Our Minister at the arrival of our first submarine S101
Letters: feedback from our readers

SA extends peacekeeping operations in Africa

Publications to keep crews up to date

South Africa and Algeria foster ties

Defence attachés visit Admiral Mudimu

2006 Budget Cycle

The arrival of our first submarine

Remembering fallen heroes of SS MENDI

Military veterans study English

South Africans diving in dry dock

Premier of the Eastern Cape became Honorary Colonel

Spouses of generals provide guidance

First African woman coxswain for naval vessel

Halve poverty and unemployment by 2014

Exercise DESEX

Visit of Opinion formers

Mobility/Exit Mechanism

New vision for a modern army

Join in the fun - Navy Festival

Education: a dialogue

Adventure of flying

Tax implications

British cricket players defeated

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From the Editor’s desk

Welcome to the May 2006 edition of SA Soldier. We are celebrating our fifth anniversary as the official monthly magazine of the Department of Defence! We will continue to inform and profile the world of Defence as seen through the eyes of a South African soldier. Thank you for being our readers and for your support. Never forget that SA Soldier is your publication and your contributions will always be welcome.

This month’s birthday edition is packed with hours of blissful reading. In this edition we celebrate the homecoming of our first submarine - the SAS MANTHATISI. After 49 days and 6 600 nautical miles, the first of three submarines bought in terms of the Strategic Defence Packages, arrived in Simon’s Town from Germany via Norway on 7 April 2006. Read more about this emotional day on pages 16 to 18.

The South African Government has extended its troop deployments in various peacekeeping operations in Africa for another year. SA Soldier wants to thank our loyal soldiers on deployment for being such great ambassadors for our country and continent. Read more about this extension on page 10.

We would also like to welcome Ms Nosimo Balindlela, the Premier of the Eastern Cape, as the first woman Premier to be appointed as an Honorary Colonel in the SAMHS and the first woman of the Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape. Read more about this parade on pages 24 and 25.

Do not forget to read the informative article on the budget vote on pages 14 and 15.

See the back page to enter our second Spot the Ball soccer competition. Let those entries roll in!

Thanks to the Editorial Team of SA Soldier for their commitment, passion and hard work. I would also like to thank the Editorial Board and all our readers for their valuable contributions in making SA Soldier such a popular magazine.

Keep it up!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

5th ANNIVERSARY

Ho tswa ho Mohlophisi

e a le amohela kgatisong ya Motshehanong 2006 ya SA Soldier. Re keteka boteng ba rona ba selemo sa bolano jwalo ka makasine wa kgwdi le kgwdi wa semmuso wa Lepapha la Tshireletso! Re se re kgwele letswele jwale re habehela mothangon wa ho ya sekologong. Re leboha babadi ba rona nakong eo re neng re sa hola ka yona. Se ke la lebala hore SA Soldier ke kgatiso ya lona mme diphehiso tsa lona di tla dula di amohelwa.

Kgatiso ya kgwdi ena e tletse dingolwa tsa ho ka balwa dihorahora. Re boe te re keteka ho tla hae ha sekepe sa tlase ho metsi - SAS MANTHATISI. Kamora matsatsi a 49 le dimaiele tsa melsing tse 6 600, submarine ya pele ho tse tharo tse rekilweng ho ya ka ‘Strategic Defence Packages’ se fihile Simon’s Town ho tswa Jeremane se fellie le Norway ka 7 Mmesa 2006. Bala haholwanyane ka letsatsi lena le neng le le monate maqepheng a 16 ho ya ho 18.

Mmuso wa Afrika Borwa o ekeditse masole a ona bakeng sa mesebetse e mmalwa ya ho boloko kgotso Afrika bakeng sa selemo se seng hape. SA Soldier e rata ho leboha masole a tshepabahang a thomong ka ho ho baemedi ba baholo ba naha ya rona le kontinentse. Bala haholwanyane ka keketso ena leqepheng la 10.

Re boe te re rata ho amohela Mof Nosimo Balindlela, Tonakgolo ya Kapa Botjhabela jwalao ka Tonakgolo ya pele ya mosadi ho kjethwa jwalalo Kolonele ya Hlomphehang ka hare ho SAMHS ebole e le mosadi wa pele ka hare ho Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape. Bala haholwanyane ka pareite ena maqepheng a 24 le 25.

Se ke wa lebala ho bala sengolwa se rutang ka tekanyetso kabo (bajete) maqepheng a 14 le 15.

Sheba leqephe la ho qetela bakeng sa ho kenela thodisano ya bobedi ya bolo ya Spot the Ball. Romelang diforomo tseo ka bongata hle!

Madume ho Shelopha sa Bohlophisi sa SA Soldier bakeng sa boitelo ba bona, lerato le tshebeto e matla. Ke boete ke rata ho leboha Boto ya Bohlophisi le babadi bohle ba rona bakeng sa diphehiso tsa bona tse molemo hore SA Soldier e be makasine e tsummeng hakale. Tswelang pele!

Nelda Pienaar
Mohlophisi
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They really deserve praise and appreciation

Some would say that it was in the line of duty. Others would just say they came on account of their country’s reputation and support or that they were only attracted by the money they would earn and hence improve their lifestyle.

These reasons have nothing wrong in themselves, but we should see the sacrifice of South African soldiers who were deployed in peacekeeping mission in Burundi with human eyes and treat them more fairly. Those were people like all of us, who have got families and other related responsibilities. They had to forget the rest and commit their lives to the people of Burundi.

I have always prayed hard not to be married to a soldier. By the time I came to live with those brave people, who unlike the young men of the Bible, went, left everything else behind, including their spouses and children, for unknown destinations and came to rescue the Burundians, I realised that even the smallest thing that is taken for granted is actually God’s plan and gift. Those people were acting not for money or their country’s reputation, but out of love and humanity: anything would have happened to those soldiers including losing their lives. Thanks to the VIP Protection Unit, so many Burundians were confident enough to come back home after a long period of exile ranging from less than five years to more than thirty years.

Some people would treat them as evil, but I am here to testify for them. They integrated easily into families where they were deployed despite the gap between Burundian and South African culture and regardless of their background. They could care for the protected VIP and their families not as a burden they have carry, but as an activity they really enjoyed and were willing to do it effectively and efficiently. They would care even for the smallest member of the family: little kids. They could play with them as with their own children, nicknaming them as if they were their own kids or the kids they wished to have once back home. They really deserve praise and appreciation!

These people suffered silently. They endured loneliness. When the world celebrated year end parties, Christmas and New Year, you could see how sad they were. Some could endlessly call home while those who were not strong enough (and given they were off duty) could just drink and smoke heavily to try to forget how happy the rest of their families were on these get-together occasions, while they were in a foreign land where some would not even recognise their efforts or treat them just as mercenaries! They really gave the best of their time and effort to the people of Burundi.

They are worthy of admiration, including their families who kept their homes running smoothly while their spouses were far away, and above all the South African Government, which not only facilitated the negotiation process, but also assured the necessary follow-up by deploying their means and men to make peace in Burundi a reality.

May the Almighty God bless South Africa and give lasting peace to Burundi and the whole of Africa - Marie Jeanne Ndikumana, Burundi.
Deployed in the Sudan

Flying from South Africa on 15 October 2005 to the Sudan I saw different people, animals, terrain and weather changing very drastically, and the vegetation is so dispersed that to employ section or platoon attacks can make things difficult. Thank God and our Defence Force for the opportunity to deploy in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

The Sudan can be described as a desert, a very hot and sandy country. The Sudan - the country to talk about:

**People:** Extremely dark in colour, lean and hungry (slender) and very strong physically. The language is predominantly Arabic and their religion is Muslim for the most part. They respect their culture and they are very secretive: it is not easy for them to divulge what is happening in their lives in general. Donkeys are utilised as transport, eg to fetch water, wood and reeds, and for movement from one place to another. Women use donkeys the most.

**Terrain:** Sandy, mountainous in other place, eg Kutum where our RSA National Contingent HQ is situated to El Fasher where the Force Headquarters (FHQ) is situated. But from Mellit where the other component of our Protection Force is located to El Fasher the place is sandy and flat. Most of the mountains resemble the humps of a camel. Driving in this terrain is difficult because there are no roads, only tracks. Only the 4x4 vehicles drive on these tracks.

**Animals:** Camels are everywhere. There are goats with big udders and sheep with long tails. Donkeys are more numerous than any other animal, and horses are used to pull carts.

**Weather:** Temperatures can rise up to 40 degrees Celsius during the day and drop to 6 degrees Celsius during the night. All in all, the entire place is extremely hot. The season changes from December to February (winter) whereas back home it is hot summer. In my experience winter and summer is one and the same, because there is not a vast difference, as it is always hot. In March dust can be seen almost 300 feet up in the air and everything is dusty.

There is a lot I can write about this place (the Sudan), but time does not allow for that - Pte Gaobonewe M. Mothoagae, 10 SAI Bn (RSA National Contingent in the Sudan: African Mission in Sudan).

Launch of Cheetah magazine

On 24 November 2005 a new baby was born for the ASB Bloemfontein - Cheetah - the new magazine for our base.

According to Capt M.M. Semaushu, the Communication Officer of ASB Bloemfontein, it was early 2005 when she thought of having such a magazine for her unit.

Cheetah is the official quarterly magazine for ASB Bloemfontein.

The General Officer Commanding, Brig Gen M.M. Moadira, launched the magazine at Tempe Church.

The day was celebrated fully by unit members and we all enjoyed ourselves. The magazine will be used as a communication tool for our members, who will be able to raise issues and write poems and stories to promote the image of ASB Bloemfontein.

It is a privilege for me to be the first editor of Cheetah. Lots of copies were distributed to other units in Bloemfontein.

To make this magazine alive we need your inputs.

The second issue will be published on 1 April 2006 - Capt M.M. Semaushu, Communication Officer ASB Bloemfontein.

Global Day of Prayer


Then Africa invited the world to join hands with the African continent in a Global Day of Prayer. On 15 May 2005 Christians from all denominations in more than 156 countries united in prayer to ask God to bless the nations...so that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Hab 2:14). This event marked the greatest Christian gathering in the world, with more than 220 million Christians praying together. People’s lives where changed at these events and miracles occurred in churches, denominations and towns.

Now the second phase of this process will start: five years of global participation from 2006 - 2010. The main objective is to have all 220 countries in the world participating to “Globalise Prayer, revealing God’s Glory” on Pentecost Sunday of each year.

The following threefold strategy will be followed:

1. 10 Days of repentance and prayer - This will start on Ascension Day and will end the day before Pentecost Sunday. One of the goals will be to establish a “lifestyle of prayer.”
3. 90 Days of Blessing - Local communities and the youth will take ownership in projects to transform their city or town.

Transformation Africa invites you to join hands with us to pray for the world.

For more information visit: www.transformationafrica.com or phone (021) 856 3130 for the details from your local organiser - Isabel Kiliyan, Transformation Africa Media Liaison.
Leadership versus Deployment

During 2005 I had a chance to face the realities of deployment and as a facilitator of leadership myself, I was tasked to watch and understand the challenges our own forces had to face whilst deployed, especially the leaders. Our soldiers made me proud daily with their amazing commitment.

We were deployed in Burundi during the country’s transitional period of elections and I experienced the pride of our brave lions. My troops of 4 SA Infantry Battalion were always hungry for challenges and they would go out in the early hours of the morning to bring peace and stability and I would be standing at the Palace Base’s gate saluting them and telling them to come back safe to me because when we go home, I would like to go back with them to “Souza”.

Challenges were there, many of them, but I realised that nothing was impossible if we all pulled together with one heart, one aim and one vision and mission, which is to achieve the goal of our country and the Defence Force of maintaining peace and stability on our continent. But all of these are only made possible through leadership.

There are many definitions of leadership, but this one suits this contribution best: “Leadership is the art of influencing people to do more than what they believe they can do”. This definition makes leaders realise that it is their duty as leaders to ensure the productivity of subordinates and the success of every mission to be completed.

Deployment is also one of the many tasks where the leader leads soldiers in very adverse conditions, compared to the comfortable or rather familiar ones back at home. Soldiers during deployment are out in a war-torn country to restore peace and serve their continent. The situation in itself is life threatening, uncomfortable and very lonely in most instances.

In a deployment situation, leaders have their work cut out for them to try and influence soldiers to outperform themselves daily and also to stay positive at all times, no matter what the situation might be. The large number of soldiers under one’s command, despite the staff or lower management, chain of command and the advantages of delegation also increases the workload as soldiers might need to see the commander face to face at times. In a deployment situation men and women on the ground face many challenges.

The distance from family, the inability to attend to family challenges, such as a sick partner, a child or close relative or even attend funerals of relatives, the lack of proper time to grieve the loss of a loved one and also of inability to get personally involved in sorting out problems facing the family may bring a lot of tension for individuals.

A leader faces these challenges and he or she must influence soldiers to be able to function despite their challenges. In comparison to such psychological and fragile conditions a leader needs to be self-motivated and be able to push his or her people to the limit to succeed in the execution of the mission.

The scenario of a leader, who might be a laissez-faire leader, produces confused and frustrated managers who have no direction and end up fighting each other regarding their roles. They end up losing respect for the leader who, even when he addresses them, they choose to ignore. They end up not trusting him or giving him any support. This might lead to managers not being able to attend to the challenges of the soldiers, and morale will go down with the pressures on them. The situation may lead to an explosion of many bad things in which lives could be lost and infighting occurs. A lack of interest in the work results such that people no longer obey commands and the leader does nothing about it and it becomes the norm.

Groups might erupt, and lack of cohesion and more and more frustration for those trying to do the work might increase. This might add to all the pressures brought on by distance from families and the situation of the host country and challenges that normally happen between humans working together, such that the success of the mission might be at stake. This might affect the image of the SANDF, and the country as well.

Leaders should be taught or reminded how to lead their soldiers in times like these. Through the years the SA Army has come to know and understand the challenges that our soldiers face many challenges.

Handing over the reigns

Col Elvis Mfaniseni Mathaba took over command of DOD Mobilisation Centre from Lt Col Schutte, who was the Acting Officer Commanding since the departure of Brig Gen S.J.W. van Schalkwyk in December 2003. Brig Gen Van Schalkwyk is currently the General Officer Commanding of Joint Support Base Garrison at Thaba Tshwane.

The change of command parade was held on 15 December 2005 and was graced by the presence of the General Officer Commanding DOD Logistic Support Formation, Brig Gen J.T. Nkonyane and Col C.N. Mhatu, the Officer Commanding of 44 Parachute Regiment. This occasion followed the handing and taking over that was held at DOD Main Ordnance Sub Depot Durban on 2 December 2005 between Col E.M. Mathaba and Lt Col R. Goruknath, who were also among the guests on 15 December. Some of the Officers Commanding of the various units under command of the Logistic Support Formation also came to honour this occasion in support of their counterpart.

Col Mathaba was born at Empangeni (Cinci Reserve) on 8 October 1963. He completed Std 8 at Ikusasaalethu Secondary School in Mtabatuba. From 1981 to 1983 he worked as a machine operator for Apex Foundry at Mandeni. He joined the South African Defence Force in May 1983 at 121 Battalion. He then resumed his studies as a part-time student and passed his matric in 1987.

During 1990 he progressed to the rank of a Sergeant in the Ordnance Service Corps. In 1999 he was among the first four black officers from 121 SA Infantry Battalion to undergo the Officers Formative Course at Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. On completion of this course he became a Lieutenant and was selected for studies at the Military Academy in Saldanha. He obtained a Bachelor of Military Science Degree in 1994 and was voted the best third-year student in Economics. In 2001 Col Mathaba
and leaders face out there and measures should be implemented to equip our deploying leaders to handle them. Leadership training should be an integral part of retraining when soldiers train for deployment. At least the Battalion Commander, Second in Command, Regimental Sergeant-Major, Chaplain and Company Commander and his Second in Command should have a three-day revision session on leadership to study the transformational leadership and delegation modules. The LCAMPS Section is a very important tool of the SA Army currently available to equip leaders with the necessary leadership skills.

A transformational leader will not find the work easier, but at least he will be equipped to utilise different leadership styles to lead the soldiers and also to use or delegate his or her management to assist the soldiers to produce quality work. Leaders must be aware of the impact their style of leadership has on their subordinates and the mission.

Leaders should understand that the effectiveness of soldiers and the success of the mission depend directly on their leadership. Only the leader who is aware of himself or herself, and who develops and equips himself or herself in his or her leadership style will be the best driver towards achieving the mandate of the SA Army - Capt D.P. Mashiko, Army Office, LCAMPS Section.

Completed his Hons B Com (Economics) through Unisa. He is currently studying for his Masters in Organisation and Resource Management through the Military Academy (University of Stellenbosch).

He served at 121 SAI Bn in various logistic capacities, including as logistic officer up to the rank of Captain (1983-1996). He also served at Group 10 HQ as a logistic officer up the rank of Major (1997-1999). Between 2002 and 2004 he served at DOD Main Ordinance Sub Depot Durban as second in command and Officer Commanding.

He then left to become the Officer Commanding of DOD Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein from January 2005. Col Mathaba has completed the following military courses: all logistic courses up to Module 8, the Integrated Sub Unit Commanders Course, the JCSD Course theory and practical and the Senior Command and Staff Course, which he did in Nigeria. He has been honoured with the following medals: the Pro Patria Medal, the Southern Cross Medal, the General Service Medal, the Ten Years Good Service Medal and the UNITAS Medal. He is married to Ethel and they are blessed with five children - Lt Col E.S. Matomane, Lyttelton.

Joint Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape held its second change of command parade since its inception on 24 February 2006.

Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, GOC Joint Operational Headquarters, entrusted Col Monwabisi Mbeki with the command of Joint Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape with effect from 1 January 2006. Col Mbeki took over command from Col Zamile Vellem. Col Vellem was Officer Commanding from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005. Col Vellem was appointed as the Officer Commanding of 21 Squadron (Waterkloof AB).

Col Mbeki was born in Libode on 6 December 1956. He completed his school career at Victor Poto Senior Secondary School in Libode. He started his military career in the Transkei Defence Force on 16 February 1978. He did his officer’s, platoon commander’s and company courses at the Transkei School of Infantry. He was Headquarters Company Commander at a peace force contingent in Bloemfontein and Johannesburg in 1994. After integration into the SANDF in 1994 he was posted to 14 SA Infantry Battalion. He served as SO2 Ops and Company Commander at 14 SAI Bn from 1994 to 1995. In 1995 he was appointed as SO2 Ops at Group 46. He remained in this post until 1998. He was Company Commander at 14 SAI Bn until 2000. From 2000 to 2001 he was the SO2 Area Protection at Regional Joint Task Force South and then SO1 Ops at Group 46 until 2004. He did the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme in 2004. In 2005 he was appointed as the second in command at Joint Ops Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape and in 2006 he was appointed as the Officer Commanding.

By Mariet Vermaak, Joint Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape.

Col Monwabisi Mbeki (left) and Col Zamile Vellem.

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SA extends peacekeeping operations

Article courtesy DOD Bulletin

The South African Government has extended its troop deployments in various peacekeeping operations in Africa for another year.

The Government spokesman, Mr Joel Netshitenzhe, gave the information to journalists after the executive’s fortnightly meeting in Cape Town in March 2006.

The Government took note of the operations in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Sudan to bring peace and democracy to those countries.

The Government pledged to continue to support the processes by agreeing to the deployment of 950 members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) as part of the United Nations (UN) operations in Burundi. This will be extended to 31 March 2007.

It further agreed to the deployment until 31 March 2007 of 46 members of the SANDF in support of the disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and mediation process in Côte d’Ivoire.

In the DRC the present deployment of 110 SANDF members will be extended, and fourteen more members will be deployed, also until 31 March 2007, in support of two projects for the integration and military training of the armed forces of the DRC.

The Government also agreed to extend the deployment of 339 SANDF members as part of the African Union (AU) Mission in the Sudan, again until 31 March 2007. The South African Government approved the deployment of 371 SANDF members from 15 March to 30 June 2006 as part of the AU Military Force in the Comores to assist in ensuring a secure environment conducive to credible, free and fair presidential elections, Mr Netshitenzhe said.

Our soldiers off to the Comoros

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On 17 March 2006 the first group of the SANDF left for the Comoro Islands where they will assist with the upcoming elections. To bid them farewell and wish them good luck were our country’s Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and the Deputy Minister for Minerals and Energy, Ms Lulama Xingwana, accompanied by the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, and Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army (representing the Chief of the SANDF).

As our soldiers prepared to depart to help safeguard the elections in the Comoros the Deputy President, on behalf of the President, the Government and the people of South Africa, thanked the soldiers for serving the people of South Africa and our country.

With this group a number of Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme recruits also form part of the contingent of soldiers that were flying out. With them were a couple of members of the Reserve Force serving their country. This is the DOD’s way of putting young blood into the SANDF and this is proving to be working well. It is the third time that MSD Programme recruits are being deployed. The Secretary for Defence said that South Africa was the élite nation on this mission, meaning that South Africa would be deploying 371 soldiers. However, Rwanda will also be contributing forces. These soldiers will be deployed in all the three islands, and our soldiers will be there for a further two weeks after the elections and the inauguration of the president on 26 March 2006. An additional two groups flew out on 21 and 23 March 2006.

* The IsiXhosa version of this article is available on page 38. 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.
SA and Belgium agreement

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his counterpart, Mr Andre Flahaut, the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium, signed the bilateral agreement between these two countries at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 28 February 2006.

Mr Lekota said the longstanding partnership between South Africa and Belgium was aimed at further developing the agreement to continue military co-operation for an environment conducive to democracy, progress and development across the African continent.

Both Belgium and South Africa are key participants in the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Work Group of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Partnership Group, which includes Angola, the Netherlands, the European Union, the UK, the USA and France.

"This signing ceremony also affirms our common commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, whether internationally, continentally or regionally.

This agreement is furthermore a tangible outcome of the Joint Declaration made by President Mbeki and Prime Minister Verhofstadt in Brussels on 16 November 2004," said Minister Lekota.

Clockwise from left: Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Sipho Binda, Chief of Joint Operations, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF, Mr January Masilela, Secretary for Defence, Mr Andre Flahaut, Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium, and Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence.

Publications to keep crews up to date

By Lt Maryke Lynn, Ad Astra

A project to provide reading material in the form of magazines to Air Force members, and especially helicopter crews serving in Burundi, was initiated by Director Helicopter Systems, Brig Gen H.T. Paine, in 2005. In the interest of morale, since many of these members spend up to three months at a time beyond South Africa’s borders, it is important for members to be clued up and informed about what is happening back home.

Mr Sagren Moonsamy, who is the Pretoria Branch Manager of South Africa’s biggest magazine distribution organisation, the Republican News Agency, got involved by supplying the SA Air Force with a variety of magazines on a monthly basis. Mr Moonsamy said that it was the duty of the corporate world to support the armed forces. "This is just one of the small ways in which we would like to show our appreciation for what you are doing over there," he said.

In future these magazines will also be sent to Air Force members in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Sudan.
South Africa and Algeria foster ties

Compiled by Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomshongwana

The South African/Algerian Joint Committee in charge of co-operation in the field of defence held its second meeting in Pretoria on 2 and 3 March 2006.

The meeting was led by the two co-chairmen, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, and the Algerian Adviser to the Minister of National Defence, Maj Gen Mohamed Zenakhri.

In his opening remarks Mr Masilela said: "I firmly believe that the establishment of the South African/Algerian Joint Defence Committee in 2003 was a very important confidence and security building mechanism that played a critical role in maintaining and expanding our defence diplomatic relationship".

He then added: "Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1997, substantial progress has been made and a lot achieved of which we can be extremely proud. Since then, bilateral contacts at Head of State level between Algeria and South Africa have been frequent and have grown considerably. These diplomatic relations and bilateral contacts resulted in the establishment of a Binational Commission for Co-operation."

The meeting discussed the identification of the fields of co-operation that could be developed within the framework of the co-operation agreement signed between the two countries and the programme of activities to be implemented during the 2006/2007 period.

After exchanging points of view and discussions, the parties agreed as follows:

- **Peacekeeping Missions**: the co-operation to be developed will deal with exchanging experiences, training, teaching, and the exercise capacities required, as well as the design organisation and planning for participation in peacekeeping missions.
- **Technical operations**: exchange of personnel staying for short periods in operational units, SAR exercises, participation as observers in exercises and military and civilian co-operation in the management of major risks.
- **Technical logistics**: exchanging of experience regarding maintenance policy, notably repair and renovation of equipment, management and acquisition of equipment and transport, warehousing and security of sensitive equipment, as well as training in tropical medicine and exchanging information in the field of military health.
- **In the field of training**: the co-operation activities will deal with the training of engineers in the cutting edge techniques, hypobaric training, and NBC protection, as well as training in the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC), and the prevention and management of conflicts.
- **Defence industry and technology**: the co-
operation activities will deal with the search for military production capabilities and partnerships.

- **Strengthening of relationships between the armed forces of the two countries** - the parties have agreed to exchange high-level delegations for the programmes of activities to be implemented in 2006 and 2007.

To realise these objectives the parties will implement the following programmes of activities:

For 2006: the activities to be developed will deal with the exchange of high-level visits by delegations, as well as the organisation and planning of visits by delegations in relation to peacekeeping, technical operation activities, training and the defence industry.

For 2007: the activities to be developed will deal with visits by delegations in technical logistics and research and development, as well as the organisation of a study tour in South Africa for the training of Algerian officers from the Ecole Supérieure de Guerre.

Both parties agreed that the Joint Committee would hold its next meeting during the third quarter of 2008 in Algeria, on dates and at a venue to be decided on by both Algeria and South Africa.
2006 Budget Cycle

By Robert Wapenaar and Engela van Vuuren, Directorate Budgeting

Follow the Defence Budget Process Step by Step:

- Planning Programming and Budgeting Seminar - 28 to 30 September 2004.
- Budget Holders Compile and Capture Budget - 20 April 2005.
- Budget Holders Submit Budget to Directorate Budgeting - 29 April 2005.
- DPBEC Technical - 23 to 27 May 2005.
- DPBEC Proper - 7 to 24 June 2005.
- Submit MTEC Submission to National Treasury - 3 August 2005.
- Submit ENE to National Treasury - 9 December 2005.
- Defence Budget Speech - 31 March 2006.
- April Shift - 1 April 2006.

