Meet our latest Honorary Colonel - The Premier of Limpopo
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

Reproduction & Printing: Formset Printers Johannesburg (Pty) Ltd,
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Heriotdale, Ext 13, 2094
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FRONT COVER: 24 February 2006 was a proud day in the history of the Area Military Health Unit Limpopo as the day marked the official inauguration parade for the Premier of Limpopo Province, Mr Sello Moloto, who became its Honorary Colonel. Please read more about the induction parade on pages 26 to 27.

(Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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From the Editor’s desk

We, as a nation, will be celebrating twelve years of freedom and democracy on 27 April 2006. Apart from these celebrations the Department of Defence will also celebrate its twelfth birthday. Sixty percent of South Africans regard Freedom Day as the most important national day in our country, while ninety percent of our citizens are proud of the country, the National Flag, the National Anthem and all the country’s emblems.

Let us reflect on the achievements and challenges that arose from the First Decade of Freedom in this Age of Hope. Let us support the national effort to achieve faster and shared growth.

We are ecstatic to have the SAS AMATOLA home! The first of four Valour Class MEKO A-200 patrol corvettes, the SAS AMATOLA F145, was formally handed over to the SA Navy and commissioned into the Fleet in Simon’s Town on 16 February 2006. Please read more about this auspicious occasion on pages 16 to 18.

SA SOLDIER welcomes the Premier of Limpopo Province, Mr Sello Moloto, as a member of the military family. He became the Honorary Colonel of Area Military Health Unit Limpopo on 24 February 2006. Please read more about this inauguration parade on pages 26 and 27.

The value of a well-trained warrant officer for a defence force was the theme of the International Warrant Officers’ Conference held at the School of Armour in Bloemfontein in February 2006. It was the first of its kind in Africa. Read more about this historical conference on pages 22 to 24.

A disease is always a disease in name only, affecting everybody else in the world except oneself, until it comes knocking at your door. Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease whose death toll has increased over the past years. Read more about TB on pages 38 and 39.

The sad passing on of Cpl Andries Nhlengethwa (32), an AIDS activist, left many hearts touched. May his soul rest in peace! Please read the tribute to him on page 46.

On a lighter note: Remember to enter the second Spot the Ball soccer competition of SA SOLDIER on the back page of the magazine. The winning prize consists of one cooler bag, one tog bag, one back-pack, one all-weather jacket, one golf shirt and one sports cap (sponsored by TOTAL SA). Let those entries roll in!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

Van die redakteur se lessenaar

Ons, as ’n nasie, sal twaalf jaar van vryheid en domokrasie op 27 April 2006 vier. Daarbenewens sal die Departement van Verdediging ook sy twaalfde verjaarsdag vier. Sestig persent Suid-Afrikaners be-skou Vryheidsdag as die belangrikste nasionale dag in ons land, terwyl negentig persent van ons landsburg-ers trots is op ons land, die Nasionale Vlag, die Volkslied en al die land se embleme.

Kom ons besin oor die prestasies en uitdagings wat vloei uit die Eerste Dekade van Vryheid in hierdie Tyd van Hoop. Kom ons ondersteun die nasionale poging om vinniger en gedeelde groei te bereik.

Ons is oorstelp om die SAS AMATOLA hier te hê! Dit is die eerste van vier Valour Klas MEKO A-200 patrolliekorvette wat formeel aan die SA Vloot oorhandig is en is op 16 Februarie 2006 in die Vloot in Simonstad in gebruik geneem. Lees asseblief meer oor hierdie heuglike geleentheid op bladsye 16 tot 18.

SA SOLDIER verwelkom die Premier van Limpopo, mnr Sello Moloto, as ’n lid van die militêre familie. Op 24 Februarie 2006 het hy die Erekolonel van Area Militêre Gesondheidseenheid Limpopo geword. Lees asseblief meer omtrent dié inhuldi-gingsparade op bladsye 26 tot 27.

Die waarde van ’n goed opgeleide adjudant-offisier vir ’n weermag was die tema van die Internasionale Adjudant-offiserskonferensie wat by Pantserskool in Bloemfontein in Februarie 2006 gehou is. Dit was die eerste in sy soort in Afrika. Lees meer daaroor op bladsye 22 tot 24.

’n Siekte is altyd ’n siekte slegs in naam, wat alle ander mense in die wêreld raak behalwe jouself, totdat dit by jou kom aanklop. Tuberkulose (TB) is ’n siekte waarvan die dodetal oor die afge-lope jare toegeneem het. Lees meer oor TB op bladsye 38 en 39.

Die diepbetreurende afsterwe van Kpl Andries Nhlengethwa (32), ’n Vigsaktivis, het baie mense geraak. Mag hy in vrede rus! Lees asseblief die huldeblyk aan hom op bladsy 46.

In ligter trant: Onthou om in te skryf vir die tweede Spot die Ball sokkerkompetisie van SA SOLDIER op die agterblad van die tyd-skriif. Die wenprys bestaan uit ’n koelsak, ’n sporttas, ’n rugsak, ’n reënvlakke, ’n golfspsy en ’n sportmus (geborg deur TOTAL SA). Laat die inskrywings inrol!

(Translated into Afrikaans by Mr Eugene Muller)

Nelda Pienaar
Redakteur
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A hero’s welcome

I do not know whether I like attention or appreciation, but the reader can judge for him or herself. I have been on an eight months’ stint in Burundi as an Information Officer with 4 SA Infantry Battalion. I have witnessed soldiers working and I mean not just working, but really doing what soldiers do best, putting their lives at risk to maintain peace and stability in the continent.

The soldiers were up early in the morning and came back to the base late at night from the dangerous zones they worked in. Our own senior officers from home were visiting us and encouraging us to go on with the work and they showed appreciation for what we were doing.

When I was away I kept fantasising about home. What it will be like when I return, who will be there to welcome us and the beautiful South African weather that we missed for many months. I was very disappointed when I demobbed. I expected a hero’s welcome by at least one of our seniors who had bid us farewell on parade at the Mobilisation Centre prior to the deployment, or even by those who paid us visits. I thought we would be appreciated for what we had done out there, the hard work, the tears, the loss of our soldiers, the frustrations and fear we went through and the challenges and victories we achieved. Not one senior except a captain was there to offer us appreciation, not even a simple speech on roll-call parade in the morning was made.

This worried me as our soldiers out-performed themselves over there. I want to mention one legend, for example, whom no one has shown any appreciation for all his passion and commitment to our work. Capt Ally Mosehlana of 46 SA Brigade HQ is an outstanding soldier who, through his two deployments, has sacrificed much for this Army. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the time when a casspir fell into Lake Tanganyika, he risked his life by jumping into the lake to try to save his men, although he was not able to save any of them because it was too deep. In Burundi recently he rushed to the accident scene where a casspir had rolled down the road into a ditch and saved lives with the help of others, and he also rushed to the scene where the rebels had shot one of our troops. One could see commitment and passion from this soldier’s actions at all times.

I may not know of others in different deployments, but these are the types of people who make the deployment possible and who should be welcomed home as heroes and acknowledged so that they do not end up feeling that they do their best and no one sees it.

These people are a treasure to our Defence Force. Without competent and committed personnel who work hard and do their best, deployment is not feasible. If our Army keeps ignoring such contributors, we might end up losing them and having to live with those we must push to work, and our credibility among other armies will go down.

May the good works be praised and may those who work harder be appreciated. To all those who want to be pushed before they work: this Army can do with a little effort from you. Stop being proud; if you do not know how to do something, ask and learn. There is always a first time, but it would be lost if you just fold your arms and say I do not know how to do it, and do not try.

To all 4 SAI Bn troops who were deployed in Burundi from January 2005 to August 2005 I salute you. I have seen your commitment and your passion for the work we did, and because of that I know South Africa has soldiers we can be proud of. I am sure of your capabilities and commitment to our country. I know that our country is well guarded and safe because you are there. You make us proud. Keep it up! - Capt D.P. Mashigo, Army Office, LCAMPS Section.

Is deployment a money making business?

I feel so embarrassed and ashamed of being an SANDF member when reports are received about the behaviour of some of the SANDF members in the countries where we as a Defence Force are deployed as peacekeepers.

The behaviour that I am referring to is contained in reports that we read in our daily newspapers, eg ill-discipline that has lead to a lack of unity and disregard for law and order in our own ranks. We as a nation are involved in peacekeeping efforts in other countries and are therefore continuously in the spotlight, and we need to be on our best behaviour not only at home but abroad as well. We need to show that we are able to fulfil our obligations to these countries and when things like this happen it does not reflect a good image to the world.

All peacekeeping deployments are voluntary, and therefore there is no excuse for bad behaviour and lack of self-control or self-discipline. All members are aware of this and therefore should consider the implications of deployment on their family and their personal environment. My question is, are SANDF personnel going on deployment merely to obtain extra money or are they deploying out of a sense of loyalty and dedication to seeing peace being established on our continent? All members deploying should consider this question thoroughly before deploying.

Additionally, it is very important to ensure that a member of the SANDF who is going to deploy is completely satisfied in his or her own heart about his or her military career in terms of courses and service contracts. For those members of the SANDF on deployment who carry the SANDF name high, I would like to say well done, keep up the good work and discipline and take care of yourself until you get back to South Africa - Sgt S. Manyisana, Doornpoort.

S A S O L D I E R  •  A P R I L  2 0 0 6
Col G.K. Sibanyoni handed over command of Joint Tactical HQ Northern Cape to Col L.P. Venter during a parade held at ASB Kimberley Hall on 26 January 2006.

Dignitaries present at the parade were Brig Gen Qhesi from Joint Operational HQ, Ms Madikane, MEC for Safety and Liaison in Northern Cape and Ms Mbombo, SAPS Provincial Commissioner. Commanders and Warrant Officers of other tactical headquarters with their spouses, as well as commanders of support units from the area of responsibility, also attended the parade.

In his speech the outgoing Officer Commanding, Col Sibanyoni, said: "As the first Commander to assume command of Joint Tactical HQ Northern Cape, I started this unit with very few people because most of the critical posts were not filled by then".

He continued: "As time went by the unit grew in numbers and started functioning in fully operational activities in co-operation with the SAPS."

Col Sibanyoni urged members of Joint Tactical HQ Northern Cape to support his successor and to continue to have good relationships with their other stakeholders.

Col Venter joined the then SADF in January 1974 and was integrated into the SANDF in 1994 when he was appointed as SSO Military Health Planning of the Joint Operations Division.

He was also responsible for the mobilisation, rotation and demobilisation of members earmarked for external deployments to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Sudan.

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**Being true to oneself**

Today, humankind is faced with many challenges. They range from the spiritual to the moral, environmental, familial and social.

For example, at the spiritual and familial levels humanity has lost its compass. The concept of a family, as we know it, is under attack as some people rightly or wrongly seek to redefine marriage by advocating same-sex marriages. Poverty continues unabated and the youth are bombarded daily with morally confusing messages.

The point one is making is that the pressure is immense and under such circumstances one can easily crack. What then are the coping skills in a world that seems to be spinning out of control?

They are legion. But allow me to dwell on a consistent lifestyle based on self-appraisal.

One of the building blocks of a stable and consistent lifestyle is being true to oneself. Know who you are in Christ and what values inform your outlook. Part of knowing yourself involves self-appraisal. The easiest thing to do in life is to assess others, but self-appraisal is a no-go area for many.

Most people are very good at facing others, but are terrified at facing themselves. In one of his parables Jesus talks about the prodigal son who came face to face with himself. For the first time he became true to himself! That is the key to any true recovery for the prodigal son.

Being true to oneself is like taking a broom and sweeping oneself on the inside. If people understood this principle, they would do it more often. The bravest person in the world is the one who can truly and honestly face the self. Such introspection opens the door to inner fortification, and gives one protection or back-up should the world reject you.

In life, the first victory to win is over yourself, for indeed you cannot travel very far on the outside until you have travelled farther on the inside. A reporter once asked the great evangelist D.L. Moody: "Who are the people that have given you the most trouble in your life?" To this the evangelist replied: "I've had more trouble with D.L. Moody than any other man alive". The late Samuel Hoffenstein said these words: "Whenever I go, I go too, and spoils everything."

In the same vein, Jack Paar once uttered a profound saying: "Looking back, my life seems to be one long obstacle course, with me as the chief obstacle." Being true to oneself is an art that we must practise everyday, failing which we short-circuit ourselves in our functions and operations.

When we reject being true to ourselves, we rob ourselves of maximum output and the results we get turn us into impressionists rather than instruments showcasing the true reflection of who we are. What you are going to be tomorrow must always be predicated on true self-appraisal today, for this fuels your potential. Failure to be true to oneself is always going to produce cracks in whatever one builds. And where there are cracks disaster is looming.

Now, one must hasten to say being true to oneself is contrary to self-condemnation. Being true to oneself is to check yourself and reason why you want to become the person you aspire to be, and why you want to have the things you want to have. This means taking a look at oneself in the mirror.

Self-condemnation (the other look in the mirror) is to commit inner suicide with no chance of recovery; it is to destroy all inner abilities and talents you possess. All because you do not want to look yourself in the mirror and deal with what you see.

True self-evaluation improves one’s performance by a huge margin, because this is the time when you make startling discoveries about your inner make-up. This, in turn, will provide you with a competitive edge that
Uplift other women

There is a true and wise saying that if you are a woman at the top, and you do nothing to uplift the status of those women you left behind, then your position is worth nothing.

All societies, globally, were structured in such a manner that the male species was in a dominant role, while the female was relegated to servitude.

It was ingrained in the minds of women that they were there to be domesticated, and adorned for the pleasure of men. Men on the other hand, were indoctrinated to rule, dominate, and wage wars and were made to believe that they had to be the head of the household.

Over the years, as nothing but slaves in modern society, women began to realise that if they did nothing about their circumstances, nobody would, and they began to discuss, have meetings and demonstrate that they too were human, and that they also had to be treated equally, and most importantly, to achieve as much as each individual woman’s potential took her.

Though not equal in physical strength, they too needed to become owners of land and wealth and share equally in the resources of their respective countries.

Women also realised that they had an important role to play in averting war and maintaining peace. Women in the DOD and uniformed women in the SANDF, in particular, have realised that not only are they fit to be human resource managers or logisticians, but that they have to participate at the highest decision-making level, and be regarded as equals around the table where decisions to deploy forces are made, where decisions to make war or peace are made, where decisions to protect the borders of the country are taken, and where decisions to combat international terrorism and cross-border raids are taken.

We as women in the SANDF need to be present at all forums in order to see to it that the correct decisions are made, because during time of war we, as women, undergo untold suffering at the hands of invading forces: we are raped, tortured, we watch our children die, we watch our daughters being violated and we lose our loved husbands and sons.

Women, and more especially young women of all ranks, have now to start sharing the responsibility of addressing these issues by attending conferences, by asserting themselves and bringing to the attention of the gender focal point the types of abuse and neglect they suffer in the workplace so that these issues can be addressed, as they hamper the development of women in the National Defence Force. True emancipation of women comes when, if there is a man in a position, there is a woman in a strategic position.

We have scores of dedicated women and experts. Let us learn how these wonderful people progressed and let them work vigorously for the upliftment of the status of women from the lowest rank. Let us learn from our women at the top - how they achieved, because we know that without the support of progressive men in the DOD women will not achieve, as there are still men in the hierarchy who believe that a woman’s place is at the bottom of the pile. We therefore praise the men, especially the male generals, the Secretary for Defence, the Chief of the SANDF and all men in the DOD and the SANDF who are striving to uplift the status of women. We say to the women at the top: you have to drag those at the bottom of the ladder up to where you are, because without the roots, the leaves will surely die. Please, take all women by the hand, across race and colour, and assist them to achieve what you have.

