

SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER



**SANDF preparations for
FIFA 2010 under way**



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Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Erasmusklouf
PRETORIA

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FRONT COVER: Mass casualty evacuation simulated. Read all about EXERCISE LANCET on page 22. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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From the Editor's desk

“**G**od bless the world through people” is the theme of the Christmas message, especially written to our readers by our Chaplain General on page 12. An example of such a person is our Head of Communication, Mr Vuyo Zambodla, who is also the Editor-in-Chief of *SA Soldier*.

Unfortunately Mr Zambodla is leaving the Department at the end of November this year. His valuable guidance and involvement in *SA Soldier* will be dearly missed. The *SA Soldier* Team and Editorial Committee want to thank him for the enormous role he has played in *SA Soldier* and wish him all the best in his future career. Please read all about his interview with *SA Soldier* on page 10.

This edition is as always bursting with reading pleasure. Read all about how our Air Force took the new Hawk lead-in fighter trainer aircraft into service and the opening of the recently relocated 85 Combat Flying School at Air Force Base Makhado. More highlights are that the Minister of Transport, Mr Jeff Radebe, has recently been inducted as an Honorary Colonel, and the opening of the Warrant Officers Academy. Read how the SANDF flexed its muscles in a mock war in Lohatla. Get to know the Moleji lad who became the first black parachute instructor in the SA Air Force. Meet our first woman to deploy with her own company to a foreign country in a combat role. For our sports fanatics there is an abundance of sporting updates.

SA Soldier wishes you and your loved ones a heavenly Christmas and a promising New Year.

If you are going away, please drive safely and do not drink and drive!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor 

Fitr: Nelda Pienaar, WO1 Arlene Bronkhorst, Lt Col Gerda Tredoux and Cara-Jo Tredoux at the annual potjiekos and fishing competition of the Training Command. This team walked away with the second prize for the best potjiekos!



Ezivela kuMhleli

“**T**hixo sikelela ilizwe ngokusebenzisa abantu”, lowo ngumxholo womyalezo weKilisimesi, ofumaneka ephapheni leshumi elinesibini, nobhalelwe abafundi balencwadi nguNjengele weZakwalizwi wethu. Umzekelo womntu onjalo siwubona kuMnumzana Vuyo Zambodla, uMkhokheli wezoQhagamshelwano, nonguMhleli oMkhulu walencwadi i-*SA Soldier*.

Ngelishwa ke uMnumzana uZambhodla uyalishiya eli Sebe ekupheleni kwenyanga yeNkanga kulo nyaka. Buza kukhumbuleka kakhulu ubunkokheli bakhe kunye nokuzibandakanya kwakhe kwi *SA Soldier*. Abalingane bakhe base *SA Soldier* kunye neKomiti labaHleli, lidlulisa umbulelo ongazenzisiyo ngendima enkulu ayidlalileyo kwi *SA Soldier*, kwaye bamnqwenelela impumelelo emsebenzini aza kusebenza kuwo. Uyabongozwa ukuba ufunde ngodliwano-ndlebe alwenze ne *SA Soldier* kwiphepha leshumi.

Njengokuqhelekileyo ke olu hlelo luyaphuphuma zindaba ezimnandi ongathi uzifundele zona. Funda ukuba uMkhosi woMoya uyithathe kanjani inqwelo-moya yayo entsha, esetyenziselwa ukuqeqeshwa kwamajoni okulwa ekuthiwa ngelasemzini yi-Hawk lead-in-fighter trainer, ukuyisa apho iyokulungiswa khona; kunye nokuvulwa ngokusesikweni kweSikolo sokuLwa kusetyenziswa inqwelo-moya ekuthiwa yi-85 Combat Flying School esikwiziko loMkhosi woMoya eMakhado. Ezinye iindaba ezibalulekileyo kukuba uMphathiswa weZothutho, ummuzana Jeff Radebe, ubekwe ngokusesikweni wayiKoloneli ebekekileyo kunye nokuvulwa ngokusesikweni kweZiko lemfundo yodidi oluthile lwabaPhati-Mikhosi. Funda ukuba uMkhosi woKhuselo wase-Mzantsi Afrika ubonise kanjani ubuciko bawo ngelixa bebesenza umdlalo obonisa okwenziwayo xa kukhona imfazwe e-Lohatla. Funda wazi ngeli gatyana lomfana wakwa Moleji ongumfundisi wokuqala omnyama ofundisa ngesambuleli sokulwa (parachute), kuMkhosi woMoya waseMzantsi Afrika. Masibonane nebhinqa lokuqala elimiselwe ukulwa, elihambe nombutho wakhe ukuyokulwa kwilizwe lasemzini. Amatshantliziyo ebhola azakufumana okuninzi oku ngokokuhlaziywa kwezemidlalo.

I-*SA Soldier* inqwenelela nina nabathandiweyo benu iKilisimesi eyokozela amathamsanqa nemnandi kunye neNyi-bidyala ethembisayo kakhulu.

Xa uza kuthatha uhambo, uyabongozwa ukuba uqhube kakuhle, ngokukhuselekileyo kwaye ningaseli iziselo ezinxilisayo emva kwaloko niqhube imoto!

Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli 



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Sector commander shines in the Sudan

It was history in the making for the SANDF members deployed in the Sudan and to the rest of the South Africans when one of them received the highest honour, which is customarily given to the Knights. The honour was presented to the first black South African Sector Commander in the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), Col Richard George Lourens of AMIS Sector 6, which lies in the Northern Darfur region with its Headquarters in a town called Kutum.

This honour is only given to exclusive members who by virtue of their responsibilities have made a vast contribution towards enhancing a better life for the people of the Sudan. This award ceremony took place at the sports grounds in Kutum and the award was presented to Col Lourens by the Chief Justice and the Governor of Northern Darfur during the Sport and Cultural Day of the Sudanese people in honour to the contribution made by South Africans in restoring peace, stability and harmony in the Sudan.

The honour was the highest given to anybody since the inception of the African Union in the Sudan. It was handed for the first time to a black South African and had the inscription of "no to war yes to peace". Col Lourens, staff officers, Sector 6 military observers and 6 SAI Bn Protection Force held the South African flag high in the mission, which was the fulfilment of South African foreign policy.

Let me take this opportunity to elaborate on the Senior National in Sudan who is also known as the "Umdar of Kutum", which means the chief among the chiefs. The Giant, as he is known among the South Africans, won the hearts of most of the Sudanese people, including the warring factions, such as the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Arab Militia, also known as the Janjaweds. This was on account of his

fairness and firmness when interacting with them with the aim of facilitating the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

One early morning during a staff meeting, Col Lourens posed a question to all staff officers and asked what we were doing to better the lives of the Sudanese people. It struck everybody that there was no single answer. He said: "We lie everyday without conscience about how we truly feel and about what we really want. We lie by promising ourselves that we'll do things we never do, yet at the end of the day we still claim to love ourselves even if we lie to ourselves and live in denial and hide how we really feel." He taught us that in life we must learn to make a difference, eg in the Darfur context to the people of the Sudan, whom we should treat as if they were our own families.

He authorised our medical personnel to perform life-saving operations, eg we had five babies delivered through caesarian section, one of the operations of which was televised by the South African media. He is very passionate about children as he never hesitates to help the needy ones. He is a father, a brother and a born leader such as I have never come across. His tactical and strategic knowledge has saved many people from dangerous and life-threatening situations since our arrival in Darfur. One situation that cannot be erased from my mind was when six members of the United Nation Humanitarian Agency were captured by the leader of the SLM/A in the very notorious area of Debbis. Nobody wanted to approach the grouping until Col Lourens assembled his team comprising military observers from Sector 6 and an interpreter and faced the rebels in their backyard. It took us six hours to convince the group to release all the captives. He succeeded in bringing all members out alive with their vehicles. He was able to defuse the anger of those rebels that were not yet subject to the DPA, and win their hearts, which was a mammoth task.

Working in Darfur with other troop contributing countries is an uphill struggle. However, in Sector 6, particularly, there is harmony among members even though there are vast differences in cultural beliefs and customs. The Colonel has taught us to learn to respect other cultures and encourages us to accommodate other members, as this is an African mission.

There was entertainment to be had in Kutum, and in this respect it has to be mentioned that Col Lourens is most talented. The man can sing like a bird, and he is known as the King of Karaoke evenings. We do not even think of home when this happens.


We, all the South African military observers and staff officers, would like to take this opportunity to practise what we learned from this great commander who helped to bring peace and stability to the Sudanese people.

To our families back in South Africa, thanks for the love you have for us, for your understanding and prayers. We are always thinking of our loved ones. To our fellow South Africans, thanks for the support you give to our families in our absence.

To the Chief of the SANDF and staff, thanks for entrusting us with this huge responsibility of carrying out our mission to better Africa. Special thanks to the Surgeon General and his staff as the medical personnel are making a real professional impact in the Darfur region.

I would like to take this last opportunity to thank Col Lourens for being a genuine leader of all the members deployed in the Sudan and the Rainbow Nation at large and his family for letting him deploy and the SANDF for entrusting its faith in him. This AU mission is turning into a success as many sectors and the Force HQ itself are learning from the Sector 6 Commander himself.

"Hail to Umdar Lourens," the first Black Sector Commander from the southern region. As your motto says: "Just go and do it".

Maj Prince Mkhabela, MILOB AMIS Sector 6 Kutum, Sudan 

The emancipation of women in SA and in the SANDF

Women in South Africa face a new type of oppression and if this is not realised by all, then women will never be truly and really free. Then all efforts by our President, Thabo Mbeki, and that heroic 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings will have been in vain.

Laws, legislation and all avenues have been opened as never before in SA for the true emancipation of women. This is proper for a country that has gained its liberation from colonialism, which has caused chaos in the minds and hearts of both black and white people and has left scars so deep that people have not looked at each other as people, but as colour codes. At the worst end of the stick are black women, and now at this time, all women in SA.

A new type of oppression has affected women in SA, that of the patriarchal system in the economy, the military, the religious sector, the security field and the judiciary. In all these structures, especially in the SANDF, where it is a man's job, patriarchy enforces and imposes its decisions on women.

Women who number 2.5 million more than men in SA are oppressed and are subject to decisions made by men, who most of the time do not consider the impact that decisions have on the women in Defence. They are treated as if they are just loose appendages, and not part and parcel of the whole.

Women in Defence are an all-important part of the whole, and this has once and for all to be realised and mechanisms put in place to implement equity and equal opportunity for all women serving in Defence, right down to the floor cleaners, who are in most cases women, and who are the most grossly underpaid.

For as long as the socio-economic and legal framework of SA is based on

a patriarchal system of a minority, ie men, rape and violent crimes against women will continue. Women will continue to be poor and unable to prosper, and will continue to struggle to fend for their families. Women will be accorded small pieces of the big cake in the economy.

How many women are major shareholders in the mining sector? How many women are bishops in their churches? How many women are leading bankers in South Africa? How many women are lieutenant generals in the SANDF?

Are we trying to say that there are no capable women to be major generals or lieutenant generals in the SANDF? This when women are doing the planning and the work.

For as long as women are not good enough to be decision-makers in the SANDF there will continue to be discrimination against them, because women are drowned by male opinion at decision-making meetings. Who is going to listen to them? It is bad strategy to silence the voice of women, so that they cannot support other women. Men decide they are going to decide for women what is best for them, and yet men are in the minority in South Africa. It is not good enough to promote one or two women. It is a cosmetic change to make us believe that women are going up in the ranks - it is meant to fool the people of South Africa. This is not good enough. It is a lie, and lying to the people who pay our salaries is bad. More women have to be recruited. Then there will be more peace and the working arm of democracy will spin at the pace which it is supposed to spin at, because women have always contributed in the best possible ways to their jobs.

In this instance the patriarchal strategy of keeping women at the bottom of the rung is succeeding in the SANDF. Women must not be fooled by occasional and scattered promotions. Women must demand promotions, because we are fighters.

So let the men in the SANDF be aware that they are holding back the wheel of time by their patriarchal behaviour. Let the men in the Defence Force be aware that they are killing all the initiatives of the President of South

Africa and those heroic women of 1956 that paved the way for the emancipation of women. Let the men dip their banners in respect to the women in Defence, for their efforts to contribute to a better Defence Force, especially women in the conflict areas who are deployed on an equal standing with their male combatants. Let the men in the Defence Force dip their caps to all women, right down to the lowest rank, and stop their bullying tactics. It will not work any more. Stop looking for excuses not to promote women.

The time for patriarchal rule in the SANDF is over. Give women their rightful place. Give women an equal say in the day-to-day affairs of the SANDF. The days of patriarchy are over. Adhere to the prescripts set by Government to accord women leadership status.

Where a man is in power, there should be a more powerful woman in a position alongside him in the SANDF. The Corporal is not there to make tea nor is she there to dust the table of the General. She is there to be a General one day. So start planning her career now to get her there.

"This is a message to all women: we are not fighting the men in the DOD, but they must once and for all stop suffering from their hearing loss and listen to the voice of women in Defence."


Col B.V. Martin, SAMHS 

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Erratum November 2006 edition

Please take note - Altogether 181 DOD officials had been trained on the *Batho Pele* programme by the DOD Training Command by mid 2006; and not by DPSA as published. 

Community projects in Burundi

Visit to the orphanage. On 17 August 2006 Chaplain Mandleleni (RSA Battalion 7 Chaplain), Captain Makhanda (outgoing social work officer), Lt S.B. Mtshali (incoming social work officer), Ms Strong (outgoing psychologist) and Lt W.X. Ngubane (CIMIC officer) visited and donated food to the Children's Future Hope Orphanage in the Gatumba. Our duty as South Africans in Burundi is not only to bring peace, but also to support the suffering people by all means. We really believe that the people of this country are our brothers and sisters because we are all Africans.


Visit to Gatumba Hospice. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" *Matt 5:3*. On 29

August 2006 the multi-professional team, including Lt Col Jansen (Contingent Second in Command), Lt Col Nziweni (RSA Battalion 7 Officer Commanding) and other members of the Battalion visited the Gatumba Hospice for people living with HIV/AIDS. Children suffering of malnutrition also stay there. The aim of the visit was to donate food and clothes to the hospice. There were two traditional dancers who showcased South African talent for those affected people. Chaplain Mandleleni emphasised that they were not to lose hope because the Lord was watching over them. He will not come from His Heaven above to provide for such people in need, but He will touch people like the South

Africans. We really need to provide assistance to institutions. It is like a dream come true to see people who really care for them.

SA soldiers competed in sport. Our soldiers are really doing well in the different sporting codes, namely soccer, volleyball and rugby. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Support Companies, as well as the CSU teams, competed in the first inter-contingent soccer tournament. Bravo Company won the soccer. Alpha Company were the champions in volleyball.

The contingents of SA, Nepal, Kenya, Pakistan and Thailand all took part in the volleyball tournament, and the South Africans triumphed.

Lt W.X. Ngubane, Burundi 

Military professionalism


"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people" (*Colossians 3:23, Good News Bible*). These words of the New Testament are supported by the words of the Code of Conduct, where we pledge ourselves to "serve in the SANDF with loyalty and pride..." The Creator has given each of us certain gifts and abilities. Those gifts and abilities enable us to make a unique contribution to the world in which we live, and more specifically in the military environment in which we find ourselves. Each of us has the responsibility to discover the God-given gifts and abilities that we have. Then we have the responsibility to use and develop them to their fullest potential. Discovering, using and developing our gifts and abilities is a lifelong journey of discovery. This journey brings meaning and purpose to our lives and leads to fulfilment and con-

tentment. Our self-esteem is boosted in the knowledge that we are living to our fullest potential. As people of faith, we believe that we are giving glory to our Creator as we exercise our God-given gifts and abilities. We in the military have chosen to exercise our gifts and abilities in the SANDF. It is in this context that we must make our unique contribution. It is in this context that the Creator calls us to use and to develop our gifts and abilities. It is here that we must use our abilities and find our fulfilment. Each one of us has a unique contribution to make to the smooth running of the organisation. In practical terms this means doing the very best that we can do in our work environments, wherever that might be. It means taking pride in what we do as we strive to give glory to our Creator. It means a deep sense of commitment to the work that we do, no matter how big or small. It means upholding high standards in the work



Chaplain Andrew Treu.

environment. It means setting an example for others to emulate. It also means enabling others to do the best that they can do too. This is true military professionalism, where each member is committed, loyal and proud. We strive for excellence as we work as though we are working for the Creator. May each one of us find the inspiration to do the very best that we can do for the Creator who has given us our gifts and abilities.


Chaplain Andrew Treu,
Naval Base Simon's Town 

The eye that sees and the ear that listens

After realising that we have long since passed the age to go on the Officer Formative Course (28-30 years), we are saying to ourselves that our military careers will reach the end without us climbing to the elite ranks of the military. We have come to the conclusion that there is no hope for anything better for us in the SA Army and some of us are even considering leaving the Army. A signal which made us doubt our eyes and ears came and called us to go on the Officer Formative selection. To vindicate

those who recommended us, we passed the selection, and here we are now (SA Army Gymnasium) among our fellow South African brothers and sisters doing very well in a course in which one has to be the best to qualify. We did not know how it really came about, but we know very well that the former Officer Commanding of 14 SAI Bn (now OC ASB Port Elizabeth), has for a long time been appealing to the GOC Infantry Formation and the Chief of the SA Army to review the age limit in the selection.

We want to pass on our gratitude to her and our section heads for the eye that sees, and the Chief of the SA Army for the ear that listens. To you my brothers who think that because of your age you will never become anything better in the Defence Force. I want to encourage you to keep up the good work you are doing and the standard of discipline. Your dedication will not go unnoticed and you may find yourselves in ranks you never associated yourselves with.

CO A.G. Ntsinde, 14 SAI Bn 

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**Buy your dream car,
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Keep up the good work

Allow me to comment about the staff members at 9 SAI Battalion (Western Province).

My son of a year and three months got burned with boiling water on his right hand and down below the armpit and his right leg. Lucky for him his face did not receive even a drop of the boiling water. I would like to say that very few nurses are left in the service that still have the spirit of Captain Jansen, Staff Sergeant Van Neel and Staff Sergeant November.

I want to say thank you to the down-to-earth Captain, the talkative and caring hands of Staff Sergeant Van Neel and the quiet and helpful hands of Staff Sergeant November.

My wife and I will not forget these friendly faces, soft-spoken human beings and caring hands during dressing sessions. My baby is healing well because of you. Keep up the good work.

CPO T.J. Mofumane, Naval Base Simon's Town

A man who takes my pain, your pain to be his pain.

A man who dwells in my problem, your problem to be his problem.

Oh! What a waste, so few like Matlabe. It is seldom we find someone in such a high office,

Be so humble and easy, treating all ranks equally.

We lost a man indeed.

Who else will be like Matlabe at GOC?

Anger, hatred, anguish, revenge can be controlled.

Look now! What a waste and a loss we suffer.

Human being is God's image.

Life must be respected and be protected.

No problem cannot be solved, life is precious.

No one wants to die.

No one could stop death, even R4.

Death has stolen three souls without mercy at our base Tempe

Injured one and affected the mind of a four year old child,

And wounded many hearts,

That is why we are mourning today in tears.

This should never and never happen again ...! I sink, ... I sink ... Ndiyatshona, Cingci ... li ... li ...

L Cpl N.P. Matodlana, ASB Bloemfontein

We Lost A Man!

No! No! No! I don't trust my ears.

No, not Capt Matlabe - the adjutant.

May be they are confusing the names.

Oh my God! My lieutenant stresses like that corporal.

My mind got missing for a while.

My ears could not swallow, but slowly.

My mind refuses to accept the news.

I heard them whispering the name Matlabe.

I heard S Sgt Wright whispering, is it true? He shook his head.

My mind started to take in gradually to the news.

To the news of the tragic death of Nation Matlabe.

But how can the word death be linked to such a man?

But how can Satan be so jealous.

Oh! What a man.

The pain sinks deep down to the bottom of my heart.

The pain causes my soul and spirit to fight like a sea,

Trying to chase out the pain of losing Matlabe.

My spirit is restless and furious,

My consciousness is fighting with rejection.

Oh! What a fine man we lost, yes, a gentleman indeed.

We lost what couldn't and won't be replaced.


I am talking about a cool, sober and humble Adjutant.

Message to all drivers

The Festive Season is here so I would like the drivers to read this speed song:

60 km/h - I will arrive alive
 80-120 km/h - I believe I will reach home
 140 km/h - This world is not my home
 150 km/h - Upwards - precious memories.

Speed kills. Don't drink and drive. Let's all arrive alive.

S Sgt M.S. Mpyana, Pretoria 


Fox Run - Tribute

The GOC SA Army Intelligence Formation has established a custom around fitness and the sense of well-being associated with a healthy body and mind, by hosting a "Fox Run" (a 10 km fun run) annually at the Potchefstroom Military Training Area. Since its inception in 2002 the Fox Run has become a fun and exciting event, where Intelligence Corps members, friends of the corps and sponsors go for gold! Medals are presented to all finishers.

The SA Army Intelligence Corps will always lead in the right direction, so the GOC always encourages more women to participate in this event, as he believes in their strength. The future looks good too, as the race is planned to be registered as a formal event with a local running club, Athletics SA or Athletics Central North West. The Fox Run has all the


Well done!

I was one of the members of Task Force 1 to be deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from April 2003 to November 2003. To all the members of Task Force 1, I would like to take my hat off to you. You are the best! Your co-operation and discipline were excellent. Together we have brought about changes in the DRC.

We have seen, learned and experienced many things. Special thanks to our Commander, Col L.R. Smith: you are a good leader. To all members of Task Force 1, I say well done wherever you are, whatever you do, keep it up! S Sgt M.S. Mpyana, 3 Electronic Workshop, Wonderboom Military Base 

essentials to be one of the prestige events on the running calendar.

This year the 5th annual SA Army Intelligence Formation Fox Run took place on 2 September 2006. It was a well-conducted and successful event. The local media were present. The winner was Mr Frans Kutu in a time of 32:05 min, with Sgt Malekwa and Lt Kgaditse in second and third places respectively.

The 10 km race commenced with a moment of silence to honour the memory of Sgt Gabriel Makgetlwa, who was the fittest SANDF member in his rank in the entire country. He was sadly killed in a car accident on that Saturday morning, a few hours before the Fox Run. He was the strongest contender. His death was a tragic loss to the Intelligence Corps and the SANDF as a whole. Brig Gen M.A. Kula, GOC SA Army Intelligence Formation 

I salute you

I salute you my Editor for the wonderful things you did for me. I'm looking forward to receiving another edition of SA Soldier magazine. I've gained a lot of information from reading this magazine. Mr S.P. Miya, Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Clarens

* Thank you for your keen interest in our magazine - Ed. 

Caring for kids with disabilities

We normally take for granted that we are able to walk, talk and look after ourselves properly, but only when we see others struggle and unable to help themselves do we realise how fortunate and lucky we are.

AFB Overberg Fire Section took the campaign to support people with disabilities a step further by visiting the Elim Home on 1 September 2006. The purpose of the visit was to spend the day with people less fortunate than ourselves and to find out if perhaps we could make a difference.


The members were warmly welcomed by Sister Engel Cloete, the manager of the facility. The home has 90 children with disabilities of whom the youngest is 4 and the oldest 16 years. Most of the children have been in the home for long periods.

The members of the Fire Section went through the daily routine of the staff working at the home and were able to see how challenging it was to keep the children clean and maintain the facility. "It is vital to have love for children to survive in this place," said one of the staff members. The main challenge of the home is transporting children to hospital and employing a permanent physiotherapist, according to Sister Engela.

AFB Overberg Fire Section presented the home with a set of plastic mugs and a framed photo of an SA Air Force fire truck. The children ended the day by singing a beautiful song and giving a small show.

Capt A. Matloa 

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

Farewell to a doer

By Nomonde Vuthela

Contrary to common belief, everything that has come to be or may have come to pass, does last forever. The outgoing DOD Head of Communication (HOC), Mr Vuyo Zambodla, will forevermore go down in history as the first civilian HOC to have served in the Department of Defence (DOD).

The position of Head of Communication in all government departments was created out of necessity to integrate information and communication between the various ministries and departments. The HOC sits in the Ministry, at Chief Director level, with the sole purpose of driving integrated communication to ensure the alignment of the DOD with the messages of government through the Government Communication Information System (GCIS). This brings the essential aspects of uniformity to DOD's communication drive.

Speaking to *SA Soldier* in his final interview as the HOC, Mr Zambodla said joining the DOD was a search for a meaningful and exciting challenge. "I saw my coming here as something new and a fresh contribution to our society. I realised how important this was going to be for an organisation of this size and stature and I looked at it as a challenge, for I have always been one to look for challenges in life," he said looking back on his career path.

"I quickly realised that there was a lot of generic things that all Heads of Communication in Government are expected to achieve. What differentiates us and other departments like us (eg Safety and Security or Correctional Services), is that we have an added sort of anomaly in that we have both uniformed and civil cultures," Mr Zambodla said. He added: "Now that poses a challenge because there is no theory as to how you align civilian and uniformed members or implement civil control over corporate communication. I feel that this particular challenge has been previously underestimated. This does not mean that we are excused in any way from the rules of accountability like any other government department, but in as far as achieving the objectives of Government is concerned, the challenges are considerable."

He went on to say that a good guide

was to make a very clear distinction between generic corporate communication and public relations on the one hand with operations and command communication on the other. Although all fall under the functional control of the HOC it is clear where the key competencies lie.

Mr Zambodla recently completed three years in this position as the HOC. "I leave with a sense of having had a unique experience and it has been very good for me in the sense of what I feel I have gained. I have met wonderful people and I have forged very good relationships both inside and outside the Department."

Speaking on the value his post has added, he said: "When I came here we were not really working in an integrated fashion in any way; since then we have closed the gap of integration between the Ministry and the Department and the DOD with other Government departments, and there has been a closer liaison between the corporate level of communication and the Services and Divisions."

"At the national level there has been closer integration with Government, particularly through the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). I think that has moved to a level it has never been at before, viz where integration and alignment are also working according to the way Government expects them to," said Mr Zambodla. Listing the highlights he said: "My highlights included seeing our corporate communication staff being recognised at the national level, eg *SA Soldier* winning the Government Communicator of the Year Award.

The high-profile exercises of the Services and Divisions, particularly the arrival of the so-called Strategic Defence Packages, will remain in my memory and imagination forever."

On challenges he said: "What really has to be worked on in my environment is the high turnover of communication staff. You get to work with key people and get to an understanding and then they move on. I can accept that when one has been promoted it is fine to rotate, but we have to reinforce certain scarce skills and maintain these scarce skills for a proper career dispensation for people in Corporate Communication. A Chief Directorate is only as good as its human resources," Mr Zambodla emphasised.

Expressing himself on his personal need for change, he said: "In today's world of work there is no such thing as a career for life in a particular place; you work according to what value you add and what you gain."

He added: "In my case I have family considerations that are directing me back home to the Eastern Cape and so it may now be opportune for fresh enthusiasm and ideas beyond what I have contributed. We have done a lot of foundation work and I sincerely hope that it will not be lost in the transition."

"I will always be an ambassador for this Department; I believe in what we stand for and what we are about. I hope to remain involved particularly with regard to youth and recruitment."

All the very best to Mr Zambodla in his new career in his home province. 🇿🇦



Mr Vuyo Zambodla speaking to Nomonde Vuthela of *SA Soldier* in his final interview as the HOC. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

God bless the world through people

By Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, Chaplain General

Luke 1: 31 and 38: "The angel said to Mary - Don't be afraid, God has been gracious to you ... you will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus" ...

Mary answered "I am the Lord's servant - may it happen to me as you have said".

What is God asking you?

We have been asked different things in life. Some of the things are very important and some not so important, some difficult to do and some not so difficult. Some have a big influence in your life and some a big influence on those around you. The bottom line is - we all have to deal with some important and difficult questions and requests, of which I think the following are some examples:

- The question to get married was a big one.
- The request to take up a new post in a new environment.
- The request to turn of the life-support machines of a loved one after a serious accident.
- To deploy in difficult circumstances.
- To complete complex tasks that you do not like.

What God asked of Mary must have been a big shock to her. "Give birth to My Son" Bring into the world the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and you must call Him "the Son of the most high God" (verse 32). What a request! Can one imagine her bewilderment, her shock, her uneasiness and her fears. We can hear the question "Why me Lord - why me". We realise that it was not easy for her as an unmarried women to carry a child out of wedlock. The journey by donkey to be registered in Bethlehem while in advanced pregnancy must have been

very difficult. The process of giving birth in a manger must have been challenging. The flight with her baby boy to Egypt while all the other newborn boys were slaughtered must have been traumatic. Not an easy request, but a request that changed the history of the world, and that changed the lives of millions thereafter. A request that we honour today with the festive season of Christmas.

We hear the answer of Mary "I am the Lord's servant - may it happen to me as you have said". The rest is history. Her acceptance in spite of the difficulty thereof changed the world. Jesus as the Son of God who was born into the world as Immanuel - God with us. With us in all our needs. With us in good times and bad times. With us to give us wisdom and courage. With us to give us new life, new vision, new hope and a new purpose in life. Acknowledging and accepting this will change our lives going into the New Year.

At the end of 2006 and going into 2007 we must also ask the question - What is God asking of you and me? As was the case for Mary, God is also speaking to us as His representatives while we reflect on our lives during the festive season. I think the following is what God expects of us as individuals and as a Department when He asks the question - will you on My behalf:

- **Be Peacemakers.** Peacemakers in your environment, within your family, within your work situation and especially on our continent. This peace starts, however, with having peace in your own heart with your Creator, yourself and others.
- **Have good Relationships.** Good relationships within your family,




Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen.

work environment and community. Living out the *Batho Pele* principles within our lives.

- **Uphold your Values.** This is one of the biggest needs of our society. People who uphold the values of integrity, honesty, trustworthiness and respect for the lives, dignity and property of others.
- **Serve your Country.** The commitment and dedication to serve the people of our country and the continent as members of the Department of Defence.

I know answering this call is not always easy. As with Mary the willingness to answer positively to this call will change you, the lives of the people around you and all the people you are serving. Remember, God does not ask something of us if He is not prepared to bless us.

May you over this Christmas period, and going into the New Year, be brave enough to answer positively to the calling God has for you in serving Him and the people of this continent.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas period and a fulfilling New Year. 

May his soul rest in peace

The Chief of the South African National Defence Force regrets to announce that Lieutenant General Siphso Zacchius Binda, the Chief of Joint Operations, passed away at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria on the evening of 14 November 2006 following surgery.

Lt Gen Binda was admitted to 1 Military Hospital for observation on Saturday 11 November 2006 after he was involved in a car accident.

Following an operation on the evening of 14 November 2006 he collapsed for no apparent reason, and died shortly after. A post-mortem will be conducted to determine the cause of his death.

Lt Gen Binda leaves his wife, Irene, two children and three grandchildren behind.

Biography

Lieutenant General Siphso Zacchius Binda was born in 1952 and educated at Sekano-Ntoane High School in Soweto and the University of South Africa (UNISA). His military career started in 1977 when he joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC), where he rose from the ranks until he became, inter alia, Camp Commander and Regional Chief

Engineer. In 1983 the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) recruited him as the co-ordinator of internal operations (Western Front).

In 1984 he was arrested in South Africa and sent to Robben Island (1984 -1990). After his release from incarceration he joined the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). He served as the Personal Assistant to Mr Jay Naidoo, the then General Secretary of COSATU, and later as its organiser in the Public Service. Lt Gen Binda served in the Command Council of the then National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF) from 1993 to 1994.

His previous appointments in the SANDF include Director of Transport, Deputy Chief of Joint Operations, Chief Director Joint Support Management, General Officer Commanding Logistic Support Formation and Chief of Joint Operations, the position he held till his death.

He obtained a Certificate in Defence Management from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1994 and successfully completed a Senior Command and Staff Duty Course in 1997 at the SA Army



The late Lt Gen Siphso Binda, Chief of Joint Operations.

College. In 1998 he obtained a post-graduate Certificate in Defence Studies at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK. He was the chairperson of the then DIDTETA (Diplomacy, Intelligence, Defence and Trade and Industry Sector Education and Training Authority). He has been awarded the Merit Medal in Silver, Operation Medal for South Africa, South African Service Medal, Unitas Medal, Service Medal Silver (MK) 20 years, Service Medal Bronze (MK) 10 years. 


Setting a positive example in Congo

**Maj C.R. Thomas,
Public Info Officer, Kindu, DRC**

Warrant officers are always regarded as the father figures in military establishments. For example in the video starring Mel Gibson "We were Soldiers", where he was the CO of that cavalry unit and was trapped, with the unit taking heavy fire from the enemy, it was the RSM who stood up, talked to the troops, and walked from one fire position to the next to motivate the troops. This type of scenario was repeated in Basoko Base (Kindu) on 25 July 2006.

With the exodus of personnel from Kindu to Mavivi Base in Beni a lot of pressure was put on the members who remained behind. These members had to do guard duty on every alternative evening.

What happened next surprised everybody. The warrant officers, supported by a few staff sergeants, made an announcement to the NCC, Col Mmbi, in which they declared themselves willing to volunteer for duty on the evening in question. After finishing their duty on 26 July 2006, they attended the morning parade and carried on with their daily tasks.

According to the NCC this was the first time that something like this had happened in his career. He always knew that he had strong warrant officers, but never expected this type of support from them. The normal guards were very surprised and in high spirits. The warrant officers and staff sergeants surely deserve recognition for such a bold action. We appreciate their effort. With such a positive attitude we can only go from strength to strength. Col Mmbi's last words to them were: "Thank you, and I salute you. You just made me a very proud commander". 

Our Air Force takes Hawk into service

By Lebohang Letaoana
 Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Another milestone was achieved under the Strategic Defence Package (SDP) in the renewal and upgrading of our strategic defence equipment. This time it was the symbolic acceptance by the DOD of the new Hawk lead-in fighter trainer and the official opening of the recently relocated 85 Combat Flying School at AFB Makhado on 18 October 2006.

The SA Air Force's Hawk Mk 120 lead-in fighter trainer aircraft is a derivative of the BAE Systems Hawk Mk 100 series, designed and built by

BAE Systems of the United Kingdom since the mid 1990s.


In his keynote speech the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, said the new machines with their robust engines and ultra-modern avionics systems would launch the 'new age' of South African air power. "The Hawk is well positioned to serve defence requirements for the next forty years as it prepares generation after generation of young South Africans for the Gripen fighter," said Mr Lekota.

What is currently happening at 85 Combat Flying School?

It is envisaged that 19 aircrew flying the Hawk should have been trained by end of this year. Five ground crew instructors and 31 technicians have been trained on the Hawk to date. A

further 27 ground crew are undergoing training. This will bring the total to 63 ground crew supporting the Hawk.

"With its focus on skills development and training 85 Combat Flying School is a clear manifestation of the Government's Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA)," said Minister Lekota.

Mr Mark Parkinson, MD Hawk BAE System said: "While South Africa embarks on its first few hours of Hawk Mk 120 operations, globally the world's in-service Hawk fleet has now logged over 1.5 million flying hours. I have no doubt the Hawk will be as useful to the SA Air Force as it helps future generations of SA Air Force women and men hone their skills and tactical abilities as fast jet pilots." 



Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence, unveiling the plaque of 85 Combat Flying School at AFB Makhado.



The pride of the SA Air Force - the newly acquired Hawk Mk 120.



Fltr: Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, Mr Bruce Ramfolo, Chief of Acquisition, Mr George Ramaremsa, representing Armscor, Mr Mark Parkinson, MD BAE System, and Mr January Masilela, Secretary for Defence, during the signing ceremony of the Hawk.

Pilatus Astra 100 000 flying hours victory

By Amn Thabang Bapela,
Journalist *Ad Astra*

Capt John Fouché and CO Frans Phokela have recently enjoyed the privilege of exceeding 100 000 flying hours, which was celebrated on the training fleet of Pilatus Astra PC7 MK11 aircraft at Langebaanweg. This remarkable achievement was achieved at 10:45 on 27 March 2006, forty minutes into a two-hour training flight with aircraft 2055.

The Vice-president of Pilatus Astra Switzerland, Mr Jim Roche, expressed his sincere congratulations to the SA Air Force on the achievement of the 100 000 fleet hour milestone at a function recently held in Pretoria. In his address he referred to the SA Air Force as one of the big five air forces that has achieved this prestigious milestone, which placed it among the best operators in the world.

Mr Roche also said that the challenge was to assist operators to find the best strategic balance between what could be afforded on the operating budget and safe and professional operation in an ever decreasing airspace. "This had been no easy feat, but with the true spirit of partnership which has bound us all here together I believe that we can move forward in providing an aircraft and systems to ensure that this country's strategic asset of young professional pilots is guaranteed for many years to come."


Brig Gen Siphon Mashobane, Director Education Training and Development, stated: "Cognisance must be taken of the fact that human effort can only achieve as much as the quality and reliability of the equipment at its disposal. The Pilatus Astra has proved itself as a reliable workhorse

when treated well and the aircraft maintenance is relatively easy and may be carried out at low cost for the user, making it possible to fly the large number of hours required for training future SA Air Force pilots."

He added: "The Astra has been in service in the basic flying training role for the SA Air Force for a period of longer than ten years. It has become a familiar sight in the South African skies through the efforts of the Silver Falcons aerobatic team. It has been achieved through the bond between Armscor, the main contractors and sub-contractors, as they have ensured that the aircraft has remained in the air at an affordable cost to the SA Air Force. It is to be hoped that the same results will be obtained in future."

The first Pilatus was manufactured in 1939, and this was followed in the 40s and 50s by the first two-seater trainer, the P2 and P3 for the Swiss Air Force. In the 60s the first PC-7 prototype appeared, which brought the turbo-engine to life. In the early 80s the PC9 turbo-trainer was developed.

In 1989 Pilatus Astra had preliminary talks with the SA Air Force and in 1992 the contract negotiations started. Pilatus offered PC7, PC9 and PC7 MK11 as options. The contract was finalised in 1993 and the first aircraft was delivered in October 1994. The final delivery was in September 1996.

Altogether 54 Pilatus Astra aircraft are based at CFS Langebaanweg. The Pilatus Astra is used for ab initio training of student pilots and for the training of pilot instructors. These aircraft will generate a total of 13 000 flying hours per year based on the training of 56 students. After this the pilot can move to modern jets or helicopters. Mr Roche presented the SA Air Force with a painting of an Astra and pledged continuous support to the SA Air Force. 



Capt John Fouché and CO Frans Phokela have recently enjoyed the privilege of exceeding 100 000 flying hours, which was celebrated on the training fleet of Pilatus Astra PC7 MK11 aircraft at Langebaanweg.

Minister Radebe embraces our Air Force

By **CO S.M. Kotane,**
Journalist *Ad Astra*

The Minister of Transport, Honorary Colonel Jeff Radebe, recently urged the SA Air Force to ensure that its role went beyond protecting the country's borders and citizens. He also added that the SA Air Force must step up its input to the country's economic growth.

The Minister was addressing the guests at a banquet arranged in his honour by the Air Force's Mobile Deployment Wing in Pretoria on 26 October 2006. He had earlier during the day been inducted as an Honorary Colonel.

Col Radebe further emphasised the pivotal role that must be played by the Air Force in the growth of the aviation sector in South Africa. He talked about the challenges facing the aircraft industry and also observed that they "highlighted the need for all aviation stakeholders, including the SA Air Force, to tirelessly work together to effectively confront them".

He stressed safety and security, which he described as "top priorities that must remain in the forefront of the proactive intelligence, training and implementation".

While being gladdened by the role he ought to play in his colonelcy, Col Radebe noted that South Africa was a signatory to the International Air Transport Association and the International Civil Association Organisation, whose key aim was to enhance air security. However, he believes that the SA Air Force must first safeguard South African airspace and ensure that it is not prone to any internal or external threats.


He also intimated that in May last year the African ministers responsible

for transport decided that the African Union must co-ordinate the development of a Common External Transport Policy. It is hoped that this singular approach will address African open-sky issues.

Col Radebe expressed happiness that there "was recognition across Africa that Africans need greater co-ordination between airlines, air operators and the tourism industry". Added to that is the need for greater investment in research and development of new technologies to enhance the training, human resources and intelligence drivers in the aviation sector. The SA Air Force, he said, had a greater role to play as it continues to churn out expertise to the aviation industry.

He revealed that the Department of Transport was holding discussions with the SA Air Force to introduce a

joint aviation training programme. This kind of co-operation, he said, would enable South Africa to deliver an excellent International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) World Cup in 2010. Col Radebe also pointed out that the South African infrastructural planning for the event, for both the Air Traffic and Navigation Services Company and Air Company of South Africa had already taken place.

The minister said the Air Force ought to position itself as a major player in the hosting of the 2010 World Cup. Moreover, he noted that co-operation in this area would ensure that the legacy that was jointly built by both the Government and the SA Air Force in the aviation sector went beyond the staging of the 2010 World Cup. 



Honorary Colonel Jeff Radebe (Minister of Transport).

Opening of Warrant Officers Academy

By Lebohang Letaoana
 Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana


The official inaugural parade of the Warrant Officers Academy was held at Wonderboom Military Base in Pretoria on 6 October 2006.

The Warrant Officers Academy was established on 1 September 2004, with a view to having 'a warrant officers' academy for warrant officers, by warrant officers. This came about after the education, training and development (ETD) first

report of 1997 made it very clear that the education, training and development of warrant officers and non-commissioned officers were being neglected.

Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, who represented the Chief of the SANDF, praised the members of the National Ceremonial Guard for their professionalism. "I would like to congratulate you on the excellent manner in which the parade was conducted. This is how a soldier must behave," said Lt Gen Matanzima, the Chief of Human Resources, speaking at the launch of the Warrant Officers Academy.

"It is my hope and belief that the establishment of this unit will serve as an inspiration for warrant officers to further develop and equip themselves with the necessary knowledge. As part of the command structure, warrant officers should be prepared and empowered because they are the backbone of the SANDF as it takes part in the strategic and operational planning and also supervises the execution thereof," continued Lt Gen Matanzima.

The Warrant Officers Academy is under command of WO1 Lefu Daniel Tshabalala. 



Members of the National Ceremonial Guard got thumbs up from Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Human Resources, for an excellent parade.



Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Human Resources, unveiling the plaque of the Warrant Officers Academy.



The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima (front, left), and his entourage: GOC Training Command, Maj Gen Amos Ntshinga (front, right), WO1 "Skieps" Scheepers, the Sergeant Major of the SANDF, and WO1 Lefu Tshabalala, Warrant Officer in Charge of the Warrant Officers Academy, arriving at the unveiling of the plaque ceremony.

SANDF flexes its muscles in mock war

By Lebohang Letaoana

Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Seboka is a Southern Sotho word meaning "a large gathering of people with a common interest". The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and his entourage that included the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, and other high-ranking senior officers gathered at SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha on 20 October 2006 to witness EXERCISE SEBOKA first hand.

EXERCISE SEBOKA is held annually to enhance the SA Army's conventional capabilities. Previously the exercise focused mainly on peace support operations training in order to

facilitate and achieve the SANDF's objectives with regard to participation in external peace support operations. The Chief of SA Army indicated that conventional operations training should occupy its rightful place in the training calendar in order to comply with the SA Army's mandate according to the Constitution.

What's new to EXERCISE SEBOKA 2006?

Members of the media were invited to be deployed conventionally with some of the participating force elements for a close-up battle experience.

According to Col Lawrence Smith, the Force Commander, and a conventional and peace support expert, their goal for EXERCISE SEBOKA 2006 was to master critical aspects of combined arms doctrine, techniques

EXERCISE SEBOKA

and procedures at the tactical level. Asked if they accomplished their mission, Col Smith said: "All forces achieve a high level of the knowledge and skills required to conduct integrated operation at the tactical level of war".

Invited guests witnessed the demonstration at Billingshurst where a brigade exercise was based on a scenario that included the concept of mobile defence. Mobile defence consists of pro-active measures to lure the enemy into a killing zone where they are then decisively destroyed by counter-attacks. Forces of 43 SA

Brigade launched three major pre-emptive attacks to gain the initiative. An aggressive manoeuvre followed in which two major attacks took place to deplete the enemy further. When the enemy finally reached the main defensive positions, they were engaged by two motorised infantry battalions. The final battle that destroyed the enemy then took place in which the tank regiment and the mechanised infantry battalion operated on




Forces of 43 SA Brigade attacking the "enemy" during EXERCISE SEBOKA.



Members of the Military Skills Development System posing for a picture after the conclusion of the scenario.

separate axes. Lt Gen Shoke said he was extremely satisfied with what he had witnessed on the battlefield. "This shows that the SANDF is prepared and combat ready and can therefore protect the territory of South Africa."

Approximately 4 668 people, including civilian contractors (CyberSim and Lowcat operators) took part in this exercise, with the majority of participants taken from the SA Army - 2 028 members of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) of the January 2006 intake. Despite the fact that many of the troops deployed in the exercise were 2006 intake MSDS members, quick progress was made and a satisfactory level of skills was obtained. The Secretary for Defence said: "As the Head of the Department, I am quite happy about what we have seen here today. Lt Gen Shoke said this year's exercise should focus on the SA Army conventional capability and I think he accomplished his goal here today." 



Infantry battalion members preparing to launch another attack.



Fitr: Mr January Masilela, the Secretary for Defence, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, and Col Lawrence Smith, the Force Commander, answering questions from the members of the media.

Mass casualty evacuation simulated

By Lebohng Letaoana

Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

“Our country, specifically the SAMHS, is ready to face any disastrous situation that may unexpectedly occur during the 2010 Soccer World Cup,” said Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, our Surgeon General, after the conclusion of EXERCISE LANCET.

A simulated mass casualty exercise, following an aircraft crash was part of the SA Army's EXERCISE SEBOKA, which was conducted during the period 16 to 24 October 2006 at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha. Col Theo Ligthelm, the Officer Commanding School of Military Health Training, said the exercise was aimed at preparing the South African Military Health Service members to support any eventuality during the 2010 Soccer World Cup.


The highlight of the exercise was the use of a "medical train" for the first time since World War II. The train was assembled from standard rolling stock supplied by Spoornet, which had tested the application and use of these coaches. The train is capable of transporting 56 patients by stretcher, 39 patients lying down in sleeper coaches and 74 sitting patients.

The "medical train" was used to evacuate the "injured" soldiers and an Oryx helicopter was used to airlift the patients to a specialist hospital in Kimberley. Approximately 106 members took part in this exercise.

The Surgeon General said he was extremely satisfied with the outcome of the exercise: "The exercise was a success; I think if we keep on training

our troops we'll be ready to handle any situation."

Delegates arrived at Aasvoëlkop Demonstration Range to witness the exercise scenario unfolding. Two aircraft "collided" carrying 64 parabat soldiers from 44 Parachute Regiment and another carrying troops from 9 SA Infantry Battalion. The impact of the collision tore apart the fuselage just before landing, scattering the passengers over a large area.

A medical task group commander instructed his task team to deploy in the area to deal with the emergency by re-routing all available Mfezi ambulances with personnel to the scene. All "critical" casualties were evacuated by air directly to the closest specialist hospital, while the "medical train" evacuated those with serious and minor injuries to Level 2 Field Hospital. 



Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Surgeon General, gives his views about EXERCISE LANCET during the media conference.



Paramedics from St John Ambulance and the SAMHS lift the "injured" soldier into the "medical train" at Bulkop Station.

Learning opportunities for our officials



Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence, addressing the delegates during the opening of the seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict.

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

During October 2006 the Chief Director Human Resources Development (Directorate ETD) was kept quite busy arranging and presenting three special learning opportunities for DOD officials. These were a seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict, the Senior Executive Course in Defence and Security Management, as well as a seminar on the topic of directors of private compa-

nies, trustees, members of CCs and sectional title companies.

International Humanitarian Law embodies the values of a democratic SA

A seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict was held in Pretoria on 5 October 2006. The seminar was presented to officials of the DOD to inform, sensitise and educate them on current issues concerning the Law of Armed Conflict. What is the Law of Armed Conflict?

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the Law of Armed

Conflict, has two branches: the "Law of Geneva" and the "Law of the Hague". The "Law of Geneva" is designed to safeguard military personnel who are no longer taking part in the fighting and people not actively involved in hostilities, ie civilians. The "Law of the Hague" establishes the rights and obligations of belligerents in the conduct of military operations and limits the means of harming the enemy.

The seminar was officially opened by the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. "International Humanitarian Law encapsulates, in the words of the International Committee of the Red Cross Advisory Service, a set of standards which seek for humanitarian reasons to limit the effects of armed conflict. It is rooted in the rules of ancient civilisations and religions whereby warfare has always been subject to certain principles and customs," said Mr Lekota.

Maj Christoph Schild, ICRC Regional Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces, briefed Minister Lekota about the mandate and activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian institution. As the promoter and guardian of International Humanitarian Law, it strives to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts, internal disturbances and other situations of internal violence. The ICRC is active in about 80 countries.

Mr Lekota suggested that some time be spent discussing the implementation of the training on International Humanitarian Law within the DOD. Col André Retief, SSO Training, Military Legal Services Division, presented the introduction
Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23

to the Law of Armed Conflict. He said globally the conflict had claimed the lives of more than 100 million people.

Other speakers during the seminar were Mr Cassim Peer, Deputy Director Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who spoke about statutory responsibility. R Adm (Ret) Vijay Malothra of the Indian Navy kept the audience in stitches with his humour when he shared his life story and relating this to command responsibility towards LOAC. Command responsibilities extend to all land, sea and air military operations, movements and locations. (Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, articles 86 and 87). Then Mr Jamie Williamson, ICRC Regional Legal Adviser, gave a presentation on repression of breaches. The last speaker at the seminar was Col Francois Cillié, SSO Ancillary ETD, who briefed the delegates on LOAC training in the SANDF. The seminar was closed by the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima. He thanked everyone who had taken time from

their busy schedules to participate in this seminar.

It remains of utmost importance that the Civic Education Programme, of which LOAC is part, in the DOD remains on track in order to achieve its mission: "To instil respect among members of the DOD for the values of a democratic South Africa through appropriate education and training".

Defence and Security Management

The second learning opportunity that took place was the Senior Executive Course in Defence and Security Management attended by members of the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) in Krugersdorp from 9 to 13 October 2006.

The course was facilitated by Prof Gavin Gawthra and Dr Anthonie van Nieuwkerk of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management of the University of the Witwatersrand.

The aim of the opportunity was to deepen understanding of the issues associated with the governance, policy frameworks and management of

defence in South Africa and to build a strong senior leadership team through interactive learning. Some of the topics covered included Group Dynamics and Introduction, International and Regional Security, Issues in Public Policy: Defence and Security Policy-making, Policy Implementation and Policy Monitoring, Civil-Military Relations, Defence Ministries, Managing Defence and Security Resources, and Strategic Management.

Altogether 40 officials attended the opportunity and throughout the feedback they were very positive, and all objectives as set were achieved. All participants confirmed that they were looking forward to the second phase which will take place over the period 28 January to 1 February 2007.

Third learning opportunity

The third learning opportunity took place at the SA Air Force HQ on 17 October 2006. This seminar dealt with the topic of directors of private companies, trustees, members of CCs and sectional title companies.

A need was identified to address the roles and responsibilities of DOD



The speakers, fltr: Maj Christoph Schild, Col André Retief, Col Francois Cillié, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Ms Françoise Krill R Adm (Ret) Vijay Malothra and Mr Cassim Peer after the closing of the seminar.



Fltr: Brig Gen Kobus Smit, A/Dir ETD, Dr Victor Prozesky, Science in Technology Consultant to the University of Stellenbosch, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Human Resources, Maj Gen Kenny Mokoena, Acting Chief Human Resources Development, and Prof Tobie de Coning, Snr Dir Strategic Initiatives of the University of Stellenbosch, attended the seminar held at the SA Air Force HQ. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)



(ICRC Head of Regional Delegation),

officials appointed as one of the above and in line with the Human Resources Strategy 2010 in which officials of the DOD are advised to prepare for second careers. Some officials are appointed to serve on such entities by virtue of their positions in the DOD.


An appointment as director, trustee or members has some legal implications and recently a judgement was given that individuals officiating as board members or as trustees should personally be held responsible for losses incurred.

The seminar was co-presented by Prof Tobie de Coning and Dr Victor Prozeski of the University of Stellenbosch. The topics included:

- An Integrated Normative, Strategic and Operational Approach to Organisational Management
- Basic Duties and Responsibilities of Directors

- Companies Act, Common Law and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)
- Performance Issues for Directors
- An opportunity was given to look at different case studies and for general discussion and questions.

The seminar was open to all officials serving in one or more of the above-mentioned capacities and it was attended by 64 officials who provided very positive feedback. By popular demand serious consideration is being given to presenting a similar seminar again.

From all the above it is clear that Chief Directorate Human Resources Development takes the development of all DOD officials very seriously and will, where possible, provide applicable and current learning opportunities for DOD officials at all levels. 


Business for Peace Initiative

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, General Manager of the SA Army Foundation, hosted the Sri Lanka delegation led by the President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, Mr Nawaz Rajabdeen, at the SA Army Foundation Head Office in Centurion on 18 October 2006.

The purpose of the visit to South Africa by the Sri Lankan delegation was to learn from the local experience of private sector initiatives in creating sustainable peace in a pluralistic society.

"We are here on a business for peace initiative. As you know our country has been in conflict for over two decades. It is through visits like this that we hope to improve our social and economic lives back in Sri Lanka," said Mr Rajabdeen.

The delegates ended their tour when they visited Cape Town on 19-20 October 2006. 



Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, General Manager of the SA Army Foundation (left), and Mr Nawaz Rajabdeen, President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, shake hands after a fruitful meeting.

Uphold close defence relations

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of Defence Foreign Relations, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, accredited four military attachés at the Liberty Life Building in Pretoria on 17 October 2006.

They were Col Alaimia Hassen from Algeria, Lt Col Tarek El Khouly from Egypt, Col Eli Shermeister from Israel who will be non-residential and Maj Scott Morgan from the United States.


Military attaché and adviser corps representation in South Africa shows that there are 63 members from 40 countries accredited to South Africa.

"The newly appointed attachés may rest assured that Defence Foreign Relations will do its utmost to assist them in accomplishing their mission.



Fltr: Col Alaimia Hassen, Lt Col Tarek El Khouly, Col Eli Shermeister and Maj Scott Morgan at the accreditation ceremony.

With your support and co-operation, Defence Foreign Relations will be able to establish greater transparency in

military matters between our countries and promote mutual confidence and trust," said Maj Gen Mofokeng. 

First Sea Lord goodwill visit

Article and photo by
F Sgt David Nomtshongwana


The week-long visit of the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, and Lady Sarah Band, was acknowledged by V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, who welcomed the guests to South Africa.

The programme began in Pretoria on 7 October 2006 and culminated in Cape Town on 14 October 2006. The aim of the visit was to foster positive relations between the navies of the

United Kingdom and South Africa. This comprehensive programme included a courtesy visit to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke.

At a media briefing held on 9 October Admiral Band said that the Royal Navy was offering training to combine men and machines. Training to enable the crew to steer the ship properly, to look after it, to deal with natural disasters, to put together a properly integrated weapon system and to transform the capability of the

ship into what the South African Government has paid for was the objective. He proudly said that the Royal Navy has had exceptional experience internationally in putting navies together to revolutionise the ships and men to perform at optimum level. The Royal Navy continuously sends well-trained teams to sea to work together. He assured the Government and the media that his team was not going to instruct the SA Navy on what to do, but will offer the necessary training required. The First Sea Lord concluded by saying that international security was an issue of concern, hence they were prepared to continue working with the SA Navy.

After the address of Admiral Band, V Adm Mudimu said the SA Navy was pleased with the progress of the four frigates. He announced that by the end of 2007 all four frigates would be under the command of the SA Navy. The SA Navy was proud of the training the Royal Navy had rendered. "The bilateral co-operation enhances the relationship between these two navies," V Adm Mudimu concluded. 



The First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, saluting the guard of honour during the visit to Navy Office.

A new integrated Defence Legal Services Division

By Capt (SAN) Elmarie
van der Walt, SSO
Com DLSD

At a ministerial strategic planning work session in 2005 the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, provided a set of directives in respect of the organisational relationship between the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF, as well as the boundary management of their respective statutory roles and functions.

To implement this organisational relationship a DOD work group was instructed to provide proposed organisational arrangements between and structures for the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF. Subsequent to recommendations by the above-mentioned work group the Minister of Defence approved the establishment of the Defence Legal Services Division in October 2006.

The new Defence Legal Services Division consists of the former Military Legal Services Division, the former Directorate Legal Support on



**Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, Chief Defence
Legal Services and Adjutant General.**


the structure of the Policy and Planning Division at the Defence Secretariat and the former Sub-directorate Human Resources Legal Support at the Directorate Labour and Service Relations on the structure of the Human Resources Support Centre.

The mandate of Defence Legal Services within the Department of Defence is to ensure effective and comprehensive legal services and support to the DOD through the

The Division consists of a head office and five Legal Satellite Offices.

application of law and the principles of justice.

The Defence Legal Services Division embodies seven directorates, namely Directorate Legal Advice, Directorate Operations Legal Support, Directorate Legal Services Support, Directorate Military Judges, Directorate Military Prosecutions, Directorate Military Defence Counsel and Directorate Military Judicial Reviews. The Division consists of a head office and five Legal Satellite Offices situated in the main centres of the country.

The appointed Chief Defence Legal Services is Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, who is also in terms of legislation, the appointed Adjutant General. In his capacity as Chief Defence Legal Services Maj Gen Mmono will report to the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF. 

Moleji lad parachutes his way into the Air Force ranks

By CO Solomon M. Kotane,
Journalist Ad Astra

Malokaneng Primary School in Moleji, near Polokwane, might not have known, at least until now, that one of the young lads they had nurtured during the early nineties, would one day become a distinguished military man.



Lt George Manabela.

Lt George Manabela (32) became the first black parachute instructor in the SA Air Force.

He matriculated at the Nare Secondary School in 1993. Then, in February 1994, at the age of twenty, he joined the South African Infantry in Middelburg. However, his life was destined to follow a different route.

In December 1996 he got a departmental transfer to the SA Air Force at Madimbo Training Area near the Limpopo River in the Limpopo Province, where he trained as a personnel protection officer. Two years later he went on yet another course. This time he was catapulted into physical instructor training.


Lt Manabela joined the SA Air Force Task Force, which he described as "tough", in 2000. He did all the training, which included testing for endurance in which trainees were subjected to long periods without food, though they did have water. In one instance the learners had to undergo 72 hours of non-stop training.

He noted that if you passed the

"hard part" of the training, then you had to do another month to be eligible for parachute selection. Thereafter, you had to do three weeks of hangar phase training, where you were taught how to jump safely from an aircraft. If you made it at that stage, you became a qualified paratrooper.

Another level is the five weeks' training as a static line dispatcher. At the end you enter a fourteen month course as a static line parachute instructor. If you succeed in this last session, you become a professional parachutist. In this last phase you perform a series of other military tasks: weaponry, team and individual leadership, reconnaissance and land survival. He pointed out that there are about 55 qualified Task Force operators in the SA Air Force.

Lt Manabela remembers one of his mentors with great fondness. He recalled the "good times" that were spent with Col Gawie Vermeulen. He said: "Col Vermeulen made me what I am today." The Moleji lad further noted in a telephonic interview with Ad Astra that "I am really enjoying what I am doing as it is my speciality".

Weighing 71 kg and at an imposing 1,72 m tall - Lt Manabela is a proud member of the SA Air Force who wants to make a difference by what he does. He has two sisters: Paulina (35), a cement factory worker, and Eunica (24), a Public Administration student. His mother, Rosina Manabela (54), works in the tourism industry in Musina, Limpopo. 

Armcor CEO Awards

By Lebohang Letaana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Armcor CEO Awards of 2006, which acknowledge the special efforts of individuals or teams to render an excellent service to their clients, were held at the Armcor Building in Pretoria on 27 September 2006.

SA Soldier attended the exhibition of various projects that were nominated for these prestigious awards. The awards were divided into two categories, the technical category and the non-technical category.

The following nominations were received in the technical category: Presidential Boeing Business Jet Shower System Filter, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Vehicle Electric Drive Technology Demonstrator and Project Sirius. In the non-technical category the following nominations were received: Baseline Review Board and Armcor Learning Portal.


Mr Martin van der Merwe said it took them three months to finish the shower water filter for the President's Boeing.

The winner of the Armcor CEO Awards in the technical category was Combat Vehicle Electric Drive (CVED) Technology Demonstrator, led by Mr Wynand Avenant (Team Leader). The CVED is a world first that demonstrates the suitability of electric drive technology in a complex combat vehicle system by means of comparative test and evaluation under operationally representative conditions.

The non-technical category went to Mr Bryan Griffith (Team Leader) for his



Mr Wynand Avenant explaining to the members of the media how the Combat Vehicle Electric Drive operates.

role in the Armcor Learning Portal. The Armcor Learning Portal developed as a result of the need to ensure that the Armcor workforce was knowledgeable and skilled. 

Military Information and Communications Symposium

Compiled by Lebohang Letaana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

SA Soldier attended the launch of the third Military Information and Communications Symposium of South Africa at SITA in Pretoria on 4 October 2006.

The symposium was held in conjunction with Armcor, Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) and State Information Technology Agency (SITA).


Armcor and CMIS had identified a need to create a forum where information and communications could be discussed within the military context. It was to be known as the Military Information and Communications Symposium of South Africa (MICSSA). It would be where the defence community, Government and industry share ideas, strategies, requirements and potential solutions.



From left: Mr Francois van de Merwe, Armcor Programme Manager, Brig Gen Mario Silvino Brazzoli, Acting Chief of Command and Management Information Systems, and Mr Alan Baker, SITA Co-chairperson MICSSA, at the launch of MICSSA 2007.

The MICSSA will provide an ideal opportunity to promote new technologies, trends and policy issues.

The theme for MICSSA 2007 is "The African Battle Space: Are the ICT

Solutions required really unique?" MICSSA 2007 is scheduled for 23 to 27 July 2007. For more information please visit the web site: www.armcor.co.za/micssa 

First woman company commander on external deployments

By WO2 Leon van Zyl, 8 SAI Bn

Major Laetitia Wolmarans of 8 SA Infantry Battalion in Upington started her career in the SANDF in 1996 when she was accepted for the one-year voluntary military service at the SA Army Women's College in George. Her successful career began with her appointment as the best Second Lieutenant of the 1996 intake.

Training is her speciality

She joined the Infantry Corps attracted by challenges that the infantry had. She was one of the few selected Second Lieutenants to be platoon commanders at the SA Army Women's College; and served at this unit until it was closed in 1998. She was then transferred to Group 1 Headquarters and was appointed as an Operational Officer. She missed the training environment tremendously and was eventually given an opportunity to be a Platoon Commander of the integration platoon at 9 SA Infantry Battalion during OPERATION REWARD and OPERATION GOOD HOPE. She conducted urban patrols on a daily basis with her platoon. For these two operations, she was awarded with a Best Platoon Commander Certificate.

After she was transferred to Infantry School in June 2000, she was faced with more challenges. She started as a Battalion Anti-tank Platoon Instructor and was later promoted to Second in Command at the Battalion Anti-tank Platoon and at the Musketry Coaching Branch. For her outstanding service she was rewarded with an Achiever of the Month Certificate issued by the Officer Commanding of the Infantry School, Col X. Mankayi. While serving at the Musketry Branch



Major Laetitia Wolmarans.

she excellently acted as the Branch Second in Command and the Branch Commander.

Sport is her second love

Major Wolmarans is not only a good soldier, but also a great sportswoman. She represented Infantry School at the SANDF Cycling Championships in 2005 and won a silver medal. She was also selected as a member of the SANDF women's cycling team to represent the SANDF in local civilian races. She was awarded with Honorary Colours in cycling twice. On two occasions she was selected as the Sportswoman of the Year. She was also granted an opportunity to represent the SANDF and the Southern Cape at the SA Cycling Championships held in Cape Town and Pretoria.

EXERCISE INDLOVU

In September 2005 she was offered an enormous opportunity as the Adjutant of the Campaign Commander (Brig Gen C.P. van Schalkwyk) during EXERCISE INDLOVU, the first joint exercise in history. This to her was a real eye-opener as it was the first time she worked jointly with all the Army's components. Once again Maj


Wolmarans was rewarded with a good service certificate presented by the Campaign Commander.

First woman Company Commander at 8 SAI Bn

In November 2005 she was informed that she was going to be transferred to 8 SAI Bn as a Company Commander. She is the first woman to be appointed as a Company Commander at 8 SAI Bn. She is also the first female Company Commander in the mechanised units. At this stage of her career, challenges became more, but she tackled them successfully. After only three months at the unit, her Officer Commanding, Lt Col E. Visagie, informed her telephonically to get her company combat ready in less than 24 hours to fly to the Comoros to provide support during the elections there. On completion of the deployment Maj Wolmarans was thanked for her contribution and leadership skills displayed.

At present she is deployed with her company in the Sudan for six months (since September 2006) with the rest of the members of 8 SAI Bn. She is the first woman to deploy with her own company to a foreign country in a combat position.

She is confident that it will be a successful deployment as she is properly trained and will be supported by combat ready troops. All her troops, men and women, accept and respect her for being their company commander.

Maj Wolmarans is determined to grow her military career and her ambition is to be an officer commanding. She said: "Completing courses as fast as you can does not make you a true soldier, but gaining practical and physical knowledge through external deployments and exercises, that is what makes you a true experienced soldier." 

Showcasing the might of the SANDF

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The visit to the SANDF on 24 and 25 August 2006 by South African women from all nine provinces that make up our peaceful land was exceptionally educational. The representatives of various units visited gave our guests the time and pleasure to savour the experience of the military world.

In two days, the women from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were brought to an understanding of why the country needs a combat ready SANDF, what the SANDF's core business entailed and why this particular visit organised by Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) took them to the Bloemfontein military installations.

The trip would provide answers to how far women have come and how they are coping in an industry that is known to be male dominated. Secondly, why women need to assert themselves within the SANDF and play a role in the transformation process of the organisation, and lastly what invaluable qualities women can offer a Defence Force that is making efforts to keep peace in Africa.

The visit started with an early morning briefing by a representative from Chief Joint Operations at Waterkloof Air Force Base. During the presentation, the status of SANDF women in humanitarian support operations and in the Reserve Force

Why does our country need a combat ready SANDF?

was revealed. Later that morning upon landing at Bloemspruit Air Force Base the women were introduced, via an informative presentation done on the unit's runway, to a variety of helicopters and other aircraft kept at the unit. It was also indicated that today's SA Air Force can now proudly announce the presence of female pilots, engineers and women who excel in specialist musterings.

The visit to 44 Parachute Regiment made an immense impression on the visitors after they saw a video displaying what gruelling training its members must go through to make it onto the team. The visitors witnessed the tears, sweat, blood, misery and raw pain of the many that want to belong to a specialist contingent. It was also made clear that not everybody makes it on board.

Then a pleased Officer Commanding of 44 Parachute Regiment, Col Andy Mhatu, presented to his guests the members who triumphed



Bloemspruit Air Force Base: the visiting

and who were looking spectacularly fit and proud to serve. Needless to say the "cherry on top" was when Col Mhatu brought out two young women who will be known in history as the first women to have made it into 44 Parachute Regiment, not on the support side, but as specialist members who will fight alongside their male counterparts.

The last two pit stops were the School of Armour and 1 SA Tank Regiment, where they went for a briefing, tour and mobility demonstration. The Acting Officer Commanding of the School of Armour, Lt Col Johan Ferreira, explained how armour together with infantry form the decisive combat arm in the landward defence capability and that modern armies accept that main battle tanks and other armour systems are essential to conduct peace operations successfully.



women and DOD members after an unforgettable experience on board a "flossie".