Planning and Budgeting Seminar

The Planning, Programming and Budgeting Seminar were held at the SA Reserve Bank in Pretoria from 28 to 30 September 2004. The Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF presented there guidelines personally taking into consideration the State of the Nation Address, International Relations Peace and Security, Justice Crime Prevention and Security, Governance and Administration Cluster priorities and Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. The draft Planning and Budgeting Guidelines were discussed in detail.

Budget Holders Compile and Capture Budget

The Accounting Officers Guidelines was issued on 12 October 2004. Taking this into consideration the planners within the Services and Divisions had to compile a Medium Term Strategic Plan/Business Plan. It was then the Budget Managers challenge to convert the plan into financial terms and capture it, with motivations, on the Financial Management System before 26 April 2005.

Budget Holders Submit Budget to Directorate Budgeting

The Budget Holder had to submit his or her Budget Submissions to Directorate Budgeting on 29 April 2005. This Budget Submission had to consist of a cover letter signed by the Budget Holder and Budget Manager and input based motivations.

Departmental Planning and Budgeting Evaluation Committee Technical and Proper

The personnel of Directorate Budgeting had from 23 to 27 May 2005 to scrutinise all 28 Budget Holders budgets for technical correctness. The Departmental Planning and Budgeting Evaluation Committee (DPBEC) Proper took place from 7 to 24 June 2005 with the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief of Corporate Staff and the Chief of Policy and Planning as co-chairs. The committee had the task of evaluating the plans and budgets of all the Budget Holders to ensure that it is in line with the priorities of the Department, national priorities, the White Paper on Defence and the Defence Review.
Submit MTEC Submission to National Treasury

After the DPBEC it was Directorate Budgeting’s responsibility to compile the Department of Defence’s Medium Term Expenditure Committee (MTEC) Submission according to the guidelines provided by National Treasury. This submission was submitted on 3 August 2005.

MTEC Hearings

The MTEC is a committee which evaluates and considers department’s budget proposals. The MTEC hearing for the Department of Defence took place on 9 September 2005. The Department’s delegation was headed by the Secretary for Defence.

Receive Final Allocation Letter from National Treasury

The final letter of allocation was received from National Treasury on 23 November 2005. The following additional allocations were provided to the Department of Defence for the 2006/07 financial year:

- Military Skills Development System - Rm 100.
- Information and Communication Technology - Rm 50.
- Infrastructure Development - Rm 80.
- Health Support - Rm 26.
- General Modernisation Capacity - Rm 500 and RM141.
- Strategic Defence Procurement Exchange Rate Adjustment - (Rm 250).

Submit ENE to National Treasury

The draft Departmental Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) was submitted to National Treasury on 9 December 2005. The Estimates of National Expenditure is tabled in Parliament in conjunction with the Appropriation Bill, and serves to:

- Provide members of Parliament with information on how departments plan to spend the money that is authorised by the legislature.
- Help Parliament and society to keep departments accountable to the service delivery commitments made in each of the chapters.
- Provide parliamentary committees with a valuable source of information that can assist them in performing their oversight functions.

National Budget Speech

The Minister of Finance tabled the National Budget in Parliament on 15 February 2006. During his speech he highlighted the priorities of the nation and where the nation’s revenue in terms of taxes will be allocated.

April Shift

The system process where by the Estimate for 2006/07 on Financial Management System (FMS) is changed to be the Vote (Whitebook) for 2006/07 is known as April Shift. The April Shift enables expenditure to take place. Director Budgeting and Director Budget Control had a ceremonial handing over of the 2006/07 Budget on 4 April 2006 at the Armscor Lapa in Pretoria. The Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Director Budget Management made inspiring addresses to members present. The ceremony was attended by the CD Budget Management, Directorate Budgeting, Directorate Budget Control, Directorate Plan and members of SITA.
The arrival of our first submarine

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

There are only two kinds of vessels at sea: submarines and targets,” R Adm Erich Topp, Federal Germany Navy (Submarine Service), said.

After 49 days and 6 600 nautical miles S101, the first of three submarines - Class 209 Type 1400 MOD diesel-electric submarines bought in terms of the Strategic Defence Packages - finally arrived in Simon’s Town from Germany via Norway on 7 April 2006. For the families of the 34 crew members it was an emotional day, as they could hardly wait to see their loved ones.

The purpose of this acquisition is the rejuvenation of the SANDF - in this case the SA Navy. “This acquisition will improve and enhance our state of readiness,” said Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence.

Another reason for these acquisitions is that in terms of tonnage more than 95% of South Africa’s imports and exports and over 80% in terms of monetary value pass through the country’s ports. The SA Navy’s primary function is to ensure that its seaborne trade is not threatened in times of tension or war. The Navy is mandated to fulfil its obligation as stipulated in the recently ap-proved Parliamentary Defence Review by, among others, operating a mini-mum of three conventional submarines.

The SAS MANTHATISI flanked by our two tugboats, INDLOVU and TSHUKUDU, in Simon’s Town harbour.
In his budget vote speech the Minister of Defence spoke about the readiness of the SANDF and how it will continue to be ready in the years to come. "As you know S101 has just completed a marathon passage from Germany via Norway under the command and control of our Navy personnel - something many thought would not be possible. Part of this passage was also completed alone when SAS DRAKENSBERG, her former escort, was called away elsewhere. This was an epic voyage for any small conventionally powered submarine. To achieve this in such a short time (just after receiving the submarine) speaks volumes for the kind of personnel on board. This, more than anything else, proves the SA Navy's capability and readiness to operate these submarines on such long deployments and to support them over huge distances," said Minister Lekota.

The S101 was delivered to the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, by the Officer Commanding of the S101, Cdr Gary Brian Kretschmer, who later handed over the submarine to Minister Lekota, who reported back to the ship's company.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Women's March against the pass laws in 1956. In order to celebrate this historic occasion Cabinet has decided that these submarines will be named after heroines of our country and S101 was named SAS MANTHATISI, warrior queen Manthatisi Batlokwa. The Executive Mayor of Naledi Local Municipality and the godmother of the S101 Submarine, Ms Ruth Segomotso Mompati, did the honours by announcing the new name of the submarine S101: SAS MANTHATISI, and said she was honoured to be associated with such a great human being. Mme Ruth, as she is affectionately known, was one of the founder members of the Federation of South African Women in 1954 and she was an organiser and leader of the 1956 Women's March on 9 August. Following the repression of that period and the banning of the ANC, she left South Africa (Continued on page 18)
events

and went into exile. Between 1962 and 1964 she underwent military training as a combatant of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

Minister Lekota also reminded the ship’s company in particular and the SA Navy in general of the new submarine’s role. "To the Chief of the SA Navy and the SA Navy in general, and to the officer commanding and crew of S101 whose special day this is in particular, I would like to remind you of the following: Your readiness is key if the department is to succeed in its support to Government’s diplomatic initiatives to help eradicate conflicts in the region and continent, as well as contributing meaningfully to the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA).

"Your Commander-in-Chief, President Thabo Mbeki, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and myself are confident that the crew will utilise the submarine to execute its tasks professionally, efficiently and effectively.”

"It is with these sentiments therefore that we charge you all to continue with the excellent service you have been rendering to our country. To S101, we welcome you to the fleet with the knowledge that you are fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead. We commend you on your achievements thus far and wish S101 many successful deployments and a long and illustrious career in the service of both the SA Navy and the people of our country,” concluded Minister Lekota.

The new submarines replace the decommissioned Daphne Class submarines that had been in use since the 1970s.

Finally at home: the S101, SAS MANTHATISI, arriving at Simon’s Town Naval Base.
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* Latest water and electricity statements
* Copy of title deed (unbonded properties)
Remembering fallen heroes of SS MENDI

By Nomonde Vuthela

My grandfather, who died a long time ago, long before I was born, was a soldier. The place I call home and where I sleep every night was once upon a time his house. The area that I hail from in Soweto, and still reside in to this very day in the year 2006, is historically known to have been a territory that housed black soldiers, some of whom fought in World War I and II. Yet, I am ashamed to admit that beyond the vague information I happen to possess about my grandfather’s soldiering years, lies much ignorance.

My attendance at the SS MENDI Memorial Service at the Mendi Memorial and Garden of Remembrance in the Avalon Cemetery in Soweto on 10 March 2006 was purely coincidental. I was a journalist on the beat and simply doing what I do on a daily basis, i.e., my job. This attitude would later change as the SS MENDI Memorial Service unfolded.

The SS MENDI was a troop-ship that collided with another vessel on the misty morning of 21 February 1917. The stricken SS MENDI which was en route to France then quickly sank in the English Channel, drowning over 600 black South African soldiers - the “Native Contingent” on board. This has become known as South Africa’s greatest military disaster, because many valuable lives were lost and little is understood of what eventually happened to those that made it off the ship and survived by clinging to the wreckage.

More than 20,000 men who were not allowed to bear arms volunteered for service under the South African Native Labour Contingent in support of the Allied armies in France.

On 23 March 1995 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and former President Nelson Mandela together with the then Premier of Gauteng, Mr Tokyo Sexwale, officially unveiled the Mendi Memorial and Garden of Remembrance at Avalon Cemetery in Soweto. The memory of those who gave their lives during World Wars I and II lives on, and recently the Government of South Africa officially honoured the fallen heroes of the MENDI by naming one of the national orders the “SS MENDI Order of Bravery” and also named one of the new naval ships the SS MENDI.

The SS MENDI Memorial Service presented by the South African Legion-Soweto Branch and the Mendi Memorial Committee on 10 March 2006 was in actual fact the 89th anniversary of that historically tragic day. War veterans and their families, joined by Government officials, diplomats and representatives of local and international organisations, the business community and civil society commemorated the day with a wreath-laying ceremony.

Expressing her grief, Mrs Joyce Kalaute of the Mendi Memorial Committee and granddaughter to the late Rev Isaac Wauchope Dyobha, who died on the SS MENDI, said she was disappointed at the turnout for the memorial service.

"The place should be filled today with those who are descendants," said Mrs Kalaute. "Our children do not know our history." She then challenged the Mendi Memorial Committee to go out into the world and teach others about the SS MENDI. "Men left their families to go forth to France. I am very proud of these men because this is where our history started," said Mrs Kalaute.

"Altogether 680 men died as heroes and we respect you today; we have to teach the young where we come from," Mrs Kalaute emphasised. Her grandfather, Rev Isaac Wauchope Dyobha, also an ANC leader, is said to have stood strong to the bitter end, comforting his fellow countrymen as the ship went down.

The tragedy of the SS MENDI (Continued on page 25)
Military veterans re-skill themselves

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Department of Defence Directorate Language presented an English course to fifteen military veterans from the Service Corps during February and March 2006.

The course facilitator was Ms Nomvula Ndwindwe, a Language Practitioner for the DOD. She said that the course was a National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 2 English and, the duration of the course was four weeks. To pass the course learners have to obtain a minimum of eight percent. The course deals with the fundamentals of English as a medium of communication, and at times it is an uphill battle as some of the military veterans left school a long time ago. Even though they are developing and adjusting to the standards, the set objective is too high for them and it would be better if the mark could be reduced to sixty percent.

SA Soldier spoke to the military veterans to hear their views on the course as a whole. Mr Melusi Mhambi said that they wrote many tests at the Service Corps, but so far Communication/English seems to be the most difficult in which to achieve the set pass mark. They all felt that they did not pass the test, because they did not have enough reference material since there is no library at the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT).

On the positive side the military veterans feel they have gained a lot with regard to grammar. They feel that they can conduct themselves well in English now. They are happy that they had this great opportunity, and wish others could also get this chance.

Another military veteran, Mr Andries Zuke, said that even though they have not passed all the tests their commitment keeps them going.

The facilitator is pleased with her learners’ progress and determination to learn. This goes to show that it is never too late to learn, one just needs the right amount of determination and all else can be overcome.

Thirteen of the fifteen military veterans who completed the English course.
South Africans diving in dry dock

2 South African naval officers completed their basic training after 19 weeks as submariners at the training centre for submariners called "Ausbildungszentrum Uboote" (AZU) in Eckernförde. For the first time the training and lectures have been presented in English and there have not been so many students before.

Eckernförde - The good reputation of the German Navy and especially their submarines is known all over the world. The submarines have been built according to high standards of safety, a high level of quality and know-how and with well-trained crews on board. Surely, it is for these reasons that the SA Navy has ordered three Type 209 submarines from Germany. The AZU enables future submariners to be trained on board the Type 206 and 212 and this contributes to the excellent reputation and high quality standard of the crew.

"We are very proud to have South African sailors successfully starting their careers as submariners in our AZU," commented Captain Udo Michel, Commander of AZU, as he congratulated the South African participants. At the final ceremony the Commander emphasised: "The training has been realised according to German standards. All South African sailors were highly motivated and went through a hard period to pass the training."

The training was possible owing to the similarities in various components of construction of the Types 206 and 209 submarines. Furthermore, the training provides basic and general knowledge of submarines that pertains to all types of submarines.

In previous years the individuals or smaller groups of naval personnel who attended training at AZU were all German speaking. "Because of the increasing demand from other countries for the use of the AZU for training, the instructors went through language training and the training equipment has been adapted to meet the new requirements," said Captain Siegfried Föllner, Head of basic training at AZU.

"The first course presented in English has been a very successful experience. The co-operation has been efficient and uncomplicated." Captain Föllner would like to welcome more foreign nations to train their sailors at Eckernförde. The training would be additional to the courses that are run for German sailors and would have to be co-ordinated in advance.

The South African sailors, mainly junior and senior ratings, will return to their home country soon to continue their further education. Some of them, however, will come back to Germany in the spring of 2006 to train on board S101, the first of three Type 209 submarines ordered by the SA Navy. The sailors will be part of the AZU team training taking place at sea in Eckernförde.

Lt Adriaan van Wyk, who was directing the guests, said: "we are very thankful for spending time in Eckernförde". He is also very proud of his soldiers, including two women, who learned a lot in Germany and who experienced German hospitality during their stay.

AZU, Ausbildungszentrum Uboote, Eckernförde: this naval training facility on land provides high quality training for submariners in different sections. AZU also offers team training for crews at sea.

(Article first printed in the Eckernförder Newspaper on 19 November 2005 and submitted by Mr Dirk Steinmetz.)
Military Academy admits Military Skills Development System students

By Brig Gen T.Z. Manyama, Commandant Military Academy

The Military Academy opened its Academic Year 2006 with the usual grand parade in Saldanha on 25 January 2006.

The Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen T.Z. Manyama, delivered the welcoming speech. Here follows an extract of his speech:

"The Military Academy has withstood the test of time and deserves to be referred to as the premier institution, established 55 years ago, to serve, support and advance broadly, at least since 1994, the interests of the people of this country.

The DOD continues to pay maximum attention to the development, growth and utilisation of this institution with a view to serving the wider security interests of our rainbow nation.

The institution has, for the third year (2006) running, admitted a large intake of Military Skills Development (MSD) System students. This intake is part of the grand package to transform and rejuvenate the SANDF with a young, educated and enlightened workforce that will carry the flag of peace and security within our borders, and further on our continent and the world at large.

In an effort to live up to its expectations, the Military Academy focuses on the advancement of quality learning and training in the SANDF, to prepare officers for the security challenges of our epoch.

It is a fact that we produce highly skilled and qualified officers at this institution, and we will continue to do so in loyal service to the SANDF and South Africa.

The SANDF is in need of think-tanks, planners, strategists, pathfinders, researchers, analysts, scientists, leaders and commanders with insight and intellectual standing, who can manage the security challenges we face today. It is the task of the Military Academy to produce this cadre of experts. We cannot achieve this Utopia if the character of our current learner ship is riddled with poor discipline that leads to poor officer ship and poor performance both in military professional training and academic training.

The onus for success also lies with you the students. You are once again reminded of the following prescripts:

- That opportunity comes but once.
- That good begets good.
- That evil begets evil.

In conclusion, I call upon all of you to continue to influence one another positively for the good of everyone of us, and to remember the buddy spirit in the Defence Force. As you do that, do not forget that where there is a will there is a way.

Welcome one and all to the Military Academy. May your angels continue to favour you, may they ceaselessly care for you and guide you with wisdom to stardom in your career as military men and women in the South African National Defence Force," concluded Brig Gen Manyama.

Brig Gen T.Z. Manyama, Commandant Military Academy.

- That opportunity comes but once.
- That good begets good.
- That evil begets evil.
Ms Nosimo Balindlela, the Premier of the Eastern Cape, became an Honorary Colonel.

Ms Nosimo Balindlela, the newly appointed Honorary Colonel and Premier of the Eastern Cape.

Lt Gen V.I. Ramlakan, the Surgeon General of the SANDF, and Honorary Colonel Nosimo Balindlela after the parade.

Ms Nosimo Balindlela, the newly appointed Honorary Colonel and Premier of the Eastern Cape.

Colonel Balindlela. "I accept this award with humility and the affirmation that together we will work to ensure that Government’s mandate to fight poverty is fulfilled. I am very excited with the work that you (SANDF) are doing for our communities in the province. I have been informed that although you render a multi-professional health service to members of the SANDF, their dependants and retired members of the Defence, you also move beyond and work tirelessly to service our province in general," said Honorary Colonel Balindlela upon
accepting office. In his speech the Surgeon General said he was humbled by the Premier’s choice to join the SAMHS above any other Service. "We may, with licence, speculate why you took this brilliant decision. It is because of the gender profile of the SAMHS where more than 85% of the women generals in the wider SANDF are in the same uniform you are wearing today or it is because we are the custodians of Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, a portfolio which you headed in the Eastern Cape Provincial Government as the MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture between 1994 and 2004," said Lt Gen Ramlakan.

He also said the Colonel’s appointment was symbolic in the SAMHS because defence in a democracy dictated that the civil control dimension of military management was to be accentuated. "Your willingness to be appointed as an honorary colonel in our organisation helps us in a very significant way to spread the gospel that our SANDF belongs to the people of South Africa," he said.

In conclusion, the newly appointed Honorary Colonel said she promised not to make use of this rank outside her military activities. "I will abide by the conditions you lay down," said Honorary Colonel Balindlela.

is history worth noting because with it comes the appreciation of the valour and bravery that has existed among black soldiers and warriors for many years, proving that it is quite possible for the young in a new South Africa to fathom and understand the historical value of the SS MENDI, said a descendant of Rev Isaac Wauchope Dyobha, Vuyisile Kalaute, who was part of the heart-wrenching ceremony. He read out loud the last words of his brave predecessor:

"Be quiet and calm, my countrymen, for what is taking place now is exactly what you came to do.
You are going to die, but that is what you came to do.
Brothers, we are drilling the drill of death.
I a Xhosa, say you are all my brothers,
Zulus, Swazis, Pondos, Basutos, we die like brothers.
We are the sons of Africa. Raise your cries, brothers,
for though they made us leave our weapons at our home,
our voices are left with our bodies” - Rev Isaac Wauchope Dyobha.

Also addressing the gathering was Mr Ian Ransome (LGR), the Chairperson of the Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund, which caters for about 5 500 disadvantaged black youths at high school level at a cost of an overall sum of about R9 900 000. Mr Ransome too maintained that the scholarship fund can and should be used as a vehicle to enlighten young people about the SS MENDI.

“It is not known in schools about the SS MENDI and that should be corrected,” Mr Ransome added. The fund was set up in the early 1970s.

The Programme Director and Chairperson of the Mendi Memorial Committee, Mr MK Malefane, announced that steps were to be taken to have the official inquiry into the accidental or deliberate sinking of the SS MENDI reopened.

A joint claim by families of the victims of the SS MENDI for compensation was lodged in 1917, but was never received. This will also be looked into. Research into and the writing of a heritage book and the production of a television documentary and drama series on the role of blacks in World Wars I and II will be conducted. Also to be looked at is the integration of World War and struggle veterans into older persons’ empowerment programmes.

Mr Malefane added that July 2006 will see a delegation of veterans and relatives of the fallen SS MENDI accompanied by traditional leaders join the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood in France.

The delegation will also visit the World War I cemeteries in France and England where members of the South African Native Labour Contingent are buried, and will lay wreaths atop the site of the SS MENDI wreck in the English Channel.

The hosting of the first reunion conference and celebrations of war veterans from all over Africa and the diaspora in October 2007 as part of the Festac 2007 World Summit for the aged are also on the agenda of issues to be tackled.

May those who died when the SS MENDI sank rest in peace.
Spouses of generals provide guidance

By Nomonde Vuthela

The spouses of generals and officers in the SANDF have formed a group - the SANDF Spouses Forum. It provides a programme that is sustainable and one that will at all times provide members with the opportunity to learn and become well-equipped to play the part of well-informed spouses.

Speaking to SA Soldier at the General Meeting of the SANDF Spouses Forum at the Waterkloof Officers Mess on 11 March 2006 Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya, wife of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, said that one of the misfortunes following integration was the falling apart of a structure that used to exist for the women. On this particular day of the second General Meeting held by the Forum, the issues of SANDF ranks and conditions of service were at the top of the agenda.

"We are here as the spouses of the generals in the SANDF to try and empower ourselves as spouses," emphasised Mrs Ngwenya. "Knowing the conditions of service within the Defence Force will enable us in the hour of need to know exactly where to go."

"We came into the Defence Force and nobody explained to us what was happening. Unless we know what is expected of us, we cannot perform," continued Mrs Ngwenya. "This Forum must not disappear, it must live forever, and for us this will be a legacy that we did something in the SANDF as spouses. What we had also requested was a presentation on etiquette and protocol because most of the time we get invited to functions or we go overseas and we want to represent the Defence Force well."

"We are developing a constitution for this Forum and as part of the structure the Chief of the SANDF’s spouse will always be the leader."

Members of the Forum held for the very first time a workshop in November last year to try to reformulate and establish the group. "One of the important things that came out of the workshop was that we identified three portfolios: social support, fundraising and events management. We also identified aims and objectives."

Mrs Ngwenya explained that the group had to work hard to become popular and that without funds the aims and objectives of the group were pointless, therefore many fund-raise events must still take place. "As generals' wives we are a leadership group, and we are expected to provide guidance," she said. "The social support is not going to be only among spouses, but must also filter down to the lower level officers, because they are the ones who most of the time do not have the means to support themselves."

Echoing Mrs Ngwenya’s sentiments was Mrs Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, who said: "We need to..."
First African woman coxswain for naval vessel

By Lt (SAN) P.G. van den Berg,
Internal Communication Officer
Photo: Sea K. Lebisi, Navy News

Great success was achieved once again in the transformation of the SA Navy when Petty Officer Nandi Kotlolo was appointed as the first African woman to be a coxswain on board a naval vessel. She was appointed as a coxswain of one of the inshore patrol vessels SAS TERN.

After completing her matric at Hofmeyer High School in Pretoria in 1994 this ambitious woman, who hails from Atteridgeville in Pretoria, first set herself the goal to become a teacher. While she was busy with her studies she noticed the smartly turned-out naval personnel walking in Pretoria and decided that she wanted to wear the same uniform. She joined the SA Navy in 1999 and commenced her Basic Training at SAS SALDANHA. At the end of her first year she was selected for the Protection Force muster.

Petty Officer Kotlolo completed her Protection Part 1 Course in April 2000 and then served the Navy in various locations, such as Cole Point Gate in Simon’s Town, Silvermine in Tokai and later at SAS WINGFIELD. During this time she realised her dream of qualifying as a teacher and obtained her education diploma through Unisa in 2002. When the post of coxswain on board the SAS TERN was advertised, she knew that she was the right candidate for the post and did not hesitate to apply. “Even though the coxswain of a ship is usually a man, I knew that as a woman I would be able to do the job just as well,” said Petty Officer Kotlolo.

The message that she wishes to convey to all the young women in the DOD and throughout the nation is “believe in yourself and, no matter what, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Never limit yourself, go out there and grab your chances. If I can do it, so can you.”

The Officer Commanding of the SAS TERN, Sub Lieutenant Mareza Green, is very proud to have another woman as her second in command of the vessel. “This vessel is an excellent platform for somebody to learn the rigours of command due to its small size. I am glad that women are getting the necessary recognition in the SA Navy, because we can achieve just as much as men can,” said Sub Lieutenant Green.

Petty Officer Kotlolo is grateful that the SA Navy afforded her this opportunity to prosper, but she also said that the dedication and support of her family had greatly influenced her success. As a coxswain on board the SAS TERN, Petty Officer Kotlolo strives to maintain the discipline and integrity of the sailors on board her vessel. At the age of 30, this ambitious lady is very keen to complete a BA (Education) degree through Unisa and also to qualify in a military law course. She has done the SA Navy proud and we wish her all the best for her future aspirations.
Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo courtesy GEPF

The core objective of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA) is to halve poverty and unemployment by 2014. We believe that these objectives are feasible - indeed we would hope to surpass those objectives because of the steady improvement in the performance and job creating capacity of the economy,” said the Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, at a Media Briefing held on 6 February 2006.

At the very media briefing the Deputy President indicated that South Africa’s economic growth averaged about 3% during the first decade of freedom, and that since 2004 growth has tended to exceed 4% per year, reaching about 5% in 2005. “Good economic policies, positive domestic sentiment and a favourable international environment have created the opportunity to consider our recent gains and prepare to take our performance to a higher level,” added Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka also revealed that with the improvement in the growth rate came rapidly improving employment creation, though unemployment remained high at over 26%, but that this figure was considerably better that the 32% unemployment rate reached a few years ago. The recent growth unfortunately remains unbalanced, because it has not been adequately shared and the levels of unemployment are still too high. The divide between the "haves" and the "have-nots" has meant that the latter live without any economic benefits.

She continued by stating that the challenge to reduce unemployment to 15% and halve the poverty rate could not be achieved without effective economic leadership from Government and effective partnerships between Government and other stakeholders, such as organised labour and business.

"In the course of exploring our opportunities, Government consulted with a range of stakeholders. On the basis of these interactions, Government believes that South Africa is ready for ASGI-SA to be a national shared growth initiative, rather than a 'Government's programme'," the Deputy President announced.

ASGI-SA is therefore a directive! It beckons all key stakeholders from Government departments, the business sector, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), all sectors of society, including the ordinary South African citizen to come along and work together on a common national programme to speed up progress towards a better life for all.

The questions then become "What can the SANDF do to be part of the national effort for faster and shared growth"? And "How is driving the ASGI-SA concept in turn going to benefit the DOD"? Charity begins at home! The SANDF must also benefit positively through ASGI-SA in order to add value and be of any good to the rest of South Africa.

SA Soldier’s quest for clarity and its eagerness to understand and thus to popularise the ASGI-SA concept pointed us straight in the direction of the DOD Human Resources (HR) Section, where indeed "ASGI-SA" was found to be the new buzzword. Here we met with the Director of Human Resource Planning, Brig Gen Dries de Wit, who explained to SA Soldier that word had come from the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, alerting the Chief HR, Lt Gen Temba...
Matanzima, to ASGI-SA. The charge to research the concept in relation to human resources eventually fell to Brig Gen De Wit.

Clearly understanding that communication is critical to the ASGI-SA challenge, SA Soldier then sat in on a presentation by Brig Gen De Wit to Chief HR, his chief directors and directors at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 16 March 2006.

"The aim of this presentation is to propose a strategic human resource framework in support of a business case for the DOD’s contribution to the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA),” said Brig Gen De Wit, introducing his topic.

"We are aware of Government’s initiative in terms of ASGI-SA, and today’s presentation must first of all sensitise senior HR officials to what ASGI-SA is all about,” expressed Brig Gen De Wit, and added: "And as we come to understand the concept, then say, how can the Department of Defence contribute and participate in such a programme and at the same time try and secure some funds to grow our own initiatives. We know the Rand is strong and doing well. There are a lot of opportunities embedded in the ASGI-SA programme for the Defence Force and we must use those opportunities.”

"The HR component, which is the people working for this Department, are the most important, so it is not surprising that this whole concept of ASGI-SA should start with HR,” said Brig Gen De Wit. To ensure the successful implementation of ASGI-SA within Defence, other sides to the concept will soon come into play, such as logistical elements and finance. "HR is an important element because humans must make ASGI-SA work and they will make it work only if they are educated, skilled and trained,” noted the Director HR Planning.

Some of the opportunities that Brig Gen De Wit referred to include the training and skilling of people within and/or on the way out of the Defence Force, contributing to the furtherance and growth of own programmes of the DOD, and giving job opportunities to those who want to join the SANDF. Interlinking with the ASGI-SA programme will also result in the development of SANDF youth programmes that are already in existence. For instance, young people leaving the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme should be educated and trained sufficiently in order to enter the civilian labour market with confidence.

Brig Gen De Wit reported that the MSD Programme introduced in 2003 has since led to 12 500 young people entering the SANDF through this programme. Also currently run by the SANDF is the DOD Youth Foundation Training Programme (YFTP) implemented in 2001 at the rate of 250 black learners per year.

This youth infusion, he confirmed, has significantly improved the rank imbalances in the junior ranks, but that the above positive developments are, however, offset by a number of negative factors of a resource and capacity nature. "It is therefore clear that for the DOD to contribute robustly towards ASGI-SA from an HR perspective, interventions are required, both in the form of increased resource allocation and of partnerships with external stakeholders,” he said, and continued: "This will enable the DOD to create the necessary capacity and employment opportunities for the youth.”

According to Brig Gen De Wit, following the SANDF’s 1994 integration process, the DOD has downsized from a peak strength of 101 353 in 1996 to 77 365 currently. Furthermore the approval of HR Strategy 2010 gave emphasis to two primary focus areas: HR rightsizing with the emphasis on the rejuvenation of the SANDF and simultaneous youth empowerment, as well as the correction of employment equity imbalances in the DOD.

Regarding personnel flow, Brig Gen De Wit remarked that "the SANDF should develop those people who reach a career plateau and stagnation within the military, to look at them and see how we can find alternative employment for them through alternative skills so that they too can understand there is a life after the military. Maybe even in a new environment where a person can even earn more money.”

"The other area is to bring to a higher peak the intakes and growth of the MSD Programme and the YFTP, and get more money from the ASGI-SA resources so that we train artisans and engineers of tomorrow,” added Brig Gen De Wit.

"And then the economy will also grow: it is a snowball effect.”

"I believe the DOD should drive ASGI-SA maybe on a full-time basis, and implement it through an aggressive implementation plan, with milestones, a plan of action, etc. It must be driven from the highest level, because we must not miss this opportunity,” Brig Gen De Wit stressed.

"We need good leadership to direct and be committed to this process. We need staff officers to whom you will then allocate the resources in a proper way and drive those areas through a proper management and implementation approach.” He added: "In the process we may also have to take tough decisions that are not so pleasant, but in the long run we will see a winning situation, because as we rejuvenate we do not want to put unskilled people on the streets.”

"It is a win-win situation. So let us use ASGI-SA to get there,” emphasised Brig Gen De Wit.

"I want to see Defence’s HR System function in such a way that it is well imbedded and well integrated with the ASGI-SA initiatives of other Government departments, parastatals, other industries and private businesses, so that people should understand that when they come into the military the SANDF cares enough to skill its members for survival, even for the outside world,” concluded Brig Gen De Wit.
could have sworn that my eyes were deceiving me when I saw the advanced warships at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town. I am talking about the FSG Berlin from the German Armed Forces, together with her sisters FGS Hamburg, FGS Rheinland-Pfalz and our own SAS AMATOLA assembled at the Waterfront on 3 March 2006 to take part in Exercise DESEX (Exercise Good Hope 2).

The SANDF and German Armed Forces (GAF) conducted the exercise off the southern coast of South Africa over the period 20 February to 14 March 2006. The exercise was conducted in the spirit of “Joint and Combined” by the German and South African Navies, as well as the German and South African Air Forces. The ships of both countries operated as a joint force, conducting manoeuvres and tactical exercises, followed by “live” firing of ammunition.

The overall objectives of the SANDF in this exercise was to:

- Enhance and maintain the comprehensive defence capabilities within the organisation.
- Develop a common understanding of military interoperability and foster mutual trust, respect and cooperation between the SANDF and the German Armed Forces.
- Give the SANDF and other forces practical experience in deploying and exercising their conventional capability.
- Upgrade operational means and methods of multinational conventional forces by employing different types of equipment while conducting and exercising according to a common set of guiding principles.
- Enhance SANDF preparation and combat readiness in the execution of missions as part of multinational naval conventional operations.
- Examine and evaluate the compatibility of existing organisational structures and technical means to conduct multinational conventional operations.

SA Soldier attended the celebration of the German Navy’s 50th anniversary at the V&A Waterfront from 3 to 6 March 2006. The celebrations started with a guard of honour for the Chief of Staff of the German Navy, V Adm Lutz Feldt, at Naval Base Simon’s Town. Later that evening, V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, hosted a function on board the SAS AMATOLA. In his speech he said this was one of the exercises he would cherish as the Chief of the SA Navy and that he hoped when the exercise ended both countries would have learned from one another. The function was also attended by the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, and the German Air Force Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Klaus-Peter Stieglitz.

On 4 March during the luncheon on board the FGS Rheinland-Pfalz, the...
local residents were treated to a fly-past demonstration by the German Air Force (Tornado fighter jet) and the South African Air Force (Cheetah fighter jet). The following day tourists and other members of the community had an opportunity to view and take pictures of all the participating ships.

A group of VIP visitors were invited to sail on the SAS AMATOLA for the sea and air phase exercise on 6 March. It also happened to be the Chief of the SA Navy’s birthday. V Adm Mudimu was presented with a bottle of champagne by the crew of the SAS AMATOLA while he was on the FGS Hamburg, courtesy of V Adm Feldt.

This exercise goes way back in 1996, when the German Navy came here on a training voyage. In 1997 a tragic mid-air collision took place between a German Air Force and a US Air Force plane off the Namibian coast. Maritime reconnaissance aircraft, the BREGUET ATLANTIC, and the frigate AUGSBURG were used in a subsequent search operation involving co-operation with the SA Navy. At the time Commander (Senior Grade) Eckhard Bodecker was Executive Officer on the AUGSBURG.

The first joint exercise with the SA Navy, Exercise CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, which was launched in 2000, symbolised deeper co-operation between the two countries. Both navies provided ships for a joint task force to facilitate the training of cadet officers and to practise tactical deployment. As with Exercise GOOD HOPE 2, the firing of missiles off Overberg was the highlight of the exercise.
Opinion formers visit the military in Cape Town

By S Sgt M.R. Ngozo, Directorate Corporate Communication
Photos: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

In an effort to enhance a healthy relationship and to promote the image of the DOD, a group of opinion formers were invited on a scheduled visit as guests of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, to military installations in Cape Town from 23 to 24 February 2006. The guests included directors, chief directors and director generals from government departments, the Institute for Security Studies, the National Prosecuting Authority, the Independent Complaints Directorate, as well as members of the media. The visit started at AFB Ysterplaat and ended at the Military Academy in Saldahna.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Sipho Binda, the Chief of Foreign Relations, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, the Deputy Chief Director Army Corporate Services, Brig Gen Enoch Mashaola, and the Director Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Kwena Mangope, accompanied the guests.

Welcoming the guests to the corvette, SAS SPIOENKOP, at Simon’s Town Naval Base, Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Hennie Bester, explained the important role that the SA Navy plays in protecting South Africa’s coastline. "The SA Navy’s core business is to fight at sea, to win at sea and to be unchallenged at sea," said R Adm Bester.

Navy Captains P. Smith and D.R. Faure and Commander M.J. Venter, gave lectures on how the corvette works and how the SA Navy conducts its operations at sea.

At Silvermine, Lt Col Archie Steyn briefed the guests on hydrography, the Navy’s maritime area of responsibility and the operations conducted by the Joint Tactical Headquarters. A slide show on how illegal abalone poaching is combated was shown to the guests. Then they were taken to the bunkers where they were introduced to Operation ORCA and the air maritime control of aircraft.

The first day ended at the DOD School of Logistics, after the Officer Commanding, Col William Leukes, outlined the historical background and the functions and roles of the school, not only in the DOD, but also in respect of other defence forces in Africa.

The Supply Support Acting Training Co-ordinator of the School, Lt Col Botha, presented lectures on the roles played by logistics in real war situations. The guests were taken for a ride in a Samil 50, after which Maj De Bruin and his team of instructors gave the guests a demonstration of a delivery point in the field.

The next day the delegation visited AFB Langebaanweg. The Officer Commanding, Col T.M. Khumalo, gave lectures on the historical background, functions, resources and facilities of the Air Force, SAAF pilot training, courses offered at AFB Langebaanweg and entrance requirements for prospective trainee pilots.
At SAS SALDANHA the Commanding Officer, Capt (SAN) K. Naidoo, welcomed the guests and introduced them to the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme and the partnership with the Department of Public Works. He said that SAS SALDANHA played a pivotal role in providing military education, training and development for ratings so as to meet the needs of the SA Navy.

The last pit stop was the Military Academy where the guests were greeted by the sweet voices of the Military Academy Choir, led by 2 Lt T.G. Mthombeni, which left the guests clapping hands, whistling and ululating.

The Military Academy Commandant, Brig Gen T.Z. Manyama, explained the goals of the academy, while the Dean of the Faculty Military Science, Prof D.J. Malan, outlined the programmes offered and the relationship between the academy and the University of Stellenbosch.

Lt Cdr D.R. Zozo briefed the guests on the Section Military Development, while Ms K. Huyssteen informed them about the community programme called Masiza, and Lt K.V. Masopa told them about the role of the Military Academy Student Committee (MASC).

The guests were flown from AFB Waterkloof to AFB Ysterplaat and from AFB Langebaanweg to Pretoria in a C130 Hercules military aircraft.

Most of the guests described the visit as an eye-opener, an adventure and quite an experience. National Police Assistant Commissioner, Mr Joseph Ngobeni, was so impressed that he requested to be invited again on such a visit.

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**Update on the Mobility/Exit Mechanism**

**By Lethube Phasha**  
**Photo: Cpl René Naicker**

The Mobility/Exit Mechanism (MEM) was specifically designed for uniformed members of the South African National Defence Force.

SA SOLDIER had a follow-up interview with Brig Gen Dries de Wit, the Director of Human Resource Planning, so that he could explain the current status of this mechanism.

It was designed to give members the option of leaving the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) once they had reached a career plateau. Brig Gen De Wit said that this mechanism was an integral part of proper career management. It is voluntary, so a member has the final say whether he or she wants to leave or remain in the SANDF. The MEM has been driven through the career management process of the four Services; therefore the career managers can recommend a MEM for members who they think have reached their career plateau. The SANDF also has the right to ask some members to stay on, if their contributions are still needed in the Department of Defence (DOD).

Six months after implementing this mechanism the figures are still changing daily. Even though this is a voluntary mechanism the DOD has the right to approve what it can afford as this was planned on an annual basis. The DOD has to examine the financial means it has at its disposal. Brig Gen De Wit mentioned that the DOD has reached its expectations for the current financial year.

So far in the region of 550 members have received ministerial approval to exit the SANDF during the 2005/2006 financial year. As the MEM was also implemented to promote transformation in the SANDF it is vital to mention that of the approvals for 2005/2006, 73% are white employees. Considering rank levels it can be seen that large numbers are from the senior levels, including WO1 and WO2, where the SANDF had a big stagnation problem.

Most members taking the MEM are over the age of 45, which serves as a way to rejuvenate the force, even though other young people are also applying for this mechanism. For the financial year 2006/2007 there have already been 209 approvals (80% are white employees, mostly in the middle management rank level, as well as WO1 and WO2) and the number is expected to grow as the year progresses.

Brig Gen De Wit said that though the MEM was designed for uniformed members the Public Service has also approved an exit package for civilian employees, which will be implemented during the 2006/2007 financial year. The two have similar principles. This will provide the civilian members who are currently employed in the commando units that are currently being closed down with an opportunity to avail themselves of a civilian package. He added that they were pleased because the DOD was reaching all the goals that were set for the success of the MEM, which was designed to promote the concept of through flow of personnel, prevent stagnation and rejuvenate the Force.

Those who are interested in the MEM should discuss the matter with their career managers who will in turn provide them with the necessary guidance. Currently the DOD is not regretting the implementation of the MEM, as it has proved to be very fruitful. Everyone is winning with the MEM.

For more information on the MEM please contact the Career Managers of the Services and Divisions.
A toast to the future of the SA Army! “We learn as we fight,” announced the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, as he officially unveiled plans to create a robust, high-tech, self reliant, responsive and adaptive Army - Vision 2020 strategy. Vision 2020 will breathe new life into the Army so that it will possess an even greater ability to work in coalition and jointness with all Services and other role players in order to face today’s and tomorrow’s challenges.

Lt Gen Shoke introduced this new concept of the SA Army - Vision 2020 - to the media and other interest groups. Speaking at the launch held in Thaba Tshwane on 7 March 2006, Lt Gen Shoke presented this product, which took fifteen months of planning since his inception as Chief of the SA Army.

Vision 2020 was formulated by a task team consisting of seven SA Army officers and is still in the planning stages. It is intended to give the SANDF a more defined idea of what the new SA Army wants to be: a more streamlined, adaptable and mobile force for its new role for the next fourteen years. Details of a new breed of soldier were outlined: this type of soldier would achieve for the Government an expanding economy that would stretch throughout Africa. The soldier of the future will carry a gun, but also fight psychological wars, always bearing in mind that the key objective is to contribute to South Africa’s social development. The “new soldier” would also serve to boost the realisation of an African Renaissance.

Breaking down Vision 2020 during a presentation the Project Leader, Col Eddie Drost, talked about “a clean slate approach and future first”. Outlining the mandate of the SA Army, which is to “provide combat-ready land forces for the pursuance of national defence and to contribute to the development and upliftment of South Africa, its people and the African continent,” Col Drost envisaged a professional and dynamic force.

He added that it was essential that the SA Army understand the kind of war on which it was embarking, and “How should we prepare ourselves in order to fight?” Vision 2020 is designed to contribute to the optimisation of the use of the SANDF by rejuvenating its military capacity; therefore the SA Navy and SA Air Force will soon unveil their own strategies to grow and meet the demands of a modern world.

Col Drost elaborated that Vision 2020 was still at a conceptual and strategic level and that the task team was not working on a document cast in stone, but one that was susceptible to change. “This strategy can be changed when the need arises,” Col Drost added.

Col Drost explained that the vision of the SA Army envisaged the future African “battle space” as one involving the possibility of formal war, but also “complex war fighting”, which could be characterised by the presence of women and...
child soldiers, formal military forces, rebels, mercenaries, cyber hackers, attempts at genocide, urban warfare, famine and refugees. Col Drost continued that the future “battle space” remains unpredictable and that our soldiers can be better prepared to contend with the differing situations. “We can do better in this regard coping with natural disasters, refugees and illegal immigrants,” he stated.

There is also the issue of physical complexity as the SA Army moves further and deeper into foreign territory. “Can we optimise equipment and should we optimise for all regions?” Vision 2020 also emphasises the SA Army’s wish to operate across a range of African zones - from tropical dry savannah to desert and semi-desert conditions, tropical regions and mountainous areas. South Africa is currently part of the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping effort in the tropical wet region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi.

“To be looked at is whether we should optimise for desert and jungle warfare,” he said. Feasibility studies indicate that with rapid urbanisation across the continent, future battles are likely to move more towards urban areas. “We need to keep up with the Jones’s,” Col Drost emphasised in relation to the issue of aligning the SA Army with the rest of the world as modern technology and weapons become even more high-tech and advanced.

According to the presentation urbanisation takes place in one or two metropolitan areas of a country, resulting in the development of megacities. There are more than 2 000 new arrivals in Johannesburg per day and the infrastructure of the city is not developed for such large numbers, resulting in the large unserviced slum areas. The SANDF is then posed with the challenge of fixing the infrastructure, such as roads and harbours to enhance productivity. The Chief of the SA Army also indicated that although it was too early to indicate all the financial implications, the budget had to support the plans.

The environment in which the Army of the future will have to operate calls for a combat-ready force that can combine contemporary weapons with specialised and high-tech weaponry for greater flexibility. The new Army will be more central, and be an all-arms yet smaller team or battalion, and close combat will remain the key.

The new type of soldier will also possess the fundamental skills of dealing with human complexity: the soldier will have the ability to take the public’s cares, needs and pains after and during wartime into consideration. The important question will always be: Do the people you are fighting for or liberating see you in a positive light?

The new SA Army will also see greater jointness with the SA Air Force and the SA Navy. Ground forces will provide their own protection, mobility and fire power and be able to call in heavier naval power and close air support at short notice. All ground forces will be expected to interoperate with forces from other states and the other Services (SA Air Force and SA Navy). Urban conflict will involve more and, unprecedented co-ordination between aircraft and artillery.

Col Drost said: “Good leadership will be that which is sustainable even in the absence of resources.” It would be the key to the success of the project.

Vision 2020 also takes into account the necessary change in the SA Army’s physical structure. The new Army will be structured in a manner that will increase the speed of decision-making and thus give the soldier on the ground more authority to deal with situations that may present themselves.

Vision 2020 is the answer to the question: Will the SA Army be prepared for future challenges? The year 2006 will see the SA Army formulate and begin to implement plans to prepare its forces for the warfare of the future.
"The secret of war lies in communication"

By S Sgt Maryna Botes, Junior Training Wing at the School of Signals

As reflected in its mission the School of Signals is a training institution that provides high quality command and management information systems (CMIS) learning programmes for the Department of Defence (DOD) members and other approved clients to ensure that they have all the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to render valuable and worthwhile CMIS services in the DOD and in other fields of work where CMIS services are also utilised.

The School of Signals is one of the oldest units in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and was established on 1 October 1913 as the School of Signalling at Tempe, Bloemfontein. During its existence it has been responsible for advanced signals training for South African Corps of Signals (SACS) officers, other ranks, units undergoing training and for the Signal Recruiting Training Depot. The School of Signals also provides formal leader group training and Reserve Force training in the SACS.

Currently the School of Signals forms part of the CMIS Division where it is responsible for the functional training of officers, other ranks, junior leaders, apprentices and artisans of the SACS.

Its long history, however, does not always reflect its adaptability to the latest trends in training methods. The School of Signals is structured to provide training for its Senior Training Wing, Junior Training Wing and Technical Training Wing. Its Headquarters at the Planning and Training Office (PTO) Section provides assessment services and learner administration.

The School of Signals embraced the principles of outcomes based education and is in the process of becoming a fully accredited training provider. Currently it has a temporary training status. A good example of this approach is the utilization of simulator facilities.

Currently the School of Signals has classes providing for, among others, high frequency (HF), data, computer training, telex net simulator and an R4 shooting simulator. These classrooms are situated in the Junior Training Wing, where training is given in the C21 High Frequency (HF) Radio, the B46 Very High Frequency (VHF) Radio, the Tactical Data Terminal (TDT) 200, the Data Entry Terminal (DET) 170 Data Entry Services and the Harness (HAR) 500 vehicle installation.

The advantages of using simulators range from improving effectiveness to reducing facilitator fatigue.

The simulator training system represents a real-life configuration of equipment that also allows the facilitator instant feedback on the progress of individual learners. It reduces the need to carry large quantities of surplus equipment for training purposes, and thus reduces loss through damage or theft. It enables a facilitator learner ratio of 1 to 40, at the same time allowing for personal attention.

All aspects of the equipment can be covered, from its assembly and use up to finding flaws, which again reduces logistical implications. The structure saves space, time and money, and is adaptable, as any peripheral data equipment can also be integrated into the system. All simulator training is followed by practical field exercises for the further development of the learner’s skills.

Further simulator training enables the School of Signals to maintain the standard of training and ensures that it remains constant and consistent. This enables the School of Signals to fulfill its mission and to promote the principles of tactical telecommunications, namely reliability, flexibility, security, responsibility and liaison. As Napoleon said: "The secret of war lies in communication."
The Secret World of Electronic Warfare

By Col Robert Zeelie, SSO Air, Dir Tech Def Int

Imagine a lone DC-4 Skymaster flying along a foreign coast. It is late at night and the inside of the aircraft is abuzz with activity. It is wartime and a team of specialists is hard at work, monitoring the electronic order of the battle. These specialists, highly trained Electronic Warfare (EW) operators, are searching for any radar and communications activities and radar-guided air defence systems.

An EW co-ordinator who is a navigator with years of operational experience is responsible for the monitoring of all the activities. A lone Bar Lock long-range early warning radar is active near an enemy airbase. This is normal for this time of the night. Nothing out of the ordinary is expected. Suddenly, a Spoon Rest early-warning radar becomes active. Then, a Side Net height-finder radar also starts transmitting. EW operators report on the tracking of the aircraft by a Side Net radar. The co-ordinator follows these activities closely. EW operators then report activity on the airbase tower frequency, indicating fighter-aircraft communications. The co-ordinator suddenly realises what is happening. The airbase has scrambled a fighter aircraft to intercept the Skymaster. He immediately informs the pilots of what is taking place, indicating his assessment of it being an interceptor, and it is coming their way, flying just below the speed of sound!

The captain of the aircraft reacts immediately. Both Skymaster pilots onboard are veterans of operational flying. The pilot quickly takes the aircraft into a tight, spiral dive. Inside the aircraft everyone can feel the increase in G-force as the aircraft continues to bank very tightly. After a few tense moments the aircraft levels out over the sea, hugging the waves at less than 200 ft above them. The aircraft departs from the operational area at best speed. These evasive manoeuvres succeed in shaking off the interceptor and the Skymaster returns to base without further incident.

Today this type of electronic warfare mission continues all around the world. Some activities, such as electronic reconnaissance, take place on a daily basis. For instance the EP-3 Aries electronic reconnaissance aircraft that made a forced landing in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is evidence of this. The crew of the Aries were conducting radar and communications intelligence gathering in international airspace, flying over the South China Sea. However, a PRC fighter aircraft was following the Aries very closely. One of the Chinese fighters then accidentally hit the Aries’s wing and engine, causing the fighter to crash into the sea, killing the pilot. The Aries was forced to make an emergency landing inside China.

The SA Air Force is also no stranger to the modern day world of electronic warfare. EW operators are trained to carry out these secret, and sometimes dangerous activities. Until recently senior EW operators also manned EW stations on SAAF Boeing 707C aircraft. These aircraft were equipped to conduct long-range strategic reconnaissance missions. In this role they flew beyond the detection ranges of foreign radars, from where they could conduct clandestine collection operations. Real-time monitoring of radar and communications transmissions took place, while EW operators were also ready to subject enemy fighter aircraft to communications jamming. At the same time the Boeing 707C provided an early-warning service to fighter and other support aircraft flying over the battlefield.

Today EW operators also man Oryx helicopter-borne communications and radar jamming equipment. These helicopters fly tactical profiles on the battlefield from where they will selectively jam enemy emissions. Oryx crews are trained to penetrate enemy airspace undetected and expose themselves only at critical moments of the air battle. After the jamming of targets, the Oryx will depart from the battlefield using evasive manoeuvres, flying nap-of-the-earth to avoid detection and possible interception by fighter aircraft.

A wide range of EW activities will continue to play an important role in the continuous preparation for war. Most of these activities will, however, continue to be shrouded in secrecy. Only those intimately involved will know the true capabilities of EW operations. EW operators thus have to train continuously to maintain the highest levels of proficiency. In future they might participate on the battlefield unnoticed and undetected, but their influence will be duly felt.

This article is a tribute to the small group of passionate and dedicated EW operators who have fostered a capability to fulfil unique Air Force needs. It is, however, also an attempt to spark the interest of individuals to become involved in the activities of Electronic Warfare. This is essential if we are to continue carrying the banner of this important capability of the SA Air Force into the future.
UMzantsi Afrika wongeze ixesha lenqubo yamajoni amiselwe ukucinja uxolo e-Afrika

Eli nqaku ungalihumana kwiphephandaba leSebe loMkhosi woKhuselo. (Translated into IsiXhosa by Ms N.P. Ndwandwe)

URhulumente waseMzantsi Afrika wongeze ixesha elingangonyaka kumsebenzi wenkqubo yamajoni amiselwe ukucinja uxolo kwiniyaka ezililela eAfrika.

Ongumthetheli ka Rhulumente, uMnu Netshitenzhe, unike le ngxelo kwiintatheli zamaphephandaba, emva kwentlanganiso ka vekimbini ebibanjelwe eKapa, lisebe lombuso nelawulayo, kwinyanga yoKwindla (Matshi) 2006. URhulumente uye wazithathela ingqalelo ezi nkqubo zamajoni zokugcina uxolo nolawulo melo kumazwa anjenge Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC kunye nase Sudan.

URhulumente wenze umqondiso wokughubeka nokuxhasa loo nkqubo yoxolo ngokuvuma ukuba kuthunyelwe amanye amalungu amangamakhulu asithoba namashumi amahlanu (950) e-SANDF

* The English version of this article is available on page 10. 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.
Join in the fun -
SA Navy Festival

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

Simon’s Town was the place to be on 24 to 26 March 2006, when the annual SA Navy Festival was hosted in this beautiful town. For three days the public had the opportunity to get in touch with the SA Navy.

On 24 March the corvettes were open to the public for the first time. There were also a dog show, a fireman competition and a diving display. The major event for the day was the Navy Band dry dock concert, which was held on the Dry Dock East Dockyard. The show was packed to capacity and the band played as if it was their last performance.

The dog show was very popular, as the spectators packed the main arena to watch as the two dog units of the SA Navy (Naval Stores Depot Wingfield in Goodwood and SA Naval Armament Depot in Simon’s Town) showed their capabilities. “The dogs at these units were bred at 12 SA Infantry Battalion in Potchefstroom. Puppy training is introduced when the dogs reach the age of six months. The year to follow is very important as it is during this time that it is determined in which discipline the dog will be utilised,” said AB Alroy la Meyer, the dog handler.

The next day started with the freedom of right of entry parade into Simon’s Town. The chief functionary was the Chief of Naval Staff, R Adm M.H. Magalefa, who officially declared the Navy Festival for 2006 open. “Each year we are pleased to host this festival as it provides us with the opportunity to show and demonstrate to you, the people of our country, what your People’s Navy has in its inventory to fulfil the roles of protecting our country and its people,” said R Adm Magalefa.

He said that as the People’s Navy they are not only committed to the protection of the country’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, but also accept social responsibility for the people of South Africa. This includes the Project ISIVUNGUVUNGU Sailing Academy, the Fishing Academy, and musical training of youth who have formed a band, all of which has led to the development of the youth of the local community and is proof of the potential we have within our communities. One of the members developed through Project ISIVUNGUVUNGU is now a member of the crew of the South African contender for the Americas Cup on board the yacht SHOSHOLOZA. Alderman Niki Holderness, the Ward 61 Councillor at Simon’s Town, said they were always pleased to host the SA Navy festival because the Navy had put Simon’s Town on the map.

After the parade everyone headed back to the main arena to enjoy the activities of the day. Asked what he thought about the Navy Festival, Byron Todd (16) from Simon’s Town said: “It’s fantastic, especially the boat rides. It was my first time inside the SAS SPIOENKOP. Hopefully when I finish my matric I will join the SA Navy”, Mr William Rouibain from Mitchell’s Plain said, he had a good time at the festival, but he was disappointed that there were not enough seats at the main arena.

Again the Navy Band gave a lunchtime concert and they got everyone singing and dancing to different sounds, such as the marimba. The highlight of the day was the night gunnery shoot at the Lower North Battery; it was a beautiful sight to see those tracer bullets.

Other supporting activities that people enjoyed were the muzzle loading guns firing every hour, food and various stalls, children’s activities and static displays. African Defence Systems (ADS) sponsored the festival.
Military Health Training Formation held its third academic opening to enhance the performance of the academics on 16 February 2006.

This day was set aside to give credit to military academic facilitators and their civilian counterparts. Guests included members of the four Services and military attachés. Cpln N. Nkosi opened the event with Scripture reading.

The keynote speaker at this function was Mrs Palesa Makhale-Mahlangu, who is a clinical psychologist in private practice.

She currently chairs the Board of Equal Opportunities and Affirmative Action for the SANDF. (The board advises the Minister of Defence on equal opportunities and affirmative action issues.)

Mrs Makhale-Mahlangu began her speech by saying: "As an African woman, when I see beauty I must acknowledge, Halala macabane Halala!"

She reminded the academics that education needed to be a dialogue, and as academics we always need to question what we learn. She then quoted a piece from Dr Carter Woodson’s book, *Miseducation of the Negro*.

She told the academics that education should not only give us stature, but also enhance the community we live in.

According to her, education should be a vehicle that takes us to the future, and she illustrated this on the basis of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.

Mrs Makhale-Mahlangu said that it was sad that we had educated people who looked down on those who were not on a par with themselves, forgetting the point that “our elderly may not have education, but they possess God-given knowledge”.

Though the Surgeon General could not attend the ceremony, he was ably represented by Maj Gen Abie Landman, Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation, who delivered the message of goodwill.

He reminded the academics that a “medic” provided medical care not only for the soldier, but also for his dependants.

He mentioned that we had the best equipped life-support assimilation laboratory in the country, which was donated to us by the USA.

He added that the future of SAMHS was not in the hands of the Surgeon General and other generals, but the facilitators of the Military Health Training Formation.

Maj Gen Landman said that it was at this formation that Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme students were given the skills to go out and be disciplined young South African citizens. Then he thanked all the universities that are the Formation’s partners in training.

In his closing remarks he urged the students to study continuously, and also said he eagerly awaited Master degrees in Military Medicine. His words of encouragement were: “Take pride in what you are producing… keep up your good work - I salute you.”

To quote Mrs Makhale-Mahlangu: “If you are meant to be a corporal, do your work as well as Eskia Mphahlele when he writes his poetry.” Walk this road with pride; God knows you can walk this road with pride.
Adventure of Flying

By Pte Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

Besides being actively involved in the defence of our country the SA Air Force and the SANDF also have a caring and softer side. On 27 January 2006 a group of underprivileged children from the Charisma Community Church in Mamelodi East in Ekageng visited 28 Squadron (Waterkloof AFB) to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to feel the magic of flying.

A good Samaritan by the name of 2Lt Lea Miles from 5 Air Supply Unit, a fourth year Industrial Engineering student at the University of Pretoria and a TUKS rag queen debutante, made a request for the children to be taken on a C130 flight, as none of them had ever flown before. TUKS rag organisation raises funds in support of various charity organisations and upliftment projects. Accompanying the children were their caregiver, Ms Doris Maja, and three other students from the University of Pretoria. Maj Hein van Staden welcomed the visitors and gave a brief history of AFB Waterkloof (28 Squadron) and its responsibilities and basic roles.

Ms Maja explained the purpose of the Charisma Community Church in Mamelodi East as a center that offers care and support to destitute children. “The children from families affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty are welcomed at the centre each afternoon, Monday to Friday, where they are given a cooked meal and helped with their homework.

“They participate in daily worship, interact in educational and outdoor games and are given care and encouragement. The church has four volunteers to prepare the meals and to be mentors and guides to the children,” said Ms Maja.

Let us make the world a better place for young children and encourage them to learn and follow their dreams. Learning rooted in experience becomes wisdom.

Dreams come true

By Lt Maryke Lynn, Ad Astra

Practice makes perfect! An aviation safety and training day to sharpen their skills and keep them up to date with the various types of aircraft was held on 4 February 2006 for the pilots of the Air Force Museum’s fleet of aircraft.

The aircraft flown in their training sorties were the Siyandiza Puma, Harvard, Kudu, Alouette II, Dakota C47, the Vampire and Bosbok. The SA Air Force and, in particular, the Air Force Museum, also had the opportunity to open their hearts to some 25 children from the childhood cancer foundation “Choc” on this day. A number of these children are terminally ill and, since time was of the essence, the SA Air Force made use of the first available opportunity to make their wish to fly come true. Brig Gen John Church, the commander for the day, Lt Col Rassie Erasmus, the co-pilot, and WO1 Pierre du Toit, the flight engineer, took the children and their support systems of family and friends on a short flight over the Hartbeespoort Dam and surrounding areas in the Siyandiza Puma. As encouragement for another dream, L Cpl Mpho Keetile, who is currently working at the museum and striving to become an aviator in the SA Air Force, was given a flip in the Vampire with Lt Col Glen Warden, a Reserve Force member.

Children from the childhood cancer foundation “Choc” had a wonderful day during the aviation safety and training day.

Paragraph 2 of the said document reads as follows: "This communiqué serves to provide you with an overview of the new inclusive flexible remuneration package system, (hereinafter referred to as the Middle Management Service System) that is being implemented for members on salary level 11 and 12 and members on salary level 10 or lower who are awarded a remuneration package that falls within the scales of MMS level 11 and 12 and the implication thereof on your position".

The flexible package mentioned above allows members to structure the remaining component of their flexible portion into the following remuneration packages: motor vehicle allowance, 13th cheque and non-pensionable cash allowance.

While the aforementioned document deals with the implementation implications of the new inclusive flexible remuneration package system for members’ salaries, this article will attempt to deal with the tax implications thereof. Paragraph 11 of the document of Director Military Personnel Utilisation instructions specifically stipulates: “As this salary adjustment will affect your taxable income, you are encouraged to consult with your financial advisor to determine the optimal composition of your remuneration package”.

This article is not intended to provide solutions to all the questions members may have, but rather is intended to provide basic guidelines on the tax implications of one’s salary restructuring.

**Structural outline of the taxation of employees**

The payment of income tax is regulated by the provision of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962. In general terms, every resident of South Africa is obliged to pay income tax on his or her gross income.

Gross income is defined in relation to any year or period of assessment as the total amount in cash or otherwise, excluding receipts and accruals of a capital nature, received by or accrued to a taxpayer during a particular tax period. The tax period refers to the period between 1 March of each year and 28 February of the succeeding year.

The definition of concepts such as "capital nature, received or accrued, total amount", etc are beyond the scope of this article and will not be defined. It must, however, be mentioned at this stage that salaries received by members of the SANDF constitute an amount in cash or otherwise, and such amounts are not of a capital nature and constitute gross income subject to taxation.

**Tax implication of structuring package**

As mentioned above members on salary level 11 and 12 were given various options to structure the remaining flexible portion of their package. The options were between the 13th cheque, a non-pensionable cash allowance and a motor vehicle allowance. Each of these options, with more emphasis on their tax implications, will be discussed hereunder.

**13th cheque option**

The practical implication of 13th cheque structuring is that a member will receive lump sum payments on an annual basis. These lump sum payments will be taxed at an applicable rate. The taxpayer is, however, given an option to spread the tax payable over a twelve-month period. When the tax payable is spread over twelve months, such tax will not be reflected separately from other tax payable on the member’s salary advice, but will form part of the composite tax payable during that month.

The adverse implications of this option from the tax planning perspective are that while a taxpayer would have paid full tax on the lump sum payment, such member would not be entitled to deduct any tax benefit from the tax already paid.

**Non-pensionable cash allowance**

The non-pensionable cash allowance simply means that the taxpayer has structured his or her package in such a way that additional cash amounts will be paid to him or her over and above his or her normal salary. This amount will not be used for the purpose of calculating the employer’s contribution to the member’s pension.

The tax implications for non-pensionable cash allowances are the same as the implications for the 13th cheque.

**Motor vehicle allowance**

Structuring for a motor vehicle...
**Claiming deductions for business travel**

On submission of your tax return, you may claim your business travel expenditure as a deduction against your travel allowance. The claim for business travel expenses may be formulated in one of the following ways:

- Actual business kilometres multiplied by the actual costs.
- Actual business kilometres multiplied by the gazetted rote per kilometre.
- Deemed business kilometres multiplied by the actual costs.

The claim for business travel will consist of two components, viz expenditure incurred, which may either be actual expenditure incurred or gazetted, and kilometres travelled.

Only business kilometres travelled can be used for the purposes of a deduction against travel allowance. It is important to have an understanding of what constitutes private travel for an employee, so as to distinguish between such travel and business travel.

Private travel for income tax purposes includes:

- Travel between one's home and place of employment or business, and
- any other travelling done for the private or domestic purposes of the employee or office holder concerned. Expenditure on either category of private travel is deemed not to have been actually expended on travelling on business.

A travel allowance granted to an office holder or employee to enable him to defray expenditure in relation to a motor vehicle used by him will be deemed to have been expended for business purposes on an amount calculated as either:

- Business travel (ie total travel less private travel) multiplied by a rate per kilometre for the category of vehicle used. This does not apply where the taxpayer has been granted the right of use of the vehicle by the employer, in which case actual expenditure must be claimed. The Minister of Finance fixes these rates by notice in the Gazette. Business travel for this purpose will be equal to the difference between the total kilometres travelled, but not exceeding 32 000 km. (Where more than one vehicle has been used interchangeably for business purposes by the recipient of the allowance, during any one year, and one or more of the vehicles concerned was not used primarily for business purposes, all vehicles must have the 32 000 and 14 000 km limits applied separately, irrespective of the extent of business use.)
- The actual expenditure incurred during the year on running the vehicle concerned, apportioned between business and private travel. This actual expenditure must be based on accurate data, which must be furnished by the recipient of the allowance.

It should be noted that if you have not kept a logbook (showing the precise details of your private and business travel) then the first 14 000 kilometres travelled in a year will be reported as private travel. The balance is then regarded as business travel, but the maximum amount that can be attributed to business travel is restricted to 18 000 kilometres.

Keeping a logbook is therefore advisable if you travel more than 32 000 during the year and if more than 18 000 kilometres of that travel is business travel. Similarly, if you travel less than 14 000 kilometres a year, it is advisable to keep a logbook.

Generally, any employee who is required to use his or her vehicle for business purposes and whose private travel is more than 14 000 kilometres per annum, may derive a tax benefit from a travelling allowance. At the end of the tax year employees are expected to complete their fax returns and, depending on how they structured their flexible packages, they may either be entitled to a refund from SARS or may have to pay SARS a huge amount of money.

As a member of the SANDE, you are reminded that the structuring of the flexible portion was backdated, and thus if you have structured for a motor vehicle allowance, tax on such allowance would be calculated on the basis that the allowance accrued not on the date of the implementation, but on the backdated date.

For further enquiries contact Maj H.A. Mpshe, the writer, who holds a Masters degree in Tax Law, at tel no: (012) 355 1566.

* The views expressed in this article do not reflect the official position of SARS or CMLS.*
British defeated by SA cricket players

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaole

The British Royal Corps of Signals embarked on a tour to South Africa to play against a South African National Defence Force cricket team on 18 March 2006. This was their second tour in our country; their previous tour was in 2002. The Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division was appointed as the host for this tour.

Before playing against our men the British went on a township tour to Mamelodi where they played against a development cricket team of the Mamelodi cricket club on 17 March 2006. "Teams from Mamelodi cricket club need to play as many games as possible against teams of your calibre in order to gain more experience, as they are still a developing team," said Mr Joe Vuma, the Chairperson of the cricket club in his welcoming speech.

Both teams played with dedication and commitment, and the Mamelodi team managed to beat the British Royal Signals by five wickets. After the game Brig John Thomas, Signal Officer in Chief (Army), handed over certificates to the Mamelodi team members and the Royal Signals also gave their cricket kit to them.

"I am delighted at the kind of support that Maj Gen Ashwin Hurribunce (the Chief of CMIS Division) has given my Corp’s cricket team to have a chance to go on tour to South Africa. It is an excellent opportunity to further foster relationships between us. It will broaden the education of those officers and soldiers lucky enough to visit such a beautiful country," said Brig Thomas.

Lt Col R. Nicholson, the Chairperson of the British Royal Corps of Signals Cricket Club, said the success of the last tour had resulted in a strong desire to return quickly and again enjoy the delights of this wonderful country. The big day arrived and our cricket team did not disappoint us as they gave their counterparts a good game, which the British lost by six runs.

Results

Played 20 overs
151/3 - British Royal Signals Cricket Club
152/5 - Mamelodi Cricket Club

Played 50 overs
271/8 - SANDF Cricket Club
266/9 - British Royal Signals Cricket Club

The Captain of the SANDF cricket team, Maj Eksteen Quintus, received the winning trophy on behalf of the team from the Chief of the CMIS Division, Maj Gen Ashwin Hurribunce (right).

Cricket tour to Port Elizabeth

By Maj Pierre Hamman, SANDFCA

For the third year running loyal cricket players from the SANDF were given recognition for their continuous good performances during the SANDF Cricket Championships held in Bloemfontein in December 2005.

Their reward: Participation in the SANDF Cricket Association (SANDFCA) annual inland tour to Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape on invitation of the Eastern Province Cricket Board (EPCB) from 10 to 19 March 2006.

This was the third annual inland tour that the SANDFCA has undertaken over the past three years and, after feedback was received from all parties involved, it was established that this was the most successful tour of the SANDFCA over the past three years.

Two teams, a SANDF XI and a President's XI, and the necessary officials were selected upon completion of the SANDF Cricket Champion-ships. They enjoyed the tour organised by the SANDFCA Executive Committee.

The tour party arrived in Port Elizabeth on 11 March from all over the country. The following day the two coaches, S Sgt C. Gous and WO1 A. Dido, took the players for a practice session in gale force winds that the friendly city has become known for.

It could be seen at the practices that these two teams meant serious business and that they were not going to let the SANDFCA down in the four representative matches. The players showed excellent team spirit, guts and determination, which promised only good things for the following week’s tour matches.

Four matches were played during the tour and the results were as follows:

- 13 March 2006: SANDF President's XI vs EPCB Gold XI (SANDF President's XI won by 65 runs)
- 14 March 2006: SANDF XI vs EPCB Classic XI (SANDF XI lost by 15 runs)
- 16 March 2006: SANDF XI vs EPCB Gold XI (SANDF XI lost by 2 wickets)
- 17 March 2006: SANDF President's XI vs EPCB Classic XI (SANDF President's XI won by 28 runs)

The SANDFCA would like to extend a word of thanks to all the relevant role players for making this tour such a success - it is highly appreciated!
This year four SA Navy Bosun dinghies and one from the Simon’s Town sailing academy, Isivunguvungu, and two entries from the SA Air Force competed in the annual MAC24, a 24-hour dinghy endurance race, held at Rietvlei Dam and hosted by the Milnerton Aquatic Club.

Entrants included teams sailing Bosuns, Sonnets, Mirrors and GP14s with the Cape wind favouring the lighter boats. The objective of the race is to complete as many laps during the 24-hour period. Crews can be exchanged as often as is necessary, which gives many members an opportunity to test their sailing skills. During the 24 hours the wind speed varied considerably, with an average lap taking around 10 minutes. However, in the dead of night, when the wind dropped, a single lap was known to take over an hour!

The final minutes of the race were hair-raising for the Navy 2 Bosun, with a crew from SAS SALDANHA, as they had to complete two penalties. Although the team worked the dinghy they unfortunately missed the cut-off by seconds and could not move up the final fleet order. The spectators were, however, treated to a fine display of sailing and seamanship skills.

Navy 2 (SAS SALDANHA crew) finished 17th overall, completing 150 laps, Unitie Too (SA Navy Reserve crew) ended 23rd, Unitie 1 (Simon’s Town crew) came 24th and Navy 1 (Simon’s Town crew) ended 25th - all with 138 laps.

The SANDF Interforce Trophy was collected by SAS SALDANHA, while Unitie Too was awarded the Fabrinox Trophy for sportsmanship.

The Bosun floating trophies were awarded in bronze, silver and gold to Air Force Base Langebaan, SAS SALDANHA, and Isivunguvungu respectively.

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**Donation to buy reference books for college**

**By Maj Elize Lizamore, SA Army Foundation**

In the true spirit of Batho Pele the SA Army Foundation presented a cheque of R2 000.00 to the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 13/06. The ENSP is a unique programme that focuses mainly on national security. Selected top-level SANDF officers and officials, members of international defence forces and other government departments have the privilege of utilising the South African National Defence College (SANDC) as a learning environment.

The SA Army Foundation celebrates its 50th year since its inception in 1956 and is proud to be associated with the academic status of the South African National Defence College. “The funds will be utilised to purchase reference books for the library of the College and are very much appreciated,” said the SSO Education, Training and Development of the SANDC, Col Mariëtte Hartley.
**Opening of renovated leave office**

By WO2 Karien Hills,  
Section Head of Leave Office  
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The personnel of the Human Resource Support Section JSB MOD working in the leave section are very happy with their renovated office. The opening of the renovated leave office took place at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 28 March 2006.

Since they moved into this office in May 2005 they had to improvise to have a counter to serve their clients. They also had various problems with old equipment that had a negative impact on service delivery to clients.

This office serves more than 1 200 clients and can give specialised advice on any leave related matter. The office is open for clients daily between 09:00 and 15:00 (in-post training and general administrative tasks are done when the office is not open to clients).

Leave applications are captured and printed directly on the PERSOL system. Clients are requested to ensure that their signed leave applications are returned to the leave office within four working days. It is important that the work attendance register keeper should be informed about approved leave because he or she needs the leave number for the register.

After their first day’s work in the “new” office, all clerks agreed that they felt proud to work in a more professional environment. The clerks receive in-post training on a regular basis in order to give the best possible service to clients.

*(The Sepedi version of this article is available at the bottom of this page.)*

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**Go bulwa ga ofisi yeo e mpshafaditšwego ya Ilifi**

Ka WO2 Karien Hills, Hlogo ya Lefapa Ofising ya Llifi  
(Translated into Sepedi by Mr Pat Mabala, D Lang)


Ka ge e sa le ba thothela ofising ye ka Mei 2005, ba ile ba swanelwa ke go itirela khaonthara ya lebakanyana yeo ba tloko šomela go yona ge ba thuša batho. Gape ba bile le mathata ka didirišwa tša bona tša kgale šeo di amilego tišweletšo ya ditirelo gampe.

Ofisi e thuša batho ba 1200 ka go ba fa tshezimošo ya meemo a godimo mabapi le se sengwe le se sengwe sa go amana le llifi. Ofisi e bulwa letšašiši le letšaši magareng ga 09:00 le 15:00 go abela batho tirelo (tlahlo o-le-mošomong [in-post training] le mešongwana e mengwe ya tshepedišo ya kakareši e dirwa ge ofisi e sa bulušwa go thuša batho). Dikgopelo tša llifi di lokelwa khomphutheng, gwa tišweletša khopi thwii ka go šomisa PERSOL. Batho ba kgopelwa go netešaši gore dikgopelo tša bona tša llifi šeo di saennwego di bušetšwa ofising ya llifi pele mašašiši di amane a mošomo a feta. Go bohlokwaha gore moswari wa rešis-tara ya bašomi a tsebišwe ka dillifi tšeo di dumeletšwego gobane o nyaka nomoro ya llifi ka rešistareng yeo.

Letšašiši morago ga go šomela ofising e ‘mpsha’ bao ba šomela ng o yona ba dumetše gore ba ikwa ba ikgangšiša ka go šomela lefelong lea le seprofesene-nale. Bašomi ka ofising yeo ba fiva tlahlo o-le-mošomong kgafetša kgafetša go ba abe thušo e kaone.

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

By Cpln (Dr) R.M Ngwanya, Acting SSO Ministry and Spiritual Support

A boy was sitting on a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. “Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God is great!” he yelled, without worrying whether anyone heard him or not. Shortly afterwards a man came who had recently completed some studies at a local university. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show his enlightenment, he asked the boy about the source of his joy.

"Hey" asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, "Don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle." The enlightened man laughed lightly, sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the "realities" of the miracles of the Bible.

"That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across," he said.

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible lying open on his lap. The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go. Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy began to rejoice and praise louder than before. The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation.

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy happily and said: "God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole Egyptian army in 10-inches of water!"

When one meditates on the greatness of God, one does not lose a moment marvelling about the acts of the Almighty God. The Scriptures constantly point out to us some actions that are not possible to link to a human being’s creative mind. An example is cited by the Psalmist when he says: "Oh Lord your greatness is seen in all the world... you appointed man ruler over everything you made. You placed him over all creation; sheep and cattle and the wild animals too; the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas," (Ps. 8:1; 6-8).

The message behind this passage is that everyone is unique before God. That knowledge makes you and me have self-esteem and develop ourselves to what we want to achieve. The little boy was so encouraged that he reminded me of another young man who would exclaim in a church while a preacher was preaching.

An elder seated next to him noticed that he had no shoes and said to him, "if you do not exclaim I will give you some boots to wear." As the power of the Holy Spirit engulfed the preacher, the young man was also restless and wanted to shout with a loud exclamation. The young man stood up and said: "Boots or no boots... Amen". Such is the greatness of God in human beings.

This was also heard and recognised from one of the Xhosa elders (Ntsikana) in 1868 when he exclaimed to his subjects about a message he had received. He said: "Lento indingeneyo ithi mandithethe... this message that is within me forces me to speak."

Again one marvels at the powers that prevail in people through their negotiating with God. These forces enable a person to reveal some other attributes of God that are sometimes taken for granted by everyone. Here is an example:

That God is so great and a human being has been made a little inferior to God, is to say to a person: 'Don't lower yourself'. Walk tall and acknowledge yourself thus.

That a human being has been given authority over all other creatures is enough to say to a person, "You are the co-creator together with the Creator". Smile and be positive.

Therefore to finish up this message, allow me to say: "Human being, it is enough for you to know that you cannot do anything without acknowledging the greatness of the One who created you".

God bless!

Cpln (Dr) R.M Ngwanya.

Psalm 8 - "God is Greater than I thought!"
SA SOLDIER
Spot the ball competition

Winning prize sponsored by TOTAL SA

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

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

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

Viva - FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament!