing system.

**Combat suite**

The SAS AMATOLA will be fitted in Simon’s Town with a combat suite designed to fit the ship’s maritime operation capability, with the main emphasis placed on defence surface warfare.
Weapons system

**Anti-air warfare:**
- Sixteen Umkhonto VLS SAM for point defence against aircraft and missiles by Denel (Kentron); and
- One twin 35 mm gun for anti-missile defence, Denel (LIW).

**Anti-surface warfare:**
- Eight Exocet MM40 anti-ship missiles MBDA;
- One 76 mm gun, SA (OTO MELARA) electric; and
- Two 20 mm cannon for close-range in engagement of small targets.

Sensor system - The sensor equipment will consist of:
- Surveillance Radar: MRR, Thales Naval France;
- Identification Friend or Foe, IFF Tellumat;
- Optical Radar Tracker System, ORT forward, Reutech Radar Systems;
- Electro-optical Tracker System, EOT aft, Reutech Radar Systems;
- Target Designation Sights, TDS, M-Tek;
- Hull-mounted Sonar, HMS, and Thales Underwater Systems; and
- Navigation Radar from Litton.

Command and control system

- Combat Management System, CMS, ADS/Thales Naval France;
- Link Control and Video Switching System LCS/VSS, Thales Advanced Engineering; and
- System Management Subsystem, SMS ADS.

Helicopter capabilities

The platform's large flight deck and hangar arrangements are able to accommodate either one helicopter weighing up to 10 tons, or ferry two 5.5 ton helicopters, a feature that enhances the vessel's day and night surveillance and attack capabilities. The hangar area includes a workshop, stores and maintenance facilities, as well as refuelling and rearming capabilities.

**SAS AMATOLA'S unique water jet and refined propeller propulsion (warp)**

For over a century propellers have been used on commercial and military vessels. The MEKO corvettes have a multi-mission propeller.

The MEKO A-200 SA Navy corvette is equipped with a CODAG-WARP (combined diesel and gas turbine-water jet and refined propellers) propulsion system consisting of two diesel driven propulsion trains with propellers and one centre lined gas turbine propulsion train driving a water jet.

Each of the two 16 V 1163 TB 93 MTU diesel engines has a maximum continuous rating of 5920 kW and is coupled via gearbox and shafting to a five blade controllable pitch propeller. Both shafts can be driven via the cross-connection gearbox by a single diesel engine, a modus that will mainly be used for economic transfers.

The centre-line water jet is powered by a GE-LM 2500 gas turbine delivering a maximum power of 20000 kW. The water jet can be used as the sole propulsion unit, or in combination with the diesel plant, in the so-called CODAG-WARP mode up to maximum vessel speed.

Four MTU diesel generators delivering 550 kW each provide the electrical power.

Another typical demand for warships is the crash stop. The water jet has a reverse bucket that helps stop the ship at full speed within the target. This was successfully demonstrated on her maiden passage to South Africa in the North Sea and in False Bay.

**Conclusion**

The MEKO A200 SA Navy corvette has been designed with excellent sea-keeping characteristics and combat suites for operations in rough sea conditions. Its wide operational range permits independent surveillance missions along South Africa's long coastline, and the platform provides large growth capacities for further combat systems.

The MEKO A200 is excellently matched to operational requirements, growth potential and, above all, it takes the SA taxpayer into account.

The SAS AMATOLA’s arrival has brought a new era for the SA Navy. She will sail the SA flag with pride and make all South Africans feel proud of her.

R Adm (JG) Johnny Kamerman, Project Director of Project SITRON (right), and Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson, the OC SAS AMATOLA, overlook the SAS AMATOLA’s arrival in False Bay.

CPO Shawn van Staden prepares for the helicopter to land (flying stations) on entering False Bay.
Effective HIV/AIDS management is vital

By Sivuyiswe Matanga

The SANDF commemorated World AIDS Day on 1 December 2003 with the launch of the clinical research Project *Phidisa* that will benefit the HIV positive SANDF members and their dependants.

*Phidisa* is a collaborative effort between the DOD, the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA) and the US National Institute of Health to undertake research on treatment options for HIV positive SANDF members.

One of the aims of Project *Phidisa* is to provide treatment to HIV positive SANDF members and their dependants. It also answers research questions relevant to South Africa on the use of anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy to build capacity within the SAMHS in order to conduct state-of-the-art clinical research on HIV and other diseases of critical importance to Defence Force preparedness.

"Project *Phidisa* has the full support of myself and the Ministry of Defence," said the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge. She added: "HIV/AIDS affects everyone in all walks of life, and the SANDF is no exception. The research that this project will undertake into issues such as effective HIV/AIDS management is vital to help prevent unnecessary and unwanted illness and even loss in the SANDF.

"Project *Phidisa* is complementary to the *Masibambisane*. *Masibambisane* is the HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness Programme, while Project *Phidisa* focuses on the management and treatment of HIV infection in SANDF members. Six sites have been selected to conduct the research, namely 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria, Mtubatuba Sickbay in KwaZulu-Natal, 2 Military Hospital in Cape Town, 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein, Phalaborwa Sickbay and Umtata Sickbay.

"We will make better the lives of our soldiers and their families and we will save lives," said the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, during his keynote address at the launch of Project *Phidisa*. As we move to the next phase in our war against this virus, Project *Phidisa* will provide South Africa with answers to the difficult questions of appropriateness, effectiveness and efficacy of the clinical management of HIV/AIDS," said Minister Lekota.

"Through Project *Phidisa* the SANDF would have the opportunity to serve South Africa in a different, but significant way by showing its commitment to finding solutions to important issues, such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic affecting the country. The information obtained from the project will assist the SANDF in its future decision about how best to manage the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the military environment," said Minister Lekota.

All aspects of the research of Project *Phidisa* will be undertaken in accordance with South African and United States laws pertaining to international research standards and procedures. United States Ambassador Cameron Hume noted that the US Government fully supports this initiative: "It is a reflection of a growing African and American co-operation on important issues surrounding the HIV/AIDS crisis. Ambassador Hume also welcomed the South African Government’s recent decision to introduce ARV therapy in public health facilities within its comprehensive strategy in the fight against the HIV/AIDS crisis. South Africa is rising to meet the challenge of providing lifelong care for HIV infected individuals. "We do not underestimate the difficulty of the challenge, but we are glad that the SANDF is leading the way in this war. One of the SANDF HIV positive uniformed members took a step forward and advised other SANDF members. Sgt Philisiwe Ntshangase of the Surgeon General’s Office in the SAMHS and a representative of Greater Involvement of People Living with AIDS in the DOD (GIPA), advised the SANDF HIV Positive members to enrol in Project *Phidisa* so as to be thoroughly informed about the use of ARVs. Military personnel must organise support groups so as to share experiences and learn from each other about the drug regimen, side effects, HIV management and the consequences of non-adherence," said Sgt Ntshangase. "We need to acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own; the situation demands that we become bold enough to break the silence," she added. Maj Gen Mokheti Radebe, Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation, said that the SANDF was a microcosm of South African society, and therefore we believe that the results of Project *Phidisa* will inform policy makers on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment across South African society. By identifying appropriate treatment and management of HIV/AIDS the project hopes to have a positive impact on military readiness and the lives of those who serve the country.
The first Hawk aircraft has arrived

By Bertus Cilliers, Corporate Communication Manager Armscor

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The aircraft undertook a further two flights at Warton before it was deassembled and transported by air to South Africa, where it was reassembled at the Test Flight and Development Centre near Bredasdorp in the Western Cape Province.

Extensive flight, ground and other tests required in terms of the contract and operational specification will be conducted at the Test Flight and Development Centre and other centres in South Africa over the next eighteen months. The delivery of the first production Hawk aircraft to the SA Air Force is scheduled for mid 2005.

Hawk SA001 will be officially welcomed in South Africa towards the beginning of February 2004.

Military health services under the magnifying glass

By Col Johan Dill, SSO Pastoral Service (courtesy Milmed)

R

ecently a highly successful Fifth Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) Working Group on Military Health Services took place in Gaborone, Botswana. Ten SADC countries were present, as well as invited participants from the Indian Defence Force and a UNAIDS representative. The SANDF was represented by five SAMHS members, Maj Gen M. Radebe (Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation and leader of the delegation), Brig Gen D. van Zyl (Director Military Health Plan), Brig Gen N.E. Motumi (Director Social Work), Col L. Jacobs (SSO Diet) and Col J. Dill (SSO Pastoral Service).

More than twenty scientific papers were presented. These dealt with many important health matters that pose a challenge to our subregion. Some of the major topics were: public health management in transit, infectious diseases: hedging the risk, various malaria challenges, disaster preparedness, various aspects of the HIV/AIDS challenge, challenges of ARV treatment, HIV vaccines, TB and HIV, a value based intervention for combating HIV/AIDS, and challenges faced by social workers in the Military Health Services.

Brig Gen Motumi presented a very relevant topic - challenges faced by social workers in the Military Health Services. She stressed the important role played by social work officers and how they enhance resilience in the military environment. Many of the countries which do not have embedded social workers in their forces were motivated to add this important health professional group as a force multiplier.

Col Jacobs presented an interesting topic - infectious diseases: hedging the risk. She stressed the importance of nutrition as the cornerstone of health in the military. The goal of military nutrition is to identify the correct nutrient mix to counter the effects of negative energy balance. The risk of infectious diseases can be greatly reduced by taking the right food options, especially taking in food in its natural state. To reach this goal the right ration scales, as well as nutrition education for soldiers and chefs, are extremely important. Col Dill’s paper was titled Combatting HIV/AIDS through Spiritual and Ethical Conduct: A Research Evaluation of the SANDF’s Chaplain General’s Programme to Combat HIV/AIDS. His paper specifically concentrated on the possibility of scientifically measuring the significance (with regard to reliability and validity) of what the programme intends to achieve. Different behaviour change models were discussed as a background to the Increased Value-Consciousness Model, which uses unique constructs and specific change indicators to measure behaviour and attitude changes. Through this measurement tool the effectiveness of the highly popular programme can be evaluated in a much more reliable way in the future. If behaviour and attitude change can be improved significantly, it will provide important confirmation that the programme can be promoted with confidence.

The last day of the conference was used for the General Meeting. Under the strong leadership of Maj Gen Radebe, South Africa contributed significantly to a number of important resolutions for the member countries to adopt in future.

In total this was a well attended quality conference with excellent presentations, and the host country, Botswana, did itself proud with very professional arrangements.
Parliamentarians visited our soldiers abroad

The recent visit by the Portfolio Committee on Defence and the Joint Standing Committee on Defence to the soldiers deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi over the period 28 to 30 October 2003 is a clear indication of support and augurs well for the morale of the soldiers.

The parliamentarians were led by Ms Thandi Modise, Chairperson on both committees, which consisted of members from different political parties, while V Adm Martyn Trainor, Chief of Corporate Staff, led the SANDF delegation. Before their departure from Waterkloof Air Force Base Maj Gen Mbuyiselo Mgwebi, the GOC Joint Operational HQ at CJ Ops Division, briefed the delegation and the members of the media on the situation in the DRC and Burundi. The first stop of the visit was Kindu, and after a briefing the group left for Bujumbura.

In Bujumbura they were welcomed by Maj Gen Sipho Binda, the Force Commander of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), and his contingent. Also present was Ambassador Mamadou Bah, the special representative for the African Union, who was the chairperson and the head of mission of AMIB. He informed the delegation about progress in Burundi, especially in terms of disarmament, demobilisation and repatriation (DDR). Ms Modise urged the ambassador not to forget that women and children were part and parcel of the whole procedure to be implemented.

The ambassador emphasised that it was in their best interests not to leave others behind or to fail to acknowledge their contribution. The inclusion of women and children, who had participated in the struggle for a transitional government, was very important because it is their right to be involved in the process. Although political, it is a major challenge to realise those requirements, but there is still hope because of progress in some agreements.
Soldiers help to improve public services

By Matshidiso Pila

Whenever one hears the word SANDF the first thing that springs to mind is protection. When one sees soldiers in a place one relaxes and feels safe. This is what the people of Mamelodi West in Gauteng (Tshwane) thought when they saw Sgt Khathutshelo Bale and S Sgt Lukas van der Schyff, both members form the Intelligence Formation, at the mass registration of social grants on 21 October 2003.

These two SANDF members volunteered wholeheartedly to help people apply for social grants. Sgt Bale said there was a need for assistance in every government department and people should start realising this because it would help to improve services that are rendered to the public.

Each year the Department of Public Service and Administration organises and celebrates Public Service Week. Last year the Batho Pele Public Service Week was held from 13 to 17 October.
In defence of deployment

By Dr I. Bux, A/SO1 Med, AMHU KZN
Photos: Lt Col (Dr) R. Ismail

I sit here staring at the majestic Congo River, contemplating the four months I have spent in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I recall the nervous and apprehensive first week in the DRC, a week filled with uncertainties about this deployment in the heart of Africa.

Africa is surely a continent of extremes and contrasts. It is a continent known for violence and war, its soil regularly stained with the blood of its people. The image portrayed to the world beyond Africa is usually one of clan conflicts, guns and starvation. Deployment as part of a peacekeeping force will certainly make one confront some of these experiences. They undoubtedly change one’s perceptions of the world. Moreover, they change one as a person.

I wonder when I return home whether anyone will think I am different? Despite all my efforts, the vicious mosquitoes win their battles against me; and my hair and skin are beginning to show the effects of sun exposure. But these changes are so superficial... so unimportant. They have little to do with Africa!

There are changes which cannot be seen by the naked eye: changes to the soul, the mind and the heart. Africa has a way of weaving itself into the fibre of one’s being and each new day brings surprises even more rewarding than the day before.

Friends have often asked me whether living in a very poor country like the DRC does not “get to you” after a while. I would be lying if I said no. Sometimes it is difficult because you simply cannot help everybody, and they always think you could if you wanted to. You feel hated when you do not buy something you have been browsing at. Foreigners like myself are viewed with a mix of resentment and undue reverence. Money, technology, comfort, medicine - we have it all. With all of that, surely we must have the answers, or at least some money for this beggar and for every other needy person we meet. But we do not. We cannot. We may be overrated in our capacity to solve all the problems alone. No one person has all the answers, enough money and enough courage to make a difference. But together, I, my team in the DRC, the SANDF, contingents from other countries, even you in South Africa - we might just be able to create a tiny ripple.

My first two months were spent in the capital city, Kinshasa - a neglected and overcrowded city ravaged by the civil war. But once you travel out of the city, it is like stepping onto another planet. One encounters the beauty of the pristine rainforests with the Congo River snaking through it. The untouched beauty left me awestruck and pensive. I could not help but reflect on one thought: “Never had I heard a silence so loud, felt an emptiness so large, or seen a nothingness so beautiful!”

My second deployment was spent in the rural eastern village of Kindu. It is my experience that along dusty tracks of rural DRC I see important differences that I have been noticing and thinking a lot about this week - the things which I grew up with and take for granted, which actually have a huge impact on how we perceive and judge others different from us.

Life in rural DRC, much like rural South Africa, appears carefree and laid-back. This made me think about the use of time. Westerners often comment that Africans do not understand efficiency like they do, the implication being that they are somehow not as hard-working. But in fact, the poor Africans I have seen engage in more back-breaking work in a single day than many of the educated and efficient Westerners see in six months.

Imagine the work it takes just to prepare a single meal: the firewood has to be collected and cut, the water has to be fetched and carried on foot from sometimes miles away, the fire has to be built, the maize has to be ground, or the hard green bananas peeled. In the end the meal is a simple bowl of mush and sauce, but the work that has to go into it is astounding. And all this has to happen at least twice a day. Meanwhile, the soil has to be tilled, the crops have to be weeded and harvested, the animals have to be tended, etc. Now it is true that technology and infrastructure could go a long way in making the work easier, but nobody can convince me that African women (who have the burden of most of this work) are not efficient in their own right.

My interactions with the locals have been a real eye-opener. I have also come to question basic assumptions I was brought up to believe were basic truths. I particularly learn these when I see the interaction of the locals with the foreigners that are deployed here. Their simple joys and acceptance left me tingling. The UN presence has created a boundless freedom under the bright African sky. They know brother-like friendship with people outside of their race and economic class. They know that love and friendship is possible with people who are different from themselves. They see the differences, they accept them, they look beyond them.

I also see that we take our basic
material comforts for granted. It may be something as simple as a chair or sofa to relax on. If one wants to sit in the Congo rainforests, the only seat may be a tree stump, roots or the earth itself. But in rural Africa, such comforts as sofas and televisions are not even heard of. Primary school education is a luxury many cannot afford. Running water from a tap is beyond the realistic grasp of most people. Opportunities to move beyond subsistence are very few. Hard work is not a virtue - it is a fact of life. There is a choice involved: you work hard or you do not survive. Our presence in the DRC and our support of the local traders go a long way in alleviating some of the poverty in the area.

The process of deployment can be both complex and demanding for the member and the family. The environment is often one with limited means, and offers both physical and mental challenges. But one can meet the challenges of deployment with flexibility, resourcefulness, innovation and by maintaining a positive attitude towards the experience. The key to enjoying the mission is courage, as well as the willingness to deploy, and preparedness (physical, mental and professional.) This was echoed by Sir Winston Churchill when he said: “To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and asked to do a very special thing - unique to him and his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for that work”.

The factor that prevents many professionals from making themselves available for deployment is fear - fear that stems from the dark tales of deep Africa. Yes, it is true that Africa is fraught with fragile political systems and human anguish. The experience will give you an uncompromising, yet enlightening and rare insight into human tragedy. But that does not describe Africa’s stunning sunsets, wild animals and exceptional beauty. It does not tell you about the people you will meet - their hospitality, patience, boundless humour and readiness to share. They make Africa so rich a place in which to be. One cannot help but draw parallels with events in South Africa in the last decade. Previous evils have left some painful consequences, but you will see the hope, love and healing that emerge despite it.

Some of my professional colleagues often ask why one would be willing to deploy in an alien and formidable environment, unfamiliar to many SANDF personnel. What is the motive for going on a mission far from the familiarity and comfort of one’s home? Why do we do this?

The motive for some members may be the psychological attraction for the adrenaline rush. For others it may be the financial rewards. For yet others it may be the opportunity to interact and engage with people from varied and interesting backgrounds. There may even be the noble intention of making a difference as part of the wider humanitarian and peacekeeping operation.

Freud would probably argue that each of us has a powerful built-in psychobiological drive both to live and die. Deployment can be seen as this anxiety-driven activity. Existentialists might understand agreeing to deploy as a coming to terms with our mortality and finiteness. Jungians, on the other hand, might see a “revisiting of the archetype of the adolescent progressing along the path to individuation”.

Whatever the perceived motives may be, the bottom line is that as a volunteer in a defence force with a specific political mandate, deployment is an imperative in our job description. That is what we are employed to do.

I cannot get away from the sensibility of William Shedd: “A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for”. "Happiness is seeing the plane land in Kindu, DRC…"
South Africa and Namibia sustain peace

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt Fabian du Bois

The third session of the South Africa/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was held at Farm Inn in Pretoria over the period 3 to 7 November 2003.

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa was led by Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, and included Mr January Masilela, the Secretary for Defence, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Charles Nqakula, Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Aziz Pahad, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and senior Government officials.

The delegation of the Republic of Namibia was led by the Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, Minister of Defence, and included the Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Peter Tsheehama, Director General of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service, His Excellency Wilbard Hellao, High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of South Africa, and senior Government officials. The Commission reviewed the general situation prevailing in the two countries, bilateral issues of common interest in the areas of defence, public and state security. It further reviewed regional, continental and international issues of common concern.

The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made on the various defence and security issues of cooperation, cross-border related crimes, immigration, customs, environment and tourism, as well as skills development of operatives in the stated fields. In this regard it resolved to maintain the current rapport to sustain the peace and stability prevailing in the two countries. The Commission welcomed the positive developments with regard to peace initiatives on the continent. These include the establishment of the transitional government in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the signing of the Pretoria Protocol on political, defence and security and power-sharing in Burundi on 8 October 2003.

The Commission commended the efforts undertaken by the Government and people of Angola in consolidating peace and stability in that country, and urged the SADC member states and international community to support this effort. It noted with satisfaction the signing of the SADC Mutual Defence Pact by the Heads of State and governments on 26 August 2003, in Tanzania, which opened the way for mutual co-operation in defence and security matters in the region. The Commission also noted with grave concern the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region and its negative impact on socio-economic security, and resolved to establish specific joint programmes between South Africa and Namibia to combat HIV/AIDS.

The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the excellent bilateral relations and bonds of friendship existing between the peoples and governments of South Africa and Namibia. The people of South Africa and Namibia have always had a common purpose, united by dreams of peace and stability in their respective countries, and the Southern African subregion as a whole. The mutual interests and aspirations of the majority of the people of both countries...
have developed since then, from the wars for liberation, to the emergence of their respective democracies in 1990 and 1994.

In recent years they have recognised the importance of a collective approach to economic prosperity. This has been realised, firstly, through joint participation in multilateral regional initiatives, such as the South African Customs Union (SACU), the South African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and those institutions under the auspices of the United Nations (UN).

In his opening address Mr Lekota said that since its establishment, the Joint Commission has become a common expression of what we both wish to be: friendly neighbours and partners in progress. He added that the bilateral approach had proved to be equally important to all of us in this region. The intimacy, focus and attention to detail of a "two-country model" affords either side a strong chance of delivery on its objectives. "In the case of South Africa and Namibia, our relations today are marked, at the highest level, by the regular Heads of State economic bilateral meetings held between President Mbeki and President Nujoma. However, world history has taught us that neither multilateral nor bilateral economic initiatives will stand a chance of success without regional peace and stability. This third Session of the Joint Commission took place behind the backdrop of several significant developments on the continent with regard to self-reliance and regional co-operation on matters of peace and security.

"South Africa continues to participate in peace support operations in the DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Liberia. Our efforts, successes in particular, in peace support in the region have often been as a result of joint efforts at a regional level. In the case of the DRC we received very significant co-operation from Namibia, Angola and Zimbabwe. We noted the role Namibia played in particular, being the first to pull forces out of the DRC in support of the peace process," Mr Lekota added.

"At this early stage in the progress and development of the Joint Commission all of our annual meetings are milestones in our quest for mutual security and co-operation. This is our annual opportunity to take stock of our work to date, celebrate achievements and deal very seriously with areas of concern. It is very important that I stress how crucial bilaterals like ours are in the broader scheme of initiatives, for example the SADC Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC). Often issues are resolved or initiated at this level as a result of the bilateral relations between individual countries. The region is becoming increasingly alive to the importance of bilateral permanent commissions. We must therefore never allow ourselves to be accused of being a 'talk shop' where plenty is discussed and little achieved," he concluded.

Mr Nghimtina expressed his appreciation at having been able to attend the Commission and the excellent facilities provided by the South Africans. He said the Commission was a suitable platform to address issues that affect our people and to exchange ideas on defence matters. He commended the South Africans for consolidating stability in the UN and AU deployments and added that it was time for Africa to unite and solve its own problems. The Namibian delegation expressed its sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality accorded to them by the people and Government of South Africa during its stay in Pretoria.

Leaders in coastal survival

By Capt A.M. Fokkens

Special Forces operators are trained to survive under extreme and life-threatening conditions. These conditions are even more accentuated when Mother Nature has a say. Because the unit specialises in seaborne operations, the members of 4 Special Forces Regiment, Langebaan, have first-hand knowledge of the fierce conditions that both the land and the sea have in store.

Coastal survival is one of the most important components in the life of Special Forces operators. Training for coastal survival is facilitated by qualified operators working at 4 Special Forces Regiment and is conducted at the Donkergat Military Training Area. Training of this nature is also provided for the pilots and crews of the SA Air Force and SA Navy seagoing personnel. The close proximity of Central Flying School and SAS SALDANHA provides learners from these training institutions with the opportunity to participate in the survival experience.

The military training for ratings (MTR 2 course) of SAS SALDANHA is a good example of such training. Early in August 2003 a group of approximately 45 junior naval ratings was introduced to coastal survival, which stretched over two days. They received their certificates on 6 August 2003, which coincided with the inauguration of the Survival Centre.

The Survival Centre has a permanent exhibition of what coastal survival entails. The display covers a wide array of equipment, seafood and various other paraphernalia used for survival. Navigation by the stars and the different constellations, such as Orion and the Southern Cross, are depicted, as is the equipment used for survival. The display brings coastal survival to life and provides the onlooker with a graphic picture of what it is all about.

The Regiment is proud to have such an exhibition and the inspired individuals, who made it possible, namely Maj Jan Marx, Sergeant Majors Martin Combrinck and Russel Hemmingsway. These members created it on their own initiative. Volunteers from the Regiment maintain the display with donated equipment. Equipment donations to the Survival Centre are always welcome.

For any such donations kindly contact Maj Jan Marx at tel no: (022) 707 4039 or Sergeant Major Martin Combrinck at tel no: (022) 707 4038.
Visiting the armies of other countries

By Col H. Schobesberger, SSO
Army Corporate Communication

Building bridges, opening gates for others to enter and measuring our achievements against international standards are the main objectives set by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, when he visits the armies of other countries.

International recognition and the request by some of the countries to assist them in gaining entrance into Africa for their own peacekeeping efforts are some of the achievements which need to be highlighted when we celebrate “ten years of freedom and democracy” during 2004.

The international community has admired our effort to bring peace to war-torn countries on our continent. This effort, which can be seen as military support to South Africa’s foreign diplomacy, is supplemented by visits to armies of other countries.

During the second half of 2003 Lt Gen Ramano visited Namibia, Chile and Belgium. The three countries, diverse in their history and geopolitical situation, have one thing in common—all three countries are contributing towards the United Nations effort in peacekeeping operations. All three countries support the idea of a multinational approach to solving conflicts in the world of today.

Chile and Belgium (as part of the European Union effort) are looking to South Africa, as one of the most important role players on the continent, to co-operate with them in their peacekeeping effort in Africa. The Namibian Army is already part of the United Nations Standby Agreement and is working hard to meet the very stringent criteria for providing forces within the framework of this agreement.

What follows is a summary of conclusions and experiences as seen by the Chief of the SA Army and members of the visiting group.

In all three countries the visiting group had the opportunity to visit headquarters, training institutions and units. In Chile the invitation to the National Day and the parade conducted by about 10 000 soldiers was one of the great military events experienced by the visiting group.

Namibia

The visiting group experienced a down-to-earth, simply structured and equipped Namibian Army.

The role and function of the Namibian Army are closely interlinked with the political decision-making process within the Namibian Government and constitute part of democratic military/civil relations.

The command and control structure of the Namibian Army is simple and user-friendly.

The Namibian Army includes many soldiers with combat experience in the war for liberation (Plan/SWATF/Koevoet), in operations in the DRC in support of the Kabila Government and in operations in Angola against UNITA.

The Namibian Defence Force includes a strong air wing and is supported by a small defence industry catering for the vehicle and communication needs of the force.
Emphasis is given to the establishment of a PSO capability within UN standby agreements. The Namibian Army is interested in participation in PSOs at subunit level.

Namibia is facing similar problems to the RSA in regard to illegal immigrants, smuggling and cross-border crime. The cross-border traffic to and from Angola has increased tremendously since the defeat of UNITA. Growth points and export zones have been established at certain border posts. Similar problems to those faced by the SA Army in regard to human resource management (eg soldiers getting older and HIV/AIDS) are experienced and there is no solution in sight.

The Namibian Army is improving existing facilities and is building new ones to improve the living standards of their members.

Chile

The Chilean Army, under the leadership of General Cheyre, has established itself firmly in the new democratic order of Chile. General Cheyre’s interest in reviving and intensifying military co-operation with South Africa goes back to 1981 when the general attended the Senior Command and Staff Course in South Africa.

The Chilean Army is in the process of restructuring and modernising and is interested in the South African experience in this regard.

There is a strong display of patriotism in Chile. The military parade and other events during the National Day confirmed this.

The newly built CECOPAC is a clear indication of the attempt by the Chilean Army to expand its peacekeeping efforts within a worldwide collective security system as spelt out in the UN San Francisco Charter. Chile has accepted the multilateral approach to solving problems and strongly supports the UN.

The Chilean Army sees South Africa as the point of entry for the Chilean PSO effort in Africa.

The education and training system of the Chilean Army includes qualifications accepted by civilian educational authorities.

The Service Chiefs are Commanders in Chief and report directly to the Minister. A joint top structure is planned.

Belgium

The visit to Belgium gave Lt Gen Ramano an interesting insight into the functioning of an Army strongly embedded in a multinational environment. It was at the same time a bridge building exercise to make a country with strong links to the EU aware of African military issues. It also confirmed the importance of South Africa in creating peace and stability in Africa, as recognised by the international community.

The Belgian Army is strongly embedded within the military and security structures of the EU, NATO, UN and OSCE.

Belgium has plenty of experience in combined (multinational) operations and exercises.

Its approach to operations is that joint is the rule, combined (multinational), if possible, and CIMIC a must.

The Belgian Army sees co-operation with and support of South Africa as a cornerstone in implementing the ”African Peace Support Facility”, and explained that it was a strategic issue.

The Army, which consists of three brigades, foresees that it will only be able to deploy 500 soldiers at a time for PSOs.

PSOs, with CIMIC included, are of great importance to the Belgian Army and therefore also to the Engineers.

Belgium uses its airborne forces as a rapid deployment force.

The Belgian Army is transforming and reducing its strength. It is facing similar problems to the SA Army.

The language policy (French/Dutch) within a federal state leads to duplication of structures and processes.

Conclusion

The visits by the Chief of the SA Army to Namibia, Chile and Belgium was another example of building bridges between countries and armies to the benefit of peace and stability in the world.
Moving to greater heights

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: F Sgt Tania Kettles

At the Third African Women’s Peace Table on 28 October 2003 held at the SANDF Air Command Building in central Pretoria women were saying that women count, and that they can and do deliver. It is time for women to be more assertive and to get onto the UN/NEPAD peace and security agenda to make a difference in Africa and internationally.

Sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Directorate of the Department of Defence and Safer Africa (an international non-profit organisation) the conference was designed to create a platform from which resolutions would emerge. Furthermore, it was a seminar that through discussion explored key recommendations in matters relating to the role and responsibility of African women in the furtherance of the AU/NEPAD peace and security agenda. In accordance with the vision of African renewal and the values of Pan Africanism, speakers at the seminar recommended to the AU/NEPAD that the building of mechanisms, institutions and instruments for peace in Africa should be gender sensitive.

Women want to play an increasingly significant role in setting up the various emerging AU/NEPAD policy frameworks, and thus determine and strengthen to a large degree the manner of participation, and increase the role and responsibility of women in enhancing national and continental security. Pointing the way forward the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mrs Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, in her address at the seminar suggested that the AU should utilise to full capacity an already existing resource of women as they comprise more than half of Africa’s population. She said that women bear the brunt of the consequences of instability and in all situations of conflict in Africa women, children and the old are unprotected and become vulnerable to the degradations of insecurity. Mrs Madlala-Routledge said, “Clearly women have a definite point of view in relation to peace, security and safety.” She went on to say, “The participation of people is among the key principles that guide the pursuance of peace and security. This principle provides women, an interested and affected constituency, with a basis for engagement.”

The Deputy Minister of Defence also noted that this Third Peace Table was a demonstration of commitment to ensure that the voice of women was realised. The challenge to all participants was to recommend ways in which women in the Security Forces and women in general could contribute to the implementation of the AU/NEPAD goal of achieving peace and security.

Another speaker at the seminar, Dr Monica Juma of Safer Africa, stated that women in Africa were more involved at local level than anywhere else in the world. However, they continue to remain under-represented at the decision-making level. Dr Juma stated: “There is now a framework for capacity building and empowerment of women through the UNSC resolution 1325 of 2000 which now needs to be unpacked and adapted to the AU/NEPAD provisions and principles.”

“Without the engagement of women none of the African initiatives or structures set up by the AU/NEPAD architecture for peace and security will
be realised,” affirmed Dr Juma.

Col Busisiwe Buthelezi, a member of the SANDF Logistic Formation, spoke of "Early warning for early action". Calling for greater involvement and full utilisation of women, Col Buthelezi said, "A good plan for early action is fundamental to success”. She also indicated that women are as dependent on good mandates and rules of engagement as men are.

Col Buthelezi maintained that the nature of conflict in Africa demands increased involvement by women in its resolution. She further stated that when dealing with post-conflict reconstruction, notably the demobilisation and reintegration of female soldiers, the numbers of women in civil society support organisation must be enlarged since they are ideally placed to deal with female target groups. Most critically, this was important for the protection of local women from rape and other forms of gender violence.

So many meaningful presentations and valuable contributions were made in search of a way forward, as women volunteered to play a leading role in the reconstruction and development of the continent. As Mrs Jesse Duarte from the Department for Foreign Affairs emphasised, "It is time to assert ourselves and get into the Pan African Parliament”.

In Mrs Duarte’s view, the promotion of the idea that women should play a role in all aspects of regional organisation is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the AU/NEPAD peace and security agenda. This included the new structures of the AU (particularly the Peace and Security Council, Pan African Parliament and the Common Defence and Security Policy, including the Africa Standby Force, ECOSOCC).

According to Ambassador Duarte, increasing numbers of women fill prominent and influential posts on the continent. "Now we need to assist women in filling pivotal posts, but we also need to give active and coherent support to women in posts previously the exclusive reserve of men, such as arms procurement," stated Ambassador Duarte.

All recommendations made by the participants to the conference remain as such, unless the words are put into action. The Fourth Annual Women’s Peace Table ought to be about that which has been implemented and it awaits the results. The virtues of persistence and diligence are undeniably what women can bring into all the AU/NEPAD processes. These are attributes that the keen volunteers should guard jealously lest they become a myth.

Over one hundred woman representatives from the SANDF, twenty-one governmental representatives from twelve SADC member states, thirty women from South Africa’s civil society organisations and four ambassadors accredited to the South African Government were welcomed to the seminar by the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela. The First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, made an appearance. All these participants were a clear indication of commitment that ought to remain uncompromised.

**To fly is magic**

![SA Air Force Project Siyandiza](Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma)

**Siyandiza into the future.**

**By Nomonde Vuthela**

**Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma**

"Once you have a dream, dedicate every living moment to realise that dream," said one of the first black pilots to join the US Air Force, Col Charles McGee (Ret), to a tent full of scholars in Soweto. The SA Air Force Project *Siyandiza* had combined forces with Col McGee, and 11 November 2003 would be the day that together they would attempt to change the lives of many young Sowetans.

Col McGee is a veteran fighter pilot who joined the US Air Force in 1942 and flew a fighter aircraft during World War II, the Korean War and in the Vietnam War. Soweto is home to many great people who have had to succeed against all odds. People from the area speak of it with great sentiment, more on account of its being the only home they know than from strong feelings about its beauty. It was to such a school that the *Siyandiza* Team, headed by Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, Chief Director Air Policy and Planning, took Col McGee so that he could serve as living proof of a dream come true.

"You cannot change the past, but you have a chance to influence the future," Maj Gen Ngema told his young audience. Maj Gen Ngema revealed that he too comes from Soweto and therefore understands what the students are up against. "You have electricity today, we had candles," said the General, urging the youth to read at all times.

A new South Africa can be part of the next hundred years of aviation. But, as the *Siyandiza* Team teaches, our young people must be ready and prepared to take up the challenge to choose the SA Air Force as their future employer."
British and SA soldiers simulated a peace support operation

By Lt Col Ben van Zijl, Exercise SO1 Media, JOPS

Beginning on 6 November last year 461 British and 318 South African soldiers, sailors and airmen took part in Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD at the SA Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing in Snake Valley, Pretoria. The exercise was completed on 30 November 2003.

The exercise took place under the auspices of the SANDF Joint Operations Division under the combined leadership of Brig Gen Barnet Hlatshwayo, the Director Joint and Multinational Exercises, and Commodore Steve Kirby, RN of the UK Permanent Joint HQ. Staff from the Joint Operations Division had been involved in the planning from the beginning of the year when the first British contingent of planners arrived in Pretoria to start discussing the aim, objectives and end state for the exercise itself.

Since the first planning session two others have taken place in South Africa at the SA Air Force Gymnasium. The final planning conference consolidated all of the initial liaison and preparation to ensure the success of the exercise.

Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD was a combined joint peace support exercise between the United Kingdom Armed Forces and the SANDF and was held at a command post level (without soldiers). The exercise involved the planning and conduct of a peace support operation at the operational level.

After the exercise both forces would have wanted to achieve the following:

- Form and deploy a Coalition Joint Task Force Headquarters, commanded at two star level, with components (land, air and maritime), including the SAMHS.
- Practise combined joint campaign planning and execution of procedures within a peace support operation environment.
- Practise integration of UK and RSA other government departments and agencies within the joint operational area.
- Develop bilateral relations between the UK and the RSA.
- Contribute to the development of the UK and RSA ability to conduct coalition joint operations.
- Conduct combined joint planning for non-combatant evacuation operations.

Scenario

The scenario was designed to achieve the objectives set by both countries at the first planning conference. It was set in southern Africa and two fictitious countries were created for it. The first fictitious country was an imaginary island off the East Coast of South Africa, called Jabulaniland. The second fictitious country was known as Kwaailand and was situated in the real world Eastern Cape.
The scenario revolved around a period of many years of conflict between the two countries involving government forces and rebel elements. Ultimately an attempt was made by the parties to achieve peace. This was not successful and the UK and the RSA were mandated by the United Nations to conduct a peace support operation to stabilise the region and reintroduce normality.

The exercise was conducted in three distinct stages. The first stage involved conducting a UK Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team/RSA Implementation Task Team exercise, which entailed a non-combatant evacuation of citizens from a threatening situation in a foreign country (Kwaailand in this case).

The commanders for this stage were Brig Barney White-Spunner of the British contingent and Brig Gen McGill Alexander of the SA contingent.

The second stage involved the planning of a peace support operation and the third stage was the execution of the peace support operation using computers and an exercise control element of more than 136 British and South African personnel. Colonels Lukas Delport and Theo Wilken ably directed the South African element.

Participants and players

The participants in the exercise included soldiers, sailors and airmen from both the UK and the RSA. Also included were a number of civilians from both countries who represented government departments, such as foreign affairs, home affairs, simulated media and real time NGOs.

SANDF participants included members of the Joint Operations Division, the 2003 Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (110 learners and 23 directing staff) and 185 other members who were allocated by the Services to participate in the exercise. The “players” were the men and women from both countries who formed the five headquarters being exercised.

The Combined Joint Task Force Commander was provided by the UK, which also supplied the bulk of the forces and command and control systems for the exercise. The Combined Joint Task Force Commander was Air Vice Marshal Nigel Maddox, RAF, and he was assisted by Maj Gen Derek Mgwebi, who was the Combined Joint Task Force Deputy Commander. The other headquarters were the Land Component, which was under South African command, the Air Component, the Maritime Component and the Combined Joint Force Support Component, which included the SAMHS.

Comment

While there are some differences between the RSA and UK military there are more similarities. Soldiers, airmen and sailors have a knack for getting on with the job and this is exactly what happened during Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD. It was a great learning experience for all involved and is not likely to be repeated in the very near future.
Honouring our legal eagles

By Sivuyisiwe Matanga
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

For the SANDF, 6 November 2003 had a special significance as the first LEGSATO Thaba Tshwane medal parade and inauguration ceremony was held. It was the first time that an official medal parade was held for military law practitioners and other members of the military legal services division.

It was also the first time in the history of the Military Legal Services Division that an office of the division had the privilege to inaugurate a deserving member of the community as its Honorary Captain (SAN) - the Honourable Mr Judge President Bernard Makgabo Ngoepe.

Capt (SAN) Ngoepe is no stranger to the Legal Services Division as he is the Honourable Judge President of the High Court of South Africa - Transvaal Provincial Division, the Chancellor of the University of South Africa and the Chairperson of the Magistrates Commission.

He has also been involved with the division for a number of years in his capacity as Chairperson of the Review Council and subsequently as honourable member of the Court of Military Appeals. To further add to this memorable occasion a number of Reserve Force members have been inaugurated as fully-fledged and qualified military law practitioners. This includes the first two black senior military judges from the Reserve Force to be inaugurated as such - the first time ever in our country.

“This parade symbolises the growth and progress made within the SANDF in almost a decade since the dawn of our democracy. The military legal services can no longer afford to ignore the challenges posed by our ever-changing political environment and the pressure put on the military legal system to ensure and maintain a high level of discipline within the SANDF, as is called for in our Constitution,” said Brig Gen Nico du Preez, the General Officer in Charge Legal Satellite Office Thaba Tshwane.

To commemorate this prestigious occasion, V Adm Martyn Trainor, Chief of Corporate Staff, handed over a trophy on behalf of the SANDF to the Honorary Captain, which is regarded as a Symbol of Office. In accepting the trophy Honorary Capt (SAN) Ngoepe said that everything that Brig Gen Du Preez said was inspiring, especially to the upcoming officers. He said that people must be frank about their problem, and act according to their consciences.

“Please apply justice properly, but do not allow people to abuse you to achieve their ulterior motives,” said Honorary Capt (SAN) Ngoepe.

Brig Gen Du Preez commended each and every member of the Legal Satellite Office Thaba Tshwane for their contribution in attaining the high level of discipline within the SANDF, and said that commitment, dedication and professionalism were the foundation stones for the success achieved.

Military students visited our engineers

By Lt C. Smith

The students of the SA National War College Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme of 2003 were afforded a most enjoyable opportunity to visit the SA Army Engineer Formation, 35 Engineer Support Regiment, on 9 October 2003.

The intention of the visit was to address Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP) objectives and expose the students on the programme to the engineer capabilities of the SA Army. Throughout the programme the students were exposed to the capabilities of the different Services to ensure that senior officers were made aware of the capabilities that exist in the SANDF. A group of approximately 140 participated in the visit and were exposed to the main equipment traditionally utilised in the engineer environment. The students also attended a presentation of the SA Army Engineer Strategy for the future, as well as the current and forthcoming projects and deployments in the SADC environment. The visit culminated in the attendance of all in a social golf event at the Marievale golf course arranged by the SA Army Engineer Formation. The visiting delegation was also honoured by the attendance of the GOC SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen D.D. Masters, Commandant SA National War College, Brig Gen W. Nkonyeni, and Mr J. du Buisson and his team from Sanlam, which graciously sponsored prizes for the event.
Paying tribute to a great soldier

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

A farewell parade for the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Ian Deetlefs, was held at the Lords Grounds in Durban on 8 November 2003. V Adm Martyn Trainor, the Chief of Corporate Staff, represented Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF. Also in attendance at the parade was Maj Gen Roy Andersen (the incoming Chief of Defence Reserves), Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng (Chief Defence Corporate Communication) and Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe (Chief Director Equal Opportunities and Affirmative Action), and other top leaders in the DOD and the business community.

Maj Gen Deetlefs has played an important and unique role as a Reserve Force officer. In addition to his military duties, he was a founder member of the Reserve Force Council and its first Chairperson. This appointment was confirmed by the then Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, in 1994. He was appointed to represent the Reserve Force in the Joint Military Co-ordinating Council (JMCC), Project GENESIS and the Defence Review process. He was also instrumental in the establishment of, and was a member of the National Defence Liaison Council in 1997 and has chaired the Defence Reserves Board since its inception in 1997.

He is a life member of the Royal Natal Carbineers Association, the Durban Regiment Regimental Association, the Infantry Association, a Trustee of the Natal Carbineers Trust and the Durban Regiment Trust. He spent eleven years with the Natal Carbineers after he was commissioned during his National Service and rose to the rank of major, having been a platoon leader, intelligence officer and company commander, and gained operational experience in SWA/Namibia along the way. In 1978 he was appointed as Officer Commanding Umkomaas Commando and again gained operational experience both on the border and internally.

Maj Gen Deetlefs was then asked to establish the Congella Regiment, which he did in 1979, becoming its first Officer Commanding, a post which he held for four years, during which he guided the unit through many operational deployments. He is therefore one of only a few with the unique distinction of having commanded both a commando and an infantry regiment. Paying tribute to a distinguished officer, V Adm Trainor said that in his adult life Maj Gen Deetlefs had had to manage an extraordinary balancing act between a high-powered and diverse career in the business world and a high powered and diverse career in the SA Army.

"One of his lasting achievements was the establishment, together with other committed Reservists, of the Reserve Force Council in 1992. He was heavily involved in establishing the National Defence Liaison Committee and worked tirelessly to ensure the maintenance of the future of the Reserves in the new SANDF."

"The SANDF’s transformation and migration plan called for a staff division to look specifically after Reserve Force matters at the highest Defence Force level, and upon the establishment of what is now known as the Reserve Force Division. Maj Gen Deetlefs was appointed as its first head with the rank of Brigadier. Maj Gen Deetlefs has held that post since, progressing to the rank of major general, and this is the post from which he now retires,” added V Adm Trainor.

V Adm Trainor continued: "Maj Gen Deetlefs in his business life showed a true entrepreneurial spirit, which is reflected in his military life. As he has succeeded in many different enterprises, so he has succeeded in making a difference in the military. Maj Gen Deetlefs has been a pioneer and builder. It is no secret that the past ten years have been hard for the Reserves, but it has been hard and challenging for the Reserves and Regulars alike. Since 1997 the whole Defence Force has been seriously short of operating funds. For the Reserves the shortage of funds has been compounded by the lack in feeding young men and women into the Reserves.

"The adaptation from conscription to a purely volunteer approach has been more of a hurdle than was anticipated. The integration of forces at the Reserve level has also not been straightforward and easy. So, it has been very tough times in which to lead and direct the Reserve Force. We have, I believe, turned the corner, with more funds, feeding, integration coming together. In my view the establishment of Project PHOENIX and a correct doctrinal framework for the Reserves will serve as the basis to rebuild and renew our Reserves. It is a major accomplishment, which enables Maj Gen Deetlefs to retire on a high note, leaving a solid foundation on which we can and must build," concluded V Adm Trainor.

Maj Gen Ian Deetlefs.

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Maj Gen Ian Deetlefs.
String Capacity building for PSAP members

By Mr Daan de la Rey,
Deputy Director PSAP ETD
Policy and Doctrine

The South African and United States Departments of Defence jointly sponsored a workshop on capacity building for Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP). The five-day programme was conducted by MPRI Inc, a US company that conducts leadership and management education and training programmes for the American and other governments worldwide.

The course took place at the SA Naval Staff College in Muizenberg from 15 to 19 September 2003 and was intended to establish a middle management programme within the DOD that caters PSAP to understand the DOD and other relevant government institutions. The course was attended by 32 individuals ranging from senior artisans and superintendents to directors specialising in technical skills, policy, auditing and inspections, education and finance. Participants represented seventeen different organisations from Simon’s Town, the South African Military Academy and Pretoria. The programme was based on SA DOD processes and priorities established by the DOD PSAP Education and Training Development leadership. The programme consisted of 22 instructional modules focused on six primary areas: civil-military relations, management principles, resource management, problem-solving, decision-making and effective communications. The programme was opened by the Director Formation Staff Joint Training, R Adm (JG) Allan Green. Chief Joint Training, Maj Gen Makabongwe Ndshinga (Chief Joint Training), Cdr Paul van Eck (OC SA Naval Staff College) and Mr Roy Alcala (US Facilitator). Front: Capt S. Brownell (US Facilitator).

Breaking ground for environmental training

By Capt R. Jeffery,
RFIM Cape Town

The RFIM Cape Town Environmental Office has broken new ground in terms of the skills development and training of the Western Cape Region’s Training Area Managers and their staff. Training area managers within the DOD have a huge responsibility in terms of ecological management to look after and ensure sustainable training integrity of DOD controlled land. In the light of this and the fact that no formal training exists within the DOD structures, the RFIM Environmental Office set out to develop and plan a week long intensive training course (Environmental Warden Level 1) with this goal in mind. Based on the Game Warden Course presented by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, this course was developed to suit the unique needs found on military terrain and to keep the curriculum in line with the SAQA standards of accreditation. This initial course was presented from 4 to 9 May 2003 at the Touws River Training Area with twenty members, including eleven PSAP members and nine uniformed members from all the Services. The course covered subjects ranging from game and veld management, soil conservation to OHS, musketry and communication skills. The curriculum therefore covered all possible aspects of the training area manager’s tasks and culminated in a highly successful and enjoyable course, a course that definitely will play a big role in the success of sustainable ecological management in training areas in the Western Cape. A positive spin-off from this initial course was the implementation of the same curriculum in the environmental training of all the students undergoing Military Skills Development Training at SAS SALDANHA.
Paving the way to greener operational deployments

By Cdr Adri Liebenberg, SO1 Environmental Policy, Logistics Division

The early integrating of environmental considerations into deployment planning and implementation is critical. A commander can improve military performance and contribute to mission success by identifying potential risks to personnel, equipment and facilities and devising mitigating strategies, thereby reducing liabilities and costs. The Corporate Environmental Policy Statement for Defence commits the DOD to incorporating environmental considerations in the planning and execution of all its activities in order to mitigate any adverse impacts. The responsibility for this commitment is directly transferred to Officers Commanding of military units by the White Paper on Defence, 1996, but it has not yet been formally implemented for military exercises and operations, mainly owing to a lack of current military doctrine and procedures to support such integration.

Exercise IRON EAGLE was conducted from 19 to 30 October 2003 at the Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha. This exercise was the practical training phase for the learners of the SA Army Junior Command and Staff Course and was played out as a peace support operation. An Environmental Support Team (EST) from the Logistics Agency was invited to observe the planning and execution of the exercise in order to facilitate the integration of environmental inputs into the process and to assess the environmental impacts and thereby develop a framework for doctrine, policies and procedures for the integration of environmental considerations in the planning and execution of military exercises/operations.

Although damage to the environment was evident during live fire training, this was not considered as the largest impact as this is managed by applying the principle of Integrated Training Area Management. The more visual, prominent and potentially damaging impacts encountered were veld fires after live fire training, littering and environmental pollution.

These impacts, as well as issues such as including a factor on environment in the military appreciation and matters regarding international deployments were discussed with the GOC 46 Brigade, Brig Gen Nic Roets. It was agreed that this would be incorporated into the brigade’s procedures, which are due for amendment early in 2004. The possibility of creating and building an environmental capacity at brigade level was also positively received. At the conclusion of the exercise, the EST made about forty recommendations ranging from the management of impacts, cultural resources, fauna and flora, and the management and utilisation of the range to the education and training of military members taking part in such exercises and operations.

The recommendations will be distributed to Army Force Preparation, Force Structure, as well as the brigades for their viable inputs on implementation. It will ultimately form the framework for amending the current military doctrine and the development of policies and procedures for the integration of environmental considerations in the planning and execution of exercises and operations.

Cleaning like a whirlwind

By Capt J.K. Mokgoko, Comm Off JSB Garrison

Project “Sesesedi” was initiated by the new GOC Joint Support Base Garrison, Brig Gen S.J.W. van Schalkwyk, to clean up the base, not only the Joint Support Base but the area. Thaba Tshwane as his area of responsibility. “Sesesedi” is a Sotho/Tswana name meaning “whirlwind”. On the first Friday of each month since August 2003 all members of the Joint Support Base Garrison have come together to clean up the area. The PSAP and uniformed members become physically involved in the project in which the officers in charge of the various sections are allocated sectors and have to supervise the cleaning project.

The GOC Joint Support Base Garrison has a strong belief that a military area must be unique and different from other areas. It must be exceptionally clean and an example to others in order to enhance the image of the unit and the SANDF.

During this project Brig Gen Van Schalkwyk puts on his overalls (this serves as a motivating factor) and gets down to supervise tasks allocated to both PSAP and uniformed members, irrespective of status or rank. Members do this with zeal and zest. They are now reaping the rewards as currently there is a vast difference in the appearance of the area. This does not end outside the base area.

During September 2003 members scrubbed and cleaned the bungalows at A-mess. The lines on tarred roads were repainted and visible to both motorists and pedestrians.
Budgeting guidelines are a critical step

By Willem Botha, Assistant Director
Operating Budget,
Directorate Budgeting

The annual Planning, Programming and Budgeting seminar of the DOD was held at Centurion Lake Hotel from 30 September to 2 October 2003. This event marked the start of the annual planning and budgeting cycle for the next Medium-term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and Medium-term Expenditure Framework for the 2005/06 to 2007/08 financial years. The aim of the seminar was to provide the Chiefs of Services and Divisions (including subordinate budget holders), senior planners and budget managers with guidelines as issued by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF in terms of: Priorities of the Minister of Defence, Military Strategic Imperatives and Policy Imperatives.

Furthermore, it was to provide all role players with the proposed functional guidelines for the 2005/06 Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Planning and Budgeting Cycle. The Minister of Defence’s Strategic Guidelines for Planning for the MTSF 2005/06 are as follows: In order for the DOD to support the Government’s initiatives and priorities, which focus on uprooting poverty, the deepening of democracy, promoting peace in the region and implementing NEPAD initiatives, the following policy drive is essential:

- To restore and maintain the defence capabilities of the SANDF.
- To provide support for the Government’s diplomatic drive/initiatives in Africa.
- To promote regional security in the form of peace missions, including post-conflict reconstruction.
- To systematically reduce the SANDF’s internal deployments (to be completed by April 2009).
- The Department has to align itself with tasks related to promoting collective security in the region and on the continent. Military capabilities required for promoting security in the region must be planned over the short to medium term, but not at the expense of military capabilities. An extensive logistic audit of Commando units must receive priority.

The Department must continue to support the Government in strengthening the international framework on specific global security issues, such as terrorism. An effective, efficient and credible resource management system must be institutionalised at all levels in order to achieve the following:

- Development of the DOD Human Resource Development Plan.
- Succession planning to ensure representivity.
- The maintenance of military equipment and the disposal of redundant equipment, ammunition and spares.
- To ensure that the DOD’s information infrastructure provides appropriate command and management information.
- Migration of the Service Corps out of the DOD.
- Completion of an ammunition disposal plant through donor funding by FY 2005/06.
- Compliance with national legislation, especially with regard to occupational health and safety and disability.
Wepener Commando welcomes their new RSM

By Capt Emoret Serfontein, Communications Officer Group 36

The newly appointed RSM of Wepener Commando, WO1 Isaac Motebele, has come a long way to be where he is now. He matriculated at Qibing Senior Secondary School in 1991. Thereafter he worked as a labourer for various contractors in the vicinity of Wepener before he enlisted in the former SADF in 1993.

WO1 Motebele completed his Basic Training at 3 SAI Bn, as well as a Section Leaders Course and a Junior Reconnaissance Course. He was then transferred to 2 SAI Bn. WO1 Motebele was trained in conventional warfare at the then SA Army Battle School. During the general elections in 1994 he was deployed in Thokoza on the East Rand and in KwaZulu-Natal.

He left the Defence Force in 1995, but in 1997 he attested back to his roots in Wepener Commando, where WO1 Motebele was appointed as the platoon commander of the Reaction Force platoon. After he completed the Explor Platoon Sergeant and CSM/CQMS courses in 2002 he was promoted to Sergeant, and in March 2003 to Temporary Warrant Officer Class One. He then took over the reins from WO1 Cois van Pletzen as the newly appointed RSM of Wepener Commando.

His main objectives are to ensure a well-trained and disciplined unit, as well as to ensure a high standard of morale among the members. WO1 Motebele supports the aim of the organisation wholeheartedly, and strives for a crime-free society in the Wepener area.

RSM Motebele believes that a healthy mind in a healthy body is a winning strategy for success. The enthusiastic participation of Wepener Commando in various tasks and activities will ensure that the SA Army flag flutters high!

General graduated cum laude with a Master's degree

By Mrs Ann Alexander

Brig Gen McGill Alexander of the SANDF’s Joint Operations Division graduated cum laude with an MA degree in History from the University of South Africa (Unisa) on 26 September 2003.

The title of his dissertation was “The Cassinga Raid” and it dealt with an airborne operation carried out in Angola in 1978. Brig Gen Alexander, a former parachute brigade commander who served for almost twenty years with different airborne units, has a particular interest in airborne operations. He spent four years researching his subject, utilising recently declassified archival documents held at the Directorate Documentation Services, personal interviews with participants and a mass of photographic material, as well as sources from Namibia.

Long hours were spent studying aerial photographs through a stereoscope, months of correspondence were engaged in and many international phone calls made. All this was done in his spare time, after hours and over weekends.

The marks Brig Gen Alexander received for his dissertation were described by his examiners as probably the highest obtained for a History MA at Unisa in twenty years.

Brig Gen McGill Alexander is draped with the hood of the MA(History) degree by Prof M.S. Makhanya, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Unisa, after being capped for his degree by the Chancellor of the University, Judge President B.M. Ngoepe.
Participate in the future of your training

By Maj Pieter Blignaut, SO1 Accreditation, Joint Training

In order to ensure the quality of learning provision and assessment and to enable the learner to achieve unit standards or qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), all ETD Providers must apply for accreditation at the relevant Education and Training Quality Assurance Body (ETQA). In order to obtain accreditation status, the ETD Provider must comply with at least the minimum requirements as specified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

One of the requirements is that ETD Providers must use registered assessors to conduct the assessment of learners. Registration of assessors is a means of ensuring that whoever assesses learner competence across all fields and at all NQF levels meets a consistent set of criteria agreed upon by SAQA.

By May 2004 ETD Providers must have a range of assessors suitably qualified to conduct assessment of learners and comply with the exact needs of the ETD Provider and need to have completed at least the Unit Standard "Plan and Conduct Assessment of Learning Outcomes" (ASSMT 01), but preferably "Plan and Conduct Assessment of Learning Outcomes" and "Design and Develop Assessments" (ASSMT 04).

The registered assessor does not need any ETD experience other than that which is covered by the Unit Standards "Plan and Conduct Assessment of Learning Outcomes" and "Design and Develop Assessments" unless specified by the relevant ETQA and the specific SGB which developed the unit standards or qualification. All ETD Providers must have (depending on the learning programme and number of learner(s) a moderator(s) who have completed the Unit Standards "Plan and Conduct Assessment", "Design and Develop Assessments" and "Moderate Assessment" (ASSMT 02).

The Diplomacy, Intelligence, Defence and Trade Education and Training Authority (DIDTETA) funded most of the courses that were presented by various ETD Providers as selected by the DIDTETA.

COLET is the only DOD ETD Provider which is accredited to present assessor training. Learners who have successfully completed the assessor courses will be presented with an ETDP ETQA endorsed certificate.

If budgeted for by Services and Divisions, this training can also be done at external accredited ETD Providers. A list of accredited ETD Providers can be obtained from SO1 Accreditation at Joint Training.

Assessment in action: Lt Col Paula Cronjé, SO1 ETD Policy Configuration Management and Control, and Maj Pieter Blignaut, SO1 Accreditation, Joint Training.

A challenge to all ETD Providers.

Of the 230 assessors who have been trained in the DOD, only 101 have provided certificates of proof of their competency.

The Implementation Instruction on the “Accreditation of DOD ETD Providers” dated November 2003, stated that all ETD Providers who intend presenting credit bearing unit standards or qualifications must apply for accreditation before December 2004.

A challenge is extended to ETD Providers to urge their members who have undergone assessor training but have not been declared competent, to contact Joint Training (SO1 Accreditation) which will arrange follow-up courses with DIDTETA in an attempt to ensure that all persons who have previously been trained are competent.

* Enquiries concerning assessors and assessor training can be addressed to Maj Pieter Blignaut at tel no: (012) 355 5333/5003.
Whoever said only women are to be in the kitchen has been proved wrong. The Chef of the Year 2003 is a man, WO2 Marius Kemp. The twelve competitors in this year’s SANDF Chef of the Year Competition are former winners of the four Services’ annual Chef of the Year Competitions held over the past three years.

The Southern Sun SANDF Chef of the Year Competition took place at the SA Air Force School of Cookery at the SA Air Force Gymnasium in Pretoria over the period 13 to 17 October 2003.

Nine of the twelve competitors were men. The SA Army was represented by WO2 Marius Kemp from the Army Support Base Potchefstroom, S Sgt Hilbert Huisman from the DOD School of Catering and Cpl Johannes Motopi from Army Support Base Bloemfontein. WO2 Freddie Smit from Hoodspruit Air Force Base, Sgt Natasha Cossadianos from Waterkloof Air Force Base and Sgt Stephan Nell from the Air Force Command represented the SA Air Force. The three SA Navy representatives were: CPO Greg Forbes from Naval Base Simon’s Town, CPO Steven Sigapragasan from JSB Garrison and PO Deon Richter from GSB Thaba Tshwane. The three representatives of the SA Military Health Service were all members from 1 Military Hospital: S Sgt Tsidi Mogele, S Sgt Christa Otto and Sgt Lucky Phukwile.

This prestigious event is the showcase of the best of the best of the SANDF chefs and it confirms the standard they can maintain in striving towards excellence in preparing dishes for the DOD. It is also held to motivate chefs to strive continuously towards higher standards. They are also being prepared to participate in the international chef competition.

Four judges from the SA Chef Association adjudicated the various dishes. They examined the kitchen hygiene, the preparation and flow of work in the kitchen, food proportions, presentation, originality, competence and time for food preparation. All the judges acknowledged and congratulated the participants on the high standard.

The winners of the competition were announced at the prize-giving ceremony, which took place at the Holiday Inn in Arcadia on 16 October. Dr Bill Gallagher, the Food and Beverage Director of Southern Sun, said that they were proud to be involved with the competition and confirmed Southern Sun Hotels’ commitment and support with regard to future competitions. He was then joined by Gen Sphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, to present the prizes to the winners.

The Southern Sun SANDF Chef of the Year Award was awarded to WO2 Kemp. He also received the certificate for the best kitchen hygiene and organisation for the year 2003. The runner-up was Sgt Cossadianos, who also received the certificate for the best main dish. WO2 Smit was the second runner-up, who also received the certificate for the best starter and the best dessert. In addition to their prizes the first, second and third winners each received a professional chef knife set, courtesy of React Equip.

Capt Willie van Zyl, the Southern Sun SANDF Chef of the Year 2000, handed over the Southern Sun Trophy to WO2 Kemp. He also received the certificate for the best main dish. WO2 Smit was the second runner-up, who also received the certificate for the best starter and the best dessert. In addition to their prizes the first, second and third winners each received a professional chef knife set, courtesy of React Equip.

Gen Nyanda congratulated all the participants, the winners and the judges who had the difficult task to decide which dish’s texture, colour and taste were the best. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to all the sponsors, especially to Southern Sun Hotels Resorts, the main sponsor of the event. “An event like this is also a proof that our Defence Force enjoys the support of the community; after all, we are not only a Defence Force for the community, but more importantly from the community,” said Gen Nyanda.
Focus on policy writing

By Col Snowy Moremi,
SSO Research Equal Opportunities
Chief Directorate

Policy writing in any organisation is a critical factor if that organisation wants to have a competitive advantage. It has to improve its knowledge management practices in order to be more efficient and effective.

One of the issues identified in the course of the present policy reform in South Africa and the rest of the continent is the lack of capacity in policy development. An important dimension of this problem is the need for focussed and dedicated technical writing support. The ability to draft detailed, closely argued, clear and effective policy texts is an important requirement in running effective and efficient organisations. Policy researchers and analysts, policy planners and policy makers and policy managers need to demonstrate a clear ability to master the substantive complexities of policy and translate ideas, vision and guidelines, in an accessible and effective manner, into written form.

The Military Professional Resources Institute (MPRI), whose headquarters is in Virginia, USA, crafted a "Programme in Support of Professional Development of Policy Writers" in consultation with Chief Policy and Planning (CPP). Two courses were presented by the MPRI team in October 2002 and May 2003. Subsequent to that twelve members, from diverse environments within the DOD, went on an Instructor Training Course on policy writing in Virginia for two weeks in September 2003. The training programme was sponsored by both the MPRI and CPP. The twelve members were: Adv S. Thoka (Labour and Service Relations), Dep Dir K. Bornman (CPP), Cpln O. Gasenewe (Cpln Gen), Col S. Moremi (Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate), Dep Dir M. Mudau (Fin Div), Dep Dir D. Duvenage (C Navy), Ass Dir S. Breytenbach (CPP), Ass Dir N. Nengovhela (CPP), Lt Col C. Ndesi (CJ Trg), Ass Dir P. van Eck-Knott (C Navy), Ms E. Capitani (Fin Div) and Mr G. Stoop (Fin Div). They are now part of the Departmental Policy Development Team.

Their brief was (besides being involved in writing policies for the DOD) to come back and train other potential policy writers in order to build this capacity.

On their return they successfully presented, together with MPRI, the third policy writing course at the SA Defence Intelligence College from 13 to 24 October 2003. About forty members from the different Services and Divisions participated. They were mostly within the policy writing environment. The American team comprised Col Bill Clontz (US Army Ret) - Vice President International Business and Technology Programmes, MPRI, Col Mike Mensh (US Army Ret) - former US Military Attaché to South Africa and currently Africa Programme Manager for the Centre for Civil-Military Relations, Dr Chris Shoemaker (US Army Col Ret) - Vice President Strategic Division, MPRI, and Col Roy Alcala (US Army Ret) who has his own consultancy. They all have outstanding military and business credentials.

The purpose of this programme is to advance the capabilities of policy writers at departmental level to articulate and manage clear, concise and executable policies. The programme also enhances the understanding of the departmental policy process and provides a vehicle for the interchange of ideas, information and experiences.

The course was officially opened by Chief Joint Support, Lt Gen T.T. Matanzima. In his opening address he alluded to the fact that the course will be addressing a very urgent need of the Department in the area of policy making, namely policy writing, at a time when the entire policy inventory of the DOD is in the process of being transformed to be aligned with the transformed values of our nation and organisation. He had a special message for all the participants in the course. He informed them that they had been specially selected to prepare them for the very important and urgent task of re-establishing the DOD’s policy publication inventory. He left those on the course with the following considerations regarding policy and policy writing - policy is hard work. Policy is politics and is contentious in nature.

The course was officially closed by Mr J. Gründling, Chief Director Finance, on 24 October 2003. According to feedback from the participants it was a resounding success. The MPRI also officially handed over the course to CPP for the DOD to run it on its own.

Participants, observers and instructors attending the third DOD Policy Writers Course.
The race with the warmest heart

By Col Zirk Lourens, PRO
for Voet van Afrika Marathon 2003

The Caltex Voet van Afrika Marathon is an annual event that takes place during the second weekend of October. To take part is to experience a marathon, cross-country and mountain climbing race all in one. The marathon starts at Grashoek (a farm near Napier) goes over the Soetmuis Mountain through a fynbos area and ends in Bredasdorp. It is a tough but scenic marathon, which combines trail and road running in this southernmost region of Africa.

Four races were presented on the weekend of 10 and 11 October 2003. In the first place there was a 4 km fun run on Friday, 10 October, which was an evening event for the family. The 10 km race had a similar profile to its “big brother”, the marathon. It was run partly through fynbos and through the farmlands in the district. The 21,1 km half-marathon was previously only a women’s race, but is now an open race.

The 42,2 km race is a cross-country run, mountain climb and marathon all in one. The mountain track is narrow, uneven and exhausting. The relief of reaching the summit is short-lived, and it is followed by a knee-jarring descent to the tarred road with little hills that seemed to be never-ending, which call on all your reserves of energy and will. It is here that the race is won or lost. This is the ‘Voet’, not a race for the faint-hearted or personal best times.

The Voet van Afrika Marathon is the biggest event in the Western Cape and Bredasdorp in particular. There were approximately 2 200 competitors taking part in the 10 km, 21,1 km and 42,2 km races. This year a total of sixty DOD and Reserve Force runners participated in all three distances during the race. The Test Flying and Development Centre (TDFC), AFB Overberg, was the biggest organisation involved with the arrangement of the event, eg it provided water points, helpers, marshals and technicians en-route and at the finish.

WO1 Alwyn Dippenaar and WO1 Ben Koekemoer of TDFC played a key role regarding facilities on the track and in the finish area. Some 1 800 athletes completed the 21,1 km and 42,2 km race. Altogether forty SANDF runners completed the race, including athletes of the Defence Reserve Force. Brig Gen Malcolm Kinghorn also completed the 21,1 km race. In the 42,2 km race, the first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was L Cpl Mandla Sigqakaza from GSB PE (SSSC). His overall position among approximately 800 competitors was ninth in a time of 02:56:43 seconds.

In the second position was Cpl Fikile Seya also from GSB PE (SSSC) with a time of 03:26:14 and overall 70th position. He was also the first Master (50 years and older).

In the 21,1 km race the first SANDF athlete to cross the finish line was Sgt Richard Jonkers from GSB PE (SSSC). His overall position (approximately 928 competitors) was 35th in a time of 01:31:31 seconds. The first woman for the SANDF was Janet du Ploooy of Western Province Athletic Club in a time of 1:51:39. 

Members let their light shine

By Maj Precilla Lengoasa, SAMHS Corp Comm Nodal Point, SO2 Corp Comm

To wrap up the achievements of SAMHS members during the year 2003, a gala event was hosted at the Military Health Training Formation on 1 November 2003. The preparations that went into making a success of this event were phenomenal. The artistic and decorative expertise of Mr Chappy Holtzhausen of DOD Visual Communications transformed the mess into a five-star dining hall. Colours were blended and used brilliantly. The planning committee under the leadership of Brig Gen Piet Kilian, liantly. The planning committee under the leadership of Brig Gen Piet Kilian, successfully combined the skills of artists, designers, and decorators to create a unique and memorable atmosphere. The success of this event was phenomenal.

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Play war games to master battle handling

By Col Bobby Keller, SANDF Chairperson Recreation
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The first SANDF Recreation Championships was officially opened on 6 November 2003 by the Acting Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR), Col Johan van de Venter. Col Van de Venter stated that the championships were the start of the activation of recreational activities for soldiers in their leisure time.

Col Bobby Keller, SANDF Chairperson Recreation, welcomed the participants and thanked all the sponsors and supporters who made the event possible. The event was hosted by the SAAF Museum, Zwartkop, which not only provided the excellent facilities, but added lustre to the occasion with its historical displays. Fifty members from units countrywide entered the various categories, and after the opening engaged in fierce war-gaming battles to determine the victors.

The aviators got into their virtual aircraft to fly a tough flight plan and the scale modellers competed to determine which models were the best.

Brig Gen Lindile Yam, the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, was very enthusiastic about the initiative and was of the opinion that this recreational activity could be a solution for the leisure time utilisation of deployed soldiers. The championships not only rewarded those who excelled in the past year in their respective categories, but also the recreation facilitators at the various units. Various Centres of Excellence for recreation have already been established, such as at the SA Armour and the SAAF museums. These venues can be utilised for recreational activities when soldiers are off duty. The establishment of more centres is envisaged at other bases. The participants during the event also showed their support of the DOD’s HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, Masibambisane, by wearing their Masibambisane T-shirts as the official dress for the event. The theme for the 2003 championships was: “Contributing towards a healthy military community”. The theme confirms that recreation forms an integral part of military training by contributing to the development of personality, the attainment of good health, and the improvement of physical attributes, greater personal fulfilment and a better and more wholesome utilisation of leisure time.

National champions. A team from the Air Defence Artillery Formation (ADA Fmn) competed in the MechWarrior War-gaming Tournament held over two days. The Formation not only won the team category, but also the individual categories. The GOC of the ADA Fmn, Brig Gen S. Marumo, stated during his visit to the championships that he was challenging all other formations to beat the ADA Fmn at the next championships. The ADA Fmn HQ was the first unit to procure MechWarrior war-game sets for recreation and these were used by their team to do battle. The team from the ADA Fmn is currently the national champions.

Development initiatives. Another objective of the championships was to develop recreational activities. A clinic was presented on the rules and tactics of MechWarrior gaming. Then a practice tournament was played to confirm the theory obtained. Various visitors to the championships were of the opinion that MechWarrior should not only be a recreational activity, but also be included in education, training and development (ETD). To play war games is a fun way of mastering the concepts of battle handling taught during formal training. It gives the learners the opportunity to achieve better results on battle handling courses. Sixteen participants were provided with scale model aircraft to build (for the first time). With experienced modellers to assist them these novice modellers were taken through the steps of building a model. The best female novice model builder was Lt N.P. Mazibuku from ADA Fmn, while WO2 G.A. Samuels from ADA Fmn was the best male novice model builder.

Scale modelling. The finest of scale models were entered for the championships this year. According to the Chief Judge, Lt Col William Marshall, the models were of international standard. Members of the International Plastic Modellers Society of Pretoria presented a workshop where various tips and techniques were exchanged. The large collection of SANDF equipment modelled was commendable. The overall team competition was won by the entries from Waterkloof AFB (SAAF) with the SAMHS Tertiary Formation as the runner-up. The individual results were as follows:

- The overall Best of Show was won by Sgt Jaco du Plessis from 1 ASU with his Boeing SP.
- F Sgt Johan Kruger from 1 ASU with his Mirage F1 No 203.
- Capt Gary Muller from IAM with his SAAF Gripen.
- Sgt Charlie Deal from 1 Tank Regt with his Corsair.
- Maj Manie Smit from MPA with his Mirage F1 No 203.
- F Sgt André Liebenberg from AFB Bloemspruit with his Oryx Diorama.

It is fun.
was WO2 D.B. Kruger from Hoedspruit AFB. In the third place runner-up was WO2 A. de Wit from Smit from 6 ASU was the winner. The results were: F Sgt J.A. Rowles from the SAAF, but other entries entered for the scale model display category. The largest collection of scale models award was shared by Sgt Jaco du Plessis and F Sgt Johan Kruger, both from 1 ASU.

**War Gaming.** Warhammer and DBM demonstration games were played to create interest among the participants and visitors. It is envisaged that in 2004 units will enter for this category as well. The results of the MechWarrior Tournament were - The winner was Mr Konrad Beukes from ADA Fmn (SANDF National Champion). The runner-up was Capt Anton Verster from Waterkloof AFB with WO1 Maxi Gunter from ADA Fmn in the third place. In the fourth place was Capt M. Khumalo from ADA Fmn, while the overall winning team was ADA Fmn.

**Virtual aviation.** Lt Col Harry Mole developed a tough flight plan for the participants in the virtual aviation competition. Most entries were received from the SAAF, but other Services and Divisions were also invited to be involved in virtual aviation as a recreational activity. After two days of flying the results were: F Sgt J.A. Smit from 6 ASU was the winner. The runner-up was WO2 A. de Wit from Hoedspruit AFB. In the third place was WO2 D.B. Kruger from Hoedspruit AFB, while Sgt H. Strydom from 6 ASU came fourth.

**Militaria and battlefield re-enactment.** This is a new activity within the recreation concept and for this year’s championship only a demonstration was presented. Col Trevor Dawes from Waterkloof AFB presented the battlefield re-enactment. The uniforms and insignia from various eras were displayed in the enactment. Militaria collecting as part of recreation is co-ordinated by Col Dudley Wall from Joint Operations and entails the collecting of medals, insignia, weapons, documents, maps and military historical research. There are many members actively involved in these activities in the SANDF who are not yet registered with the recreation chairperson to participate in recreational activities. We invite these collectors to register to ensure greater participation in 2004.

**Reserve Force participation.** The championships were open to Reserve Force units to participate as well. Two units entered for the scale model and war-gaming categories. Rfn Choshi from Warmbad Commando built his first aircraft scale model and competed in the MechWarrior Tournament. WO2 M.L. Rautenbach from 44 Maintenance Unit entered for the scale model display category.

**2004 Championships.** The next championships will take place from 21 to 25 September 2004 as part of Africa Militaire 2004. The event will take place during the Africa Aerospace Defence (AAD) at Waterkloof AFB. Services, divisions, formations and units are invited to prepare their teams in advance for the various categories. Col Keller challenges all formations and units, especially the Reserve Force to compete against the current champions at the 2004 event.

The year 2004 will be the tenth anniversary of South Africa’s new democracy. The country envisages a year of celebrations and the Africa Militaire 2004 will join this national celebration programme by planning the greatest scale modelling show ever to be held. The event will include the 20th anniversary celebrations of the International Plastic Modellers Society of Pretoria. The show will be the largest scale modelling, model train, toy, collectables, militaria, book, multimedia and military preservation show ever to be presented in the world. A comprehensive youth programme for the SANDF and the defence industry will be facilitated as well.

**Sponsors.** Without our loyal sponsors a championship cannot be presented. The following are thanked for their support in promoting recreation in the SANDF: The Aviation Shop, Seven Sea Traders, Crystal Event Management and Africa Militaire.

**Contact details**

To find out more about recreation please contact the following persons:

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

For general information about recreation and the Africa Militaire and to register on the SANDF database contact Col Bobby Keller at tel no: (012) 671 5493.

Members of the Air Defence Artillery Formation Team engage in serious battle.
The Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, Brig Gen Lindile Yam, hosted the annual SANDF Sports Awards function for 2003 in Pretoria on 12 November 2003. The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, represented the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, as the chief functionary at the ceremony.

Maj Moss Guntu acted as the Master of Ceremonies at the proceedings. Meanwhile, the other staff members of DPTSR welcomed the guests warmly and provided the necessary assistance to military and civilian guests who were there to enjoy the SANDF Sports Awards function.

Brig Gen Yam warmly welcomed the guests and thanked them for their interest and support. He said that the ceremony was designed to honour and recognise the sportsmen and sportswomen of the SANDF who had achieved excellent performances in sporting activities of their own choice.

"It is now my special privilege to make the first presentation of the day. During the last Annual General Assembly of CISM in Dubai in May 2003, where 126 countries were represented, South Africa was honoured by being awarded with the Solidarity Trophy for its efforts during 2002 to carry the message of 'Friendship Through Sport' to the CISM world and the country’s effort to support other countries within their region and continent. A similar trophy was awarded to South Africa by the Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office (ESALO) in Tanzania at the Annual General Assembly in December 2002. It is with pride that I now wish to hand over these two trophies to our Chief Functionary, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes. General, if you will please accept these awards on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF,"

said Brig Gen Yam.

"It is a great pleasure for me to officiate at a gathering of the sporting fraternity of the SANDF," said Lt Gen Beukes. "I accept the CISM Solidarity Trophy on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF with pride. This honour bestowed on the SANDF must truly go to the Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation for its commitment to the motto of CISM, ‘Friendship Through Sport,’ said Lt Gen Beukes.

The Chief of the SA Air Force informed the audience that 24 men and 17 women - a total of 41 SANDF members - were awarded national colours in 2003, while 244 men and 124 women - a total of 368 - received provincial colours in various sporting codes.

Furthermore, more than 1 103 members were included in various SANDF teams that represented the SANDF in international military events, such as the First Military Golf Championships in the USA, the Triathlon Championships in the Netherlands and the Naval Pentathlon World Championships in Spain.

"Through sheer enthusiasm, dedication and sacrifice, you have distinguished yourselves at international, national, provincial and SANDF levels with outstanding performances," said Lt Gen Beukes.

Salute our sports stars

By Maj Fundile Siyongwana

Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana
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(Repeat page 48
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