The women witnessed first-hand a mobility demonstration held in the rain that further highlighted the abilities of the Armoured Corps. With the assistance of a few of its young women 1 SA Tank Regiment shared with its guests the most intriguing taste of the "Armour Shot Action", a ritual that is accompanied by the downing of a dark beverage in shooter glasses, something to be consumed only by the brave.

The second and final day of the visit took our guests to Central Military Police Region Correctional Facility Bloemfontein. Here the Chief of the Military Police Agency, Brig Gen Moguruti Ledwaba, quoted Napoleon: "You cannot have a good Army without a good Police Force within the Army". This was the surprise element where our visitors were concerned because discovering the SANDF in two days was one thing,

and now to be presented with a police force within the military, for the military, went beyond anything our guests had envisaged.

The woman commanding the Central Military Police Region Correctional Facility Bloemfontein, Lt Phumeza Mekuto, expressed the view in a briefing that women soldiers were represented at all levels of command in the correctional facility and in the region, and said that some were in training as warders and instructors. She further stated that women were responsible for the admission, rehabilitation and safeguarding of female inmates. Female warders perform exactly the same tasks as those of their male colleagues. They are also responsible for the high standard of discipline and the effective functioning of the female wing as a whole. The briefing was followed by a tour through the military prison.

The guests were then taken to 3 Military Hospital, and it came as no surprise to find such a high representation of women in this particular area. The Mobility Centre was the last venue visited and our guests were informed that this was where each and every member of the SANDF in the region who was preparing for outside deployment had first to dock. In addition, it was clearly explained that no member of the SANDF in Bloemfontein was deemed ready for deployment if he or she had not been "cooked and seasoned" at the Mobility Centre in Bloemfontein.

In two days more than enough information was served on the SANDF platter for our visitors. The best scenario is that the visiting women will subsequently inform and educate other women about how all doors in the SANDF are now open to all South African women. 

Sailors ready for peace-keeping operations

By Lt P.G. van den Berg, Int Com
Officer Naval Base Simon's Town
Photo: AB M. Venter

The Naval Rapid Deployment Force, with two arms - the Operational Boat Squadron and the Reaction Force Squadron - is coming closer to fruition. After training the Reaction Force Squadron (RFS) is able to:

- Conduct ship-to-shore operations.
- Conduct shore-to-shore operations.
- Establish a forward deployed base.
- Conduct compliant and non-compliant boarding operations in national and international waters.
- Conduct search and seizure operations during inland water patrols from elements of the OBS.
- Undertake Force Protection of SA Navy vessels.

The RFS started training in Saldanha in January 2006. The RFS had to overcome many teething problems that ranged from accommodation problems, vehicles, staffing, equipment and money. At the end of the day the dedication of the control staff - Capt (SAN) R. Shelley, Maj C. Cromhout, WO1 L. Rother, WO1 S. Short, WO1 E. Dwyer, WO1 T. Zeeman and WO1 I.A.J Hendrikse - contributed greatly to the success of the RFS.

During the period at Saldanha the group underwent their theoretical training phase, in which they were assisted by instructors from the SA Army Infantry Corps. The RFS must be able to function at a sub-platoon level and deploy as part of a larger company or battalion. Owing to the practical nature of the subjects, many of the classes were hands-on and were presented in the field. Some of the theoretical subjects that were presented at Saldanha included platoon weapons such as 60 mm patrol mortars, light 7.62 mm machine guns, R4 5.56 mm



The members of the naval Reaction Force Squadron are also prepared to conduct crowd control manoeuvres with gas masks in the event of tear gas usage.

rifles, AP 65 rifle grenades, M 26 hand grenades (a special trench was built in Saldanha where they could practise with live grenades), trip flares, 40 mm multi-grenade launchers, and various pyrotechnics, including the illumination grenades, pencil flares, smoke grenade and illumination flares. Other subjects were platoon attacks, road-blocks and patrol formations, such as the leapfrog and caterpillar formations.


One of the most important facets of the RFS is that the sailors have to be very fit. They will be required to deploy in areas where they must be self-sustained in hostile territory for days at a time. They have to complete their fitness tests dressed in overalls, combat boots, steel helmets, two full 2 litre water-bottles and an R4 rifle.

When operating in a hostile environment theoretical knowledge can teach you what to do, but practical experience is required to know how to do it. The practical training phase took place in Touwsrivier during June

and July 2006. The sailors had to endure rain, wind and biting cold. They focused on the following types of training during the Touwsrivier training:

- Heli-trooping (fast deployments from helicopters)
- Casevac (casualty evacuation on foot, vehicles and helicopters)
- Trench clearing (attacking and clearing trenches and other positions fortified by infantry)
- Various platoon offensive and defensive drills
- Vehicle attacks
- Platoon attacks; and
- Mortar firing.

Currently one of the three platoons is on standby to be deployed into Africa, while the other two platoons will continue with maritime training.

This added capability is a force multiplier to the SA Navy and the SANDF and will greatly enhance South Africa's ability to conduct peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations in Africa. 

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Pioneering the way for the hearing impaired

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Carin Bester

As part of the Department of Defence empowerment programme, the Directorate Career Development (PSAP) arranged for the second presentation of the computer based training course, "MS Word Fundamentals", to a group of hearing impaired non-uniformed members at SITA in Pretoria in October 2006.

SA Soldier and members of the DOD Chief Directorate Equal Opportunities (EOCD) Disability and Equity Section, Mr Kobus Swart, Deputy Director Disability Equity, and Ms Antina Hlabela, Assistant Director Disability Equity, were among the people invited to attend the certificate presentation to the achievers.

As part of the attempt of DOD and SITA to be proactive in rendering a pioneering service for the advancement of people with disabilities, Ms Carin Bester, Co-ordinator of the Computer Based Training and SITA Application enabling services, told SA Soldier that the course was a resounding success and that a number of people who were hearing impaired had shown interest in the course. She added: "The students are on different skills levels - some are totally deaf and rely on lip reading and


sign language. Plans are at an advanced stage to start with MS Excel and MS PowerPoint next year."

What was astonishing about the students was that some of them only used sign language to communicate. They were Afrikaans speaking and had all been brought up in the Afrikaans community and they understood sign language in Afrikaans. They were eager to learn and appreciated everything they were taught by their facilitators. They learnt everything in English and this had to be translated into Afrikaans.

Ms Sonja Williams, a PSAP member from 4 Survey and Mapping Regiment, told SA Soldier that she enjoyed the course and that it had been an eye-opener and a learning opportunity that broadened her horizons. "All we need is help and support from the DOD and fellow members," said Ms Williams. SA Soldier also talked to Ms Narda Els from SA Army School of Signals at Wonderboom Military Base, who said: "We are capable of doing things for ourselves. We want to show others that people with disabilities are just like everybody else".

Ms Els is one of main organisers of the prestigious Miss Deaf South Africa pageant. The pageant takes place in the nine provinces of South Africa and is much valued and appreciated among

the deaf and hearing impaired communities as this is an opportunity to showcase the hidden talent and beauty of the "Deaf World".

They may be people with disabilities, but they are capable, so SA Soldier says "well done" to all members who successfully completed the course. Let us all strive to ensure that people with disabilities are able to play a full participatory role in the working environment of our DOD. 



Two PSAP members, who are hearing impaired, in conversation: Ms Magda Breytenbach, a data typist at Service Centre Corporate Payments (left), and Ms Narda Els from the SA Army School of Signals, who is also a good lip-reader.

Phila kade nkosi.....yemidlalo

Umdlalo wethu, iNingizimu Afrika, isibe yiriphabliki (izwe elinombusi ode ekhethwa ngabantu) ukusukela ngonyaka ka 1961. Umdlalo weChess ubukade ingumdlalo "wamakhosi" kusukela ngonyaka ka600AD. Amalunga e-Pretoria Military Chess Club (PMCC) kungathithi bangabasebukhosini noma bangamariphabliki ngokuboniswa, kodwa ufuqufuqu abanalo bebonke...likumdlalo weChess.

Ngenyanga kaAgasti kulo nyaka esikuwo laba badlali "abanofuqufuqu" bahlangane ePitoli ukuyo kuhlanganyela kumncintiswano wobuNgqwele waMaqembu, owenziwa minyaka yonke we-PMCC, kanye nobuNgqwele bomuntu ngaMunye kwimncintiswano


emibini yobungqwele yePMCC - engaphansi kwephiko leSANDF.

Umncintiswano wabahamba ngaBodwa wobuNgqwele waminyaka yonke we PMCC wawuhanjelwe ngabadlali abalishumi elinesithupha abasuka kude, kwizindawo ezinjengeJan Kempdorp kwiNyakatho yeKapa. Owaphumelela kulomdlalo osheshayo wamaSwisi ngu Maj Frank Stemmer, waze uLt Col L. Mntambo waphuma kwindawo yesibili, uL Cpl M. Mndaweni waphuma kwindawo yesithathu. Baklonyeliswa abaphumelelayo ngemiklomo eyenziwe ngokhuni olubaziwe, kwabe sekuqotshwa umbhalo othile kulona. Owayedlulisa le miklomo kwabaphumelelayo ngu Koloneli P.

Piek, owongamele umdlalo weChess kwiSANDF, kwasho kwachwaza izimbangi zabaphumelelayo.

Kungenzeka ukuba kunabadlali beChess abayizinkulungwane eziningi kwiDOD abazibandakanye nalo mdlalo othathwa njengomdlalo wesibili ngokubatshezwa emhlabeni wonke. Ngokunjalo I-PMCC idinga ...wena, ukuba umemeze nathi ngenjabulo: Phila kade - Phila naphakade Nkosi yemidlalo!


* Uma udinga eminye imininingwane ngale midlalo, xhumana noWO1 P. Garbett, uMkhongi we-PMCC, kule nombolo yocingo: (012) 339 5132.

* The English version of this article is available on page 41. 

Wheelchair donated to injured soldier

Article and photo by Gerard Smal, voluntary fund-raiser for Curamus

On 6 October 2006 a brand new wheelchair was handed over to Lance Corporal Kenneth Pule (38) of Lenz Military Base by the MD of Africa Sales Bell Equipment Company, Mr Bokkie Coertzen.

The plight of the needy did not fall on deaf ears. With the enthusiastic co-operation of Curamus a donor was contacted and the result is clear for all to see - the happy face of L Cpl Pule. 




Fitr: Mr Pule Ncabaleng of Bell Equipment Company, Mr Sam Monisioa, the personal aid to L Cpl Pule, and Mr Bokkie Coertzen, MD of Africa Sales Bell Equipment Company, and L Cpl Kenneth Pule.

Curamus lifted his spirit

Article and photo Gerard Smal, voluntary fund-raiser for Curamus

Curamus built a lift in the house of an SANDF member to enable him to reach the upper floor of his house. S Sgt Rudy Stoltz (32) of the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) did not know that he was suffering from the deadly motor neurone disease. He only realised it in October last year. Before then S Sgt Stoltz was an energetic young sportsman who had completed two Two Ocean Marathons, and was busy preparing for the Comrades Marathon when the very sad news was broken to him.

This sickness attacks his muscles. He is currently confined to a wheelchair. He and his family live in a double-storey house with the bedrooms and bathroom on the upper floor. It took four strong men to move S Sgt Stoltz to the upper floor, something his wife and mother-in-law were unable to do.

Next they got quotations to install a lift in their house, but the lowest price was R187 600 - an amount they did not have. Curamus was approached and through the great efforts of its Director, Rassie Erasmus, donors were contacted and a lift was installed. 



A happy Staff Sergeant Rudy Stoltz with his first-born son, Dylan Heyne, in the newly installed lift in their home.

Attention
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Muthannga wa Moleji u ya nthu nga vhuimo kha Air Force

**Nga CO Solomon M. Kotane,
Ra-mafungo Ad Astra
(Dologi: Lufuno Netshirembe)**

Tshikolo tsha "Primary" tsha Malokaneng ngei ha Moleji, tsini na Polokwane, uswikela zwino a tshi zwidivhi uri muthihi wa vhagudiswa vhakale vha bvaho kha itshi tshikolo a ngavha mudivhalei kha Mmbi ya Afrika Tshipembe. Lt George Manabela (32) ndi murema wa u thoma uvha mugudisi wa u fhufha nga parachute kha SA Air Force.

Vho-Manabela vho fhedza murole wavho wa vhuufumi ngei kha tshikolo tsha "Secondary" tsha Nare nga 1993. ubva afho nga Luhuhu 1994. Musi vha na minwaha ya fu-mbili vho thoma u

shuma kha South African Infantry ngei Middelburg. Vhone nga itsho tshifhinga vho vha sa athu u zwi divha uri a si zwone zwe vha vhetshelwa zwone vhutshiloni.

Nga Nyendavhusiku 1996 muhasho wavha rumela SA Air Force ngei tshikoloni Madimbo tsini na mulambo wa Limpopo kha Vundu la Limpopo. Afho ndi he vha nguda u vha mulanguli-tsireledzi wa vhashumi. Nga murahu ha minwaha mivhili vho mbo di ya ungodela u vha Mugudisi wa nyonyoso ya muvhili.

Nga 2000 Lt Manabela vho ya kha SA Air Force Task Force hune vhari zwithu zwo vha zwi sa leluwi. Vho ita ndowe-ndowe dzothe hu tshi katelwa na ndingo ya u kodelela he vhagudiswa vho vha tshi newa zwiliwa nga murahu ha tshifhinga tshilapfu, naho madi vho vha vhe nao. Tshinwe tshifhinga vhagudiswa vho vha tshi fhedza maduvha mararu hu sina u awela vha tshi kha dzone ndowe-ndowe.


Vho do tumbula uri wa fhedza ngudo I kodaho, wa engedza nga nwedzi muthihi muthu a kona u tendelwa uri a nga vha mushumisi wa "parachute". Nga murahu muthu u ita ndowe-ndowe ya "hangar phase" vhege tharu hune muthu u gudiswa u fhafha nga ndila yo tsireledzeaho a tshi bva kha bufho. Arali wa zwi kona ndi hone muthu a kona uvha "paratrooper" lwa mulayoni.

Tshinwe tshipida ndi u fhedza vhege thanu dza ndowe-ndowe dza uri u vhe "static line dispatcher". Zwi tevhelelaho ndi minwedzi ya fumi-na-mina ya u guda uvha mugudisi wa "static line parachute". Wa kona iyi gudo ya u

fheledza ndi hone u tshi kona u vha "parachutist" yo vhibvaho nga ndila yo fhelelaho. Kha itshi tshipida u ita mishumo yo fhambanaho mmbini: tshomedzo dza zwi yelana na zwi hali, u vha muragaphada, u sedzulusa na u kona u tshila musu zwi tshi konda. Vho-Lt Manabela vho sumbedzisa uri huna vhatu vha swikaho furathi-thanu vho gundelaho uvha vhashumi vha "Task Force" kha SA Air Force.

Lt Manabela vha hudza muthihi wavha dededzi wavho musu vha tshi muhumbula. Vha humbula midifho ye vha vhanayo musu vhana Col Gawie Vermeulen. Vha tshi amba vho: "Col Vermeulen vho nyita muthu ane nda vha ene zwino." Muthannga wa Moleji a tshi isa phada kha nyambedzano nga thingo na Ad Astra ori "Zwine nda shuma zwone zwi nnyita uri ndi takale vhuikuma nga uri ndi zwine nda konesa zwone".

U vha na tshileme tsha 71 kg na vhuilapfu u swika 1,72 m - Lt Manabela ndi muthu ane a si vhe na thoni nga uvha muthihi wa vhashumi vha SA Air Force, vha toda uri hu vhe na tshaduko kha zwine vha ita. Vhana khaladzi mbili: Paulina (35), a shumaho femeni ya semende, na Eunice (24), mugudi wa mashumele a zwa muvhuso. Mme avho vho-Rosina Manabela (54) vhashuma kha zwa vhu-endela mashango khala Musina ngei Limpopo.

** The English version of this article is available on page 29. 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. *



Lt George Manabela.

PSAP knitted teddy bears for ill kids

By Sanet Stoltz

Photo: Magriet Malan

For the second year in a row the employees of the Directorate Career Development (PSAP) have joined hands, as part of their social responsibility, to bring joy to children suffering from HIV/AIDS or cancer.

In 2005 one of these members read an article in a local newspaper about a teddy bear project that began in South Africa, and which requested the public to start knitting and to donate hand-knitted teddy bears for distribution in South Africa among children suffering from HIV/AIDS.


The idea was presented and received with great enthusiasm by the female employees of Directorate Career Development (PSAP). Wool was bought immediately, patterns and ideas exchanged, lessons given to those who had never knitted before, and the big project started. In no time knitting needles were clicking away during lunch-times, in the evenings and over weekends at home. Family members even started to get involved and joined in knitting teddy bears. Two employees with disabilities, Madelaine Vermeulen and Charlie Kriel (both have only

one usable arm and hand) also participated by either knitting or helping to stuff the teddy bears with batting. Employees that could not find the time to knit participated by sponsoring wool or assisted by putting faces on the teddy bears.

On 22 October 2005 no fewer than 105 knitted teddy bears were delivered with great pride to the representative of the Christian Welfare Association. The woman said that she was extremely thankful for the beautiful and colourful teddy bears knitted by this dedicated team.

This year 68 teddy bears have been knitted by the employees of Directorate Career Development (PSAP). This time the teddy bears were presented to the SAPS Child

Protection Unit of Pretoria on 18 August 2006. On receipt of the teddy bears Sergeant Theunissen gave a briefing on the difficult life most of the children in their care have been exposed to and the trauma they have suffered. He spoke about the difference something small like a knitted teddy bear made in the lives of children that have been abused and removed from their homes for their own safety.

A few dozen socks and beanies were also knitted and presented on 27 October 2006 to Mrs Vera van Dalen, a spokesperson for the Children's Cancer Ward at Kalafong Hospital. Many of the cancer patients suffer from poor blood circulation and will make good use of the knitted items. 



Fltr: Q. Mnisi, B. Earnshaw, E. Eloff, M. Vermeulen, L. Smith, T. Horniman, J. Smit, T. Mangwe and S. Stoltz (front). Not present at the photo session was H. Pretorius and M.G. Malan.

MSDS youth and Service Delivery

By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer,
SO1 Com SA Army Engineer Fmn


Over the weekend of 23 September 2006 altogether 39 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) soldiers from 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem built a medium girder bridge of 32 m over the Harts River near Delportshoop in the Northern Cape. For these MSDS soldiers this bridge building exercise served as corps training.

During a recent visit of the local media from Kimberley the General Officer Commanding SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, said that the main purpose of this specific bridge was to enhance the mobility of own forces during a conventional war situation. It could also be utilised during peacekeeping operations in Africa, as well as internally when emergency situations such as floods occurred. He indicated that communities in Kwa-Zulu-Natal were assisted in 1998, and in 2001 this kind of bridge was also built in the Limpopo Province.

The Exercise Commander, Lt Col Fires van Vuuren, explained to the media that the bridge was constructed almost like putting Lego blocks together. He indicated that the only difference was the weight of the pieces. One block weighted 179 kg and needed four men to shift it. The MSDS members definitely had to work as a team to construct the

bridge. Military forces moving to Lohatlha for the annual force preparation exercise, EXERCISE SEBOKA, utilised the bridge to exercise their bridge crossing skills.

2 Field Engineer Regiment also

participated in EXERCISE SEBOKA and was responsible for tasks such as water purification and mine clearance. They ensured the mobility of own forces by building bridges when necessary. 



Ratel vehicles moving over the medium girder bridge (Class 60).



The team of Military Skills Development System soldiers and their instructors after completion of the bridge building exercise.

Netball triumphed in Zimbabwe

By Lt Col Lynette Plomp


The SANDF netball team participated in the CISM ESALO Netball Championships in Harare, Zimbabwe, in August 2006. Five SADC countries took part in the championships, viz South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The SANDF team, which was selected during the SANDF Netball Championships held in Cape Town in July 2006, first attended a



SANDF netball team.

training camp before leaving for Zimbabwe. Lt Col Lynette Plomp (Chairperson SANDF Netball) was the Chief of Mission, while the first ever SANDF male team manager, Capt Inus van Staden, accompanied the mission of twenty members. Two CISM delegates from the Office of the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, Col Tembi Mkhulise and Lt Col Lorraine Miya, also joined the SA delegation on the SANDF netball

competition against Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean Defence Force's Chief of Staff officially opened the Championships on 7 August 2006 at the Zimbabwe Sport Complex in Harare. The competition commenced directly thereafter when South Africa played the opening match against the host nation. The competition took place on a round-robin basis and one-hour matches were played in accordance with international netball rules.

Although South Africa did not triumph in the netball competition, its team was very popular with all the other countries because of their friendliness, discipline, esprit de corps and willingness always to lend a helping hand. The South Africans consequently lived up to the motto of CISM: "Friendship Through Sport". They made many friends and the visit to Zimbabwe was an experience that they will always remember. 

Viva our king... of games!

Our land, South Africa, has been a republic since 1961. Chess has been a "royal" institution since about 600 AD. Members of the Pretoria Military Chess Club (PMCC) are probably both republicans and monarchists by persuasion, but the passion they all have in common is ... the game of chess!


In August this year these "passionate" players gathered in Pretoria to participate in the annual PMCC Inter-services Team Championship and the PMCC Individual Closed Championship - two chess championships under the auspices of the SANDF.

The annual PMCC Individual Closed Championship was attended by 16 ranked players from as far afield as Jan Kempdorp in the Northern Cape. The winner of this fast moving Swiss event was Maj Frank Stemmer with Lt Col L. Mntambo and L Cpl M. Mndaweni in second and third places respectively. Various engraved wooden trophies were awarded to the victors by Col P. Piek, the patron of chess in the SANDF, to the applause of their competitors.

There are most likely thousands of



chess players in our DOD involved in some way in what is reckoned to be the world's second most popular sport. So the PMCC needs... you, to joyfully proclaim with us: *Viva* - long live the king (of games)!

* For more information contact WO1 P. Garbett, PMCC Liaison Official, at tel no: (012) 339 5132. 

Masters squash the game

By Col Brian du Toit, Chairman
SANDF Squash Association
 Photo: Peter Bruton

After 16 years out of the Squash SA Association, the SANDF was accepted back into the squash fraternity of South Africa as an affiliate of this body with full membership. This has opened doors for the development of squash in the SANDF. Taking part as an SANDF team inspires and motivates SANDF squash players to improve their standard of play and their enjoyment of the game as they compete against other teams in national tournaments.

An SANDF Masters side, consisting of six members, participated in the SA Masters National Interprovincial Tournament held in East London in September 2006. The team consisted of Col Brian du Toit (manager and player), WO2 Ravi Govender (captain), WO2 Graham Terblanche, WO2 Gees Naidoo, WO2 Andy Pentelbury and WO2 Nolan Kleyn. Over 182 teams and 900 squash players from all over South Africa competed in this event on 45 courts over the five-day tournament. The SANDF side participated in the 40 C side age group (40 - 44 years) against five other sides, from KwaZulu-Natal, Easterns, Border, Free State and Natal Lower Coast.

The initial feeling of self-doubt




Back, fltr: WO2 Gees Naidoo, WO2 Graham Terblanche and WO2 Andy Pentelbury. Front, fltr: WO2 Nolan Kleyn, Col Brian du Toit and WO2 Ravi Govender.

that the team had was shown to be unnecessary as the SANDF team played exceptionally well. The SANDF team took a commendable second place. WO2 Govender and WO2 Terblanche did not lose any of their games. WO2 Terblanche was voted by his team-mates as the player of the week - "The Man..."

As captain of the side, WO2 Govender, thanks to his experience

and previous exposure to this kind of tournament, played an excellent team captain's role to enable the side to make the right tactical decisions in the competition. Of the five matches played the SANDF Team won four. An excellent team spirit and esprit de corps among the players made everyone enjoy the experience.

In the words of the team members: "This was good stuff! ...and all" 

Developing future squash players

By Col Brian du Toit, Chairman
SANDF Squash Association

42

Over the last years there has been a significant interest in terms of participation shown by development squash players during the SANDF Squash Championships. Because of the interest shown in the game, specific attention is being given to promoting this interest and encouraging development of future squash players.


An SANDF squash development clinic attended by 24 participants was

held in Cape Town in October 2006. Players were coached by the SANDF coach, WO2 Ravi Govender.

As part of their training lesson participants were given a lecture on the history of squash in the SANDF, the basic rules and etiquette of the game, warm-up exercises, court craft, techniques, physical and mental preparation. The lesson of the day could not have passed without actual physical demonstrations of matches.

The players were privileged to watch an exhibition match played

by the South African No 1 player, Rodney Durbach. He gave comments and answered questions after each game played. The players also watched an invitation SANDF side play against a British Combined Services team, which was in Cape Town to participate in the World Masters Tournament.

The clinic encouraged aspiring players to continue with squash development in their units. A second clinic will probably be held in Cape Town in 2007. 

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Learn to swim

The Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Centre was established to provide training and education opportunities in the field of Human Movement Science in order to develop members of the SANDF who will be equipped to ensure combat ready, physically healthy soldiers and elite athletes for the SANDF.

The centre currently offers programmes such as Basic Water Orientation, Lifeguard, Swim Instructors, Sport First Aid, Basic Sport Administration, PTI and PTI Refresher. "The training centre boasts a

75.7% competency figure for the Basic Water Orientation programme, which is presented over a period of two weeks," said Capt Gerald Champion, the Officer Instructor at the centre.

For members of the DOD who cannot swim a PTI Programme is also presented for two weeks. "Even after two weeks' training, we will still have candidates who need some practice. For that reason, it is important for each unit to budget for a swimming pool where military personnel can practise this skill," added Capt Champion.

The Officer Instructor said his main concern was that there were too many "instructors" who train DOD members to be water safe, but who are not skilled and equipped with the correct knowledge and skills. He warned that unqualified trainers use unacceptable techniques that could be disastrous to learners.

The Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Centre is affiliated with Gauteng North Lifesaving. Each learner who attends the Lifeguard Programme will also be registered with Gauteng North Lifesaving. A qualified assessor from Lifesaving South Africa will then assess such learner for competency.

"I would like to see in each deployment unit a qualified lifeguard and swimming instructor. This way we will meet the requirements of the DOD. Qualified instructors can be deployed with the different peace-keeping forces to provide excellent swimming training to soldiers," concluded Capt Champion.

** For any enquiries concerning lifeguard training and swimming instructors contact Capt Gerald Champion at tel no: (012) 674 6262.*

Planting fists in Germany


By Airman Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Pretoria: SA Soldier was invited to witness the final preparations of the SANDF boxers who were going to take part in the CISM World Military Boxing Championships to be held in Germany in September 2006. WO1 Koos Bloem, the senior coach of the SANDF Boxing Team, said that these boxing championships took place under the auspices of the International Military Sports Council (CISM). "This is the biggest event or tournament where international military boxing teams compete in various categories." Sgt Patrick Mothibedi of the National Ceremonial Guard and assistant team coach told SA Soldier that the two boxers, Capt Bonakile Matolo and L Cpl Gerald Dingizwayo, have participated in various boxing tournaments nation-

ally and internationally and have received various medals. Capt Matolo from the School of Armour in Bloemfontein and L Cpl Dingizwayo of 6 SAI Bn in Grahamstown were proud to represent South Africa and the SANDF and to be associated with this magnificent event.

Capt Matolo participated in the 2002 Africa Games in Kenya and won a silver medal. In the same year he participated in the CISM Boxing Championships in Ireland and won a silver medal. L Cpl Dingizwayo previously represented the SANDF Boxing Team nationally and internationally in countries such as Kenya, Croatia, Italy, Ireland and the USA in the CISM Boxing Championships. He also represented the Gauteng Boxing Team at the National Boxing Championships at Rustenburg in July 2005 and won a gold medal.



Results: On their return to South Africa SA Soldier again spoke by telephone to the senior coach, WO1 Bloem. He said that the SANDF boxers had showcased their skills and talents - L Cpl Dingizwayo (75 kg middle weight category) in his preliminary bouts won against an Indian boxer and advanced to the quarterfinals, but lost on points. Capt Matolo (48 kg light fly weight category) lost his fight on points during the preliminary bouts. "The competition was very tough and was a pulsating event of the big guns. Altogether 28 countries took part. The Russians came out tops and won the championships," said WO1 Bloem. 

Tshimololo ya tsela ya ba ba susufetseng

Mokwadi: Arnaus Rakoma
Mofetoledi: Sengadi Moshapo


DCD (PSAP) e rulaganyeditse setlhophahla sa badiri ba ba susufetseng tlhagiso ya bobedi ya computer based training (khoso ya katiso e e theilweng go tiriso ya khomphutha) ya "MS Word Fundamentals" kwa SITA kwa Tshwane ka Diphallane 2006.

SA Soldier le maloko a DOD Chief Directorate Equal Opportunities (EOCD) Disability and Equity Section, mmogo le Rre Kobus Swart eleng motlatsamokaedi le mohumagadi Antina Hlabela, eleng motlatsi wa motlatsamokaedi Disability Equity e nnile bangwe ba batho ba ba neng ba laleditswe moletlong wa kabo ya disetifikeiti. Jaaka bontlhabongwe jwa DOD le SITA go tla tsibogo e e ka ga go simolola tirelo ya go tswela pele batho ba ba koafetseng, mohumagadi Carin Bester, monyalanyi wa computer based training gape e le mokgontshi wa ditirelo tsa tlhomo tsa SITA o boleletse SA Soldier gore khoso e nnile le katlego e e itumedisang le gore batho

ba ba ntsi ba ba susufetseng ba bontshitse kgatlhego mo go yone. O tswetse pele ka gore: "baithuti ba ne ba le maamong a a farologaneng a botswe-rere - bangwe ba ne ba susufetse gotl-helele mme ba ikaegile go go buisa dipou le tiriso ya sign language (puo ya matshwao). Go dirilwe dipaakanyo tsa go simolola ka MS Excel le MS PowerPoint mo ngwageng o o tlang.

Se se neng se makatsa ka baithuti ba ke gore bangwe ba bone ba ne ba itse go bua ka puo ya matshwao (sign language) fela. E ne e le Maafricanere mme ba godisitswe ka tsela ya seafrikanere, mme ba ne ba tlhologanya puo ya matshwao ka Seafrikanere fela. Ba ne ba ikaeletse go ithuta mme ba itumelela sengwe le sengwe go tswa go batlhatl-heledi ba bone. Go ne go ithutiwa ka Seisemane mme sengwe le sengwe se ne se tshwanetse go ranolelwa puong ya Seafrikanse. Mohumagadi Sonja Williams, tokololo e e tswang 4 Survey and Mapping Regiment o boleletse SA Soldier gore khoso e, e ne e tletse tshedimotsetso godimo ga fao e ne e itumedisa le gore e okeditse khutlopono ya

gagwe. O ile a re: "Se re se tlhokang go DOD le ditokololo tsa yone ke tshegetso," SA Soldier e ile ya bua gape le Nerda Els go tswa kwa SA Army School of Signals kwa Wonderboom Military Base, yo o buileng jaana: "Re nonofile go itirela dilo. Re batla go bontsha batho ba bangwe gore batho ba kowafetseng ba tshwana fela le mang le mang. Mohumagadi Els ke morulaganyimogolo wa kgaisano e e bosisi ya bommabontle ba disusu. Kgaisano e e dirafadiwa diprofensing tsotlhe di le robong tsa Afrika Borwa mme e tlotlomadiwa thata ke disusu le ba bokoa ditse beng ka gone e ba fa sebaka sa go bontsha ditale tsa bone tse di sa bonaleng le bontle jwa "lefatshe la disusu". Ba ka bo ba kowafetse, empa ba nonofile, ka fao SA Soldier ya re "well done" (lo dirile sentle) go botlhe ba ba falotseng mo khosong. A rotlhe re leke go dira gore batho ba ba nang le makowa a mmele ba fiwe sebaka sa go tsaya karolo mo tikologong ya rona ya DOD.

* The English version of this article is available on page 36. - Ed. 

Step by step

By Capt E.J. Meintjes,
SO3 Ops Com J Ops Tac HQ EC

This year's annual SANDF Endurance Walking Championship, in which participants walked a distance of 70 km for three days, was hosted in Port Elizabeth in August. Members from across South Africa entered this year's competition. This year's participation was the most ever with 443 people that arrived in PE which included the team managers and support personnel. Because of the large number of people participating, WO1 Yvonne Bezuidenhout, who was the co-ordinator of the championship, had her work cut out for her.

Altogether 54 teams competed in the championship. Each team consisted of 5 to 8 people. These participated in different categories, including 53 walkers in the individual category. The walkers started each day at the sports-field at the GSB PE and walked different routes through Port Elizabeth to complete the total of 70 km. Everybody enjoyed the race. In spite of the heat and sore feet most people endured the pains of the race to finish.


As one would expect, in every race there were highlights. Lt Col Eddie Watson of DOD Logistic Support Formation entertained everyone with his bagpipes (he is a piper in the SA Irish Regiment). Who will forget the endurance of Netta Fortuin of 9 SAI Bn. She walked on despite her blisters, refusing medical attention from the medical personnel until she finished the race with the support of Mariska Petzer from "Die Burger", who walked with Netta all the way.

The championship was ended with a prize-giving ceremony where the winners were announced and congrat-

ulated by Col Ettiene Step, Chairperson of the SANDF Walking Endurance Association.

The Port Elizabeth Prestige Team won in the Prestige Team category. The teams from Bloemfontein took most of the first places in all the categories (men, women and mixed teams' categories).

The veteran male category was won by 9 SAI Bn. PO Nhlanhla

Khanyile of Naval Armament Depot Durban won the men's veteran race. CPO Thomas Hendricks from Navcomcen Cape took the prize in the individual men's veteran race. In the women's race, Gnr Mkhensani Mathye of 10 AA Regiment won in the women's category, while Ms Erika Gibson from "Die Beeld" won the individual women's veteran category in the fastest time. 



The annual SANDF Endurance Walking Championship held in Port Elizabeth was a success.

Greenies at AFB Ysterplaat

By Col Kobus Butler, Officer Commanding AFB Ysterplaat

A few years ago Air Force Base Ysterplaat was identified, together with some other bases, for closing down as part of the restructuring of military institutions. A decision to close down the base and to relocate to Cape Town International as an air force station was communicated to all its members.

The infrastructure of the base deteriorated rapidly. The maintenance and safeguarding of buildings, gardens and equipment were not of great concern or

a priority to many members. From an environmental point of view waste increased tremendously in the natural and built-up area, alien vegetation increased and no garden maintenance was carried out.

A surprise announcement came early in 2003 of a strategic policy decision reversal: the base was to remain open. The base was left with the major task of picking up the pieces, positive restructuring and redirecting energies.

As part of the beautification of the base all its members were involved in removing alien vegetation and planting indigenous trees and shrubs.

Negotiations with the DOD Working for Water Programme resulted in the removal of 74 hectares of alien Port Jackson and Rooikrans trees. A gardening service contract was also introduced to the base in July 2004 to maintain the domestic areas.


A clean-up campaign was launched on the base to remove all old equipment, rubble and scrap metal. A comprehensive effort from all the members, especially during planned environmental days has seen tons of waste leaving the base. Over the past three years more than 50 tons of scrap metal was removed from the base.

An integrated management awareness programme was started and this has resulted in an initiative to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. A review of all the base activities has resulted in the setting of objectives and the identification of key environmental priorities. The building of a separator pit at the diesel point to minimise possible pollution in the area was one of the priorities decided on in 2005.

A quarterly environmental award was introduced to encourage members to improve the way things were done. This award is based on the evaluation of FSEs or sections and has the following criteria: housekeeping, facilities maintenance and environmental management. FSEs or sections are awarded when they excel in the above categories.

The corrective actions being taken are decreasing the risks and increasing effectiveness. The inception of this award has resulted in remarkable enthusiasm and changes in all areas of involvement on the base.

There was another very important development at AFB Ysterplaat during the water restrictions in the Cape Town Metropole. The condition of the gardens on the base deteriorated to such an extent that the trees and plants were dying and alternative water resources had to be investigated. The suggestion of using treated effluent water from the local municipality treatment plant to irrigate the gardens was then implemented with great success. That initiative has contributed tremendously towards water saving and the beautification of the base. A great amount of energy and resources was also directed to the upgrading of facilities as part of the effort to restore the dignity and pride of all the members. Other positive developments are the increased involvement of the local community in the events of the base.

In its journey towards excellence AFB Ysterplaat was recently awarded the Best Base in Environmental Management System in the Western Cape Region for 2005. The base also enjoyed two finalist positions at the annual DOD Environmental Awards ceremony held on 8 June 2006 at AFB Makhado - namely the Base Environmental Management, and Conservamus Awards for Water Efficiency. 



Indigenous (water-wise) trees were planted at AFB Ysterplaat.



The upgraded AFB Ysterplaat Headquarters.

SA SOLDIER

Spot the ball
competition



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PHOTO

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA - 2 September 2006, Christel Kimbembe and Katlego Mashigo during the African Nations Cup Qualifier match between South Africa and Congo at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa. Photo by © Lefty Shivambu / Touchline Photo

Which of the three balls has just been played?
Mark your choice (ball) with an "X". Send your
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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 31 December 2006, and the name of the winner will be published in the 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.

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The emancipation of women in SA and in the SANDF

Women in South Africa face a new type of oppression and if this is not realised by all, then women will never be truly and really free. Then all efforts by our President, Thabo Mbeki, and that heroic 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings will have been in vain.

Laws, legislation and all avenues have been opened as never before in SA for the true emancipation of women. This is proper for a country that has gained its liberation from colonialism, which has caused chaos in the minds and hearts of both black and white people and has left scars so deep that people have not looked at each other as people, but as colour codes. At the worst end of the stick are black women, and now at this time, all women in SA.

A new type of oppression has affected women in SA, that of the patriarchal system in the economy, the military, the religious sector, the security field and the judiciary. In all these structures, especially in the SANDF, where it is a man's job, patriarchy enforces and imposes its decisions on women. Women who number 2.5 million more than men in SA are oppressed and are subject to decisions made by men, who most of the time do not consider the impact that decisions have on the women in Defence. They are treated as if they are just loose appendages, and not part and parcel of the whole.

Women in Defence are an all-important part of the whole, and this has once and for all to be realised and mechanisms put in place to implement equity and equal opportunity for all women serving in Defence, right down to the floor cleaners, who are in most cases women, and who are the most grossly underpaid.

For as long as the socio-economic and legal framework of SA is based on a patriarchal system of a minority, ie men, rape and violent crimes against women will continue. Women will continue to be poor and unable to prosper, and will continue to struggle to fend for their families. Women will be accorded small pieces of the big cake in the economy.

How many women are major shareholders in the mining sector? How many women are bishops in their churches? How many women are leading bankers in South Africa? How many women are lieutenant generals in the SANDF?

Are we trying to say that there are no capable women to be major generals or lieutenant generals in the SANDF? This when women are doing the planning and the work.

For as long as women are not good enough to be decision-makers in the SANDF there will continue to be discrimination against them, because women are drowned by male opinion at decision-making meetings. Who is going to listen to them? It is bad strategy to silence the voice of women, so that they cannot support other women. Men decide they are going to decide for women what is best for them, and yet men are in the minority in South Africa. It is not good enough to promote one or two women. It is a cosmetic change to make us believe that women are going up in the ranks - it is meant to fool the people of South Africa. This is not good enough. It is a lie, and lying to the people who pay our salaries is bad. More women have to be recruited. Then there will be more peace and the working arm of democracy will spin at the pace which it is supposed to spin at, because women have always contributed in the best possible ways to their jobs.

In this instance the patriarchal strategy of keeping women at the bottom of the rung is succeeding in the SANDF. Women must not be fooled by occasional and scattered promotions. Women must demand promotions, because we are fighters.

So let the men in the SANDF be aware that they are holding back the wheel of time by their patriarchal behaviour. Let the men in the Defence Force be aware that they are killing all the initiatives of the President of South Africa and those heroic women of 1956 that paved the way for the emancipation of women.

Let the men dip their banners in respect to the women in Defence, for

their efforts to contribute to a better Defence Force, especially women in the conflict areas who are deployed on an equal standing with their male combatants. Let the men in the Defence Force dip their caps to all women, right down to the lowest rank, and stop their bullying tactics. It will not work any more. Stop looking for excuses not to promote women.

The time for patriarchal rule in the SANDF is over. Give women their rightful place. Give women an equal say in the day-to-day affairs of the SANDF. The days of patriarchy are over. Adhere to the prescripts set by Government to accord women leadership status.

Where a man is in power, there should be a more powerful woman in a position alongside him in the SANDF. The Corporal is not there to make tea nor is she there to dust the table of the General. She is there to be a General one day. So start planning her career now to get her there.

"This is a message to all women: we are not fighting the men in the DOD, but they must once and for all stop suffering from their hearing loss and listen to the voice of women in Defence." Col B.V. Martin, SAMHS