Finally, we should all wish the Editor of SA SOLDIER and the Editorial Staff all of the best for the future, and thank them for their tireless efforts, which are held in high esteem, of keeping SA SOLDIER a world-class magazine that everyone loves reading - Col B.V. Martin, SSO Surgeon General Consultancy Services.
Denel has tendered to supply a number of Rooivalk combat support helicopters to Turkey, the largest armed force in Europe. In support of this initiative the South African Secretary for Defence, Mr J.B. Masilela, invited the Turkish Under-secretary for Defence Industries, Mr M. Bayar, to visit South Africa. This visit was in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Denel over the period 5 to 9 February 2006.

On 8 February at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria Mr Masilela chaired a plenary meeting with Mr Bayar where an overview of the South African defence industry, the Turkish defence industry and the arms control process of both countries were discussed. Then the representatives of the Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD) briefed their Turkish counterparts on the background of the association. The AMD as an association strives to ensure a sustainable and responsible South African defence industry. One of the main challenges facing the industry is developing and retaining essential industrial capabilities, capacities and technologies to meet the requirements of the DOD through efficient utilisation of all available resources.

The growing South African relationship with the Turkish National Ministry of Defence has led to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning defence and defence industrial co-operation being exchanged with the Turkish side. Once the Turkish side has examined and commented on the MOU, it can move towards promulgation.

**Growing South African ties with Turkey**

Compiled by Lebohang Letaoana

Photo: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

The African Union (AU) Soccer Team of Kutum in Sector 6 won the Football Tournament Kutum Cup this season. What made it even more remarkable was the fact that in true AU fashion the team was compiled of several nationalities and groupings: sixteen of the twenty-player strong squad are from the Second RSA Contingent, the biggest grouping. The team started the season off on a poor note, and were at the bottom of the log for a while, but then made a remarkable recovery and won the cup in the end.

**AU Players**

S.D. Chabalala (RSA)
A.K. Gopolang (RSA)
T.C. De Koker (RSA)
M.J. Mei (RSA)
N.M. Cele (RSA)
A. Manamela (RSA)
N.D. Ndaliso (RSA)
M.S. Malema (RSA)
F.A. Magabane (RSA)
M.A. Serobatse (RSA)
A.T. Nkomo (RSA)
L.I. Gama (RSA)
S.B. Maleho (RSA)
P.I. Ndondo (RSA)
G.J. Gaobakwe (RSA) - Captain Juice
Samba
Sidibe
Dada (Nigeria)

Mr M. Bayar, the Turkish Under-secretary for Defence Industries (left), and Mr J.B. Masilela, the South African Secretary for Defence, during the plenary meeting at Defence Headquarters.

**Soccer Cup News from Darfur**

Article and photo courtesy of TAMAM, the newspaper in Sector 6, Darfur Region

The African Union (AU) Soccer Team of Kutum in Sector 6 won the Football Tournament Kutum Cup this season. What made it even more remarkable was the fact that in true AU fashion the team was compiled of several nationalities and groupings: sixteen of the twenty-player strong squad are from the Second RSA Contingent, the biggest grouping. The team started the season off on a poor note, and were at the bottom of the log for a while, but then made a remarkable recovery and won the cup in the end. The delay was caused by internal instability that surfaced in Sector 6. Training for the squad commenced on 27 February 2006.

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Coach requests the guys to stay in shape as the new season has just kicked off. The delay was caused by internal instability that surfaced in Sector 6. Training for the squad commenced on 27 February 2006.

**Soccer League Log**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>GF</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>PTS</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gos-Police FC</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P - Played  W - Won  D - Draw  L - Lost  GF - Goals For  GA - Goals Against  PTS - Points
**Medics in Darfur region**

*Article and photo courtesy of TAMAM, the newspaper in Sector 6, Darfur Region*

The "medics" have always played, and been a part of, the military set-up worldwide. Very few soldiers will feel at ease in battle without medical support on hand.

The "medics" also assist the local population internally and externally as the need arises and the situation justifies it. The following story, as told by Maj (Dr) P. Ngqakamba-Mjikeliso, African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), tells of such events, keeping in mind that we are all human:

"My day on 30 January 2006 started at 04:30 in South Africa. I prepared myself for the journey to the Sudan. A pick-up vehicle arrived at 05:30, so that by 06:00 I had to be at AFB Waterkloof, still anxious about what lay ahead for me in the Sudan, or what to expect.

"I arrived at El-Fashir, and finally at Kutum, where I received a warm welcome from the staff. The MTTC took me to my room (tent) at about 17:00. As I was still trying to relax and adjust to my new environment, I received a message that there was an emergency at the local hospital and I had to go and assist in managing the casualty, because the hospital doctor was on leave.

"On arrival at the hospital, I thought: Oh My!! 'Let us learn to appreciate the little that we have.' A civilian male patient was already in theatre with multiple injuries - lacerations on the left thigh, pubic area and multiple fractures of the left arm. As a team we assisted where we could of course, with limited resources. That was the end of my first day, an eye-opening experience.

"Another day began, namely 31 January 2006. It was administration and logistics as usual; a local hospital call-out again, in the late afternoon. This time it was a casualty with gunshot wounds. A convoy set off to the hospital to attend to the case, but there was no electricity at the hospital, so we had to bring the patient back to the base for treatment. He was a teenager, a civilian male, who had sustained gunshot wounds to his right arm and the right side of the chest. Otherwise he was fine. A week later he was evacuated to El-Fashir for CXR to locate the bullet.

"Day 3 began, and as usual, I started to feel uneasy about the after-hour duties at the local hospital, unaware that the worst still awaited the medical team. Another call out to the hospital followed. A pregnant civilian woman in her mid-twenties was in labour, with a poor prognosis. She had had two previous Caesarean Sections (C/S), and therefore the baby had to be delivered by means of C/S. As there was still no doctor at the hospital, I was reluctant and actually refused to come out at all.

"After about 15 to 20 minutes I called the MTTC, and agreed to go to the hospital. We held a short prayer at the sickbay, led by Maj Kgatle, before leaving for the hospital with another convoy.

"We prepared the lady for theatre. This time our legal officer helped us with the signature of consent for the operation. With very limited resources and in very bad conditions a live female baby was delivered at about 21:20. With subsequent visits to the hospital, both the mother and the baby were doing very well. I have never felt so good in my life. The same could be said for the whole team and everybody involved.

"Thursday is the last working day of the week here, and therefore the weekend starts on Friday. I looked forward to some rest and relaxation, and so did everybody else.

"On Monday, 6 February 2006, another emergency visit to the hospital. This time there were four casualties: one male critically injured with severe injuries to the left forearm and hand, to the back and left thigh. Another male had been injured, but was stable with wounds to the back sacral area and to the pubic area. Both males had sustained gunshot wounds. A third male had minor soft tissue injuries to the back lumbar area, but no open wounds. The last casualty, also male, had apparently been assaulted and dragged behind a camel, sustaining a scalp wound, tenderness of the chest wall and abdomen.

"After stabilising the severely injured casualties they were evacuated to El-Fashir local hospital for further treatment by AMIS helicopter the next day.

"Everyone joined in to help with the emergencies. The people worked under difficult circumstances, there was no electricity and a limited resources at their disposal. Even the RSA Contingent Commander AMIS jumped in to help out. Lt Col C.J.B. Engelbrecht supplied light in the theatre by holding a spotlight in one hand, and a radio in the other. These are examples of dedication and sacrifices made in the mission area by the proud South African contingent.”

The MTTC, Maj E.G. Kgatle, would like to thank all the staff and members who assisted and supported them during all their endeavours.
A morale booster for our deployed soldiers

By Cindy Ludick, Executive Producer Defence TV
Photos: WO1 Jakes Jacobs

Members of the SANDF top structure paid a visit to over 3 000 deployed soldiers as part of the annual Goodwill Visit over the period 12 to 15 December 2005.

This project, which has been running for the past five years, was the brainchild of the Sergeant Major of the SANDF, WO1 Jakes Jacobs. WO1 Jacobs decided in 2000 that his deployed soldiers needed a morale booster and started collecting sponsorship for goodwill parcels. Funds for gifts were originally donated by sergeant majors in the SANDF. As time passed the monetary value of sponsorships escalated tremendously, and contributed to the gifts being improved from just food hampers to special mementos.

The sponsorship for 2005 amounted to more than R400 000, therefore the VIP guest list for the Goodwill Visit not only included high-ranking officers of the SANDF, but also representatives of the various sponsors accompanied by their spouses.

The 5 500 goodwill parcels were distributed to all deployed members, both in and beyond the borders of our country. The first country to be visited was Burundi with a SANDF contingent of 904 members deployed in support of the United Nations (UN). Before the official handing over of the goodwill parcels, the SANDF contingent choir entertained the guests. Next, Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, who led the visitors group, had the opportunity to address the South African contingent.

In his speech Lt Gen Van Rensburg thanked the soldiers for sacrificing this special time with their loved ones, and for serving our country in this way. He emphasised the importance of their role in establishing military diplomacy and taking the lead in ensuring peace in Africa. “The tasks you are fulfilling are of utmost importance and you are making a difference in the lives of many people, whose living situations are untenable, as the conflict on the African continent continues. Thank you for being peacemakers in Africa.”

Lt Gen Van Rensburg also used the opportunity to thank the sponsors, as this gesture of goodwill would not have been possible without their support. Sponsors who generously contributed to this project for 2005 were ABSA, the SA Army Foundation, SANLAM, the Clinix Health Group, Old Mutual, Novare and SAFI. The goodwill parcels contained a rucksack, soccer ball, clothing and other festive season goodies.

After scripture reading and prayer by the Chaplain General, Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen, Lt Gen Van Rensburg called on the sponsors to individually hand over the parcels and to say a few words. All of the sponsors were thankful for the opportunity they had to visit the deployed areas and to have been able to experience the circumstances under which our soldiers are working, while trying to bring peace to our continent.

The Head of Communication in the Department of Defence, Mr Vuyo Zambodla, then had the privilege of handing over festive seasons video messages from all four Service Chiefs to the contingent commander.

The next country to be visited must surely be the last place on earth where I would like to be stationed, namely the Sudan - the largest country on the
African continent. The South African contingent was only deployed in the Sudan’s Darfur region in early 2005, as part of the African Union (AU) Peacekeeping Mission in the country. Bureaucratic red tape almost ruined the Goodwill Visit for these peacekeepers when customs officials delayed the delegation permission to enter the country.

Thanks to an urgent intervention by the South African Deputy Ambassador to the Sudan, Mr Ebrahim Henry, the trip could go ahead. Apart from handing over the parcels and videos, Lt Gen Van Rensburg also handed a commendation certificate to Mr Henry for the contribution he had made to the well-being of the South African contingent.

As the contingent does not have access to luxuries, such as fridges, they do not have any dairy products or meat. They have rice with almost every meal. The Goodwill Visit group therefore sponsored lunch for the social function held afterwards. Some of the soldiers, commenting about the food hampers, said: “I wish I could keep this food till Christmas Day”.

I truly wished that I could make a difference to the lives of these peacekeepers by getting sponsors to donate a fridge and some dairy products. Our soldiers are keeping the faith and remain in high spirits despite their deprived circumstances.

The last country to be visited was the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Unfortunately the trip coincided with DRC President Joseph Kabila’s election roadshow putting an end to hopes of a morale boosting Goodwill Visit to peacekeepers in the eastern province.

The delegation diverted to the DRC’s capital, Kinshasa, where other South Africans were stationed. Plans were made to deliver the parcels to the troops in the eastern part of the country before Christmas. The contingent commander and the warrant officer of the contingent based in the eastern part of the DRC flew to Kinshasa to join in the goodwill ceremony, at least.

A Congolese citizen that should receive special mention is Mr Freddy Kharumba from the South African embassy in the DRC. He is doing sterling work at the embassy to ensure the smooth running of all visits to the South African contingent. Lt Gen Van Rensburg also handed over a commendation certificate to Mr Kharumba as a token of appreciation.

Thanks to our own SANDF Santa in uniform - WO1 Jakes Jacobs - our peacekeepers are well cared for. We trust that this project is just going to go from strength to strength!

Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen, the Chaplain General (left), handing over a goodwill parcel to Col Nicholas Mabilu, the Burundi/RSA Contingent Commander.

Prayer for our deployed armed forces

"Father, our soldiers have been sent into Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Sudan as peacekeepers. We petition You, Lord, according to Psalm 91, for the safety of our military personnel.

“This is no afternoon athletic contest that our armed forces will walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. We look beyond human instruments of conflict and address the forces and the authorities and the rulers of darkness and the powers in the spiritual world. As children of the Most High God, we enforce the triumphant victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Our Lord stripped principalities and powers, making a show of them openly. Thank you Jesus, for defeating the evil one and his forces of darkness for us, and giving us authority to proclaim your Name that is above every name. All power and authority both in heaven and earth belongs to You. Righteousness and truth shall prevail and nations shall come to the light of the Gospel.

"Father we petition heaven to turn our soldiers into real peacekeepers by pouring out the Glory of God through our men and women in that part of Africa. Use them as instruments of righteousness to defeat the plans of the enemy.

"Lord, we plead the power of the blood of Jesus, asking You to manifest Your power and glory. We entreat You on behalf of the citizens in these countries of conflict. They have experienced pain and heartache. They are the victims of the enemy’s strategies to steal, kill and destroy. We pray that they will come to know Jesus, Who came to give us life and life abundantly.

"We stand in the gap for the people of the war-torn land and we expect an overflowing of your goodness in the lives of those for whom we are praying. May they call upon Your Name and be saved. Lord, make known Your salvation, Your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

"Father, provide for and protect our families. Preserve marriages and we plead the blood of Jesus over our soldiers and their families. Provide support systems to uplift and edify those who have been left to raise children by themselves. Jesus has been made unto these parcels’ wisdom, righteousness and sanctification. Through Your Holy Spirit, comfort the lonely and strengthen them. Father, we are looking forward to the day when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

"We thank You for our country and the leaders you have given us. Father bless South Africa. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen” - Rudy Adams, email.
Funding for Denel

Issued by Mr Shaun Liebenberg, Chief Executive Officer Denel

In response to the Minister of Finance’s budgetary appropriation for the first phase recapitalisation of Denel, as is shown in his budget, I wish to thank the Government for its firm support in this manner.

It is clear that Government is committed to Denel’s objective to get on an even keel in a phased approach towards returning South Africa’s aerospace and defence assets to sustainable profitability.

I am particularly pleased that the National Treasury has afforded Denel an opportunity over the past months to outline the company’s macro-strategy.

In extensive briefings to our other stakeholders, notably the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Public Enterprises and Defence, I have received full support.

We still have a long road ahead to complete the roll-out of the strategy, yet I am confident the appropriation will carry us through the first phase of Denel’s restructuring, notably exiting the non-profitable businesses, attracting equity partnerships and building world-class capacity.

I wish to thank Minister Alec Erwin and his Cabinet colleagues, as well as the Departments of Public Enterprises and Defence for their assistance to secure this important funding.

(The Sesotho version of this article is available below.)

Mr Shaun Liebenberg, Chief Executive Officer Denel.

Tjhelete e yang Denel

Tlhaloso ka Mong Shaun Liebenberg, Chief Executive Officer Denel
(Translated into Sesotho by Mr Sechaba Khaile)

Karabong hodima ho ntshwa ha tjhelete ke Letona la Ditjhelete, ho thusa Denel mathomong a ntjhafatso, ke rata ho leboha Mmuso ka tshehetso ena ya oona e matla.

Ho hlakile hore Mmuso o itlamme le ho imatahanye le sephoe sa Denel ho ba boemong bo loketseng hanyane-ka-hanyane, ho bea tshireletso ya tsa moyeng ya Afrika Borwa e le molemo o tswelelang pele.

Ke thabisitswe haholo ke hore National Treasury e file Denel monyetla dikgweding tsa ho feta ho ntsha moralo wa kgwebo wa khampani.

Puisanong tse ngata le batshehetsi ba rona, haholo Parliamentary Portfolio Committees ho tsa Public Enterprise le Defence, ke fumane tshehetso e kgolo.

Re sa na le mosebetsi o moholo kapele ho rona hore re ntshetse moralo ona pele.

Le teng, ke na le tiisetso ya hore ho ntshwa ha tjhelete ena ho tla thusa Denel hore e ntjhafale ka katleho, e le moo Denel e tla lahlia dikgwébo tse sa kenyeng phaelo, le hore e hohele balekane ba tla e tshehetsa hore e ikahe ka matla le katleho ho ikgona lefatsheng.

Ke rata ho leboha Letona Alec Erwin le Kabinete e mo potileng, ham-moho le Lefapha la Public Enterprise le Defence mabapi le tshehetso e tjena ya thuso ya boholoka ya ditjhelete.

* The English version of this article is available at the top of this page. To obtain a translation of this article or any article published in SA SOLDIER in any one of our official languages, please make use of the professional services rendered by Directorate Language Services of the DOD. For assistance contact Col Daan Vorster, Director Language Services, at tel no: (012) 392 3176 - Ed.
Big Dagga Haul

Over the years the Piet Retief Commando has built excellent relationships with the local community and the SAPS. These relationships led to the discovery of dagga plants in the Wittenberg area on 26 January 2006.

The dagga plants weighed 1 440 kg and on the street it would have reached over R1,4M. The same happened on 7 February 2006 when the Commando and the SAPS found 1 000 kg of dagga (street value R1M) in the Eshando area.

This will definitely ensure that a large number of youngsters will not be exposed to the terrible effects of this plant.

While the Piet Retief Commando and the SAPS members were cleaning up the dagga field in the Wittenberg area they also found over 250 metres of cable belonging to Escom.

This is an excellent example of how important a good relationship between the commando, the SAPS and the community is, as information from the community led to this haul. This excellent relationship will continue until the commando is phased out.

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Members of the Piet Retief Commando and the South African Police Services with the big haul of dagga that was seized.

Intsangu eningi ngendlela engakaze ibonwe

Kule minyaka edlulile iNkumando yase Piet Retief yakhe ubudlelane obuhle kakhulu nomphakathi kanye namaPhoyisa (SAPS) ase Piet Retief. Lobu budlelwane yibona obenze ukuthi kugcine sekutholakale izihlahla zentsangu kwindawo ebizwa ngokuthiwa kuse Wittenburg ngomhla ka 26 Januwali 2006.

Isisisindo sezihlahla zentsangu kwakungu 1440kg ekuthi uma uyidayisa emgwaqeni ibize imali engaphezu kuka R1,4 M. Okufanayo kwenenze nangomhla ka 7 Febuwali 2006, lapho ekuthe iNkumando namaPhoyisa (SAPS) athola intsangu eyisisindo esingu 1000kg (engabiza u-R1M uma uyidayisa emgwaqeni) endaweni ebizwa ngokuthiwa kuse Eshando.

Lo mseybeni omkhulu kangaka uzokwenza isiqiniseko sokuthi abasebancane abaningi bavikeleke kwimi-phumela embi yalesi sitshalo.

Ngalesisikhathi amalunga eNkumando yase Piet Retief kanye namaPhoyisa bebekhuculula intsimi yentsangu endaweni yase Wittenburg, baphinda bathola amakhebuli akwa Eskom abude bungaphezulu ku 250 metres.

Lokhu kuyisibonelo esihle kakhulu esibonisa ukubaluleka kobudlelwane phakathi kweNkumando, SAPS, kanye nomphakathi, njengoba ulwazi olutholakale emphakathini luholele ekuthini kutholakale leyo ntsangu. Lobu budlelwane obuhle kakhulu buza kuqhubeke kuze kufike isikhathi lapho iNkumando isivalwa.

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Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, arriving at the hand-over ceremony of the SAS AMATOLA.

The commissioning of SAS AMATOLA

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

She is now ours! The first of four Valour Class MEKO A-200 patrol corvettes, the SAS AMATOLA F145, was formally handed over to the SA Navy and commissioned into the Fleet in Simon’s Town on 16 February 2006.

It was on 7 June 2002 in Hamburg, Germany, when our First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, named the vessel SAS AMATOLA after the Amatola Mountains, where the British soldiers fought the Xhosas in 1852.

The commissioning was well attended in that both the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his deputy Mr Mluleki George, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Patron of the SAS AMATOLA, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, and other high ranking officials were present.

The ceremony was divided into two parts (the handing and the commissioning). First took place the signing of the SAS AMATOLA contractual hand-over protocol between the main contractor, European South African Corvette Consortium (ESACC), and the Project SITRON joint project team. This was followed by the signing of the contractual hand-over certificate between ESACC and the Chief of Acquisition, Mr Bruce Ramfolo, and the CEO of Armscor, Mr Sipho Thomo, who made the presentation to the Secretary for Defence.

Mr Masilela presented the ship to Mr Lekota, who officially received the SAS AMATOLA. “This commissioning is an important milestone in the modernisation of the capability of the SA Navy and the SANDF. The corvettes will be critical in ensuring that for many years to come the Navy will be able to provide the requisite levels of operations and support to ensure stability, peace and security of both the Indian and Atlantic Ocean coastlines of South Africa, Southern Africa and further afield,” said the Minister of Defence before presenting the SAS AMATOLA to the Chief of the SANDF, who on his part handed the vessel to the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu.

“With each step taken in the commissioning of our new ships and submarines we come closer towards living out our vision, mission and core business, which is ‘to be unchallenged at sea’, ‘to win at sea’ and ‘to fight at sea’, said V Adm Mudimu.

He added that the SAS AMATOLA would shortly be followed by her sister ships, SAS ISANDLWANA, SAS SPIOKENOP and SAS MENDEL. “Together they will have roles of not only...”

Fully operational and ready to fulfil her role.
protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of South Africa, but also play a major role in assisting the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Medical Health Services in participating in peace support operations on our continent, in support of our Government intentions to see a stable Africa emerge from conflict and hunger,” said the Chief of the SA Navy. An internal study within the SA Navy indicates that the Navy must prepare for 26 new technologies in order to operate these ships effectively. These cutting edge new technologies include water jet propulsion, gas turbines, over the horizon surface-to-surface missiles, electro-optic trackers and many more.

V Adm Mudimu later charged Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson with the command of SAS AMATOLA: “Your ship was named after a brave battle in the history of our country. I want you all to live up to this proud name and serve our country and our people with dedication, loyalty and distinction in all the roles that you will be required to fill,” concluded V Adm Mudimu.

The Officer Commanding SAS AMATOLA, Capt (SAN) Jamieson, said he was proud of making history and he promised to take care of the ship. The event was concluded when the Chief of the SA Navy and designated VIPs boarded the SAS AMATOLA to sign the visitor’s book.

Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF (right), and Mr January Masilela, the Secretary for Defence, on board the SAS AMATOLA.

V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy (right), charged Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson with the command of SAS AMATOLA.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence (left), presenting the SAS AMATOLA to Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF.

A closer look at SAS AMATOLA
The SAS AMATOLA is the first of the MEKO A200-class Frigate Small Guided (FSG) vessels being acquired under Project SITRON. Designed to the SA Navy's specific operational and environmental requirements, the (Continued on page 18)
ship is the most advanced warship in the world today.

Featuring a stealth design, the SAS AMATOLA combines a number of world-list propulsion technologies (first frigate-sized warship with water jet propulsion, first such ship with horizontal exhaust) with an innovative and largely South African combat system, including locally designed combat management, communications, electronic warfare, radar, electro-optic, missile and gun systems from over 20 South African high-tech companies, making the ship a showcase of South African engineering ingenuity and skill.

The SAS AMATOLA was built as a ship platform in the famous Blohm & Voss shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, and arrived in Simon’s Town in November 2003 for combat system integration by local industry and comprehensive acceptance testing by the project team. This was completed with recent successful live missile and gun firings.

**The man behind the ship**

Who is this person who has been entrusted to handle one of the biggest ships in the SA Navy?

His name is Capt (SAN) Guy Jamieson. He joined the SA Navy in 1978 after completing his schooling in KwaZulu-Natal at Hilton College. Since then he has served in a number of posts ashore and at sea.

He is a weapon specialist and has spent most of his career serving in a strike craft flotilla. He commanded two of the strike craft, including the first Project CALIBAN upgraded strike craft, SAS ADAM KOK. He then went on to command the Strike Craft Squadron. He has also served as a project officer for the various strike craft combat suite upgrade projects.

Capt (SAN) Jamieson was promoted to Captain in January 2000 and was appointed as the Deputy Project Officer for the SA Navy patrol corvette (frigate), SAS AMATOLA. He brought the ship back from Germany and took her through recent weapons acceptance trials. He is married to Antonia and the Jamiesons have three children. They live in Simon’s Town. Capt (SAN) Jamieson has been mentioned twice in the US Navy Institute magazine ’Proceedings’, including a ”First Honourable Mention” in the International Navies essay in 1998.
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Gender Mainstreaming in the DOD

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Department of Defence is currently conducting research into the matter of “Gender Mainstreaming”. Project Gender Mainstreaming is co-ordinated by the Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (EOCD), and was formed early 2006. For this project to be a success a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee had to be established.

These two committees work closely with the Waweth Agency for Equality Law and Leadership Studies. The committees, which are constituted from all the Services and Divisions, seek to accelerate the pace of gender transformation in the Department of Defence.

The EOCD, together with Waweth, hope to reach their primary objectives through effective planning, implementation and monitoring of women’s empowerment, coupled with gender mainstreaming strategies for the advancement of women, and thus the realisation of their human rights and the achievement of gender equality in the DOD. Though the Department has started its journey towards gender equality, it still has a long way to go to achieve gender mainstreaming.

Advocate Thuli Madonsela from the Waweth Agency for Equality Law & Leadership Studies said that this project would focus on a Gender Audit or Assessment, the aim of which will be to assess the extent to which gender is currently being mainstreamed in all policies, planning, co-ordination, decisions and operations of the DOD. Ultimately the end result of this project will be a Gender Mainstreaming Assessment Report, and its findings will be used as a basis for developing an integrated gender mainstreaming strategy.

This strategy will therefore strengthen planning, co-ordination, monitoring and accountability of gender transformation. The contents of the report are to be used to mainstream all strategies, budgets and management information systems. They will also be used and integrated into all performance appraisals and management systems.

She concluded by stating that for this project to be a success, it would require the co-operation of every person and institution in the DOD.

Attention DOD members!

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Support mutual defence relations

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

The first accreditation/de-accreditation ceremony for military attachés and advisers for 2006 was held at the SA Army College on 9 February. Welcoming the guests on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF was the Chief of Defence Foreign Relations, Maj Gen Mohato Dan Mofokeng.

Owing to heavy rains the ceremony traditionally held outside was cancelled and an indoor ceremony was conducted.

Addressing the audience Maj Gen Mofokeng said the SANDF and the Department of Defence had, since democracy, moved from an aggressive to a defensive posture and was a powerful force and a formidable player in the international peace support arena.

"Your appointment as defence attachés to represent your countries is highly appreciated and I am confident that your selection will go a long way towards consolidating the healthy intergovernmental relations existing between us," said Maj Gen Mofokeng.

The outgoing members were: Col R. Ncube, the Defence Adviser to Zimbabwe (not present), Maj J.K. Tlhomamo, the Assistant Defence Adviser to the High Commission of Botswana, and Col D. Maucione, the Military, Naval and Air Attaché to Uruguay (not present).

Maj Gen Mofokeng welcomed the following members to South Africa: Col C. Masuku, the Defence Adviser to the High Commission of Zimbabwe, Lt Col L. Boulas, the Deputy Defence Attaché to the Republic of Congo, Capt E. Ogbor, the Defence Adviser to Nigeria (not present), Lt Col I. Bondarenko, the Assistant Air and Naval Attaché to Russia, Col S.V. Ruzhitskiy, the Defence Attaché to the Ukraine, and Col H. de Mello, the Military, Naval and Air Attaché to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Col S.V. Ruzhitskiy, the Defence Attaché to the Ukraine, attended the ceremony.

Farewell to a devoted General

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: S Sgt Nico Jacobs

To serve your country for a period of 35 years takes passion, dedication and hard work, but for Maj Gen Johann Jooste it was a calling.

On 24 February 2006 the SANDF, and in particular the SA Army, bade farewell to this General at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane.

He was born in Postmasburg in the Northern Cape and matriculated at Hoërskool Vaalrivier in Barkly West in 1970. He joined the Defence Force directly after school and was enrolled as a student at the Military Academy in 1971. At the end of 1973 he achieved a B Com degree and was also awarded the General Beyers Trophy for the Best SA Army Student.

From 1983 to 1996 he served in six operational and training command posts. In January 1997 he was appointed as Director Infantry and during the same year as Director Projects with promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. He was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed as the Chief Director Army Force Structure. This was followed by an appointed as the Chief of Army Corporate Staff on 1 May 2003.

During his career Maj Gen Jooste was awarded the following medals: three service medals, four campaign medals, two merit medals and one decoration (Southern Cross).

Maj Gen Jooste was involved in both the acquisition and upgrading/refurbishment of infantry vehicles, such as the Ratel Mk 3, Casspir Mk3, Mamba Mk3, Gecko and Hornet.

He is married to Arina (Executive Officer of the Transoranje Institute for Special Education) and they have two daughters: Liezl (a Military Academy graduate and at present a recruiting officer) and Ilze (a qualified jewellery designer and manufacturer).

Maj Gen Jooste spends his free time on a fitness programme, reading, nature conservation and cultural activities.
The value of a well-trained warrant officer for a defence force.

The backbone of a defence force

"I am sure that this conference will provide the opportunity for the warrant officers of all armed forces present to discuss issues of mutual interest and
formulate solutions to the unique challenges experienced within our armed forces,” stated WO1 Jakes Jacobs, Sergeant Major of the SANDF, in his welcome note to the attendees. “Let us make this warrant officers conference a memorable occasion that will be remembered by us all and broaden our knowledge and skills through mutual interaction.”

During the conference the Sergeant Major of the SANDF hosted a traditional dinner and all the sergeant majors spent one day in leisure time activities in the environs of Bloemfontein and Kimberley.

At the formal dinner the visitors had the opportunity to see various vehicles used in World War I and II, which were still serviceable. The guest speaker was the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, who made it clear that the warrant officers were the backbone of a defence force. He stressed that it was a challenging task to be a warrant officer, a person who must constantly maintain discipline.

**Comments**

SA SOLDIER had an opportunity to hear the different views about the conference from the representatives of the participating countries. The attendees congratulated the organisers of the conference. The general impression was that it was important to have such a platform; most of them were in favour of having another one soon.

For some it was a chance to learn and return to implement what they had gained. For all the role of the warrant officer is the same, although it differs only when it comes to expertise, but everyone agreed that to maintain discipline was the role of every warrant officer. For others the training and empowerment of warrant officers are a great need, which requires a definite effort to train and empower future warrant officers.

**Closing**

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, made the closing address at the conference. He mentioned the issue of gender equality (women warrant officers) in a defence force - no one spoke about women warrant officers, it was not on the agenda. He encourages them to look at it in future. He emphasised that the role played by warrant officers in the command line of a defence force was extremely important and not to be underestimated.

“They are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of military professionalism in accordance with the military and Department of Defence’s policies. In order to be effective in this role, warrant officers must report to the higher authorities on the status of the following main functions:

- The standard of regimental aspects
- Disciplinary standards
- Relationships between officers and other ranks

The implementation and execution of all policies, orders and instructions within their own field of responsibility.”

The South African National Defence Force has developed an additional programme to address the training shortfalls that exist. The aim of the Joint Warrant Officers Programme (JWOP) is to prepare selected senior warrant officers for appointment at operational level.

He explained that all of this can be achieved by developing their skills and broadening their professional understanding of single service, joint and multinational operations, as well as other defence related issues. “The JWOP covers a wide spectrum of military operations and will thus broaden the exposure of the warrant officers and in so doing prepare them for utilisation at the operational strategic level in the SA National Defence Force. As part of effective boundary management in a defence force, certain tasks are assigned to and become the responsibility of warrant officers.”

Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg added: “It is therefore clear that the warrant officers, being the link between the various parts, have the vital task of ensuring that defence forces function effectively. If these members, who are the link, are not empowered to function as an effective link, it will result in all the parts disintegrating.” He emphasised that the organisation should encourage and follow the Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) approach.

“Another essential aspect of the TEAM approach is an attitude of loyalty. If the members of a defence force are not loyal to their leaders, organisation and country it could have disastrous effects,” said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg. “We need to foster a positive value system in our organisations, and ensure that members make their Code of Conduct a way of life.” He concluded by thanking the organisers for choosing South Africa as host.
**Sergeant Majors rub shoulders**

By Lethube Phasha

After attending the International Warrant Officers Conference in Bloemfontein, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC) W.J. Gainey, the USA Command Sergeant Major, made a turn to the Army HQ as part of his visit to South Africa. Gunnery Sergeant Steve Soannes, Kathleen Rhem, writer for the American Forces Press Service, and Sergeant First Class Christopher Culling from the US Embassy, accompanied SEAC Gainey.

On arrival at the Army HQ they were welcomed and accompanied by the Sergeant Major of the SA Army, WO1 Joseph Tshabalala. Though this was SEAC Gainey’s first visit to South Africa he strongly felt that both countries had similar concerns when it came to defence. Maj Gen Paul Ramahlo, Chief Army Force Preparation, welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army.

After discussions at the Army HQ the delegation departed to the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

At the SA Army Gymnasium WO2 Pieter van Rooyen, an instructor, who also gave a short presentation on various courses that were presented in 2005 at the SA Army Gymnasium, welcomed the delegation. He highlighted all the units under command of the training formation. The Officer Commanding of the SA Army Gymnasium, Col Vuyani Ludonga, explained to the delegation what the SA Army Gymnasium did for the SA Army as a whole. He added that the SA Army Gymnasium had just finished a course for the Mozambique Army, which is assisted by it when the need arises or when requested to do so.

During presentations the delegates were informed about the history of the SA Army Gymnasium and the SA Army Warrant Officers Development Course. Then they were taken to observe the different military activities, after which the delegates themselves got a chance to shoot with R4 rifles and cross the Rambo Bridge...

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**GEPF… Closer to Home**

By Lethube Phasha

The appointment of the Board of Trustees of the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has been completed.

It is a board that looks after the interests of all Government employees and is the 23rd largest pension fund in the world. This was done to relieve the Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, of the sole trusteeship that he has carried since the inception of the Fund on 1 May 1996.

The Electoral Institute of South Africa and the Independent Electoral Commission assisted with the election of a pensioner representative and his substitute. A similar postal pallet election process was used to select the uniformed services, a representative and his substitute. The other six representatives of the members were appointed by the unions represented in the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council.

SA SOLDIER was invited to meet one of the member trustees: Brig Gen Dries de Wit (Uniformed Services). Brig Gen De Wit said that the Board had established five committees, namely the investment committee, the human resource committee, the audit finance and risk committee, the governance committee, and the benefit and administration committee.

Brig Gen De Wit was selected as the chairperson of the benefit and administration committee. This will be for a period of four years until another election is held.

Each representative has a substitute and our substitute is Pte W. Maqhubela, who is based in Cape Town. Brig Gen De Wit has set some of his own goals and principles for the Department of Defence. He says he wants to ensure that the benefits currently embedded in the laws of the GEPF are managed on a self-financing basis, and he would like to empower and educate all members that belong to this fund that he represents.
A double change of command took place at the parade held at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria on 3 February 2006. Brig Gen A.P. Sedibe, the outgoing GOC of 1 Military Hospital, officially handed over command to Brig Gen Zola W.S. Dabula, while WO1 J. Ngwenya handed over the post of Regimental Sergeant Major to WO1 Thomas Jantjies.

The various high-ranking officers, dignitaries and military personnel attending the parade were introduced to Brig Gen Dabula and WO1 Jantjies when their curricula vitae were read.

Brig Gen Z.W.S. Dabula

Brig Gen Z.W.S. Dabula was born in October 1956 in Mount Frere, Eastern Cape.

He was recruited into the underground movement of the African National Congress in 1972 and acted as an internal operative till the unbanning of political organisations in 1990.

Brig Gen Dabula graduated as a medical doctor (MB ChB) through the University of Natal in 1982. He did his studies in trauma and emergency while practising as a general practitioner from 1986 to 1992.

In 1994 he was recruited to join the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), his particular interest being assistance in the integration process of all the armed forces in South Africa. Brig Gen Dabula integrated with the military rank of Colonel and was posted to the operational environment within the SAMHS HQ.

With the integration process well on track, he resigned from the SANDF and continued with his studies in trauma and emergency in the Eastern Cape, his birthplace.

In 2000 he was appointed as a medical superintendent of a major referral hospital in the Eastern Cape, the Umtata Academic Hospital - later called the Nelson Mandela Academic Complex.

In 2002 Brig Gen Dabula was recruited into the SAMHS and took up duties as an SSO Med for the Area Military Health Formation. In 2003 he successfully completed his Junior Command and Staff Course.

In 2004 he was nominated to be on the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme, which he completed successfully in November 2005.

Brig Gen Dabula was appointed as the General Officer Commanding of 1 Military Hospital with effect from 1 September 2004. He is happily married to Linda Dabula.

WO1 T. Jantjies


He started his basic training and Operational Emergency Care Orderly Practical course in 1988. In the same year he was internally and externally deployed. This lasted until 1989. In August 1989 WO1 Jantjies was appointed as a Permanent Force member in the South African Defence Force.

When he came from Namibia in 1989 he was deployed for a short period to the borders of Swaziland and was transferred to Ysterplaat Air Force Base. In the same year WO1 Jantjies was transferred to Youngsfield Military Medical Clinic as the Regimental NCO. He completed all his military and medical courses between 1988 and 1994. He was promoted to RSM in 2003 and started in Potchefstroom, then went to 2 Military Hospital and since 1 December 2005 has been the RSM of 1 Military Hospital.

He is happily married to Alma Johanna Jantjies and they have three children, Clifton, Elton and Altonio.

Command of such an integral part of the South African Military Health Services not only depends on the support of staff members, but also on strong leadership by its General Officer Commanding.

As everyone bids farewell to Brig Gen Sedibe and WO1 Ngwenya, Brig Gen Dabula and WO1 Jantjies are welcomed with open arms.
Highest honour bestowed upon the Premier of Limpopo

By Pte Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

4 February 2006 was a proud day in the history of the Area Military Health Unit (AMHU) Limpopo as the day marked the official inauguration parade for the Premier of Limpopo Province, Mr P.C.S. Moloto, who became its Honorary Colonel. The induction parade was held in Polokwane in Limpopo Province, Africa’s Eden, the home of peace.

With an ear to the voice of Limpopo and an eye to the future, AMHU Limpopo emerged as a professional and well-disciplined component part of the SANDF when the highest honour was bestowed upon Premier Sello Moloto when he became an Honorary Colonel for AMHU Limpopo.

The Surgeon General of the SAMHS, Lt Gen V.I. Ramlakan, GOC Area Military Health Formation, Brig Gen N.K. Moodley, OC AMHU Limpopo, Col E. Jansen van Rensburg, Warrant Officer of SAMHS Formation, WO1 B.S. Motsamai, Regimental Sergeant Major AMHU Limpopo, WO1 H.J. Magidi, military veterans, the MK Military Veterans Association of Limpopo, members of the Provincial Legislature, Executive Council, Executive Mayors, His Grace Bishop E.B. Lekganyane and other distinguished quests graced the occasion.

The mandate to appoint an Honorary Colonel in a unit is derived from the Defence Act, 1957. The main responsibility of Honorary Colonels is to assist in maintaining unit traditions, ie to foster esprit de corps - comradeship, unit pride and high morale, and to represent the unit’s interests. These responsibilities may include fostering civilian, local and regional connections, goodwill and support, as well as regimental alliances within the SAMHS.

Honorary Colonel Sello Moloto was born on 27 August 1964 at Claremont village in the Western region of Limpopo Province. He attended school at Bakenberg High School in Mokopane where he matriculated in 1983. He then proceeded to the University of the North (Turfloop) for his BA Degree in pharmacy, which he completed in 1990.

He worked at the Mokopane Hospital at Mahwelereng near Mokopane from 1992 and was the Chairperson of the ANC in the Western Sub-Region. He went to Cape Town to be become a Senator in the National Assembly in 1994. He was then deployed back to the province to work as the Chief Executive Officer of the Bushveld District Council from 1996 until he was appointed a member of the Executive Council responsible for health and welfare services in the Limpopo Province from 1999 to 2004.

He is currently the Provincial Deputy Secretary of the ANC and the Provincial Chairperson of the South African Communist Party in the Limpopo Province. He has been serving as the Premier of the Limpopo Province since April 2004. The Premier is married to Mrs Ramokone Moloto, a teacher by profession, and they are blessed with three daughters born in 1992, 1995 and 2001.

Honorary Colonel Moloto and the GOC AMHU Limpopo, Col Jansen van Rensburg, mounted the podium for the general salute and to acknowledge the event of the day. During his
address Col Moloto explained that since 1994 our SANDF had undergone a tremendous and painful rebirth that saw the integration of the Statutory and Non-statutory Forces.

He added that the transformation process had resulted in the establishment of one National Defence Force, which all people of South Africa were now proud to identify with. "The mission, values and vision of the new SANDF have been drastically changed to reflect the new focus of the democratic state which is safety and security, maintaining the sovereignty of the State and peacekeeping missions in the rest of Africa. Our National Defence Force has discarded its past image of being the hated racist army known only for destabilising townships and neighbouring countries. The SANDF is now seen leading peace missions in war-torn parts of Africa under the umbrella of the United Nations and the African Union, thus pursuing the objectives of NEPAD."

Honorary Colonel Moloto continued by saying that closer to home we have seen the SAMHS in Limpopo involved in many life-saving activities in our province and beyond. These include the heroic role played during the 2000 floods and the rescuing mission in Mozambique. "On behalf of the people of Limpopo, we wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the bravery of men and women who took part in these successful missions. The Provincial Government is proud to be associated with our Army and SAMHS in particular. You will continue to be a source of inspiration to the province and we should continue to strive for better coordination and support on matters of mutual interest."

The greatest measure of the success of the provincial growth and development strategy lies in its implementation and its impact on the people. "As you all know, our Province is prone to disasters; we move from one extreme to the other. If we are not faced with drought, it is usually floods. Therefore, this calls for greater cooperation and partnership between the Provisional Disaster Management Unit and the Army. Today’s occasion can only serve to cement the existing relations and we are very excited about these developments," said Colonel Moloto.

The Premier of Limpopo concluded by saying that it was both an honour and a privilege for him to be bestowed with this honour of being the Honorary Colonel in the service of the AMHU Limpopo. "We accept the honour conscious and mindful of the added responsibilities that come with it and promise to do whatever it takes to live up to your dreams and expectations. All that we do, we do in the name of the Province and its people. May the great Limpopo shine for ever."

The Surgeon General said during his address that it was indeed a great honour and privilege to address the audience there in Limpopo Province, particularly in Polokwane, the "Place of Safety" which in terms of productivity, may just be ranked with the richest and most attractive regions of South Africa, due to its diverse resources of climate and soil, mineral wealth and the scenic magnetism of the environment.

The Surgeon General welcomed to our ranks the new Honorary Colonel in the SAMHS, Premier Moloto, with the proverbial "You are in the Army now!" He said that indeed it was an honour to appoint Premier Moloto as the very first Honorary Colonel in the Unit. Lt Gen Ramlakan continued: "Institutions of higher learning are known for conferring honorary degrees on members of society who stand head and shoulders above the rest in terms of their contribution to the development of their countries. Likewise, the Military acknowledges such contributions by bestowing these military honours on deserving members of society, of which you are an outstanding example."

"Colonel, your appointment for us symbolises, in a very powerful way, that:

- Defence in a democracy dictates that the civil control dimension of military management is accentuated. So your willingness to be appointed as an Honorary Colonel in our organisation helps us in a very significant way to spread the gospel that our SANDF belongs to the people of South Africa. We therefore look forward to more esteemed leaders of our country joining the military in this unique and special fashion.
- Furthermore, your willingness to be appointed an Honorary Colonel in our organisation encourages us in our efforts to make the Defence Force acceptable not only to our people in our country, but also to the peoples of our beautiful continent. As part of these efforts, our Defence Force has made the paradigm shift by becoming the midwives of peace in the rest of the continent as opposed to being a destabilising force in the rest of the continent."

The secret of fruitfulness is progression. Sam Ewing once said: "Hard work spotlights the character of people; some turn up their sleeves, others turn up their noses and some do not up at all." We salute Col Moloto!
Foreign visit adds an extra tool for training

By Lt Col Dan Daniels, a researcher from CEMIS at the Military Academy

“They promised us that we would personally see some snow in January in Washington DC, but alas, all the snow that we saw was that on TV. Some tried to explain the lack of snow by blaming Global Warming, while others maintained that it was the 40 African Military officers who brought the excessive heat of the continent with them to warm DC for a month.”

The Course

The second iteration of the Next Generation of African Military Leaders was the reason for forty mid-level officers from 34 countries on the continent converging on Washington DC. Former Ambassador to South Africa, Ms Prudence Bushnell, was the guest speaker at the opening ceremony. She set the tone for the course with her frank assessment of the role of the US in Africa.

The aim of the Next Gen, as it is fondly called, is to provide the opportunity for dialogue on key challenges facing military leaders in the region. The objective is to stimulate the exchange of ideas and provide a forum that can facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons to the mutual benefit of the participants. Themes included leadership, ethics, professionalism, civil military relations, security strategy, and defence economics. Participants had to complete two written and one oral assignment, since it was an accredited course that bore three credits towards a Masters degree.

Lt Col Dan Daniels, a researcher from the Centre for Military Studies (CEMIS) at the Military Academy had been a participant in the Inaugural Next Gen in April/May 2005 and part of the review panel in July 2005. He was invited to be a facilitator on the second Next Gen, which was held from 9 January to 3 February 2006 in Arlington Virginia, a five-minute walk from the Pentagon, just across the Potomac River.

Course Highlights

This year's visit differed in several aspects as guided tours were undertaken to the capital city's main tourist attractions, as well as the Pentagon, Capitol Hill, and the State Department where experts on African matters made presentations to the group. The trip to Quantico Marine Base included a shooting exercise with hand held weapons and a night vision exercise, which gave us an idea why the US Marines are held in such high esteem around the world. While visiting the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, we had a pleasant surprise at dinner, where an impersonator of President Abraham Lincoln narrated his famous Gettysburg speech, as well as other anecdotes in the life of one of America’s famous sons.

On a cultural level, we attended a basket ball game between the Dukes and Georgetown, in which Georgetown broke the Duke’s unbeaten run of ten games. A pizza lunch, topical lunches and observing Dr Martin Luther King’s birthday on 16 January, were some of the other memorable events.

Presenters

The group was divided into three discussion groups headed by two facilitators, one African and one American. After plenary sessions that were followed by question and answer sessions, the discussion groups gathered and further exchanged ideas on the theme of the day. Eminent African speakers such as professors Eboe Hutchful, Chris Fomunyoh, Selasi Bericut, Raymond Gilpin, Matt Houngnikpo and Nowamagbe Omoigui addressed us on issues such as the roles and mission of the security sector, humanitarian law, human rights, ethics and the
foundations of security strategy. Senior African military leaders that addressed the Next Gen included Gen (Ret) Mamadou Seck, former Chief of Defence of Senegal (later Senegalese Ambassador to Washington), Lt Gen Martin Luther Agwai, Nigerian Chief of the Army, and Gen (Ret) Daudi Tonje, former Kenyan Chief of General Staff. These speakers mostly focused on the challenges that African military leaders are confronted with and offered suggestions to mid-level officers on how to navigate these challenges in such volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous times. American generals such as General Michael W. Johnson, Chief of Staff of the US Army, and Gen (Ret) Anthony Zinni, former Commander in Chief of the US Central Command.

This year’s course co-ordinator was Prof Herb Howe, Academic Chair Civil Military Relations (CMR) at Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), a well-known expert and author on African military affairs. He was assisted by five other facilitators, namely Prof Julius Nyang’oro from the University of North Carolina, Col (Ret) Buster Diggs, Col (Ret) George Fumondam from Cameroon, Col Eric Fournier (a French representative) and Lt Col Dan Daniels (South Africa). Since there was a 50/50 split between officers of Anglophone and Francophone countries, interpreters and note-takers were employed to enhance seamless communication across language, cultural and historical divides.

The value that this course has for mid-level officers is not restricted to travelling abroad and sightseeing. The tremendous networking possibilities with fellow officers from the continent and abroad, the exposure to the US military’s way of doing and thinking, as well as the insights and experiences shared by eminent experts on Africa, make this course worthwhile for any African officer. It adds an additional tool to other Education, Training and Development (ETD) interventions, as it is grounded in practice and shares the real-life experiences of very senior civilian and military leaders.

Since the course will be presented twice a year, it is strongly recommend that officers should avail themselves of this opportunity. This learning intervention is sponsored by the US Department of Defence and falls under the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) of the National Defence University. For further information consult the ACSS website at: www.africacenters.org.za

**German and South African talks on codification**

By Col M.E. Mondlane, SSO NCB

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Col Karl Greczmiel, the Director German National Codification Bureau, and his Deputy Director, Lt Col Hans Strecker from the German Ministry of Defence, visited South Africa over the period 30 January to 2 February 2006. The aim of the visit was that the German National Codification Bureau should visit the South African defence codification environment. Both countries had the opportunity to participate actively in intense discussions relating to codification. The NATO Codification System (NCS) standard, which is utilised by over 54 countries, is used worldwide primarily to ensure standardsisation of material through codification within the international defence force environment to ensure international interoperability. The National Codification Bureau (NCB) for South Africa, currently managed by the Department of Defence (DOD), is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s codification standards within the DOD. The NCB effectively supports the operational mission of the DOD, and it is therefore essential to be in step with technological developments in the international arena regarding codification of material.

The South African NCB is also responsible for the exchange of international codification data for material in support of all DOD logistic systems, specifically with Germany, with specific reference to the new acquisition systems. It is essential to establish continued progress with foreign NCBs, in this case the German NCB regarding codification data exchange, including liaison for codification assistance under the existing bilateral codification agreement.

Fltr: Col M.E. Mondlane, SSO RSA NCB, Col Karl Greczmiel, the Director German NCB, Maj Gen T.A. Ntsibande, Chief Logistics RSA DOD, and Lt Col Hans Strecker, Deputy Director NCB German MOD.

Personal contact with official NCB representatives and technical talks are essential to solve codification problems and forge ties with foreign NCBs. One of the goals which was achieved during the visit was the technical discussion that took place with foreign data exchange programmes through automated NCS processes and foreign data information tools, such as NCB data structures, NATO Mailbox System Procedures, codification tools and industry data exchange proposals. This included the maintenance of codification data on the new weapon systems procured from Germany via the NCS.
he Executive National Security Programme (ENSP 12/05) visited the United States of America (USA) for the first time during October 2005.

The aim of the foreign study tour was to gain an understanding of American history, politics, economy, security, and social environment, and to develop relations between the nations’ militaries. This groundbreaking visit was intended to allow meetings with high-ranking officials in the Pentagon, the Federal Government and other leading government agencies in Washington, New York, Denver and Colorado Springs.

The Programme arrived at Dulles International Airport, Washington DC, on 29 October 2005, having travelled from Johannesburg via Amsterdam. From the very moment we set foot on US soil the seriousness with which this country deals with “homeland security” was apparent. Security checks at the airport were thorough, yet officials took pride in the professional manner in which visitors to their country were received. Programme members were also impressed with the environmental management, the road and metro-infrastructures and relative quietness of Washington DC.

Ms B. Masekela, the South African Ambassador, who briefed the Programme on USA-RSA relations, which were said to be robust and healthy, received the Programme at the South African Embassy. She described the US foreign policy with regard to Africa that is exemplified by programmes such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act, NEPAD, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Presidential Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, the fight against HIV/AIDS and the war on terrorism. The Ambassador commended the peacekeeping role played by the SANDF in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Sudan. This was followed by an Embassy reception that was graced by ambassadors, US officials and defence attachés from other African countries.

On 30 October 2005 the Programme visited the Russel Senate Office. The scheduled visit to the Capitol was called off because of the national tribute to Rosa Parks, the deceased civil rights activist who was the first woman to lie in honour in the Rotunda at the Capitol. At the Senate Office the Programme was briefed on the US political system and processes and branches of government, before touring the Capitol area.

At the Pentagon, “the largest office block in the world”, the Programme was briefed on the US DOD’s broad policy with regard to Africa, the US DOD organisation, and challenges faced in Iraq and Afghanistan. The tour of the Pentagon left a lasting impression of the Americans’ knowledge of their history and their pride in it and ended with a visit to a special open-air memorial for the 9/11 victims, both military and civilian.

At the National Defence University, located at Fort McNair, numerous briefings were received on civil/military relations, the professional education of senior US DOD officers, the Homeland Defence organisation/Homeland Security, Coastguard structures and responsibilities and the Coastguard’s assistance to the US Navy in time of war, and the US defence industry. This visit was concluded with a lively symposium. At this point the delegation split into three groups, each visiting a different region: Washington, New York City and Denver, Colorado.
The Washington Group

The Washington group visited the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda and was briefed on the concept of health delivery during peacetime and wartime. The Center plays an important role in the treatment of polio-trauma and of injured service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The delegation was also briefed on the collaboration between the National Institute of Health and the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) on Project PHIDISA.

On 3 November 2005 the group visited the Quantico Marine Corps University, which also runs the Marine War College, Command and Staff Courses, seminars for Senior NCOs and logisticians, and two-year courses for commanders and general officers. A lecture was given on the organisation and employment of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force, and later the group visited the Officer Candidate School, Joint Non-lethal Weapons Programme and the Marine Corps Fighting Laboratory. The Marine Corp’s War Fighting Laboratory conceptualises and experiments with current doctrine to develop new tactics, techniques, procedures and technologies in order to enhance future Marine Corps war fighting capabilities. This group also visited the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland (whose mission is to prepare graduates for a career of naval service) and the Maritime Museum, which is packed with examples from the rich and impressive US Naval history.

After the visit to the Academy the group visited the Maryland State Government in Annapolis, where an overview of Homeland Security highlighted the major challenges facing the Maryland State, with information and intelligence sharing on terrorism and emergency response by the Federal Government during disasters.

The Washington group’s final visit was to Prince George’s County in Maryland, which has a sister relationship in health matters with the Mafokeng Royal establishment in South Africa.

The New York City Group

This group travelled from Washington DC to New York City by train and was able to see fascinating fall (autumn) scenery. New York city is characterised by great diversity and size and, as such, maintenance of law and order is a huge challenge. During its visit to the New York Police Department - “New York’s Finest” (NYPD) the group learnt that this vast organisation comprises eleven bureaus (Patrol, Support, Personnel, Training, Detective, Transportation, Internal Affairs, Criminal Justice, Organised Crime and Housing) and a Special Operations Division with five units (Aviation, Emergency Service, Harbor, Mounted and Taxi).

Other highlights for this group included a tour of the United Nations headquarters with presentations on UN Peacekeeping Operations, the New York Stock Exchange in Wall Street and the self-exploration visit to Ground Zero. The New York group also had the privilege of visiting the United States Military Academy at West Point where the group was briefed on the history of the Academy and cadet training. The USMA also accommodates learners from other countries, and South Africa was invited to submit nominations for vacancies reserved for African countries.

The final visit undertaken by the New York delegation was to the 105th Airlift Wing, New York National Guard, where a presentation was given on the composition of the National Guard and its activities, which include the intensive staffing of train stations and other areas within New York State since 11 September 2001. The group also had the opportunity to explore a C5-Galaxy, a massive aircraft that can take three times the load of a C130.

The Denver, Colorado, Group

Located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, the city of Denver offers a diversified geographical setting combining thriving rural mountain communities with an urban lifestyle. The visiting group, expecting a small town, was quite surprised to find a city of 156 square miles, tall buildings, a population of 544 759 with an average age of 33.4 years, 240 181 households, earning an average wage of $45 880. The Denver International Airport is the newest, most modern airport in the country and is the fifth busiest business airport in the nation and the tenth busiest airport in the world.

The group’s first visit was to the Peterson Air Force Base at Colorado Springs with a personnel component of approximately 10 000 people. This base forms part of the Air Force Space Command, which has the mission to defend the United States through the control and exploitation of space.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), a joint mission with Canada, highlighted the importance of space and technological developments. To fulfil its air defence mission, NORAD monitors approximately 7 000 aircraft daily in American/Canadian airspace.

Next, the group visited the Schriever Air Force Base, home to nearly 6 300 military and civilian employees, which contributes an estimated US$600 million to the Colorado Springs area annually. The 50th Space Wing provides combat capability through command and control of communication, navigation and warning systems through a network worth $46 billion to more than 140 Department of Defence satellites.

This party also visited the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company and experienced a very fascinating tour through the Atlas rocket assembly shed. The briefings at the different space institutions emphasised the role that space system solutions, space command missions, space warfare, space missile systems and satellites play in giving the United States the title of the world’s only real superpower.

Conclusion

The visit to the USA provided an invaluable insight into the nature of relations between the two countries, as well as opportunities to debate these relationships frankly and openly. Various perceptions were tested, inaccuracies corrected and a great appreciation for the undoubted benefit of the collaboration between our nations was fostered.
Air Force Day

By Hanrie Greebe,
Consultant Ad Astra
Photo courtesy Ad Astra

n exceptionally wet season in Gauteng necessitated the holding of the Air Force Day parade of 10 February 2006 in hangar No 17 at Air Force Base Swartkop. Current and former chiefs of the Services, diplomats and SA Air Force members attended the birthday celebration of the SA Air Force. The precise synchronicity of events indicated thorough preparation, which resulted in a truly prestigious occasion of which the highlight was Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SA Air Force’s presentation of the SA Air Force Prestige Awards.

On Air Force Day the achievements for 2005 of bases, squadrons, units and sections of the SA Air Force were acknowledged and recipients of gold awards participated in the proceedings. The SA Air Force Prestige Awards for achievements in 2005 were:

- A special Chief of the SA Air Force Commendation was awarded to the Air Force Command and Control School at AFB Hoedspruit.
- For the first time recognition was given to the unit that had excelled in aviation safety. The SA Air Force Aviation Safety Award was awarded to 35 Squadron based at AFB Ysterplaat.
- The South African Police Services Co-operation Trophy was awarded to the unit that excelled in interdepartmental co-operation and provided assistance to the South African Police Services, namely 17 Squadron based at AFB Waterkloof (Gold) and 19 Squadron at AFB Hoedspruit (Silver).
- The purpose of the Royal Air Force Training Award is to improve training in the SA Air Force by rewarding trainers for initiative and innovation. It was awarded to Air Force Command and Control School at AFB Hoedspruit (Gold) and 2 Air Servicing Unit at AFB Langebaanweg (Silver).

Each year the SA Air Force evaluates bases and units, using the South African Excellence Foundation Model. The model provides a non-prescriptive framework for management education, self-assessment and continuous improvement for all organisations, large and small, public or private, in both the service and the manufacturing field. It is a powerful diagnostic tool, which allows organisations to assess their own levels of efficiency and effectiveness, identifying deficiencies in the processes they use, and bringing about significant improvements in their performance so that they can achieve higher levels of competitiveness and thus provide better customer and service delivery.

In 2005 a team from the Inspector General of the Air Force evaluated units that had been nominated by their respective system group directors. The top performers in each category were nominated for the following functional awards:

- The Fire and Rescue Services of the Year: AFB Langebaanweg.
- The Protection Squadron of the Year: 505 Squadron at AFB Ysterplaat.
- The Air Force Reserve Squadron of the Year: 111 Squadron at AFB Waterkloof.
- The Support Unit of the Year: Air Publication Service Centre.
- The Air Servicing Unit of the Year: 2 Air Servicing Unit at AFB Langebaanweg.
- The Air Command Directorate of the Year: Directorate Technical Support Services.
- The Operational Support Unit of the Year: Air Force Command Post at Air Force Headquarters.
- The Training Unit of the Year: 80 Air Navigation School at AFB Ysterplaat.
- The Permanent Flying Unit of the Year: 35 Squadron at AFB Ysterplaat.
- The Air Force Base of the Year: Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing.
- The Sword of Peace: 21 Squadron at AFB Waterkloof.
- SA Air Force Prestige Unit of the Year: 35 Squadron at AFB Ysterplaat.

The focus of the SA Air Force is currently on peace support operations on the continent and humanitarian support for the people of South Africa. Addressing guests and Air Force members on parade, Lt Gen Gagiano summarised 2005 as a year of change, rejuvenation and of ongoing reaching out into the African continent and beyond.

In pointing out the personal commitment in the year ahead of each member of the Air Force, Lt Gen Gagiano concluded as follows: “Excellent sections make excellent units, excellent units make excellent bases and excellent bases make an excellent Air Force.”
First black mechanical engineer in our Navy

Article and photo courtesy
Public Relations Office,
Naval Base Simon’s Town

The SA Navy has again taken a giant step towards achieving the transformation objectives of Government with the first black African to qualify as a mechanical engineer. Lt Bhekinkosi Williamson Mvovo has made history by being the first black African in the SA Navy to have completed his BSc (Mechanical Engineering) at the University of Cape Town. This young and dedicated naval officer was a keen learner and became one of the only two learners in his school to pass Standard 7 with first class. He then attended Palmerton Senior Secondary School in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape where he was recruited to join the military wing of the ANC. Influenced by his friends, Bhekinkosi studied motor body working in Ngqungquse Technical College at Lusikisiki before joining the SA Navy. He began with an apprenticeship in maritime fitting at Wingfield Technical College and passed the marine fitter trade in 1997 with the rank of Leading Seaman. In the year 2000 he completed the Officer’s Course with an order of merit of 2 out of a class of thirty midshipmen. In 2001 he started his engineering studies at the University of Cape Town at State expense and graduated in December 2005 - becoming the first black person to graduate as an engineer in the SA Navy. Lt Mvovo, a married man with two children, works at the Naval Engineering Services (NES) in Simon’s Town. His future aspiration is to develop potential engineers in previously disadvantaged communities. He has recently started a programme called Friends of Education in Masiphumelele Township to assist the young generation with mathematics and physical science. (The Tshivenda version of this article is available on page 45.)

Learners exposed to armour know-how

By Lt Layzer Maswanganyi,
SO3 Comm 1 SA Tank Regiment

The learners of the Junior Command Staff Duties (JCSD) Course visited 1 SA Tank Regiment on 30 January 2006, and afterwards said that a day spent in a tank overall and boots of an armour soldier is very interesting and exciting! The aim of this visit was to expose the learners to the capabilities of the different Services within the SANDF, especially when it came to employing armour in conflict situations. During this visit the course members got acquainted with the conventional capabilities of the SA Army. The Acting Officer Commanding of 1 SA Tank Regiment, together with the Officers Commanding of the School of Armour, Air Defence Artillery, 1 Special Service Battalion, 1 SA Infantry Battalion, 44 Parachute Regiment and 16 Squadron briefed the learners on their different Prime Mission Equipment capabilities, their different fields of expertise within their environment and their core business. The 96 learners then had a tour through the armour facilities and had the opportunity to see a static demonstration of armoured vehicles, the SA Armour Museum that is celebrating its 10th birthday this year, as well as various simulators used for armour training. Then they got the opportunity to get their boots dirty when they participated in a mobility demonstration at the obstacle course. The day ended with a traditional Armour Shot Action. The term “Shot Action” is derived from the firing order by the crew of a tank, whenever an armour piercing round is fired. This tradition dates back to 1955/1956 when the students and instructors of the School of Armour and Artillery in Potchefstroom used to get together to celebrate the end of a phase during training or at the end of a course. This function usually took place in a bar on a Friday after work. Because the overalls of the students and instructors were covered with oil, grease, fuel and dust they were not allowed into the bar facility, but got together at the “Pistol Port” which is the storage area of all the empty bottles from the bar. Later this get-together involved all course members, staff members and families. The term “Shot Action” became the name for these occasions and today this tradition continues.
The Natal Midlands stretch out on either side of the road; at this time of the year the beautiful green pastures are vying for space with the spectacular natural landscape of KwaZulu-Natal. Ahead of us the road sign indicates Chelmsford Dam and I start keeping a keen lookout for the name-board indicating Springvale Farm. The purpose of my visit is to meet, on home ground, the newly promoted Reserve Force Brigadier General John Gibbs.

Brig Gen Gibbs is one of those rare people who has maintained his interest in defence matters since his national service, more than 23 years ago.

He worked himself up through the ranks, initially with the Conventional Reserve, but owing to his farming career he was transferred to the Commandos and joined Drakensberg Commando as an intelligence officer. He was then promoted to the rank of captain and filled the ops officer’s post at the Commando. In 1992 Brig Gen Gibbs was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and became the Officer Commanding of Drakensberg Commando. As a committed soldier, he was in command of operating forces over a period of four years.

In 1996 he was appointed as the liaison officer for the commandos at Natal Command. Subsequently he was promoted to the rank of colonel as Senior Staff Officer Reserve Force at Regional Joint Task Force East and was transferred to the Reserve Force Division in March 2001 at Defence Headquarters.

He was appointed as the first Reserve Force officer as a Directing Staff member at the SA Army College for the Senior Command Staff Duties Course, which enhanced his training experience. Brig Gen Gibbs was part of a delegation to the United States in 2003 to study distance education in the US Defence Force. To study training methodology in other countries he visited Tanzania, Egypt, Zambia and Belgium. He is currently a guest lecturer at the SA National War College.

He carved an illustrious career for himself in the military, forging ahead with the prescribed military courses and completing the Senior Command and Staff Duties Course at SA Army College in 1999. Currently he is Director Force Structure SA Army.

Brig Gen Gibbs likes a challenge and has become involved in, and given his expertise to, many important
defence issues over the years. In 1998 he participated in the SA Army transformation work groups. He initiated the original plan for Project PHOENIX and has been an adviser to the General Office Commanding (GOC) Natal Command and the GOC for Regional Joint Task Force East on Reserve Force matters.

He was a co-author of the SA National Defence Force Reserve Force Strategy as approved by the Plenary Defence Staff Council in September 2004 and was asked to address various forums on behalf of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force and Chief Defence Reserves on various Reserve Force issues. He addressed the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) on various topics at the time of integration and is a member of the Interdepartmental Entry/Exit Committee between the SA National Defence Force and SA Police Service.

Brig Gen Gibbs is a member of the Operations Staff Council at Chief Joint Operations, adviser to Chief Director Operations Development at Chief Joint Operations, and is a member of the Defence Reserve Board and the PHOENIX Steering Committee at Department of Defence level. He is also involved with the SA Army Vision 2020 strategy formulation team.

During his 23 years of service Brig Gen Gibbs received the following awards:
- Best Student: Sub-unit Commanders: 1990.
- Distinction: SA Army College Senior Command and Staff Duties Course: 1999.

He was also awarded six medals, namely the Southern Cross Medal, the Military Merit Medal, the De Wet Decoration, the General Service Medal, the Unitas Medal and the De Wet Medal.

The dairy farmer

However, there is another side to the coin! We now take a look at John Gibbs the farmer.

Brig Gen Gibbs started his schooling career at St Johns College in Johannesburg in 1965, completing Grades 1 and 2 in one year. At high school he captained the first rugby team and played water polo at provincial level. He was a member of the first athletics and squash teams. In his matric year he was a school prefect.

It is no surprise to me that he matriculated with a matric exemption at St John’s College, and that he went on to study for a BSc degree in Agriculture at the University of Natal.

After he married Cheryl in 1984 the couple moved to Springvale farm 21 years ago where they raised three children, one girl and two boys. The couple’s oldest son Luke works for his father on the dairy farm. Springvale is situated close to the Chelmsford Dam and currently the farm has 380 milch cows.

Being active in the farming arena, Brig Gen John Gibbs has represented the dairy farmers of Natal in the Milk Producer Organisation, which is affiliated to Agri SA. Consultation with agricultural corporations and giving strategic management advice to other businesses in KwaZulu-Natal is also part of the job.

This Brigadier General’s nature dictates that he must be "ahead of the pack", and whatever he attempts must make a fundamental difference.

His viewpoint is that the SA National Defence Force is aligning itself for a new era in which South Africa will play a vital role in the future of Africa. To this end the military must support diplomatic initiatives in the broader sense, for example the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), etc. He is convinced that the role the military plays in Africa will be of direct benefit to the people of South Africa in the medium to long term.

The Reserve Force is indeed fortunate to have the participation of a member with such foresight and dedication - we salute you!
Military Prosecutions in the South African National Defence Force

Various types of investigations are utilised to investigate incidents from which prosecutions may emanate, e.g., boards of inquiry, rule 8 Military Discipline Code, preliminary, summary and Officer Commanding investigations. Military prosecution counsel (PC) contribute to the furthering of investigations by providing legal input when requested to do so. Only an appropriately qualified officer or other member who holds a degree in law or who has otherwise been trained in law may be assigned as a PC. (Part I was published in the March 2006 edition of SA SOLDIER.)

Once an investigation is completed, it is referred to a PC for the assessment of the evidence and a determination of whether there is a prima facie case against an accused or not. A prima facie case shall be deemed to have been established against an accused if, on the evidence on record, a reasonable person might convict the accused of the charge preferred against him or her or of any other charge. The test is whether a reasonable person is more likely than not to convict the accused of the charge.

This is a separate test from the one military courts apply to determine the guilt of an accused. The test a trial court applies to determine a person’s guilt is that of whether the submitted evidence proves beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed the offence. In other words, if the military judge has doubts about the defendant’s guilt, he or she should find the defendant not guilty.

A decision to prosecute or not will only be taken once the investigation is complete, with due consideration of the available evidence and in accordance with the credo of the Military Law Practitioner (MLP) and the statement of standards and responsibilities adopted for military prosecutions.

The general rule with regard to military prosecutions is that the PC, under the direction of the Director Military Prosecutions, shall determine the charge(s) to be brought against an accused in court. The prosecution counsel shall act independently, shall decide the forum where the accused is to be tried and shall have the authority to withdraw charges without consulting an Officer Commanding.

An exception to the general rule is found in the procedure provided for the conducting of a Commanding Officer’s Disciplinary Hearing (CODH), which allows for a Commanding Officer and/or a person delegated by him/her to determine, subject to certain provisions, that an accused shall be tried by a CODH. In terms of sec 29(5) Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act (MDSMA), a person subject to the Military Discipline Code (MDC) and of rank not higher than staff sergeant or its equivalent rank, may be tried by a commanding officer only if

- the hearing is in respect of a charge relating to a military disciplinary offence; and
- that person tenders a plea of guilty, declines to make use of legal representation and elects to be tried by a commanding officer.

Senior Prosecution Counsel of the respective LEGSATOs, fltr: Maj S. Loots (Acting SPC Sub-office Potchefstroom), Lt Col J.J. Buys (LEGSATO Bloemfontein), Lt Col M.E. Keefer (LEGSATO Thaba Tshwane), Lt Cdr D.E. Banda (LEGSATO Wynberg), Lt Col P.E. Matlou (LEGSATO Polokwane) and Lt Col K. O’Brien (LEGSATO Durban).
Decline to Prosecute

If the recorded evidence does not disclose *prima facie* the commission of an offence, or the charge has been rendered non-justiciable (eg the charge did not constitute an offence at the time of the commission of the offence), or has prescribed (eg an accused is not charged or arraigned in terms of sec 29 MDSMA within specified periods after he or she had been arrested), or any other legal impediment renders the charge or person incapable of being tried (eg the accused had been indemnified from prosecution), the PC will apply to his or her senior prosecution council (SPC) for the *nolle prosequi* (meaning no prosecution) of the case.

The relevant SPC will then assess the application before a decision is reached thereon. An accused must be informed of the outcome of the SPC’s decision and if a *nolle prosequi* is granted, the SPC will issue a *nolle prosequi* certificate to the relevant accused as proof that the case against him or her has been ceased.

An accused and his or her legal representative may also approach the relevant PC or SPC with a written *nolle prosequi* application. In addition, if new information comes to the fore that may impact on a standing prosecution decision, such information may be submitted in writing to the relevant PC or SPC for reassessment of his or her prosecution decision.

Acceptance of Plea

It often happens prior to a trial and even during trial proceedings that accused persons indicate their willingness to plead guilty to a lesser offence, which will generally expedite the case. The decision to accept the guilty plea on a lesser charge may only be taken by an SPC after due consideration of all the relevant facts.

Withdrawal of Charges

A PC may apply to his or her SPC that charge(s) previously brought against the accused by means of a signed charge sheet be excluded from the actual trial proceedings. The application for withdrawal is brought before the accused has plead to the charge(s).

PC and Military Police Agency (MPA) officials must keep a case under constant scrutiny because circumstances relevant to a case may change, which may give an MPA official the opportunity to obtain more information that can affect the prosecution decision. The mere fact that the case against an accused has been withdrawn does not prevent the military prosecution authority from instituting trial proceedings against a person at a later stage when new evidence comes to the fore that *prima facie* discloses the commission of an offence.

Stopping of Prosecution

Stopping of prosecution is usually granted during trial proceedings after the accused has already pleaded not guilty to a charge and it is necessitated by a material change in the circumstances of a case, eg the state’s only witness has died before he or she could testify, thereby destroying the State’s prospects of obtaining a guilty finding. Once the charge against a defendant is stopped, the State cannot institute prosecution against the same person on the same facts.

Referral to Civilian Courts

The general principle regarding military prosecutions is that a military court shall try all members subject to the jurisdiction of military courts. Military prosecution counsel may, however, refer cases to civilian courts when it is necessitated by law or in the interest of justice and sound jurisprudence.

Auditing

Director Military Prosecutions requires that records be kept of all decisions taken not to prosecute, a prescribed percentage of which are audited once a year and conveyed in the Military Legal Services Division’s annual report. Records are also maintained on evidential material used to effect *nolle prosequi* decisions in order to allow for the assessment of the quality of decisions taken and the taking of corrective measures, if necessary.

Right to legal representation

Every person subject to the MDC has the right to legal representation, which includes the right to legal representation of own choice at his or her own expense or to be assigned military defence counsel at State expense, when he or she is to appear before a Court of a (Senior) Military Judge.

A person who is arrested in terms of the MDC has to be informed of, among other things, his or her right to legal representation immediately during the arrest or as soon as possible thereafter.

Appeals and Reviews

Every acquittal or finding of not guilty shall be final. Every finding of guilty, any sentence imposed, and every order made by a military court shall be subject to the process of review.

The following sentences shall be reviewed by a Court of Military Appeals and shall not be executed until that review has been completed:

- Imprisonment, including a suspended sentence of imprisonment.
- Cashiering (dishonourable dismissal for officers).
- Discharge with ignominy (dishonourable discharge for all persons with ranks other than that of an officer’s rank).
- Dismissal (for officers).
- Discharge (for all persons with ranks other than that of an officer’s rank).

All other sentences shall be of immediate effect, shall be reviewed by a review counsel and may, upon application by the offender, be reviewed by a Court of Military Appeals.

An offender may as soon as possible, but not later than fourteen days after the announcement of the sentence, furnish the relevant review counsel or the Director Military Judicial Reviews with representations in writing concerning the facts and/or law of the case or the validity or justice of any finding, sentence or order that he or she may wish to make. Those representations shall together with the record of proceedings be duly considered by every review authority to which the record of proceedings is subsequently submitted for review. An accused shall also have the right to approach the High Court for relief at his or her own cost.
DOD vigilant about TB

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On 17 February 2006 a DOD Bulletin was circulated to inform employees that the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) would embark on a series of educational campaigns in February and March 2006 to highlight the national problem of tuberculosis in relation to the DOD.

The DOD Bulletin also indicated that during a routine occupational health promotion campaign conducted in the Armscor Building in Pretoria in December 2005 the Director Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Brig Gen Francois Meyer, reported that ten members had been diagnosed with tuberculosis. As a direct result of the findings Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the SANDF Surgeon General, then instructed the Area Military Health Unit Gauteng, and its Regional OHS Centre, to screen close contacts of the affected members.

In the same bulletin Brig Gen Meyer gave an assurance that the ten members were receiving treatment and that the close associates of the affected members would be closely monitored. And so the voluntary TB Skin Screening Test (Mantoux test) was held, as one by one the occupants of the Armscor Building lined up to be tested.

"When we pick any type of disease, be it occupationally related or acquired, we usually conduct a house surveillance just to make sure that we detect the exact contact point, or where that specific disease was acquired," explained Brig Gen Meyer during an interview with SA SOLDIER. "What happened in the Armscor Building is what is happening in other units as well, because when a communicable disease is picked up we usually investigate thoroughly," he added.

According to Brig Gen Meyer in South Africa alone more than seven million people are infected with pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) and the HIV sero-conversion may contribute to this health challenge in our country. One person with PTB has the potential to infect ten to twenty other people. Thus the emphasis is on early detection and diagnosis of the disease.

"We all share lifts with one another, we know that it is possible to acquire TB in a taxi, bus or aircraft and so in this case we had to make sure that no other people were infected," said Brig Gen Meyer. Tuberculosis is spread through the air and is inhaled when someone with TB coughs, spits or sneezes. If the immune system is weak, the TB germs attack the lungs and can spread to other parts of the body. A person already taking TB medication is no longer infectious.

"It is not an easy disease to acquire in the workplace, but it is possible. It has to be regular contact over a longer period, one has to remember that," Brig Gen Meyer continued. "It is a sub-clinical disease and most of us in South Africa have had exposure at some point in our lives, but we have resistance and are able to fight the bacteria. However, it is difficult to keep things in your body under control if you have acquired something like leukemia (a blood cancer) or if you get HIV, two conditions that can make the TB active."

It is also very important to note that one does not have to have acquired the above-mentioned viruses to get TB, a weak or failing immune system is all it takes.

"There were quite a number of people there, but so far we have only picked up two cases that we are worried about and are currently investigating with chest X-rays and sputum. Luckily there were no additional cases..."
of tuberculosis diagnosed in the Armscor Building other than ten cases we have, which are the only ones in the building,” stated Brig Gen Meyer, on results conducted thus far by the Area Military Health Gauteng and its Regional OHS Centre.

Members who tested positive in the TB skin screen test were then referred for further laboratory testing and chest X-rays. “For the last fifty years TB has always been an issue; two out of every six people are dying each day owing to TB. So in our case, as the military, we will see similar results, especially among people with HIV, because they now have two diseases to fight,” he said.

“We are trying to make members aware of TB as a disease that one needs to be aware of, and secondly to make sure that no one with TB is left undiagnosed,” Brig Gen Meyer added. “The type of support in terms of co-operation by members was excellent from the most senior level down to the most junior level. Everybody knows it is to their own benefit,” said Brig Gen Meyer in relation to how members conducted themselves when faced with voluntary TB skin screen testing.

**Signs of TB**

The following signs will be present if you have TB:

- Coughing for more than two weeks
- Coughing blood
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling pain in the chest
- Losing weight
- Lumps or swelling
- Tiredness and/or weakness of the whole body
- Sweating at night when it is cold
- Getting a fever that comes and goes
- Easily becoming short of breath.

**If you present with the above-mentioned symptoms and are worried that you might have TB, report to your nearest sickbay, clinic or medical practitioner. For good long-term results it will also be necessary to assess the people you live with to see if they have been infected too.**

Remember TB can be dealt with, it is curable and it does go away. Should one test positive for TB, treatment in the form of direct observation treatment is available and it is precisely what the DOD is working hard to implement!

And that is where Brig Gen P.J. Oelofse, Director Medicine, comes in, and this is what he had to say: “Last year Military Health went on a campaign to decentralise the treatment of TB in all the provinces so that one can have the treatment of TB close to where the patients are,” said Brig Gen Oelofse. He also recalled how in the past members diagnosed with TB would then be sent to a clinic; the SANDF has since taken over TB treatment for its members and their dependants.

“We aligned our own guidelines and policies to what is currently happening on the national health side,” Brig Gen Oelofse revealed. “We rely on the direct/observe type of treatment so we can care for members and their dependants who come to us,” he continued. “If we look at our country and compare our TB statistics to those of other countries, ours are very high, and that is because of HIV and how the immune system is then compromised, causing the TB numbers to escalate; so it is quite a challenge.”

“If one does not adhere to treatment the bacteria that can make us ill has the ability within its structure to change and if we look at the medicines that we take, they are based on targeting how the organism looks,” Brig Gen Oelofse said. “If you do not have high levels of the antibiotic in your blood then you do not kill off all the bacteria in your bloodstream; if they survive, then they change and appear different to the antibiotic and you can then infect the next person.”

“This then can start a new strain so that even if the people then take the antibiotic, which would have worked a few months back, it may suddenly no longer work. It is important to take the treatment long enough so that it kills all the organisms present in your body,” Brig Gen Oelofse added.

Brig Gen Oelofse continued by explaining to SA SOLDIER that treatment for a strain of “multi-drug TB” is a challenge, because the bacteria ceases to respond to the more commonly used drugs. In his words: “Very expensive drugs must now be administered intravenously and because it must now be introduced directly into the veins people must now be hospitalised.”

“All that chases the cost up and even then you are not guaranteed that it will work. The challenge we have got on the side of communicable diseases is that we cannot fabricate new drugs as fast as the organisms can mutate,” Brig Gen Oelofse stressed.

He emphasised that the SANDF tries to stay in the forefront of how TB is managed universally so that the organisation can react in time. “We believe that the soldiers of our country must get the best medicine we can afford and so we are constantly communicating with the necessary organisations on the issue of medicines and treatment,” he said.

According to both Brig Gen Meyer and Brig Gen Oelofse every action taken is all about maintaining high-quality standards in the management of TB within the SANDF.
Focus on human development

By Lt Col R.L.A. Steyl
from DOD ETD Policy and Doctrine


The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa is very clear in providing a national imperative for human development through ETD when it states the following in its preamble: “Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.”

For a long time a requirement existed for a departmental level policy (Department of Defence Instruction [DODI]) to serve as a macro-framework for ETD in the DOD. The aim of this document is to provide generic guidelines and direction to the Services, Divisions and Formations of the DOD on the future conduct of ETD. It aims at creating a common frame of reference and understanding among DOD ETD Providers.

The Overarching Policy for ETD in the DOD is a capstone departmental policy to which all other ETD policies, as formulated by Service and Division Chiefs, shall comply in order to ensure a single, streamlined, uniform ETD Subsystem as aligned with legislation and DOD prescripts. This will pave the way towards a quality-driven and professional ETD service in the DOD.

The core business of the ETD Subsystem is to develop and present client focused learning programmes, supported by the relevant policy and doctrine. Chief of the SANDF is the DOD ETD Subsystem Owner and Custodian of the Provide ETD Service Process. This includes uniformed members and PSAP employees. ETD in all Services and Divisions, as sub-subsystems, forms part of this subsystem in as far as their own unique training and operating environments are concerned.

This event signified the achievement of an important milestone by the Joint Training Subdivision. For the first time a holistic framework for ETD was put into place which will both guide and direct the ETD effort of the DOD.

All ETD providers in the DOD are required to abide by and implement these ETD policy instructions to ensure a well co-ordinated, synergetic, quality and professional ETD Process, System and Service in the DOD.

This Policy is aligned with the commitment of Government to provide quality ETD as governed by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Act and the Skills Development Act. ETD in the DOD shall also meet the demands of the Defence Act, the Public Service Act, the Public Finance Management Act, the Civic Education and several other legislative guidelines.

The effective implementation of this policy shall accomplish the following outcomes:

- The DOD ETD system and process are well established and is characterised by professional service delivery and integrity, which is aligned with national and international best practices and legal prescripts.
- The DOD ETD requirements are satisfied by SAQA accredited providers and National Qualification Framework (NQF) registered common/joint and educational, functional developmental learning programmes.
- ETD in the DOD is strategically directed.
- Jointness and interoperability in the DOD are enhanced through ETD initiatives.
- The DOD is optimally utilising ETD initiatives, interoperability and multi-nationalism to promote regional peace, security and stability.
- Efficient resource management and allocation ensure the effective, efficient and economical achievement of the DOD ETD objectives and commitments.
- The DOD ETD Subsystem is staffed by appropriately qualified and registered ETDPs.

The next stage is to implement this Policy effectively in the DOD.

For more information contact Col F.J. Cillie of Joint Training at (012) 355 5544.

It is trusted that this Policy will stand the DOD in good stead in achieving its defence commitments through a professional ETD Subsystem and Process. Successful military operations and missions will only be possible if they are adequately supported by an effective and professional ETD effort.
Develop your careers

By Mr L.P. Tsoari,
Personnel Practitioner: Career Resource Centre in Pretoria
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Directorate Career Development (PSAP) established a Career Resource Centre, when it realised that a need existed to assist Public Service Act Personnel with the planning and management of their careers.

These centres are situated in Pretoria, the Western Cape and Durban and provide information and assistance to Public Service Act Personnel in the development and planning of their careers by providing career development information by means of electronic and non-electronic resources. The following resources are available:

Electronic Resources

Career Mentor and Pathfinder Programme. The programme assists employees in identifying a career or subjects for a study field to enable them to pursue a chosen career path. The following information is included in the programme:

- Career exploration exercises
- Job-fitting exercises
- Interest profiling
- Career and study suggestions and information
- Bursary information
- Latest job trends

Non-electronic Resources

Education, Training and Development (ETD) Information.

- Study directions and institutions
- Training opportunities

Books on
(vary from region to region)
- Career coaching and mentoring
- Career planning and management
- CV and job interview guides
- Study skills

Magazines
(vary from region to region)
- People dynamics
- Leadership and much more

Mini-tape Aids Centre. Sponsorship by the SA Army, SMF, Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (EOCD) and Curamus centres has been established at the DCD offices in Pretoria, the Western Cape, and will shortly be established in Durban.

These centres have been created to address the need that exists that recreational and educational literature for career development be made available and accessible to all Department of Defence officials with disabilities. Sixty career related titles are read on tape and the main focus will be to provide this service to the print handicapped, which include the blind and visually impaired, people with dyslexia, patients in spinal wards, quadriplegics, elderly people, persons with a crippling disease that makes holding or handling a book difficult, persons with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

Mr Phillip Tsoari, Personnel Practitioner (left), and Mr Victor Phaaka, Sr Personnel Officer, both working at the Career Resource Centre in Pretoria.
SA Army College/SITA implement E-learning Management System

Article and photos by Lt Col André Pretorius, SO1 Training and R&D
SA Army College

E-learning for the SA Army Junior Command and Staff Duties (JCSD) Course Distance Education was a longstanding vision for many years ever since the implementation of the first distance education module workbook by Col Raymond Lentsoe in 1998. That was until the first learning management system (LMS) for SA Army learners, utilising the DOD Intranet as portal, was launched for testing as a pilot project at the SA Army College in 2006.

The LMS is a computerised distribution system that allows a learner to do courses in his or her own time. It implies that limited time is spent away from the unit and home, and most theoretical modules, while at work or deployment, can be completed. Most modules are accredited nationally and repetition of previous learning is minimised through recognition of prior learning.

This was only a dream until the SA Army College took the huge steps towards that vision and in this process it constantly renewed efforts to make the dream a reality. This spirit of renewal has been recognised by other training institutions as the reason for a good foundation provided to learners on JCSD Residential Training and to further skills for future careers. These efforts recently obtained momentum with the involvement of the SA Army College in the SITA LMS pilot project, a product of Reusable Objects ®.

Once this project was established, several years of development of independent computer based training packages, mainly by the SA Army Combat Training Centre, could be integrated to deliver training content more effectively to a bigger audience. These initial developments, under the leadership of Lt Col Gerhard Coetzee, were essential in the establishment of a corporate culture and management support for such a system.

Thus the vision of an LMS for the remote delivery of training content and management of learning was born. It was a natural course of action to involve the SA Army College JCSD course, under the leadership of Col Jan Wessels, because of the advances that were made by it in distance training. The development of an LMS to facilitate distance training seemed a long way off in 2005 for the SA Army College, but long years of dedicated work were rewarded with the emergence of a system that was provided by SITA in 2006.

The LMS project under the capable leadership of Maryke Meter from SITA DOD Training is breaking ground in the new field of blended learning. Blended learning (the blending of learning in isolation, peer-to-peer learning, collaborative learning and facilitated learning) is a learning approach that forms part of the adult based education family of learning methodologies. It incorporates all the positive methodologies that were historically used in traditional classroom based training with new methods that are collaborative in nature and with the electronic media as a delivery mechanism.

The success of such a system was dependent on functional testing.
utilising actual learning content and realistic simulation of the user environment. The SA Army JCSD Course’s Distance Education Module serves this vital requirement in that the module has already been designed, implemented and perfected over several years as South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) compliant, Unit Standards (a first for the SANDF).

Prior utilisation of electronic media for content development was also a key factor in the decision since the level of familiarity with similar systems was required to limit time constraints. In this regard the JCSD Course’s utilisation in previous years of a multimedia CD for revision of work and research done to identify implications and requirements for an LMS made for a highly suitable environment for implementation.

The project was therefore initiated in August 2005 and the JCSD Course Distance Education Module identified to deliver its online content via the SITA LMS. The directing staff under the direction of Lt Col Marie Venter commenced the time-constrained work of converting existing learning content to an LMS compliant format.

Their dedication was rewarded when this content was uploaded and tested by late December 2005, and was ready for use by the eager JCSD Distance Education learners in January 2006. This led to the SA Army JCSD Course being the first in the SANDF to deliver its distance education content via a corporate LMS when learners accessed the system for orientation on 23 January 2006. Learners have subsequently received an orientation course on the operation of the system and are currently utilising the system for their studies.

The simplicity of the system allows even those learners with no previous computer experience to use the system easily and in a very short time to become highly proficient users. The system also provides training using various methods, some of which are:

- Interface screens that are clearly defined and easy to understand.
- Assessments are formative in nature and give immediate feedback, while summative assignments are delivered via a confidential and secure method.
- Learners are able to collaborate and communicate with other users.
- Learner progress is monitored by a dedicated mentor using the system and feedback is given immediately, allowing training to be focused on the problem areas.
- Electronic learning material is available in a central reference library.
- Learners are immediately alerted to events that are applicable to their learning programmes.
- Administrators and facilitators can manage learner records and learning programmes from a securely accessed environment.

Positive feedback from all learners is indicative of the level of commitment of learners and their eagerness to learn, but also of the tremendous contribution such a system can make to improve the effectiveness of learning. Gone are the days of tedious classroom lectures and absences from work and home. No more boring learning material and repetitive theory. The era of online learning for the SANDF has arrived and the SA Army College is leading the way.

For more information visit the SA Army College website on the Intranet at: http://trgfmn.army.mil.za:8080/armycol/.

We are tremendously excited about the launch of the Learning Management System (LMS) as a test bed for future implementation of an SANDF system. The system will allow learners to access learning material, content, assessments, assignments and other learning objects from a remote location on the DOD Intranet.

Furthermore, learning will be focused to achieve specific outcomes and competencies using the system to manage learner results, to collaborate (chat, forums, notice-boards and email) with facilitators and peers, and to focus individual learning towards reaching personal requirements. Exciting isn’t it?

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**Dynamite comes in small packages**

**Article and photo courtesy**

EOCD Disability Equity Section

The Area Military Health Unit Northern Cape made history by appointing the first and only diastrophic dwarf secretary ever in the history of the Department of Defence.

Ms Johanna Burger was appointed as the secretary to the Officer Commanding AMHU NC on 17 October 2005 to improve dwarfs’ their representivity in terms of disability equity. The unit took reasonable steps to accommodate Ms Burger through physical changes at entrances and making the environment friendlier for people with disabilities.

According to Ms Burger people tend to think that a person of small stature does not have the ability to function like others. However, personnel at the AMHU NC realised very quickly that Ms Burger was a very independent person with her own ideas. Her motto for life is: “Be grateful to be alive, as it gives you the joy to love and to work.”

Ms Johanna Burger.
Multi-disciplinary approach to ancillary health

By Lt Col Madelaine Jansen van Rensburg, SO1 Ancillary Health

Area Military Health Unit Gauteng is a unit that delivers medical services to approximately 28 000 uniformed members, excluding their dependants and the VPA members. The Ancillary Health Department has thirteen personnel to deliver a comprehensive and professional service.

The Ancillary Health Corporate consists of the following professions: biokinetics, dietetics, radiography and physiotherapy, which is available in Area Formation and also clinical technologists, orthoptists/prosthetists, laboratories, occupational therapy and speech therapy, which is only available in Tertiary Formation.

The Biokinetic Department

The biokinetic centres have full-time biokineticists who assist members with injury and postoperative rehabilitation, posture corrective exercise programmes, weight-loss programmes and sport specific (as well as general) gymnasium strength training programmes.

The biokineticists of the Area Military Health Unit Gauteng concentrate on executive wellness. The aim is to do a health screening for each member in a directorate in a year and to identify risk factors so that members can address those issues before proper medical care and medication become compulsory.

The different biokinetic centres render the following services and activities: aerobic and taebo classes, spinning, blood pressure and cholesterol clinics, extensive weight-loss clinics aided by dieticians, and Tip Top (Club 55 for the elderly).

Special Forces PT Preparation

Maj Craig Collins provides a holistic biokinetic service to the Special Forces School. He is very involved with the Physical Preparation Phase of the new recruits prior to their very tough selection week.

Individual Projects

- Fire Department Project: The biokineticist at Waterkloof Air Force Base is involved with the Fire-fighting Department to work out a fitness programme to counteract the risks involved in physical inactivity and unhealthy lifestyles.
- Preparing food for HIV/AIDS infected personnel: HIV is everybody’s concern and everyone understands the important role of good nutrition for HIV infected people.

Radiography

It is important to take Panorex X-rays when the concurrent health assessment (CHA) is being done. The dentists need to ensure that clients’ teeth are in good health so that they do not need possible major repairs when they are deployed.

Projects to change yellow categories to green

- Weight-loss Clinics
  There are three weight-loss clinics at different venues, namely Wonderboom, Waterkloof and Thaba Tshwane Community Centre. The aim is to help members to attain and maintain their ideal body weight by providing skills to make healthy food choices to lose weight. They offer hints, tips, coping strategies and recipes.

The dieticians provide training to all military and private messes in Pretoria, including messes at Naboomspruit and Middelburg. The aim of this training is to ensure that meals provided by the SANDF messes are nutritional, adequate and safe for consumption by HIV/AIDS infected individuals.

Home visits: The Dietetic Department provides a dietary service to members who are bedridden in the Pretoria area.

Tip-Top: The biokineticists have a programme with Club 55 members once a week at the community centre consisting of a walk. They undergo screening tests once a month. Twice a week they go to Waterkloof Air Force Base to do Pilatus based exercises and to train in the gymnasium.

Dieticians: Ms Zodwa Nabe and Ms Ané du Plessis in a weight-loss clinic.
measured and given a lecture on a specific topic. The biokineticists help with appropriate exercise programmes.

- **Training programmes**
  Maj Elmarie Nolte is involved in a project with Maj Beverley Roos at MPA HQ, which involves compiling a group exercise programme for the deployable members from MPA HQ. Total wellness of the members is managed and monitored by a multi-disciplinary team and biokinetic assessments. This is all done to keep members’ health status green for deployment at any given time.

- **17 Squadron**
  The biokineticists of Waterkloof Air Force Base help 17 Squadron to undergo exercise and lifestyle changes to achieve total wellness. The main goal is to identify individuals with yellow status and work out an exercise programme to help these members to change their status to green.

**Physical Training Sport and Recreation**

Physical Training Sport and Recreation (PTSR) is divided into three categories:

- **1. Physical Training:**
  Physical Training includes the fitness periods during the week and the fitness tests that take place twice a year. Area Military Health Unit Gauteng’s fitness level has increased tremendously from two years ago when only seventeen percent of the unit participated in the compulsory fitness test, with only four percent of the members passing the test. In March 2005, 61 percent of the unit participated in the fitness test, with 77 percent passing the test.

- **2. Sport:**
  Area Military Health Unit Gauteng produced a few members to represent their country in various sporting codes.

- **3. Recreation:**
  Area Military Health Unit Gauteng is in a privileged position because there is a small, but well equipped gym. The textile paint classes are also very popular in the unit. By this means the morale and outlook of the members have increased tremendously.

**Contact details**

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**Biokineticists:**
- Maj Deirdre Hollander and Capt Jana Coetzee (Waterkloof) Tel: (012) 672 4080
- Maj Elmarie Nolte (MOD GSB) Tel: (012) 355 5699
- Capt Erik Daniell (Air Command) Tel: (012) 312 2794
- Capt Michelle Fogwill (Army HQ) Tel: (012) 355 1728

**Dieticians:**
Lt Liza van Wyngaard (AMHU Gauteng) Tel: (012) 319 3170
Ms Nicci Ives (Thaba Tshwane) Tel: (012) 651 4589
Ms Zelda van der Merwe (Waterkloof) Tel: (012) 672 3274

**PTSR:***
WO2 Beula Vermaak Tel: (012) 319 3327

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**Muinzhiwire wa makhanikhe (mechanical engineer) wa murema wa thoma mmbini ya vhupilele ya Iwanzheni**

Lianetshelo (article) na thshianyiso nga thendelo ya Public Relations Office ya ngeli Naval Base Simon’s Town (Translated into Tshivenda by Mr Frans Moshapo)

Mmbi ya Iwanzheni ya Afurika Tshipembe bo dovha hafhu ya kona u ita uri ndiwo ya muvhuso ya u disa tshanduko i konadze nga u vha na murema wa u thoma u vha munzhiwire wa makhanikhe wa utsho.

Lefuthenini Bhekinkosi Williamso Mvovo o ita vhutolo ngo u vha murema wa u thoma kha divhazwakale ya mmbi ya Iwanzheni u fheza pfunzo ya Bsc (Mechanical Engineering) ngeli Yunivesithi ya Kapa (Cape Town).

Hoyu muufisiri o di kumedzaho yo vha munwe wa vhagudiswa vhavhili vho di nekedzaho vhe vha phasa murelo wa sumbe nga vhulimo ha utsho (first class). U bva afho o do ya Palmerton Senior Secondary School i re nga Luigi Lusikisiki vuduni la Kapa Vhuubaduvha he a do kungwa hene uri a vhe murado wa maswole a ANC.

Khoani dzawo dzo do mu tutuwedza uri a ute ngudo dza “motor body working” ngeli Ngqungqushhe Technical College ngeli Lusikisiki a saathu u vha murado wa mmbi ya Iwanzheni ya Afrika-Tshipembe.

O thoma nga u vha mugudiswa wa u tunekanya madanzheni (maritime fitter) ngeli Wingfield Technical College he a do phasa nga 1997 e na renge ya Leading Seaman. O do fhedza ngudo dzawo dza vhufisiri nga vhulimo ha nthu (with an order of merit of 2) nga nwha wa 2000 kha vhaguda- vhufisiri (midshipmen) vha mahumi mararu.

Nga 2001 o do thoma u gudela vhunzhiwire nga Yunivesithi ya Kapa nga basari ya muvhuso, a do vha mutelwadugiri 2005. Nga u ralo o mbo vha mutelwadugiri wa murema wa u thoma mmbini ya Iwanzheni ya Afrika-Tshipembe.

Lt Mvovo ndi munwe na ma mu na vhana vhavhili, u shuma nga Naval Engineering Services (NES) nga Simon’s Town. Lutamo lwawe ndi u bveledza vhunzhiwire u bva kha vhapdo vhe vha vha vha bsi kondiselwa (previously disadvantaged). Zwa zwino o thoma phrogere ay u thusa vhwaswa nga mathematics na physical science i vhizvdzvo Friends of Education nga doroboni (township) ya Masiphumelele.

* The English version of this article is available on page 33. To obtain a translation of this article or any article published in SA SOLDIER in any one of our official languages, please make use of the professional services rendered by Directorate Language Services of the DOD. For assistance contact Col Daan Vorster, Director Language Services, at tel no: (012) 392 3176 - Ed.
By Nomonde Vuthela

The sad passing on of Cpl Mbongiseni Andries Nhlengethwa (32), affectionately known to all as just Andries, left many hearts broken. He died like an angel, asleep in the comfort of his bed on 14 February 2006 - St Valentine’s Day - when the whole world celebrates and spreads love.

S Sgt Philisiwe Ntsangase’s personal tribute to Andries Nhlengethwa, her comrade in arms, reads as follows: “Andries M. Nhlengethwa, AIDS Activist, dear colleague, inspirational leader, a committed member of the SANDF and a soldier at heart. On 14 February 2006 Andries died at peace with himself and the world, a very brave man. The process of disclosure took a short time, happening in stages as his confidence in life increased. In January 2005 he was deployed to Project PHIDISA where he began to fight the stigma, discrimination and denial. He recruited many and supported many. Andries was the first man and soldier to disclose his HIV status in the SANDF. There is so much Andries did in his short life. We owe it to him to disclose his HIV status in his short life and she said: “No, Nomonde! This is the best I can do because remembering hurts too much, I want to keep it short and sweet”. S Sgt Ntsangase did not realise at that very sore moment that she had unwittingly summed up Andries’s life and had said it all. It was S Sgt Ntsangase’s memory further by suggesting that she tell me more about the many things that Andries achieved in his short life and she said: “No, Nomonde! This is the best I can do because remembering hurts too much, I want to keep it short and sweet”. S Sgt Ntsangase did not realise at that very sore moment that she had unwittingly summed up Andries’s life and had said it all. It was S Sgt Ntsangase’s view that Andries had been taken from her and their work at an untimely stage when she was still expecting more good things to come out of their long and strong friendship.

Andries and S Sgt Ntsangase were the first uniformed members to disclose their HIV positive status to the world. They were brought together by an unfortunate and painful situation, which they then turned around, so that it worked for the good of all SANDF members infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

I met Andries for the first in 2002 while I was on the beat looking to interview him. My immediate impression of him was that my goodness, he is as big as an ox! I later learnt to love him because he took my emotions to a place I had never been. He spoke so easily because he took my emotions to a place I totally detest, because little in the world makes sense when you are in such a space. Death to me is like a thief in the night; you wake up to find all your valuables secretly stolen and there’s little you can do about it except to comply in an effort to salvage what is left of your emotions and save your sanity.

SA SOLDIER published several articles on Andries living positively with HIV. It was so easy to work with him as SA SOLDIER journalists endeavoured to be recognised as employees of an official magazine that is yet another fragment of the SANDF committed to fighting HIV/AIDS.

Seeing that the war against AIDS is far from over Andries’ death to me makes little sense, but I take comfort in understanding that surely he must have gone as far as he was meant to.

According to a media release published by Defence Corporate Communication, Cpl Mbongiseni Andries Nhlengethwa passed away in his sleep in his room at 1 Military Hospital in the Non-Commissioned Officer’s Mess. The report also states that Andries was one of the HIV/AIDS ambassadors in the DOD and that he was open about his HIV status, and that on 14 February 2006 Andries died at peace with himself and the world, a very brave man. The process of disclosure took a short time, happening in stages as his confidence in life increased. In January 2005 he was deployed to Project PHIDISA where he began to fight the stigma, discrimination and denial. He recruited many and supported many. Andries was the first man and soldier to disclose his HIV status in the SANDF. There is so much Andries did in his short life and she said: “No, Nomonde! This is the best I can do because remembering hurts too much, I want to keep it short and sweet”.

Furthermore, the media release stated that he was not on antiretroviral medication and had been diagnosed with deep venous thrombosis in the past week, and was receiving the appropriate medication. The report also indicated that his passing away was not linked to his HIV status, but rather that his sudden death was clinically compatible with a diagnosis of pulmonary embolism.

Touching on Andries the individual, the report goes on to state that he was a peaceful person always full of humour and was pro-life with no fear of the virus that lived in his body.

The late Cpl Andries Nhlengethwa.

S A S O L D I E R  •  A P R I L  2 0 0 6
A call for unselfish love

By Cpln M.J. Frantz,
School of Tact Int, Potchefstroom

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love. And God showed His love for us by sending His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might have love through Him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another...(1 John 4:7-16).

The central aspect of the Holy Scriptures is the concept that God is love. The Greek word to explain God's love is agape. Agape is not love that originates in the human heart or that which wants self-glorification. It is a spontaneous creative love that comes directly from God into the lives of believers. As believers, we have to share God's love. In our passage John reminds us that love is the central reality of God's nature. God expresses His love for us in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for our sins so that we may have eternal life. He is the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us. However, we must keep in mind that this act of love was not in response to human love, but an initiative and act on God's part. In these few verses John explains to us why love is valuable, and how we can choose to love. That is why we must understand that real love is a conscious choice and an act, not a feeling or an intention.

Real love produces selfless sacrificial giving. Loving therefore means initiating action without wanting something in return. God's love in Jesus Christ is the model for the love we should have towards one another. Since God is love, our assumption is that an intimate acquaintance with Him will produce love. But so often in our day-to-day interaction with one another, we experience that a spontaneous love for the other is missing. How many times do we turn our back on other people, knowing they are in need? How many times do we hurt one another by means of words or deeds? It is easy to say we love God when it does not cost us anything more than going to church to attend our religious services. Just remember, when we confess our love with our mouth instead of our heart, it becomes empty.

We need the foundation of our own personal relationship with God to experience His love. Only on that foundation can we identify ourselves with others and love them as God Himself loves them, the same way He loves us. What is more significant for us in our relationship with God is that God wants us to grow in our capacity to love. As we listen to Him and respond to His love, we can grow in our ability to love others. This has been His message for us, since the beginning, when He commanded us to love one another.

A person who is capable of loving another, desires to see him or herself grow. We can be certain that God loves us, because His every word to us is designed to help us grow to our full potential. God's love for us is unselfish and unconditional. He honestly has our best interests at heart. When the love of God touches us, it transforms us completely. We cannot proclaim that we truly love God, while we neglect to love those created in His image.

In our fight against HIV and AIDS, let us show God's love to those infected and affected by this dreadful pandemic. Yes, many of us in the DOD are indeed involved in this fight, but we need committed people who are committed to God's will by making a conscious choice to love and to act on it. How do we do that? There are so many children being orphaned because of HIV and AIDS. These children will be in need of love and affection, but also in need of clothes and food. By opening our hands and hearts to provide in that need, we can share God's love and care for so many of our members that are HIV positive that need our support, love, care and understanding.

My appeal to the DOD is: as we are still almost at the beginning of the new year, let us make use of the opportunity to reach out and initiate actions that meet the deepest needs of our fellow soldiers, brothers and sisters. Let us be prepared to share the gift of God's love with one another. By so doing, we will see God Himself as He lives in us and His love made complete in us (v.12). Ultimately, because God is love, the person who shares God's love will love.

God bless!
SA SOLDIER
Spot the ball competition

Which of the three balls has just been played? Mark your choice (ball) with an “X”. Send your entry (“X” marked) to SA SOLDIER magazine, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001.

Winning prize sponsored by TOTAL SA

Rules for the “Spot The Ball” Soccer Competition
1. Only employees of the Department of Defence are allowed to enter. 2. Only original or photocopied entries will be allowed (no faxes or e-mails). 3. One entry per envelope. 4. Entrants will carry postage costs. 5. Employees of Directorate Corporate Communication (SA SOLDIER) and their immediate families are not allowed to enter. 6. Prizes are not redeemable for cash or transferable to another person. 7. The Judges’ decision is final. 8. Entries must be posted to the postal address of SA SOLDIER. 9. No hand delivered entries will be accepted. 10. No late entries will be accepted. 11. Closing date for the competition is Friday, 30 June 2006, and the name of the winner will be published in SA SOLDIER. 12. All correct entries will be included in the final draw. 13. The Department of Defence (SA SOLDIER) accepts no responsibility for prizes lost during the process of postal delivery. 14. There will only be one winner.

The winning prize consists of 1 cooler bag, 1 tog bag, 1 back-pack, 1 all-weather jacket, 1 golf shirt and 1 sports cap.

Viva - FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament!