

SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER



Women making their mark



defence

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Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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FRONT COVER: The Chief Director Equal Opportunities (DOD), Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi (left), and the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, Col Nontobeko Mpaxa, celebrated Women's Day in Port Elizabeth. Read more about representivity and the empowerment of women at all levels within the DOD on page 26 to 31. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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From the Editor's desk

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Women's Day women in uniform from all Services, in a show of force, held a special women's only parade. These women in uniform proudly marched to the Thaba Tshwane Sports Grounds on 11 August 2006. They saluted the women of long ago for making it all possible; they symbolically promised to take the cause for equality of choice among all women even further.

In his address at the DOD Women's Day Parade the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, showed that he was a champion and an advocate of equality. Minister Lekota said that the DOD sought, via this parade, to recognise the progress and achievements made by the women of this country. "We also seek to acknowledge the struggle to achieve liberation and equality between the sexes," he said.

"A challenge facing the Department is to identify women in all rank levels who should be trained to occupy specific command posts in future. The current situation demands that the top leadership set targets for women's promotions, and these must be assessed annually at the Women's Conference." Minister Lekota also announced that of ten Brigadier Generals recently promoted four were women and that of 55 Colonels promoted 17 were women. "But this is where the challenge lies. How do we ensure a large enough pool of women from which to select promotable officers," Minister Lekota asked. "In our attempts to deal with these challenges, however, policy direction has progressed through a number of additional initiatives." Read more about the celebration of Women's Day in the DOD on pages 26 to 31.

To be a flag-officer is one of the greatest aspirations of all officers in the SA Navy and it means even more for the women within the force. For many years the rank of Admiral was thought to be an unattainable one for women. It took 82 years for the SA Navy to appoint its first female Admiral and another two years for the second one. Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) Laura Jansen van Vuuren is the second woman in the SA Navy to be appointed as an Admiral. *SA Soldier* would like to congratulate her on her promotion! Read more about this admirable woman on page 21.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor 

The Editor of *SA Soldier* and her editorial team enjoying their team building exercise for which they won the prize of Government Communicator of the Year 2005 Award.



Ezivela kuMhleli

Ukukhumbula isiKhumbuzo seminyaka engamaShumi amahlanu soSuku lwaMakhosikazi amabhinqa anxibe iyunifomu kuzo zonke iiNkonzo, kumboniso womkhosi, aye anoluhlu olulodwa olwamabhinqa kuphela. La mabhinqa anxiba iyunifomu, amatsha aze ayokufika kwiBala leBhola lase Thaba Tshwane ngomhla weshumi linanye kweyeThupha 2006. Bakhahlela amakhosikazi akudala ngokwenza oko abakwenzayo kuqala, ukwenzela ukuba kube lula kwabalandlelayo, babonisa kwaye bathembisa ukuthi bazakuwuqhubela phambili umsebenzi abawuqalayo, kwaye bazakuwuxhoma umgangatho.

Kwintetho yakhe uMphathiswa woKhuselo uMnumzana Mosiuoa Lekota, ngoSuku loLuhlu lwaMakhosikazi e-DOD ubonise ukuba uyintshatsheli kunye nomxhasi wokulingana. UMphathiswa uLekota uthe iDOD ngalo olo luhlu izama ukunakana inkqubela-phambili kunye nempumelelo yamakhosikazi kweli lizwe. "Kufanelekile ukuba sizothulele umnqwazi inzame zokuzuzisa inkululeko kunye nokulingana ngesini," utshilo.

"ISebe licelwe umngeni wokuba kuchongwe amakhosikazi kuzo zonke indidi zemigangatho, ekufuneka ukuba baqeqeshelwe ukuba ngabaphathi ababodwa bexesha elizayo. Okwangoku imeko inyanzelisa abakhokeli abaphezulu ukuba bajolise kunyuselo lwamabhinqa, kwaye kufanelekile ukuba oko kuhlolwe iminyaka yonke kwiNkomfa yamaKhosikazi." UMphathiswa uLekota uye wasasaza ukuba koNjengele abalishumi abanyuselweyo abane ngamabhinqa, kwaye koKoloneli abangamashumi amahlanu nantlanu abanyuselweyo abalishumi elinesixhenxe ngamabhinqa. "Umngeni kukuba kuzakuqinisekiswa kanjani ukuba sinamabhinqa amaninzi ukuze sikhethe kuwo abazokuba ngabaphathi bamajoni,na," ubuze kanjalo uMphathiswa. "Kwinzame zethu ukuphumelelisa lemingeni, umgaqo-nkqubo uye waqhubekela phambili nokuba kuye kwakhona amanyathelo awongezelelekyo." Funda kakhulu ngalo mbhiyozo woSuku lwaMakhosikazi akwiSebe loKhuselo (DOD) ukusukela kwiphepha 26 kuye ku 31.

Ukuba ngumphathi weflegi yeyona nto elangazelelwa kakhulu ngabo bonke abaphathi bamajoni oMkhosi weeNqanawa waseMzantsi Afrika (SA Navy), kwaye kuthetha lukhulu kakhulu kumajoni angamabhinqa akuwo lo mkhosi. Kwiminyaka emininzi edlulileyo udidi lomphathi womkhosi weenqanawe kwakucingwa ukuba yinto engenakufunyanwa ngumntu olibhinqa. Kuthathe iminyaka engamashumi asibhozo anesibini ukuba uMkhosi weenqanawa waseMzantsi Afrika uchonge ibhinqa lokuqala ukuba nguMphathi woMkhosi weeNqanawa' kunye neminye iminyaka emibini ukuchonga owesibini.

UMphathi woMkhosi weeNqanawa (kuDidi oluNganeno kwabakhulu) uLaura Jansen van Vuuren nguye olibhinqa lesibini kuMkhosi weeNqanawa waseMzantsi Afrika ukuchongwa kwesosikhundla. Abase SA Soldier bavuyisana naye kwesi sikhundla sakhe esitsha! Funda kakhulu ngeli bhinqa elincomekayo kwiphepha 21.

Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli 





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Give meaning to subordinates

Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand. Ideas actually begin to grow within us and come to life.

When we listen to people there is an alternating current, and this recharges us so that we never get tired of each other and it is this little creative fountain inside us that begins to spring and cast up new thoughts and unexpected laughter and wisdom.

Well, it is when people really listen to us with quiet fascinated attention that the little fountain begins to work again, to accelerate in the most surprising way. The first element of leadership is servanthood. No organisation is stronger than the quality of its leadership, or ever extends its constituency far beyond the degree to which its leadership is representative.


Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it. More than anything else today, followers believe they are part of a system, a process that lacks heart. If there is one thing a leader can do to connect with followers at a human, or better still a spiritual level, it is to become engaged with them fully to share experiences and emotions, and to set aside the processes of leadership we have learned by rote. Leadership is

not so much about technique and methods as it is about opening the heart. Leadership is about inspiration of oneself and of others. Great leadership is about human experiences, not processes. Leadership is not a formula or a programme. It is a human activity that comes from the heart and considers the hearts of others.

Recent contributions to the leadership literature suggest that supervisors display behaviours that can be characterised as tyrannical (Ashforth, 1994), bullying (Hoel, Rayner, & Cooper, 1999), undermining (Duffy, Ganster, & Pagon, 2002), or abusive (Keashly, Trott, & Maclean, 1994). The term we will use, abusive supervision, refers to "subordinates' perceptions of the extent to which their supervisors engage in the sustained display of hostile verbal and non-verbal behaviours, excluding physical contact" (Tepper, 2000 p 178). Behavioural descriptors consistent with the definition include "using derogatory names, engaging in explosive outburst (eg yelling or screaming at someone for disagreeing), intimidating by use of threats of job loss, withholding needed information, aggressive eye contact, the silent treatment and humiliating or ridiculing someone in front of others" (Keashly, 1998, p 87). These are just a few reasons why subordinates would

feel insignificant and are likely to resist such uncivil behaviour with even further incivility. Good leaders make people feel that they are at the very heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organisation. When that happens, people feel centred and that gives their work meaning.


An essential part of true listening is the discipline of bracketing, the temporary giving up or setting aside of one's own prejudices, frames of reference and desires so as to experience as far as possible the speaker's world from the inside, and step inside his or her shoes. This unification of speaker and listener is actually an extension and enlargement of ourselves, and new knowledge is always gained from this. Moreover, since true listening involves bracketing, a setting aside of the self, it also temporarily involves a total acceptance of the other. Sensing this acceptance, the speaker will feel less and less vulnerable and more and more inclined to open up the inner recesses of his or her mind to the listener. As this happens, speaker and listener begin to appreciate each other more and more.

Every person in this life has something to teach me - and as soon as I accept that, I open myself to true listening. **S Sgt J.G. Godfrey, email **


Women's Day celebrations in Burundi

On 9 August 2006 the women of the RSA Contingent currently deployed in Burundi celebrated Women's Day away from home. It was the first time that some of the women were away from home and celebrating this big day

in another country. Everything went well and the women confessed that they enjoyed themselves so much that they felt as if they were in South Africa. The women were off for the day. They were entertained with live performances

(stage plays, poems and singing), enjoyed a finger lunch and the day ended with a *braai*. The invited guests were Col Jansen van Rensburg (the National Contingent Commander), Lt Col A.S. Nziweni (RSA Battalion Commander) and Chaplain Mandleleni (RSA Battalion Chaplain). The message from all the invited guests emphasised the importance of women in the world. The guest speaker, Capt Makhanda (Contingent Social Work Officer), also briefed the women on the origin of this special national holiday. The women understood the message and also praised the victories of those women who stood up to fight for themselves. **Lt W.X. Ngubane, Burundi **

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

Above and beyond the call of duty

When deployed on a mission or simply away from home one will inevitably miss the familiarities and convenience of being at home. In the SANDF during missions we are highly dependent on our support elements to make our job simple, convenient and pleasurable, and not merely tolerable.

One of these support elements is our chefs. Anyone can attest to the simple fact that a single bad meal or an episode of hunger can make one miss home terribly. The chefs at the Officers' Mess at Basoko Base in Kindu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, made sure that we never had the opportunity to complain or even miss home.

It is impossible to please all people at all times, especially when they come from different backgrounds and have special dietary requirements and limited resources.

Despite these difficulties they went above and beyond their call of duty to




The Chefs in the Officers' Mess at Basoko Base in Kindu.

ensure that we were all satisfied. I am certain everybody will agree that having dessert at almost every meal is not a necessity, but a luxury.

This is the case even at home, let

alone in the mission area. I salute Sergeant Major Bremmer and his team for a job well done! The team set a high standard of service delivery, which would be envied by any organisation. As our members are effectors of political mandates in Africa, we must thank all who make peace-keeping comfortable and contribute to making Africa a better place for all who inhabit it. Let us fol-

low their example and take our duties seriously and infuse pride in our work!
**Capt Lebo Lebeso, Medical Officer
Dept of Anaesthetics, 1 Military
Hospital** 

Making an impact in Burundi


The contingent of South African soldiers donated an amount of R1 million and 165 thousand FBU to release children after hearing that the children were kept in the Prince Charles General Hospital in Bujumbura in Burundi for a very long time because they could not afford to pay their bills.

This was shocking news and the soldiers started donating money. This project will be continued by the next South African contingent. The Deputy

Director of the Prince Charles General Hospital, Dr Basilar, thanked the soldiers for their much-needed donation.

Through another project, Project Quick Impact, the Mwaro Hospital in Burundi was renovated. The clinic was provided with a water tank and a new roof for the building. This project was initiated by Lt Ngubane and later taken over by Lt Musa Nhlumayo. Today there is a sign in front of the clinic showing the Burundian and

South African flags with the words "Thanks South Africa".

There are houses inside the Mwaro Hospital that are used by the doctors to enable them to bring their services closer to the hospital. The doctors and hospital staff thanked the United Nations for making funds available and also the South African contingent for leading this project. **Lt Musa Nhlumayo, Comm Officer 121 SAI Bn in Burundi** 

Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work

"Take a Girl Child to Work", an initiative introduced by Cell C four years ago, was supported by numerous companies and organisations throughout South Africa in support of the aspirations of the nation's girls. Cell C Media Relations Manager, Pam Radebe, had the following to say: "The aim of the initiative is to introduce young women to the work environment - where they are exposed to female role-models who are successful in what was previously considered to be a male dominated arena." Naval Station Durban hosted three girls for its part in the programme. The girls

were Jo-Ann Jansen and Carla Wentworth from Westridge High School and Vinodha Moodley from Earlington Secondary School. S Lt Latha Starling, Officer Commanding SAS TEKWANE (the first female in the SA Navy to be appointed as an officer commanding of a surface ship), and Lt Wilma Vermeulen, the social worker of the Unit, gave their commitment and support to this programme. Naval Station Durban was committed once again to supporting the initiative, for the second year running. "Take a Girl Child to Work Day" has become one of

South Africa's best-supported acts of volunteerism. The campaign has already influenced the lives and career choices of hundreds of thousands of girl learners, and in 2005 well over 100 000 girl learners took part in the national events underpinning the event.

The SANDF is one of the country's largest employers and has women in senior positions throughout its ranks. With the advent of democracy and the appointment of a civilian secretariat, the SANDF has become a Defence Force within a democracy, which is **(Continued on page 9)**

Continue doing what is morally right

This particular letter has been written as a wake-up call for anyone who cares to read, particularly about the introduction and maintenance of Total Quality Management (TQM) in the workplace.


I happen to belong to a military unit that by default finds itself slightly overpopulated. I deliberately talk about overpopulation because, as leaders at all levels, we must take pride and pleasure in the vast numbers of those we influence positively. Such a situation presents to all leaders a mammoth challenge with which to grapple. To illustrate this, take a platoon commander who suddenly has to manage a sub-sub-unit that is two times larger than it is conventionally supposed to be. This is tantamount to expecting a junior book-keeper to oversee the finances of a big corporation where a well-experienced accountant would have coped with minimal fuss. As a result the poor junior leader's character, emotional strength and perseverance are stretched to the limit. It is, however, quite satisfying to realise that, in general, my colleagues and even more so leaders throughout the SANDF do take up this challenge and often go on to produce above-average results, facilitated by the rapidly changing management climate.

It is also reassuring to note that as one travels the length and breadth of this country, the ideals of transformation are very slowly being realised. It is the perfect picture of a "uniformed member of the defence force", which is

formed in one's mind whenever the Code of Conduct is being read or recited. However, that magic forty seconds of sincerity and obedient pride that is evoked by these Code of Conduct recitals are quickly outlasted by anger in knowing that a very small, stubborn minority among ourselves go out of their way to do exactly the opposite.


I mean, how do you explain someone in authority who derives pleasure from ensuring that others' lives are a misery? How do you justify a public servant who puts his or her own aspirations and desires above those of the ones he or she is supposed to serve? Whatever happened to the principle of *People First* ("Batho Pele")? Surely swimming against the stream should be more tiring than gladly going with the reasonable flow. Personally, I would rather be accused of having killed someone than of having been dishonest or antagonistic to this organisation. With some of the individuals in our midst using very subtle means to pursue their not-so-clear agendas, one is left wondering whether programmes such as the envisaged VISION 2020 HR STRATEGY of the DOD are ever going to see the light of day.

Lastly, I commend all men and women in the Defence Force who subscribe to the concept of Total Quality Management, ie the kind of leaders whose sole aim is to build and not to destroy. Those are the ones who wake up every day with only noble aims of developing the careers of those they lead. They

are the people who go to work every-day to contribute a building block or two to the invincible fortress that our Defence Force will one day be. May they continue to do what is morally right! **Ronnie Msomi, Middelburg** 

A real compassionate South African

On Monday morning 28 August 2006 at approximately 07:30, I witnessed an incident at the busy intersection near 1 Military Hospital. A soldier from the SA Military Health Services, dressed in his camouflage uniform and driving a white sedan car, assisted a rather aged man to push his little *bakkie*, which had broken down at the intersection (from Thaba Tshwane to the city centre), to safety.

I thought this gesture of the soldier was a great example of care for your fellow man. He showed compassion like the *Good Samaritan*, and his unselfish deed was to my mind a true symbol of peaceful co-existence, despite the racial divide of our rainbow nation. Such deeds are the cement for the building blocks of our country's bright future and they raise the confidence levels of the public in our National Defence Force. Well done "Medic"! **Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuis, GOC SA Army Armour Formation** 

Revival of women

Women's Day - 9 August - marks once again a revival in the fortunes of women.

A brief overview will be outlined of the rise of women from the patriarchal system apartheid regime to becoming empowered and equal to their male counterparts. They have finally risen from the kitchen to parliament.

Belinda Bozolli described women in the 60s as "the beasts of burden", because of the way they were treated and their position in the social structure of society. They were expected to perform as was expected of them, make fire, build houses, look after children, etc. They did not have a say in issues

concerning their lives, let alone having a "voice" to express any discontent. Did they have a choice? All they could do was to oblige.

When women were emerging from the patriarchal system and leaving the rural areas for urban areas such as Pretoria and Johannesburg, they were still being undermined, trapped by the vestiges of *apartheid*. Strong as they were, they were under-represented, while others were sexually harassed in the process of getting to where they wanted to be, but they persevered.

We are all slaves of our own opinions. Some of us are caught up in our past. Some are laggards, not knowing

where to go, forward or backwards. Gone are the days when women were told what to do. The fortunate ones are those who can see beyond the mountains, above the seas. Clever are those who can distinguish the forest from the trees.

There is something that every woman has to understand to be able to defeat the patriarchal system, ie we need to come together and be one. Evidence of this can be found in the women's march to the Union Buildings in the mid 50s. Let us find a way of reaching a common understanding that we are first women, then sisters and mothers. Whatever happens to one can easily



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(Continued from page 8)

affect another. If we as women can put aside trivial differences like those of social standing, creed, race or religion we can accomplish a lot and help those who are still struggling to break the wall of shame. Let us all welcome change. This call is addressed to government departments, the corporate world and society at large. The winds of change are blowing and are here already; likewise women, who are here to stay. With them they carry love, understanding, advice, change, transformation and, above all, they are willing to listen. They are willing to negotiate, share advice and transcend differences. We must not feel threatened, but let us all walk towards a

resolution of our difficulties. Let us take the bull by the horns and build a greater, dynamic South Africa in which women are appreciated for the best they do and where stigmas and malicious acts against them cease.

It is worth mentioning that the improvement in their status does not mean that women have the latitude to be disrespectful towards their husbands, fathers, brothers or their male counterparts. Respect is what builds a person. This is to say wherever women find themselves they must always preserve their self-respect so that they can pass this on to others.

Molebogeng More, COLET 

Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work

(Continued from page 7)

accountable to civilians. Naval Station Durban presented the three girls with a full programme to adhere to during the course of the day. The Public Relations Department presented a brief lecture explaining essential topics to the guests. Afterwards the girls visited the Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV), SAS TEKWANE, and had tea with S Lt Starling. They questioned and discussed her career choice and the attitudes of her subordinates towards her. The first Lieutenant of SAS TEKWANE, S Lt William Ntsibulani, gave them a tour of the IPV, during which they asked interesting questions about ships' safety, life-rafts and the stability of an IPV while at sea. The girls also visited the Operational Diving Team East and were given a lecture on the role and function of the navy divers and were treated to a



The three girls that participated in the Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work Day at Naval Station Durban were, from left: Vinodha Moodley, Jo-Ann Jansen and Carla Wentworth.

diving demonstration. This was an important aspect of the visit, as the SA Navy is addressing the representivity of the Diving Branch through its Diver Enablement Initiative Programme. Lt Vermeulen discussed the role and function of a social worker within the military community. Journalist Xolisa Zulu from the Independent Newspaper Group, The Mercury, interviewed the young ladies on their experiences and a media appearance followed the next morning. **WO1 Manny Gounden, Naval Station Durban** 

Defence Ministers of SA and Gabon convene

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The bilateral senior officials' meeting between the Minister of Defence of South Africa, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Gabonese Minister of Defence, Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba, was held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 8 August 2006.

Minister Lekota said a joint declaration of intent was signed on 28 May 2002 in Cape Town between these two countries to identify and develop areas of cooperation in defence matters. "From this collaboration we will later develop a draft of memorandum of understanding (MOU) between these two countries and more specifically our respective departments of defence," said Mr Lekota.

"The specific purpose of this visit was to assess progress and challenges jointly with regard to finalising the draft of the MOU and exchange its content for the approval of both the parties," continued Mr Lekota.



Mr Ali Bongo Ondimba, Gabonese Minister of Defence (left), and Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence of South Africa, during the welcoming parade at Defence Headquarters.

The South African Co-chair, Mr Nick Sendall, Acting Chief of Policy and Planning of the SA DOD, briefed the ministers about the outcome of the meeting that the South African delegation had with the Gabonese delegation on 4 August 2006.

He reflected on South Africa's desire to promote peace and stability on the continent, its commitment to

the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and concomitant principles and programmes, the need to promote defence cooperation between like-minded countries for the sake of peace and stability and the commitment by South Africa to strengthening the capabilities of the African Union and the South African Development Community (SADC). 

US-SA score high on defence cooperation

By Jim Fisher-Thompson,
Washington Staff Writer
(South African Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, sums up bi-national meetings)

Washington - US defence officials and their South African counterparts found common ground during discussions at the Pentagon and at an annual Defense Commission meeting held at the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, says South African Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George.

Mr George, who led his country's defence team on a June 10-17 visit to the United States, spoke to the Washington File at a reception commemorating the 30th anniversary of 16 June 1976 Soweto Student Uprising, an act that galvanised political opposition, as well as public opinion abroad about the oppressive *apartheid* regime in South Africa.

The event was co-sponsored by the South African Embassy and the Discovery Channel and held at the cable broadcaster's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mr George, who served five years at the notorious Robben Island prison for his *anti-apartheid* activities in the 1970s, lauded the Soweto students, a number of whom were shot and killed during their protest against being forced to study in the Afrikaans language. He said their sacrifice "spread like wildfire, capturing the attention and imagination of the world." Of his week-long series of meetings with US defence officials, Mr George said: "We had very productive talks that firmed up the already cooperative relationship of our two militaries."

Before going to New York, Mr George said that he and his delegation had met with US Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr Gordon England, at the Pentagon. "We discussed issues of mutual interest between the defence departments of South Africa and the United States and committed ourselves to working together on a partnership that could help us develop our (armed) forces, especially in the area of peacekeeping," Mr George said.

At the Pentagon the two sides also discussed the fight against terrorism and South Africa's role as a regional power in Africa, Mr George said.

The South African defence official said he and his delegation also met with officials of the National Institute of Health (NIH), "who discussed the partnership we have with the US government to help us fight AIDS in our military."

At West Point, Mr George said the meeting of the Defense Commission, hosted by Deputy Secretary England, covered a number of topics, including the partnership programme linking US state National Guard units with African nations - the New York National Guard is partnered with the South African military, a White Paper on Defence presented by the South Africans, and the US Defense Department's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) released earlier this year.

Following the conference, Mr George said: "We set up a programme (agenda) for our defence committees to work on in preparation for our next meeting, set for Durban on 11 February 2007."

South African troops have participated recently in operations in Burundi, Cotê d'Ivoire, the Comoros Islands, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Asked if South Africa planned to expand its military

peacekeeping efforts - Mr George said: "We are committed to the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)."

"In our discussions with Deputy Secretary England, we explored ways (that) America could help build up our capacity, especially in terms of resources. We were not talking about putting (US) soldiers on the ground (in Africa) but airlift and other things. They (the Americans) committed themselves to looking at that and also agreed that it was something that would include the AU and the SADC.

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which outlines US military action programmes for the next four years, noted that the AU had an



Mr Mluleki George, the South African Deputy Minister of Defence.

important role, especially in improving governance and expanding civil society in Africa.

"The (Defense) Department supports the African Union's development of a humanitarian crisis intervention capability, which is a good example of an international organisation stepping up to the challenge of

regional stabilisation missions," according to the QDR.

US-SA bilateral relations

On bilateral relations with South Africa, a State Department document stated, "South Africa's military will continue to be an important leader in conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa."


As an example of US-SA cooperation, the document cites South Africa's participation in the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) programme - a multimillion dollar initiative aimed at enhancing the peacekeeping capabilities of African militaries.

In addition, under the US Defense Department's International Military Education Training (IMET) programme, the document stated, "The United States will expand connections with South Africa's current and future military leaders and support their interest in strengthening military-to-military relations and continue their lead participation in regional contingency planning and requirements."

The document also notes that for most of 2005 the US government "authorised the export of defense articles and services valued at \$51 075,846 for South Africa."

In 2007 South Africa also will become eligible to receive "Excess Defense Articles (EDA) on a grant basis ... [which] will be used to support South Africa's contributions to regional peacekeeping efforts and

improve their coastal and border security capabilities," according to the State Department.

* The Quadrennial Defense Report <http://www.defenselink.mil/qdr/report/Report20060203.pdf> (PDF, 113 pages) is available on the Department of Defense Web site. 

Reinstating of Inkosi Bhambatha

Compiled by Lebohang Letoana
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF once again showed the nation that it has a defence force that it can be proud of, when the former participated in a ceremony to reinstate Inkosi Bhambatha kaManciza Zondi as Inkosi of

the Zondi Clan on 11 June 2006 at the Mpanza Sports Field in Greytown.

The commemoration of the centenary of the Bhambatha Rebellion of 1906 was attended by President Thabo Mbeki and other prominent political and military dignitaries, such as Mr S'bu Ndebele, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini, Prince

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders of KwaZulu-Natal, Lt Gen Temba Ma-tanzima, Chief of Human Resources, Maj Gen Robert Mandita, General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation, and Mr Jacob Zuma, the Deputy President of the ANC.

Dressed in their admired uniforms, the National Ceremonial Guard wowed the guests with their perfect drill while the local women, dressed in traditional outfits, performed traditional songs and dances. There was also a 21-gun salute by the artillery, while musical entertainment was provided by the SA Army Band.

Before the proceedings started, President Mbeki and his entourage laid wreaths at the monument of Inkosi Bhambatha in Hlenyane Mountain. They were briefed about the history of Bhambatha by the Chairman of the Provincial Official Centenary Steering Committee, Mr Oscar Zondi (a descendant of Bhambatha).

In his speech at the ceremony the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal said: "The 1906 Bhambatha Uprising was one of the most important episodes in the history of the struggle for liberation in South Africa. Inkosi Bhambatha kaMancinza Zondi emerged as the hero and centre of the Bhambatha Uprising. His emergence was quite



The National Anthem was played: President Thabo Mbeki and Inkosi Mbongeleni Zondi, the great-great-grandson of Bhambatha Zondi, at the commemoration of the centenary of the Bhambatha Rebellion.



Doing their part: The Reserve Force regiments that participated in the Commemoration.

remarkable because the resistance to the poll tax had been very complex," added Premier Ndebele.

"In 1994, a new democratic era dawned on South Africa. We live in the *age of hope* and respect for human dignity. We live in the *age of hope* through peace. Most of what Inkosi Bhambatha lived for, fought for and died for has been achieved."

Another speaker, Prince Buthelezi, said: "We are gathered here today to recollect and celebrate a glorious moment in our nation's history. However, as we think of the Bhambatha Rebellion, we should not regard it as a lonely star in an otherwise dark firmament of oppression. On the contrary, our reflection must encompass the broader context in which the Bhambatha Rebellion took place, both in terms of the circumstances of the time and in terms of preceding and subsequent events."

He concluded: "... To give significance to the celebration of this

centennial it is essential that we do not let Inkosi Bhambatha's cause die. The Bhambatha Rebellion is still part and parcel of not only our history, but indeed also our agenda."

President Mbeki also paid tribute to this warrior when he said we must not forget heroes, such as Bhambatha, because today we are free because of what they went through.


He said since June was Youth Month it was appropriate for today's children to learn about their history. The Department of Communications honoured the late Bhambatha with a stamp bearing Bhambatha's head.

Inkosi Mbongeleni Zondi, the great-great-grandson of Bhambatha Zondi, closed the ceremony with a vote of thanks and gave the President and his entourage each a cow and sheep.

Background

The Bhambatha Centenary Committee was formed as a result of a

need not only to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Bhambatha Rebellion, caused by the imposition of a poll tax, but also to commemorate it beyond 2006. An all-inclusive committee comprising amaKhosi akwaZondi, throughout KZN, ama-Khosi aKwaShezi, researchers and historians, members of the SANDF Reserve Force, creative artists and other identified stakeholders was formed.

According to WO1 Ken Gillings of the SA Military History Society, following the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), the Natal colonial government, faced with a depleted treasury, decided to levy a £1 poll tax on all males over the age of 18. It was primarily aimed at the black inhabitants, who were, in many cases, also subject to hut and even dog taxes. The new tax effectively forced thousands of blacks to work for the white dominated farming industry and the mining sector. 

Chard Medals returned

By Mr George Downie
Photo: George Woods

A historic ceremony took place in St John the Baptist Church, Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset in England, on 22 August 2006 when medals and a stamp honouring Col John Chard VC, hero of Rorke's Drift, were donated to the church by a representative of the South African National Defence Force.

The great nephew of Chard, Mr Donald Philips of Upton House, Seavington St Michael, was among those who saw the Rev Jean Price accept the silver John Chard Decoration and miniature, the bronze John Chard Medal and a postage stamp of the Decoration from Col Kevin Williams, Director Ceremonial and Military Music of the SANDF, Pretoria.

The gifts will be mounted, framed and fixed to the wall next to the Chard VC Memorial Window in the chancel, and be dedicated at the Sunday service (28th) nearest the anniversary of the Battle of Rorke's Drift which took place

on 22 - 23 January 1879. Chard's brother, Charles, was rector of St John's for 25 years until 1910. Col Chard came to live with him a few years before his death in 1897, and his grave in the churchyard is marked by a pink granite cross which attracts hundreds of visitors annually, their interest inspired by the film "Zulu" in which Stanley Baker portrayed Chard.

Col Williams was introduced by George Downie, who explained how the gifts came to be made. Miss Joan Abrahams of Bloemfontein, herself a Chard Decoration and Medal holder, had visited the church, and was surprised Britain had not recognised his achievements. So she contacted the Rev Keith Powell and offered to arrange the South African tributes "to honour his valour". Her perseverance over almost two years had come now to fruition.

Col Williams said the Chard Decoration and Medal had been instituted by the Queen in 1952 for "long and efficient service in the then-called Citizen's Force (part-time servicemen). The Decoration marked 20 years' service, the Medal 10 years.

"They were named in honour of


Lieutenant John Rouse Merriot Chard VC, Royal Engineers, who, while in command of a small party of British officers and other ranks, conducted the defence of the mission at Rorke's Drift and successfully repulsed the night-long attacks of King Cetshwayo's army in January 1879 during the Anglo-Zulu War.

"Lieutenant Chard set an outstanding example of courage, leadership and perseverance in the face of overwhelming numbers. John Chard was chosen for the naming of the JCD and JCM because he was apparently the first person to be awarded a Victoria Cross in South Africa."

The medals, with crossed sword insignia on a red, white and blue ribbon, depict the Rorke's Drift Mission buildings on the front and the Queen's cipher on the back. After 1961 the medals bore the Republic of South Africa's coat of arms, but were superseded in 2003 by a new set of decorations under President Thabo Mbeki. The 30 cent postage stamp bears the silver Decoration on a gold background.

The Rev Jean Price thanked Col Williams for the gifts which commemorated a brave officer and offered a dedicatory prayer. She then placed them on a table in the chancel adorned with the British and South African flags behind which the lectern displayed a print of Alphonse Neuville's famous painting of "Rorke's Drift" showing Chard commanding the beleaguered 24th of Foot. Also displayed were replicas of Chard's VC and South African campaign medals.

The ceremonial nature of the occasion was enhanced by the attendance of several veterans of the Royal Engineers Association (Taunton branch), whose standard bearer, Mr Patrick Loader, stood to attention with flag raised as the medals were placed on one of the Church regimental kneelers.

The South Africans then were shown round Close House, the former rectory, where Chard had lived with his brother, by the current owners, Mr and Mrs Peter Rollason. 



Standing beside the pink granite cross marking Chard's grave, from left: Mr George Downie, Mr Donald Phillips (John Chard's great nephew) and Col Kevin Williams.

Rooivalk in fighting mood

By CO Frans Pale,
Journalist *Ad Astra*

The Rooivalk demonstrated its fighting capability as it fired rockets in mid-air, demolishing and destroying targets on the ground, while paving the way for ground troops to advance in a fierce onslaught on the enemy.

This demonstration took place on 25 August 2006 at the De Wet Shooting Range, west of Bloemfontein, when 16 Squadron put to the test the outcome of a two-week workshop on the tactics and procedures required to undertake operations in a medium to

high-threat environment. The workshop was attended by over 50 members from various military units, including paratroopers and Special Force members.


The workshop was a milestone achievement for South Africa, as the country prepares to occupy her rightful place as a peacekeeping giant in the African region and the international community.

Addressing participants at Air Force Base Bloemspruit on the eve of the Rooivalk demonstration, Brig Gen Hugh Paine, Director Helicopter Training System at the SA Air Force Headquarters, called on aircrew members to take training offered to them

seriously, as training was meant to make them combat-ready during peacekeeping missions in the African region.

"Peace missions in the African region are here to stay. We should be ready to identify real issues related to training with a view to gaining capability in times of need," said Brig Gen Paine.

He added: "If any of our neighbours are not living happily together, it is our role to intervene with peacekeeping missions.

It is therefore our responsibility to perfect our individual professions and make sure that we are a disciplined force in all our conduct." 



A Rooivalk striking the enemy's headquarters with air-to-ground rockets.

Our sailors patrolling Lake Tanganyika

By Lt (SAN) P.G. van den Berg
Photos: OSB Members

For 42 members of the SA Navy the terms "peacekeeping", "war zone", "combat patrol" and "protecting the innocent" are words by which they eat, sleep and live.

Operation Boat Squadron (OBS) has been ensuring the safety of traffic on Lake Tanganyika for more than 3 years. It forms part of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and its main task is to patrol Lake Tanganyika and report any incident to the United Nations (UN).

Living conditions for SA Navy members in Burundi are quite comfortable, if you can get used to seeing the same people day and night for up to 7 months at a time. The OBS was

based in the South African "450-man" base, and made use of 8 weather havens. These weather havens were quite comfortable, with electricity and even reading lights for each bed. Recently the base was closed, and the OBS moved to a separate enclosure. Here the members can enjoy living in "prefab" buildings in a very quiet environment.

The OBS members work in a three-watch system of 24 hours on duty, 24 hours on standby and 24 hours off duty. When they are on duty they have to share a weather haven with 9 fellow SA Navy members. During the 24-hour period of duty they have to conduct at least two lake patrols (anything from 3 - 10 hours each), man the radio, make food and try to get some shut-eye. In addition to this they must keep an eye on the members of the

Freedom Army of Burundi (FAB) whose base is 50 metres from their own!

While on patrol they have to be vigilant regarding local traffic on the lake, monitor any visible movement on land and report any suspicious vessels seen on the lake. A huge concern for the UN is the number of personnel and the large quantities of arms that are smuggled into Burundi over Lake Tanganyika. Because Burundi is a landlocked country with no railways, all of its imports reach Bujumbura from Kigama, Tanzania, a place south of Bujumbura on Lake Tanganyika. However, the good work done by the OBS has diminished this threat to Burundi's democracy.

When on standby the members have to remain in the 450 man base camp. Here they can relax in their weather haven, watch some DSTV (only the OBS section has DSTV), surf the Internet (with the OC's permission) and converse with other soldiers from the UN contingent. Boredom is a real enemy and anything from South Africa is read, reread and read again. On one occasion the members had to make appointments if they wanted to read a furniture store catalogue!

When the members are off duty they are free to leave the base camp and explore the surrounding town of Bujumbura. For those who have not been to Bujumbura, it is about the size of Fish Hoek and Sunvalley in Cape Town. There are no shopping malls and most of the trading is done at its market place, which is very large and full of activity. Most of our sailors are not adventurous enough to eat the local food, but reports suggest that the "chips" made from sliced banana



Members of the Operation Boat Squadron getting ready to patrol Lake Tanganyika.



Patrolling Lake Tanganyika: Members of the Operation Boat Squadron communicate with local fishermen.

cooked in oil are very nice.

Although it is not necessarily dangerous for sailors in Bujumbura, the city and its people can be unpredictable. The UN also encourages people wanting to go to town to go in large groups to ensure the safety of members. In a country where poverty is rife, everything revolves around money. Therefore a person cannot just

take a picture of someone - that person will expect payment!


The most difficult part of being

deployed in Burundi is coming to terms with the fact that members have very little contact with home. Most



Weather havens in Burundi.

Burundi bordering Lake Tanganyika.

make this sacrifice because of the financial incentives that accompany a deployment such as this. However, the absolute culture shock and stressful environment does take some time getting used to. Most of the sailors feel very humbled by the experience and when they return to South Africa they are truly grateful to be part of the rainbow nation. 

Farnborough International 2006

Article and photos by Maj Gen Edward Fursdon (Ret), UK

Once again the UK's Farnborough International Air Show 2006 - blessed with exceptionally good flying weather - brought the thrill and magic of aerospace to a record number of 140 000 trade visitors and 130 000 members of the public; and was the venue where over 40 billion dollars worth of business - almost double that of Farnborough 2004 - was transacted. There were 1 480 exhibitors from 35 countries and more than 40 civil aerospace delegations from 15 countries.

South Africa now has three aircraft acquisition programmes in progress - the British Hawk MK 120 lead-in

fighter trainer and the Swedish Gripen fighter aircraft for its Air Force and the British Augusta-Westland Super Lynx 300 helicopter for its Navy. Such major involvement fully warranted the high-powered level of the South African delegation to this year's Farnborough, which included Mr January Masilela, Secretary for Defence, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, Mr Siphon Thomo, Chief Executive Officer of Armscor, and R Adm Mosoeu Magalefa, Chief of Naval Staff. The delegation, which had earlier paid a very successful visit to Augusta-Westland's base at Yeovil in Somerset, was accompanied throughout by the relevant officers from South Africa, members of the South African High Commission and representatives from the aircraft firms involved. It did not

escape your Correspondent's notice that the South African Lynx happened to be parked immediately in front of the new International Media Stand and thus permanently in full view of the world's press!

Returning to South Africa's situation vis-à-vis its new aircraft, the Air Force took delivery of the first two of the 24 Hawk Mark 120 lead-in fighter trainer aircraft, which replaced its Impalas at Makhado Air Force Base in May 2006. Turning to the Gripen, which first flew in 1988 and which, once again, entertained Farnborough's spectators with its dazzling flying displays - the SA Air Force has currently planned to order 19 Type C single seat and 9 Type D dual seat versions of the aircraft. The first of these, a Type D, has now been transferred from

Sweden to South Africa to commence the South African customer's flight test programme for avionics, weapon clearances, etc. Its first flight in African airspace took place in July. All being well, full-rate deliveries for the rest of the SA Air Force purchase are due to start in early 2008, with all deliveries being completed by 2012. Interestingly, the whole SA Air Force Gripen acquisition process is being keenly followed by NATO members Hungary and The Czech Republic - both of whom have plans to buy the Type C version of the Gripen with which they are said to be delighted. The aircraft already delivered are now operational in NATO. In passing, it is also relevant that the UK's Empire Test Pilots School at Boscombe Down now operates Gripen as its fast jet platform for training



The SA Navy Super Lynx 300 helicopter at the Media Centre at Farnborough.



Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, pointing out the Air Force's badge on the SA Navy's helicopter.

test pilot students from around the world.

South Africa's third procurement, which of four naval versions of the Augusta-Westland Super Lynx 300 helicopter to operate from on board the SA Navy's four new corvettes, is a very exciting and "ground-breaking" development. Deliveries are scheduled for mid-2007 with the vital corvette-helicopter integration process due for completion by mid-2008. Lt Gen Gagiano told me that the delegation's visit to and talks with Augusta-Westland in Yeovil had gone well and the 213 project was proceeding.

Pointing to the SA Air Force roundel badge painted on the fuselage of the new SA Navy Lynx 300 on display at the Augusta-Westland stand at

Farnborough, the General laughingly told me it was there to remind everyone that the helicopter was actually being flown by SA Air Force pilots and not by Navy ones! The addition of an on-board helicopter will, of course, give enormous support to the corvettes in carrying out not only future operational tasks, but also non-combat and

humanitarian ones too.

What about the rest of the 2006 Farnborough Air Show? In so many ways it reflected the striking upsurge and advances being made by the application of ground-breaking technology in the fast emerging new world of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems (UAVS) in general, and Unmanned Combat Aerial Systems in particular. We already have such systems that can take a 4 500 lb payload up to 40 000 ft and some 3 000 lb up to more than 60 000 ft with an endurance of 36 hours. Some experts are already studying warfare in the stratosphere.

The message is that we have had cruise missiles and various remotely piloted vehicles now for some time. So why do we not move on to where we

could and should be going next? The technology is obviously here to stay and is developing fast.

It is reliable, fully automated, absorbs, interprets and reacts to orders and information it receives, has voice interface and recognition capability, "brains" and sensors. The Americans are reported as having flown over 100 000 hours of UAVS in intelligence work over Iraq already. Should UAVS now not also be used for monitoring humanitarian situations, such as floods, earthquakes, tidal waves, disaster relief, border controls, law enforcement, fire-fighting, refugees and so on?

In one lecture I was told that 10 years from now it would be possible for straightforward logistic cargos to be flown on standard designated air routes by large UAVS, which constitute the unmanned truck in the sky technique. Another expert queried for how much longer we would have advanced hi-tech combat aircraft being flown by human pilots. I cannot wait to see what Farnborough 2008 brings!

But one cannot write about Farnborough International 2006 without mentioning the amazing appearance of the world's largest passenger airliner ever to be built - the Airbus A380. With a wingspan of 261 ft 4 in, a length of 238 ft 8 in, and a height of 79 ft, it is designed to carry 555 passengers at a maximum speed of 0.89 mach. Its launch customer is Singapore Airlines. Its fly-past, accompanied by the RAF's Red Arrows in formation, was just unforgettable. 



The AIRBUS A380, largest passenger airliner in the world.

Namibian Deputy Minister Goodwill Visit

By Lebohang Letaoana

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana


The Deputy Minister of the Namibian Defence Force, Mr Victor Simunja, paid his counterpart, the Deputy Minister of Defence of South Africa, Mr Mluleki George, a visit at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 24 August 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Mr Simunja and his delegation on the current status of human resources in the SANDF and to strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries. Welcoming the delegation, Mr George said he was excited about receiving the delegates from Namibia and he was looking forward to a good relationship with his counterpart, Mr Simunja.

Three presentations were made to the delegates: Brig Gen Petra Mari, Acting Director Divisional Staffs,



Mr Victor Simunja, the Deputy Minister of the Namibian Defence Force (left), and Mr Mluleki George, the Deputy Minister of Defence of South Africa, during the meeting at Defence Headquarters.

briefed the Namibians on the Human Resources function within the DOD. Her presentation focused mainly on the SA Army. Mr Ernie Wolfaard from DPS presented the Employee Initiated Severance Package (EISP) and Mobility Exit Mechanism. He

explained how these systems worked in the DOD. In response Mr Simunja thanked Minister George for hosting him and his colleagues: "Our mission here was to learn from you and take what we have discussed here and try to implement it back at home." 

Strengthening military relations

By Lebohang Letaoana

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole


The last de-accreditation/accreditation ceremony for military attachés for this year was hosted by Defence Foreign Relations at SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 22 August 2006. Military attachés are appointed by their respective military institutions to act as ambassadors for their countries. On this occasion the ceremony was conducted both outside and indoors. The accredited attachés were welcomed in our country by a guard of honour namely the National Ceremonial Guard. The attachés were Col R.A. Hatton from Canada, Lt Col Y. Perez from France, Col J.M. Waweru from Kenya and Brig A.C. Mantell from the United Kingdom.

The outgoing attachés were Col M. Ferhah from Algeria, Lt Col J. Delva from France and Col V.N. Loonena from Kenya. The chief functionary, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, said to the outgoing attachés: "You have made



Time to say goodbye: Maj Jacob Kwadi from Defence Foreign Relations removes the aquillettes from Col M. Ferhah of Algeria, while Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, looks on.

tremendous contributions towards strengthening our military relationships. The SANDF has gained enormously from your inputs. We all recognise that the level of interaction between our armed forces has

increased." He also welcomed the incoming attachés to South Africa: "I must say that it is on such occasions that we interact with each other in a skilful, warm and authentic manner," said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg. 

Our Navy appoints its second female Admiral

Article and photo by AB Dineo Maleka, Navy Office

To be a flag-officer is one of the greatest aspirations of all officers in the SA Navy and it means even more for the women within the force. For many years the rank of Admiral was thought to be an unattainable rank for women. It took 82 years for the SA Navy to appoint its first female Admiral and another two years for the second one.

Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) Laura Jansen van Vuuren is the second female in the SA Navy to be appointed as an Admiral. What is more significant about her appointment is that she is the first white female Admiral. The SA Navy rejoices and applauds her on this great achievement.

R Adm (JG) Jansen van Vuuren is from Wynberg in Cape Town. She

matriculated in 1976 at Zwaanswyk High School in Retreat. She joined the SA Navy on 10 April 1977, a date that she still remembers very well. Her mother wanted her to become a teacher, but with her father and brother already in the SA Navy, she fell in love with the Force and was motivated to join.

After Basic Training she did her Communications Course as a Junior Rating (Non-commissioned Officer). On completion of the course she was stationed at the Communications Centre at Silvermine. In 1979 she completed her Officers Course and her Bridge-Watch Keeping Training in 1980. She successfully completed the Junior Staff and Warfare Course in 1984 and the SA Army Senior Command and Staff Course in 2001. She also did the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) in 2005. She has served in the Mine Countermeasures Flotilla, Com-Naval Headquarters and Joint Operations.


R Adm (JG) Jansen van Vuuren joined the SA Navy in the era of the South African Women's Auxiliary Naval Services (SWANS). As a Swan you were only allowed to work in shore establishments and you also formed a support base for all the ships that went to sea. No women were appointed to operational posts. Even though the situation was as it was, the Admiral never lost hope. She said at that time to be a Commander was seen as the highest privilege and for her, wearing the

"brass cap", was a goal that she wanted to achieve. Today she holds the position of Director Equity Strategic Direction at Defence Headquarters. Her duties involve addressing gender concerns, equity, affirmative action, disability issues and equal opportunity in the SANDF. Her new appointment is a challenge which she says she will tackle positively by bringing her years of great experience, hard work and commitment to the fore. When asked about her feelings on being the first white female Admiral, she replied: "I feel honoured to be in such a position at a time when the SA Navy is so diversified. The Chief of the SA Navy has indeed shown that there is a place for everyone in the SA Navy".

Throughout the years the Admiral has grown to love the SA Navy so much that it has become part of her life. She was there when women were not granted the opportunities presented to them today and she feels proud that there are women serving at sea and even more so of those that are Officers Commanding of ships. The Admiral is grateful for her new role in the SANDF, but her dream is still to be appointed as the SA Navy Director of Maritime Warfare.

She states firmly that any woman can reach her goals. "Women must not believe that they cannot, they must change the 'cannot' into I will and I can" - these are the Admiral's words of encouragement to the women in the SA Navy. Her motto is that women can make a difference. She believes that with perseverance, determination, hard work and dedication women can take themselves to "greater heights".

The Admiral is married to Lou and has two sons, Robin (21) and Paul (14).

R Adm (JG) Jansen van Vuuren: a mother and a woman making the SA Navy proud. 



R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren is the second female Admiral in the SA Navy.

Defence Industry Open Day

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 28 July 2006 delegates and stakeholders from the SA DOD, Armscor, SITA, Government departments and the private sector gathered in Pretoria for the presentation of the Defence Enterprise Information System (DEIS) Industry Open Day, which was held at the CSIR Conference Centre. Major defence equipment, procurement programmes and long-term goals for defence were addressed to prepare and equip our aerospace, maritime and landward forces of the SANDF for operational efficiency and effectiveness.

The partnership and alliance of the DOD, Armscor and SITA have resulted in major defence equipment procurement programmes to equip the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SAMHS. The DOD, in partnership with Armscor and SITA, have together recognised the need to integrate with each other in projects utilising their existing industry capabilities and capacities.

"In consideration of the mandate of the DOD as taken from the Constitution of the RSA and expanded upon in the Defence Act and other legislation that forms the regulatory framework for the defence function the focus is clear. The primary object of the Defence Force is to defend and protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the principles of international law regulating the use of force. The problem that, however, exists is that the DOD should work in collaboration with all sectors of society and as such should be accessible to all sectors of society - international and local- to ensure that appropriate

transparency can be the basis for collaboration." This was the message of the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela.

Maj Gen M.J. du Toit, the DOD GITO, presented the DEIS Strategic Perspective and the Management Approach. He highlighted, inter alia, the current DEIS Management Strategic Intention, Network Centric Warfare (NCW) as part of the Network Centric Defence (NCD). He also emphasised that the integration and interoperability with external solutions should be driven by a combination of military and industry standards.

Col G.J. Barnard, SSO Information and Communication System Plan, presented the DOD Information Strategy, the Framework for the DEIS and the Defence Information and Communication Technology Architecture.

Brig Gen I.R. Fordred, Director Information and Communication Technology (DICT), presented the DOD DEIS Master Plan regarding the future ICT renewal areas and current projects.

Brig Gen M.S. Brazzoli, Acting Chief of Command and Management Information Systems, presented the DOD/Armscor relations, and pointed out that the relationship between the DOD and Armscor had come a long way since 1947. He said that Armscor provided the DOD (SANDF) with all the specialist skills required for the acquisition of weapons and associated systems. He further stressed that the relationship was "good" and that Armscor members formed part of the DOD integrated project team and that the DOD and Armscor worked together with respect to radar, electronic warfare, telecommunications, etc.


Brig Gen A.R. Cumming, GOC CMIS Support Formation, presented the business relationship between the DOD and SITA: the past, the present and the



Brig Gen Ian Fordred, Director Information and Communication Technology (DICT), presented the DOD DEIS Master Plan regarding the future ICT renewal areas and current projects.

future. Jonas Bogoshi, Chief Strategic Services (SITA), presented SITA's role and engagement model and embraced SITA's global technologies, shared services, business operations, strategic services, information management services, human resources, communications, client business unit, IT consulting, infrastructure operations, procurement services sales and marketing.

Pierre Meiring, Senior Manager Acquisition Strategy and Business Planning (Armscor), presented an overview of the role of Armscor with respect to the acquisition of military ICT solutions and said that Armscor acted as a project and technical management partner and agent for the DOD and other clients in the acquisition of armaments' products and services. He said that this presentation expanded on the role of Armscor, its work methodologies and its relationships with the DOD and the broader defence related industry locally and internationally.

At the close of the session SA Soldier asked some of the stakeholders what they thought of the presentations. They stated fundamental reasons for attending. Firstly, they were proud to say that it was good for contacts and networking, especially those reflecting on today's technology. Secondly, to maintain business relationships with the DOD and the broader defence related industry. Lastly, it was very important to see what the DOD, Armscor, SITA and the defence industry are producing and developing in a particular field of activity, research, marketing and development. 

Uniformed Women March

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

On 9 August 1956 women led by the likes of Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophie de Bruyn marched through the streets of Pretoria to the Union Buildings to raise their voices against pass laws, oppression and *apartheid*.

Fifty years later a new breed of women took to the streets, but this time it was a different march. The City of Tshwane, led by the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, hosted a parade for women in uniform in honour of women in the safety and security sector on 25 August 2006.

Those who took part in this prestigious occasion were women from the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African National Defence

Force (SANDF) and the Tshwane Metropolitan Police. The parade started at Church Square where the women assembled and formed up in their different and colourful uniforms. They marched off to the City Hall where the parade was held.

In her keynote address Dr Ramokgopa said: "We are here today to salute and pay tribute to women who have made it their vocation to keep us safe and secure as individuals, the community, our city, our province and our country. On behalf of the people of our Capital City we want to thank you for the work you do, eg the long hours you put in to reduce violence and fight crime. As you do your work, take courage in the knowledge that we are behind you. We know that there are successes as much as there are challenges that still have to be met head on."




Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, during the parade held at the City Hall in Pretoria.

The parade was attended by the top brass of the SAPS, ie commissioners,

Metropolitan Police commissioners and our own SANDF members. It was refreshing to see women from different sectors of the forces uniting in one spirit: it was evident in their drilling.

"While we celebrate all these achievements, we also wish to extend appreciation and honour to all those women on external SANDF deployments in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with the intention to assist in restoring peace in those countries.

"We will always support them," concluded Dr Ramokgopa. 



Together as one: women from different security forces marching through the streets of Pretoria.

"Always time to learn new things"

By Witness Reporter, Courtesy of *The Natal Witness*
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Freedom fighter, master printer, specialist radiologist, national advisor, envoy and Major General, Ashwin Hurribunce is a South African who has had many roles in a remarkable life that speaks of the country's shifting landscape over the past 30 years.

His extraordinary contribution has been recognised with many accolades, including a formal acknowledgement as one of the greatest achievers of the 20th century, bestowed on him by the Society of International Biographers. Having a history marked with rich achievement would seem to offer the perfect excuse to put his feet up, but Hurribunce is only just starting another great chapter in his life.

He graduated with an executive MBA from the UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) in June and has given himself a new challenge - to succeed as an entrepreneur. "I had a desire to understand business and develop my abilities as a strategist at executive level. Many people believe that when they get to executive level they have arrived and that they cannot learn anything more, but in reality it's the time leaders are challenged to step up a gear as strategists and live their values," says Hurribunce.

He sees his fledgling consultancy business - (derived from the Latin phrase *rerum novarum cupidus*, which means "a hunger for new things") - as a culmination of his substantial leadership experience and new executive MBA learning.

Hurribunce was born and schooled in Durban and, prevented from entering the engineering field by apartheid restrictions, attained a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) degree at the University of Natal Faculty of Medicine in the early and mid-seventies. It was also at this time that he began his double life as medical student and guerilla, having joined the African National Congress (ANC). In between the usual demands of student life, Hurribunce ran the printing machinery for the ANC in the country, and in 1979 became a member of

Umkhonto weSizwe. He underwent special operations and close protection training and went on to serve on various missions until its decommissioning in 1993.

Throughout this time Hurribunce was achieving great things in his medical career - he qualified and practised as a specialist radiologist at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial, R.K. Khan/King Edward VIII and the Chris Hani-Baragwanath hospitals, and was appointed senior specialist/lecturer at the University of Natal's Medical School.

He went on to become the Head of the Department of Neuro and Interventional Radiology, and Head of Academic Training at the University of Witwatersrand at the end of his medical career, and served on the faculty board and committees of both universities during these appointments.

From 1992 to 1994 he was a member of the education, health, military and security technical expert teams during national negotiations where he represented the ANC and in the transitional executive council served in its national peacekeeping force.

After integrating into the SANDF in 1994, he was appointed Director of Training in the SAMHS. He was also a member of numerous expert teams that pioneered the new design and establishment of the SANDF and the DOD.

His first top command appointment was as the Chief of Joint Training, in which he assumed overall responsibility for training. This was followed by his second top command appointment as the Chief of Command and Management Information Systems responsible for the command and control capability of the force. He retired from the SANDF earlier this year with the rank of Major General, retaining his presidential commission.

Despite a life marked by leadership achievement, Hurribunce was hungry for new experiences and challenges, eg taking on the executive MBA at UCT offered him just that. He said: "I benefited a great deal, not only in respect of the curriculum and the focus on self-reflection and personal growth, but also through the fellowship between students and all leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds."

Now, having graduated, Hurribunce is putting the finishing touches to a business that will see him put this new



Lt Gen Siphwe Nyanda (Ret), former Chief of the SANDF (left), and Maj Gen Ashwin Hurribunce (Ret), former Chief of Command and Management Information Systems (now a facilitator extraordinaire, strategist and cross-sectoral management consultant), at the African Aerospace and Defence in Cape Town.

learning and his substantial leadership skills to good use.

"I see my new role as a facilitator extraordinaire, strategist and cross-sectoral management consultant. The consultancy's focus will be helping organisations find tomorrow's solutions today," he says. One of the areas he is looking into is that of business simulation models and how his experience with real-time simulations can be used to train executives, including those who are seeking to enhance their strategy skills at business schools. One of the things in the military that really gets people thinking on their toes is real-time simulations that create unexpected challenges.

"For business executives focused on strategic issues, these types of simulations can go a long way towards helping maximise the strategic level of business. It's in strategy where leaders need to be utilising their tactical know-how and experience," he says.

Things have started positively, with three projects in the works, including one of designing a hospital management system and another involving a security management system for government.

And there are two more roles to play every day at home in Centurion - that of husband to Sharon Louise Miller and father to Zaahir (12) and Shaaria (7). Somewhere in between he still makes the time for plenty of reading and outdoor activities, as well as extramural appointments. "It's a mindset that drives me," he says. "People often ask where I find the time. The same place you'll find it, I always reply."

* Contact Ashwin Hurribunce by email at ashwin@samedical.co.za. To contact UCT GSB Executive MBA programme call (021)406 1338. 

Education fights poverty

By Amn T.D. Bapela, *Ad Astra*

The Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) students were overwhelmed when they finally met the "mother" of the SA Air Force - the Air Force Patron of ABET - on 13 July 2006. They sang in joy and thanked Ms Leonie Gagiano, the wife of the Chief of the SA Air Force, for the precious opportunity that she had given them: now they were able to read and write.

Ms Gagiano said that it was never too late to learn and that the Air Force needed people like the ABET students, people who were disciplined and determined to achieve what they should have achieved years ago. "This is the perfect opportunity for you to empower yourselves in order to broaden your knowledge, because without education the country cannot go forward," she said. She encouraged the students to inspire others to take part in the programme, because


literacy changes lives and, importantly, the programme is free. "We only need your commitment," she said.

The purpose of ABET is to ensure that members taking part in the programme will be empowered, which will enable them to run their own businesses in fields such as agriculture, technology, travel and tourism.

Since February 2005 the ABET programme was presented at Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing. The project manager, Ms Yvonne Mudimu, the wife of the Chief of the SA Navy, thanked the teachers, Ms Mamasela, Ms Maqungo and Mr Langa and the training coordinator, Mr Ndlovu, as well as WO2 Graaff from the unit, for assisting the members throughout their training. They were now empowered and could take the acquired learning back to their families and their communities, because education fights poverty.


One of the students, Mr Kwena Elias Moabelo, said he was very proud to be given a chance to thank the

facilitators, Ms Gagiano and their principal, Ms Mudimu. "Today we feel great because we have been given a chance to learn something at work. We appreciate it. We say, let it not be the end, but let us do it continuously. We gained a lot of experience from this project. We can read and sign papers with an understanding of what it means. Today I can proudly buy a newspaper and read it," he said.

It was really impressive to, see that the ABET programme was working and changing peoples lives, giving them great opportunities. It is indeed working well. 

Elected for a Royal Course



Lieutenant Maritza Badenhorst, the Communication Officer of 14 SA Infantry Battalion, was selected to attend the Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst. The course commenced on 10 September 2006 and will end on 10 August 2007. (It is the same course that Prince William and Prince Harry attended!) 



Ms Leonie Gagiano talking to a student of the ABET programme.

SANDF women marching on

By Nomonde Vuthela

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Congratulations! Well done to all the women in the SANDF for staying focused and for remaining true to the struggle of their predecessors by not losing momentum. SANDF women did not allow the actions of the many stoic South African women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 to be in vain. In memory of those women who stood like a fortress 50 years ago, the women in uniform proudly marched to the Thaba Tshwane Sports Grounds on 11 August 2006. It is remarkable how what went with pain and sorrow way back then, has today borne so much success.

To commemorate the unforgettable, historical event when women surprised all and graciously took to the Union Buildings in peaceful protest against the pass laws and human rights injustices, women in uniform from all Services, in a show of force, held a special women's only parade. They saluted the women of long ago for making it all so very possible; they symbolically promised to take the cause for equality of choice among all even further.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, made his way to the podium in preparation for his public address to the parade with two women *aides-de-camp* - Brig Gen Portia Sibiyi from the SA Air Force Directorate Communications and Brig Gen Lulu Siwisa, GOC Military Health Formation Training.

In his address at the SANDF's Women's Day Parade he showed that he was a champion and an advocate of equality. Minister Lekota said that the

SANDF through this parade sought to recognise the progress and achievements made by the women of this country. "We also seek to acknowledge the struggle to achieve liberation and equality between the sexes," he said.

"Since the integration and formation of the post-1994 SANDF, the Department has developed plans and strategies to ensure equal opportunities for all women in the organisation. The challenge has been, however, in the arena of comprehensive compliance and support," he added. "The progress and achievements of women in the SANDF, one of the most challenging work environments for any person, should be in its proper context and recognised accordingly."

"A challenge facing the Department is therefore to identify women in all rank levels who should be trained to occupy specific command posts in future," he continued. "The current situation demands that the top leadership set targets for women's promotions, and these must be assessed annually at the Women's Conference."

Minister Lekota also announced that of ten Brigadier Generals recently promoted four were women and that of 55 Colonels promoted 17 were women. "But this is where the challenge lies. How do we ensure a large enough pool of women from which to select promotable officers," Minister Lekota asked. "In our attempts to deal with these challenges, however, policy direction has progressed through a number of additional initiatives."

Paying tribute to the women on parade he said: "I say to women here on parade this morning and all the women in the SANDF, this country is proud of you. We will continue in our




Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi, Chief Director Equal Opportunities, addressing the media during the DOD Women's Day celebrations.

vigilance to ensure that your talents and role in the defence of our democracy are recognised and effectively utilised."

Thrilling the crowd with a fly-past was a Pilatus PC7 flown by Maj Melanie Habben and Capt Alex Mc Phail. The first Cessna Caravan to fly past the mesmerised crowd was flown by Lt Channel Burnell and S Lt Heybrech van Niekerk, while S Lt Carol Duven and S Lt Warren Davidson flew the second Cessna Caravan. Members of the SA Air Force put on a spectacular fly-past.

Before withdrawing Minister Lekota took the general salute as all four battalions marched, each battalion showcasing a rich harvest of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members.

The SAMHS Band in kilts brought bagpipes to the parade. It was all really very beautiful. 

The gift of womanhood

By Nomonde Vuthela

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Representivity and the empowerment of women at all levels within the DOD were the issues put on the table when the Army Support Base Port Elizabeth celebrated Women in Defence on 18 August 2006.

Hosted by the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, Col Nontobeko Mpxa, speakers at the occasion called for the eradication of all forms of inequality and exploitation of the woman working-force in and outside of the defence arena. A call was also made for women and men in any given society to fight against the culture of abuse and violence against women and children.

In the keynote address to the gathering, the Chief Director Equal Opportunities (DOD), Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi, talked of modern women having taken their rightful place, but also warned against complacency. She said: "I am honoured today to pay tribute to those heroines who dared to take on

the might of the *apartheid* state when they marched on the seat of power in Pretoria in 1956. As we mark the 50th anniversary of that historic march to the Union Buildings, the temptation is to trumpet the achievements of women because fifty years later passbooks are not only a thing of the past, but women have taken their rightful place in the governing of our country."

"As important as it is to savour our victories, the situation requires that we do not drown in our glory because the women's long walk to freedom is not yet over," warned Maj Gen Motumi. "Gender representation in all decision-making structures and processes in many sectors of our society is still a key issue to be addressed."

She also called for the equal representation, access and participation of women in all areas, stages and levels of conflict and peacekeeping processes. "Women are an integral part of all negotiation teams and processes, relating to cease-fires and peace agreements. The African Union's (AU) solemn declaration on gender parity in Africa adopted by the African Heads of

State in Addis Ababa in 1994 provides for the pursuit of gender parity, referred to as fifty-fifty representation of women and men in all AU operations and decision-making structures.


"Taking our constitutional imperatives, regional and international instruments into consideration the DOD has committed

itself to increasing the representivity of women in all ranks of the SANDF and in the Secretariat. It has also accepted that women will be involved in combat roles. What we need to do as an organisation is to develop a clear career path for women and also ensure that an environment is created to enable them to make meaningful contributions to the achievement of the organisational objectives."

Maj Gen Motumi said: "At this point the representation of women in all levels of decision-making structures may not be possible for various reasons. However, within the DOD it is because our organisation consists of 78% men and 22% women. Therefore we need to be realistic in our demands. We cannot be asking for things that are not achievable, otherwise we will not be taken seriously."

The South African Police Service (SAPS) choir sang about how women in power have the ability to stamp out corruption in the workplace and within the community. Senior Supt Nicholson, on behalf of women in the SAPS, said that women have the right to say "no"! She emphasised that the struggle for equality was also about how women project and assert themselves.

"Yoliswa", as she preferred to be addressed, is employed by NICRO, a non-government organisation (NGO) that deals with abused women and children. She stated that speaking out on domestic violence was the key to end all forms of abuse and crimes against women and children. On behalf of "Women in Business" Ms Bulelwa Qupe advised women to leave the comfort zones of "soft" skills and move into the area of "hard" skills. According to Ms Qupe 52% of South Africans are women, but of that staggering percentage, only 6% are Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).

"We have entered the global market," she claimed. "Have a vision and plan and with the right attitude you can achieve anything. Do not take your business dreams with you to the grave." 



Col Nontobeko Mpxa, Office Commanding Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, leads women in dance as they celebrate Women's Day.

Women's presence in the Air Force increases


By Amn Thabang Bapela, *Ad Astra*

The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, considers women in the SA Air Force to be a great asset. Speaking at a Women's Day breakfast held at the Air Force Gymnasium at Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 10 August 2006, Lt Gen Gagiano underlined this fact with statistics when he said that the number of women in the SA Air Force had increased from 150 to 1 842 since April 1994.

The guest speaker at the occasion,

Dr Monica Kathina Juma, Programme Officer of Peace and Security, pointed out that the lessons from the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings were still alive today. Dr Juma sees the march as an attempt to place the agenda on gender in the proper perspective. She also remarked about how difficult it would be to perceive a society that would deliver this agenda without the leadership of women.

On the other hand WO1 Emma Lekalakala at Career Management and Staffing *Elec* Ground Systems at Air Command, who was also present,

emphasised the issue of discipline and maintenance with regard to the standards of the SA Air Force. She pointed out that the SA Air Force had rules and regulations that members had to adhere to. According to her military etiquette should be the key to all things done by women in uniform. She also acknowledged that, as women, they should strive to get more women to join the DOD. The general mood of the women at this breakfast was characterised by the slogan: "*Wathinta abafazi wathinta imbokodo*," which in English means: "If you strike a woman you strike a rock." 



From left: Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, Dr Monica Kathina Juma, Programme Officer of Peace and Security, and Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi, Chief Director Equal Opportunities in the SANDF.

Mothers and Custodians of our Society

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Nelda Pienaar

In the past things have not always gone smoothly for women in South Africa. South African history takes us back to the early days, to 1913, when anti-pass campaigns took place in which women protested. In the 1950s women were increasingly resistant to *apartheid* laws and they started raising their voices. This culminated in the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

On 8 August 2006 a group of women from the Inspector General Department of Defence (IG DOD) gathered together to celebrate the unselfish sacrifice and the life of self-giving in style at a restaurant in Centurion. It was a group of multicultural women working together every day. Their cultural diversity gave rise to the idea of getting together outside the working environment to celebrate Women's Day. What was amazing about this group of women was that

they were not only celebrating, they were also collecting teddy bears to donate to a young boy suffering from cancer, Hanco Viljoen, who lives in Kempton Park.


Ms Kleintjie van Wyngaard from the IG DOD saw an advert of Hanco Viljoen in a newspaper and was touched by it. She asked the women working at the IG DOD to contribute and to extend a helping hand to show *Ubuntu* and help to make a difference in the lives of other little cancer patients in supporting Hanco's initiative. *SA Soldier* was informed that the young boy had dreams and aspirations to help by contributing teddy bears to other children suffering from cancer. His target is to collect 100 000 teddy bears to donate to them.

Members working at the IG DOD were asked how they felt about Women's Day. Maj Busi Mbatha, Ms Rachel Selepe, Ms Nosipho Mahlangu and WO1 Lemie Nkuta agreed that this should be an act of remembrance to acknowledge women, and that women were on the move to con-

tribute to a better life in the world and that 9 August was a significant day for all the women at the IG DOD, as well as in the world.

Col Celeste Scheepers, Deputy Director Performance Audit at the IG DOD, opened the day with Scripture reading and prayer. Her words of inspiration were: "Positive attitude is the outward manifestation of a mind that dwells primarily on positive matters. Your attitude is the disposition you transmit to others. It is also the way you see things mentally from the inside." She motivated the women by telling them that in life everyone encounters events that can influence one negatively. When this happens and one becomes negative, the challenge is quickly to employ an attitude adjustment technique that allows one to bounce back and regain a positive outlook.

The day was graced by the presence of Brig Gen Petra Mari, Director Military Health Human Resources, Ms Elize Herbst, Financial Manager at Open Spatial Solutions, and Ms Nelda Pienaar, Editor of *SA Soldier*. Brig Gen Mari, who was a guest speaker, said that in 1956, exactly five decades ago, women who we regard as stalwarts of our struggle, the heroines of our liberation, marched to Pretoria in protest. They were resisting and putting to a stop the perpetual abuse and demeaning attitude of the brutal racist *apartheid* regime.

Brig Gen Mari chose the theme "Personal Freedom". She said that as we celebrate what has been achieved through the selfless sacrifices of these heroines, we should ask ourselves how we could repay them, how we could say their struggle was not in vain. She motivated our women to have character and inner strength and to remember that they are not alone in every mountain they climbed as God was always with them. She encouraged them to have vision, consistency and to persevere against all odds. 



A group of multicultural women working at the Inspector General (DOD) celebrating Women's Day together.

Women in Defence are *Proudly South African*

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In celebration of National Women's Month the women working at Defence Corporate Communication made a food donation to the People Upliftment Programme (POPUP) on 7 August 2006.


By virtue of being members of Defence Corporate Communications the women put into action what they always preach: the SANDF is part of the larger community of South Africans, and does not and cannot

exist alone. Therefore, in alignment with the rest of the nation these women shared in the celebration of all South African women, past and present. By donating food to POPUP it seemed fitting to go a little further and pass on some of the feel-good spirit affecting women across the country.

This non-profit organisation situated in central Pretoria believes in restoring a person's dignity through training and skills development to enable the individual to become self-sufficient. Its main aim is to contribute meaningfully to the transformation of

South African communities by rendering services to all races, cultures, genders and denominations.

Its primary focus is on training, skills development, job creation, entrepreneurship, job placement and support services. POPUP is sponsored by a variety of South African companies, businesses, organisations and parastatals.

During the visit to POPUP the women were taken on a tour of the organisation and met staff members and the children and young people in need. 



From right: Lt Col Nokwanda Dondolo and Ms Pearl Grobler (both women at Defence Corporate Communication), Ms Nadine Dove (PRO POPUP) and Ms Lulu Magadlela (POPUP Kitchen Manager).

Fortunate to be women

By Nomonde Vuthela

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

“To God be the glory for the great things He hath done,” sang South Africa's Gospel sensation, Rebecca Malope, to resounding applause as she praised God for creating women, driving her

audience into a frenzy at the SA Army Intelligence Formation's Women's Day celebrations at 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom on 8 August 2006.

“Be strong! Is the message that I have brought to the women in the SANDF,” Ms Malope said when she spoke to *SA Soldier*. “We know that the kind of work that you do is very

tough. We look up to you, and when we look at you we know that we are protected.

My wish in turn is for God to protect you and guide you in the many dangerous things that surround you. We love you. Just keep on going.”

Welcoming all the guests to this significant occasion, Lt Col René Mercuur, the Officer Commanding 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment, reminded all present that “WOMEN” stand for **w**ell-organised **m**anagers of the **e**nvironment and **n**ature.


She told a very captivated audience that the occasion should serve as a means to encourage and motivate women to strive for leadership positions in the National Defence Force.

Delivering her message on the occasion Chaplain M.J. Frantz mentioned great names of some of the women of substance in the Bible, who through self-sacrifice helped alter the course of history.

She said that in the written word women are not always portrayed as key players forever visible in the forefront, but that somehow, through divine intervention, women bring to the world that which is truly miraculous: “We stumble upon a number of women who did remarkable things.

Women brought up remarkable men to become men of God who could tell the Gospel of God,” she added.

Chaplain Frantz also elaborated on how women throughout history have worked “behind the scenes” for the good of society as a whole.

“Although it is not always easy, stay put in your faith. Let us take the risks because at the end of the day we will be successful,” said Chaplain Frantz as she encouraged the women. “We are fortunate as women, because we are special,” concluded Chaplain Frantz. 



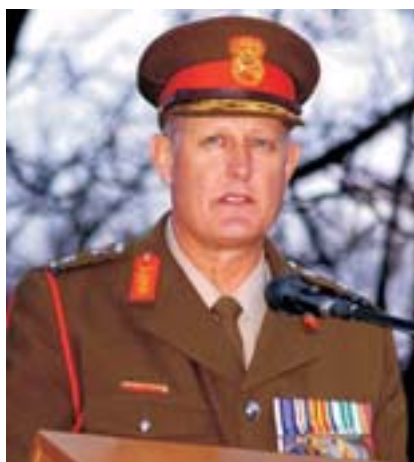
Gospel sensation Rebecca Malope drums in her message of appreciation to all the women in Defence during the Women's Day celebrations held at 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom.

Sixty years of sound harmony between man and machine

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

“If there is one thing that distinguishes our corps from the others, it is the effective and sound harmony between man and machine,” said Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuis, GOC SA Army Armour Formation.

He was speaking at the retreat ceremony held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the SA Army Armoured Corps at the SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 24 August 2006. On the parade



Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuis, GOC SA Army Armour Formation, at the 60th anniversary retreat ceremony.

ground were displayed armoured cars such as the Rooikat 76 mm armoured

car, the Ford Mk IV armoured car, the Olifant Mk 2 main battle tank on a tank transporter, the Eland 90 armoured car and the Olifant Mk 1A main battle tank on a tank transporter, the Ratel ZT3 Anti-tank Missile System, the Saracen armoured personnel carrier and the Ferret scout car. All these vehicles were driven by women during the parade to commemorate "Women in Armour" - since August was Women's Month.

The retreat ceremony was conducted by a guard of honour from 1 Special Service Battalion. They were accompanied by the SA Army Band that keeps on getting better and better every time



The guard of honour was presented by the members of 1 Special Service Battalion - the unit where this very ceremony originated some 70 years ago.



The Eland 60 armoured car in action at the SA Army College.

you listen to them. A colour division comprising the colours and colour parties of all SA Armoured Corps (Regular and Reserve Force units) also took part in the parade.

In his keynote address Brig Gen Gildenhuys said: "Many people might ask why we celebrate this anniversary of our corps. The answer is rather simple. We in the armour believe in our past as being the firm foundation for our future. Customs and traditions based on a military culture are indeed


the building blocks for our future." The General Officer Commanding took this opportunity to bid farewell and dedicated this parade to the Sergeant Major of the SANDF, WO1 Jakes Jacobs who, after 41 years of service, will be retiring on 29 September 2006.

"Today the SA Armoured Corps wishes to pay tribute to WO1 Jacobs for being the gentleman and a soldier he is and for achieving the highest possible position for a non-commis-

sioned officer and warrant officer in our National Defence Force," says Brig Gen Gildenhuys.

Mr Helmoed-Römer Heitman, a defence analyst, who recently gave a historical overview on armour in South Africa, said: "Today South Africa is at peace, but faces an increasingly troubled world and is looked to by its neighbours to help bring peace to Africa. So far this has meant peacekeeping, but there is no guarantee that South African soldiers will not one day have to stand up to an aggressor or assist another African state to defend

itself. Then it will once again be the Armoured Corps that makes the difference."

What would the celebrations be without the customs and traditions of the Armoured Corps? The celebrations ended with all the Armoured Corps members singing the Armoured Corps Song and the Tankers' Prayer. There was also the lighting of the flame, which symbolises the inextinguishable spirit and energy of the SA Armoured Corps. 

Recognition for 50 years of loyal service

By Maj Marinda Meyer,
SO2 Communication SA Army
Armour Formation

It does not often happen that someone receives an award for fifty years of loyal service in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

At a ceremony in Bloemfontein a medal for 50 years of loyal service was awarded to the 74 year old Honorary Colonel Jonie van der Linde of Bloemfontein.


The medal was awarded on behalf of the SANDF by Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys, the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Armour Formation, on 13 July 2006.

Col Van der Linde is the former Officer Commanding of President Steyn Regiment in Bloemfontein.

On behalf of the Armour Corps we would like to congratulate Col Van der Linde on this honorary award.

It is indeed an honour to have

such a dedicated, enthusiastic and loyal soldier in the Armour Corps.

** The Afrikaans version of this article is available on page 46. 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. *

SANDF spouses touch base

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

The miraculous thing about planting a seed is that the sprout without fail must and will in many ways resemble the mother plant. The beauty of cloning lies in the 100% guarantee of duplicating the original. But, as all good things go, reproducing the exact comes with a variety of responsibilities if the product is to resemble an original both internally and externally. Having established the SANDF Spouses Forum, the leading ladies must now embark on the second leg of this intriguing venture: that of developing those women who tomorrow will see to it that the mandates of the organisation continue to be fulfilled.

"Spouses are retiring not too long from now, who is going to replace

you"? Queried Ms Mbangiseni Dzivhane from the First Lady, Ms Zanele Mbeki's Office. Delivering a message of greetings and best regards from our First Lady to the SANDF Spouses Forum at the SA Naval Mess in Pretoria on 26 August 2006, Ms Dzivhane, on behalf of Ms Mbeki, congratulated the Forum on its founding.

In the same breath, Ms Dzivhane conveyed Ms Mbeki's concern that such a well-formulated plan, young as it was, should also begin to look into ways of securing a niche into the future. She asked: "The challenge is what becomes of the spouses at grass roots' level. How do we close the gap and bring everybody on board?" She added: "We need to find a way."

Credited with creating South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Ms Mbeki and her staff have managed to bring successfully to one table South African women from all corners of the country, across the colour bar,

women of all ages, in all types of occupations, ranks and classes. Because of SAWID, multitudes of women from different backgrounds speak the same language.

"Ms Mbeki's Office would like to help you develop your own Defence Women in Dialogue or perhaps you might want to consider joining SAWID. What is of greater importance is to listen to what comes out of the dialogue," she advised.

Hosted by the spouse of the Chief of the SA Navy, Ms Yvonne Mudimu, the SANDF Spouses Forum on this particular day also looked at how young girls could be taught to take the lead by shedding past troubles and embracing good choices. Addressing the gathering the first female admiral to be appointed in the SA Navy, Ms Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, advised women to "look at life through the lens of God". She said one does not pick one's life, but that the

decisions we make as women take us to where we go. "You can live past your childhood and choose to be the adult that you are. When you are a teenager you can change your thinking, then your beliefs and then your expectations will also change," she said. "It is all in the mind. It is the values that you bring and how you think," she emphasised.

"We now have the opportunity to raise our kids differently. The way we raise our kids sometimes will result in them adopting an attitude of



From left: Ms Sandy Africa, spouse of the Surgeon General, Ms Yvonne Mudimu, the event hostess and wife of the Chief of the SA Navy, Ms Mbangiseni Dzivhane, representing the Office of the First Lady, Ms Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of the SA Army, and Ms Busisiwe Portia Ngwenya, wife of the Chief of the SANDF.

either respecting or disrespecting life. Get involved and know the authority figures that influence your kid's life," R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala stated. "Be a change agent and not a perpetrator, because by doing nothing you are a perpetrator." Stressing how the adult women must take charge, R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala said: "Accept yourself. Knowing who you are is the beginning of perfecting who you are. Treat each day as a new day. Learn from it and do not be bogged down by past mistakes."


"Save on everything else, but not on education. Score a ten on education and another ten on spirituality. Know the norm and accept it, for instance as a female admiral I am not expected to err and I will miss the Fleet Board only if I am in a coma or else 'they' will say we told you women are not meant to be admirals." On self-development she said: "Determine a good destiny. Your daily decisions and what you cultivate now will reap ten years of your life."

The spouse of the Chief of the SANDF, Ms Busisiwe Portia Ngwenya, reported back on all matters of significance to the meeting. She informed the group that toys bought



In support of the SA Navy: Ms Yvonne Mudimu, wife of the Chief of the SA Navy (left), and R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala.

with money accrued from personal donations made by each member were safely delivered to 1 Military Hospital in June 2006 in celebration of the National Youth Month. She elaborated on how the Forum's next target was to participate in and show support for the National Campaign against Women and Child Violence in December. Ms Ngwenya also announced that the Forum's Constitution was to be

finalised before the end of the year. The day culminated in health tips and advice on some relaxing therapy. Ms F. Green from "Energy Medicine" introduced "Body Talk" and how this type of healing process restores communication between all body parts, allowing the body to heal itself without the use of drugs. Ms B. Jelley explained the concept of "reflexology" and how the process is energy based. 

SA Army Foundation provides sponsorships

**By Maj Elize Lizamore, (ResF)
PRO SA Army Foundation**

The SA Army Foundation firmly believes that all members should benefit from the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Foundation. The SA Army Foundation therefore launched a special sponsorship programme at the beginning of the year to support SA Army units nationwide, as well as other SANDF units and/or divisions.


These donations are utilised by the respective units in accordance with their specific and unique requirements and needs. The sponsorship programme will continue for the rest of the year. The SA Army Foundation has already sponsored the Chief Joint Operations, the Chaplains' Services, 7 SAI Bn and 4 SAI Bn. Other units such as the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn, 3 SAI Bn in Kimberley, 4 SAI Bn in



The Officer Commanding of 4 SA Infantry Battalion, Lt Col E. Ramabu, receives a cheque of R11 390 from a representative of SA Army Foundation, Ms E. Maseku.

Middelburg and the Army Support Bases of Bloemfontein, Potchefstroom, Durban and Port Elizabeth will benefit in the near future.

It remains a privilege for the SA Army Foundation to reach out to all its

members and acknowledges their loyal support over the years. The SA Army Foundation also rendered a helping hand to the Women's Day celebrations of the Engineering Formation. 

Hundreds of future officers excel

By Maj J.P. Prinsloo,
SO2 Com SA Army Gymnasium
Photos: F Sgt David
Nomtshongwana

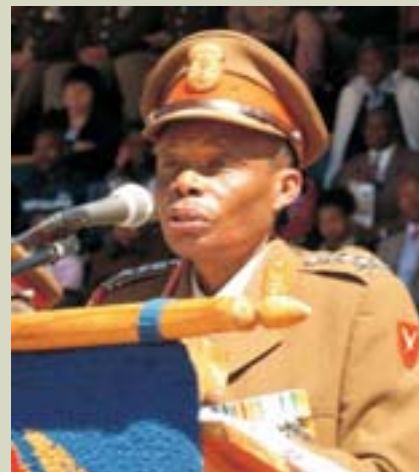
The second Officers Formative Course for 2006 at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg ended on 1 September 2006. The course started on 15 May 2006 and after 16 weeks of hard work the learners could finally look back and see what they had achieved.

The course was unique as it consisted of 415 learners. This must be one of the biggest Officers Formative Courses presented in recent years. The course consisted of 207 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members, 94 Reserve Force members and 114 Regular Force members. The Officers Formative Branch, under the guidance of Lt Col L.S. Janse van Rensburg, did a splendid task to ensure that training of a high standard was maintained. Congratulations to them! If one looks at the Vision of the

SA Army Gymnasium: "To provide Transformational Leaders to the SA Army" one can safely say that the mission of the unit was achieved.

The passing-out parade itself was a huge success. Parents and loved ones of the members on parade were invited to attend the day. They came from all over South Africa to witness this special day at the SA Army Gymnasium.

The main functionary at the parade was Maj Gen Robert Mandita, General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation. During his address he mentioned that in order to succeed one had to make sure that one's decisions were based on facts. He also said that one must be honest and respect one's subordinates, and in turn they would trust you. He also thanked the staff members of the SA Army Gymnasium staff members and their families for making the course and the parade such a success. Maj Gen Mandita also thanked the Armour, Artillery, Engineer and Air Defence Artillery formations for contributing




Maj Gen Robert Mandita, General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation, delivering his speech.

to such an impressive parade.

The top achievers on the Officers Formative Course were rewarded for their good work and dedication. The results were as follows: the fittest male learner was CO J.S. Banda, the fittest female learner was CO L. Venkele, the neatest learner was CO T.E. Mofokeng, the most disciplined learner was CO M.A. Mokatsane, the best academic learners were CO W.E. Tidbury and CO A.D.R. Novhe, and the best candidate officer (CO) was CO W.E. Tidbury.

Learners from the Seven Fountains Secondary School also attended the parade. They were given the opportunity to view some of the SA Army's main weapons up close. Their host was WO2 M.T. Maphalle, the Communication Warrant Officer of the SA Army Gymnasium. The learners thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially the *March Past* by the parade and the performance of the SA Army Band. The children were treated to lunch before their departure and also received the *SA Soldier* magazine and key rings from the unit.

The MSDS members departed on 1 September 2006 for various corps schools to continue with their respective corps training in the SA Army. 



The leaders of tomorrow: officers formative learners formed up during their passing-out parade at SA Army Gymnasium.

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Government Communicators' Awards 2006

Nominate yourself and stand a chance to win fabulous prizes!

For the past two years DOD Communicators scooped up major awards, including the 2005 Government Communicator of the Year Award. Let us keep it this way!

All DOD communicators are invited to participate in the Government Communicators' Awards (GCA) 2006. The objective of the GCA is to acknowledge excellence in Government communication.

Communication activities that took place over the period 1 September 2005 to October 2006. The closing date for nominations is 1 November 2006. Nominations will be adjudicated by the DOD's Head of Communication, thereafter the best nominations will qualify for the GCA.

For more information about the GCA, including details and pictures of winners and ceremonies, as well as sponsors, visit the Government Communication (GCIS) website: www.gcis.gov.za

Enquiries and nominations must be forwarded to:

Ms P. Grobler at Defence Corporate Communication at tel: (012) 355 6355 or fax: (012) 355 6400.

Spouses of military men unite

By Lebohlang Letaoana

The saying goes that behind every successful man stands a woman: Defence Foreign Relations together with the SANDF Spouses Forum hosted a function for the Military Attachés and members of the Advisor Corps spouses at SA Army College on 15 June 2006.

The function was presided over by the wife of the Chief of the SANDF,

Ms Busisiwe Portia Ngwenya, who welcomed the guests with a short briefing.


"The SANDF Spouses Forum has initiated this meeting to offer you support and to extend a sincere hand of friendship.

As women we realise that living in foreign countries can be a wonderful, but also challenging experience," said Ms Ngwenya.

The SANDF Spouses Forum

consists of the spouses of the Chiefs of Services, Defence Intelligence and the Chaplain General.

Ms Ngwenya said that the Forum had three portfolios: social support, fund-raising and events management.

"We, as spouses of military men, would like to improve communication with you and in the process establish ties of goodwill and friendship that will reach beyond the existing formal structures," concluded Ms Ngwenya. 

Security tips for women

Courtesy Keith Alberts, ADT Security, Northern Region

Women often fall prey to criminals as they are seen to be easier and more vulnerable targets. According to ADT, one of the leading security providers in the country, women do, however, have an uncanny intuition and this ability to "pick up" on things that are amiss should not be ignored.

Women should learn to trust this instinct and use it to their full advantage by avoiding situations which do not "feel" safe. "If you are uncomfortable about something you are probably right," says Julie van Zyl from ADT.

Van Zyl says women are also more tuned into softer issues around safety awareness, especially when it comes to their domestics and children. Because domestics and children are most often the ones at home during the day, it is imperative that they are taught the following:

- How to activate the alarm and panic buttons in emergency situations
- Which telephone numbers to phone in times of crisis
- First aid, particularly for domestics
- Never to supply information indicating that they are alone at home, etc

"Quite often these elements are overlooked, yet they play an integral role in the safety of your family, employees and belongings. Parents should teach their children and domestics about the security measures in place in the home - and most

importantly, where the panic buttons are," says Van Zyl.


According to Van Zyl, your first line of defence is awareness. "Most people think of kicks to the groin and blocking punches when they hear the term 'self-defence'. However, true self-defence begins long before any actual physical contact occurs. Awareness of yourself, your surroundings, and your potential attacker's likely strategy is half the battle won. Be aware of things in your home, eg burglar proofing that needs attention, faulty electric gates, and regularly test your alarm system. Once someone has broken into your home, you leave yourself vulnerable to possible danger."

Here are a few practical tips to be carefully considered by all women:

- Women who live alone should list only their last names and initials on their mailboxes and in the telephone directory.
- Always keep the door locked, even if you are at home or if you only leave the house for a few minutes.
- Leave a light on at the door which you will be using to enter at night. Have your key ready so that the door may be opened immediately.
- Close curtains at night.
- Never open your door unless you are certain you know who is on the other side or they can verify that they have a legitimate reason for being there.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed so they do not obscure entrances and windows. These are prime hiding places for criminals.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all

times, especially when in your home or car. Watch out for suspicious people or circumstances and be aware of who is behind you when driving, eg if someone follows you for a long time, call the police or your private security provider. ADT, for example, offers a Meet and Greet service where upon request the Reaction Officer will escort you home.

- Women are prime targets of car-jackings/smash and grabs, etc. So make sure you keep your valuables out of sight and not on the seat next to you. Be constantly alert and keep a look-out for anyone suspicious.
- If you have been away and upon arriving home notice anything different about your residence - lights on, doors open, gates open, etc - go to a neighbour and phone the police or security company immediately. Do not go inside.
- Double check that you have locked and secured all windows and doors before leaving home.
- Advise your security company if you are going away and ensure that you supply all the necessary information regarding key holders, who lives nearby, etc in case of an emergency.
- If hiring a house sitter, ensure that you teach him or her how to use your alarm correctly.

"All of these pointers and advice should be shared with your families, employees, colleagues and friends. Empowering yourself with this information could play a role in saving your life one day," concludes Van Zyl. 

Thrust for youth participation - 16 June 1976

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

We have come full circle as a nation! In an effort to keep the legacy of the 16 June 1976 youth uprising alive, South Africans young and old came from all over Gauteng in their thousands and converged at the FNB Stadium in Soweto to celebrate and mark the 30th anniversary of that poignant moment in our history. As a young democracy South Africa's countrymen and women were given yet another opportunity to make the past work positively for the future.

The SANDF as an integral part of the South African State also participated in National Youth Day celebrations in a show of support and solidarity for nation building and the need to take the country forward. In the SANDF we still have members who marched that day, members who had to silence the uprising, members who spent sleepless nights pondering where all this was leading to, members who watched the news and feared for their comfort zones, and members who had to take critical decisions.

Thirty years later the SANDF can commemorate 16 June 1976 as a unified organisation for a unified country. "As the Department of Defence we also want a share in celebrating the 30th anniversary of 16 June 1976," said Mr Zamanaye Ngema, then Deputy Director HR Policy and Management (now working at Chief Directorate Transformational Management). Mr Ngema is the coordinator of the Defence participation in youth activities around the country in an effort to expose and draw South Africa's young to the SANDF.

"We as a Department are telling the young people to consider Defence as a career choice," Mr Ngema added.

"We are here in Soweto to show the young people some of the roles that the SANDF plays. The main objective is also to show to our Commander-in-Chief that we are part of the people of this country, to say we are also people who sacrificed and still sacrifice for the country."


SA Soldier also spoke to WO1 Solly Solomons, Logistic Sergeant Major of Air Force Base Waterkloof, who led the *Fatigue Team* responsible for the preparations for President Thabo Mbeki's address to a very crowded stadium. "We were deployed at the FNB Stadium specifically for the Youth Day celebrations, and to set up the podiums and the carpets which are necessary for the President's arrival at the stadium."

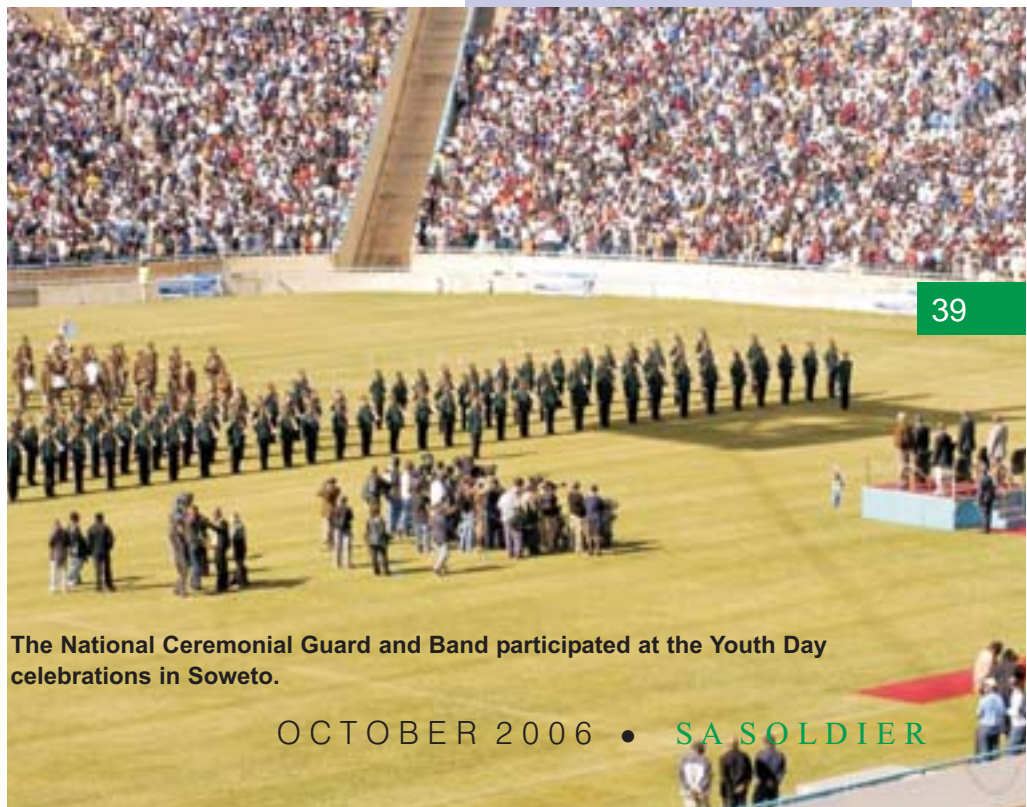
Content and pleased with the contribution made by SANDF members taking part in the celebrations was WO1 Juan Wiese, SA Air Force Ceremonial Sergeant Major. "The Minister of Defence was requested by the National Youth Commission to

participate in the celebrations, with the SA Air Force being the main executor of the event," said WO1 Wiese. "The SA Air Force was tasked to plan, prepare, execute and conclude this participation. Our main involvement was the ceremonial part, ie the parade which is part of the day's main proceedings."

"With regard to the fly-past, the salute flight consisted of two Oryx helicopters, one carrying the National Flag and the other flying the National Defence Force Flag. An air display was also performed by a Rooivalk helicopter from 16 Squadron in AFB Bloemspruit," he added.

"The Military Police Agency provided members to control the traffic, as well as the ceremonial motorcycle escort for the President, while members of the SA Medical Health Service were on standby to provide medical support to the members who participated.

"It was an exercise very well executed with 100 per cent timing and 100 per cent participation," concluded WO1 Wiese. 



The National Ceremonial Guard and Band participated at the Youth Day celebrations in Soweto.

Military career opportunities for Soweto youth


By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

"Join the South African National Defence Force!" said Sgt Lesley Kgosana from the DOD Marketing and Recruiting Section at the Directorate Personnel Acquisition in Central Pretoria. In celebration of Youth Month the SANDF was invited to set up an exhibition together with other government departments and the private sector at the Elka Stadium in Rockville, Soweto. There Sgt Kgosana spoke to matriculants from Soweto and explained to them that the SANDF too is a career path worth considering.

The exhibition was aimed at showcasing youth initiatives implemented by Government to advise young people about the intentions of the National Youth Service Programme. "I spoke to huge numbers of matriculants about the DOD and explained to them what the requirements were

should one choose to join the SANDF," Sgt Kgosana told *SA Soldier*.

"The youth of Soweto showed great interest and completed application forms for the Military Skills Development (MSD) programme.

The exhibition was a success and I managed to submit 108 applications in 3 days," he added. "The application forms I had with me were from all Services and the different mustering." 



Sgt Lesley Kgosana discusses employment opportunities in the DOD with Soweto's youth.

Intsha yaseSoweto inamathuba okusebenza njengamasosha empi

Ibhalwe ngu Nomonde Vuthela
Isithombe: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole
(Ihumushelwe kwisiZulu ngu
N.P. Ndwandwe)


"Zibandakanye neButho lokuVikela leSizwe saseNingizimu Afrika!", lana ngamazwi ashiwo nguSgt Kgosana ophuma kwiSigaba esibizwa ngokuthiwa yi-DOD Marketing and Recruiting kwi-Directorate Personnel Acquisition ezinze maPhakathi nePitoli. Ukugubha iNyanga yeNtsha i-SANDF iye yamenywa ukuba yenze umbukiso kanye kanye nezinye izigaba kanye nezinqamu zomphakathi kwinkundla yezemidlalo i-Elka Stadium eseRockville eSoweto. Kulapho u-Sgt Kgosana akhulume nabafundi abenza ibanga lika-

matikuletsheni, abavela kwinkalo zonke zaseSoweto, ebachasisela ukuthi uma ufuna umsebenzi wokuziphilisa ungabheka nakwi-SANDF.

Injongo yalo mbukiso kwakukubonisa amathuba omsebenzi asekwenu nguHulumeni, angathi afunyanwe yintsha, ukweluleka intsha ngenhloso zoHlelo lweNtsha lwemiSebenzi yeSizwe (National Youth Service Programme). "Ngikhulume kubafundi abanengi abenza umatikuletsheni, ngibatshela ngeDOD, ngiye ngabachasisela ngokudingekayo nxa kukhona onganquma ukuzibandakanya ne-SANDF," uSgt Kgosana uyitshela kanjalo i-SA Soldier.

"Intsha yaseSoweto ibonise uthakaselelo, yabe isigcwalisa amafo-

mu esicelo somsebenzi sohlelo lwe Military Skills Development (MSD). Umbukiso ube yimpumelelo, nami ngaze ngaphumelela ukuhambisa izicelo zomsebenzi ezilikhulu linesishiyagalombili (108) eziqoqwe ngenzuku ezintathu," wajobelela kanjalo. "Amafomu ezicelo zomsebenzi endiwafumene ebengawenkonzo zonke kanye nemibutho eyahlukeneyo."

* The English version of this article is available above. 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. 



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R200 001 - R300 000	Prime - 1,60%	
R300 001+	Prime - 1,75%	

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R220 000 -R320 000	P-1,25%	P-1,50%	P-1,75%	P-1,25%	P-1,25%
R320 001>	P-1,50%	P-2,00%	P-2,25%	P-1,50%	P-1,50%

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Today, tomorrow, together.

Gauteng won SANDF Netball Championships

By Lt Col Lynette Plomp

The annual SANDF Netball Championships were held in Cape Town in July 2006. Altogether 250 netball players from the nine regions competed amicably in the four different sections of the championships.

The Chairperson of the SANDF Netball Head Committee, Lt Col Lynette Plomp, officially opened the event in the name of the unity of friends and opponents on the netball court. An umpire course, presented soon hereafter, made certain all netball players knew that a demanding week of netball lay ahead.

The championships started with 18

matches a day in the Montague Action Netball Arena, while Air Force Base Ysterplaat accommodated all participants. While 22 teams vigorously competed during the week for medals and trophies, national netball selectors were diligently selecting four SANDF netball squads.


Before the final selection process began on 7 July the SANDF Netball Head Committee introduced another competition to the players. The audience got the opportunity to vote for Mr and Ms Netball Personality 2006.

An award ceremony concluded the sports event. All participants were congratulated on their compelling show of talent, support and commitment. Col Cassie Carstens, the Officer Commanding Joint Tactical

Headquarters Western Cape, acted as the chief functionary and presented numerous medals, trophies and other awards. The names for the four SANDF netball squads were also announced.

The results were as follows: Gauteng took both the women's and men's winning teams. The best senior lady player was Lt Col "Sterre" Verster (Gauteng), while the best male player was Pte "Jotta" Jansen (Northern Cape). Free State was the best under 23 team. Pte Ilze Gouws (Western Province) was the best under 23 player. Western Province was the winning team in the Veterans' Section. The best veteran player was Sgt D. Phakalane (North West).

Floating trophies were also award-

ed to the following teams: Eastern Province won the trophy for the best team spirit. The best developed team trophy went to men's team of Northern Cape. The Veterans' team from Western Province received the trophy for the top goal scorers of the tournament. Pte "Jotta" Jansen was chosen as Mr Netball Personality 2006 and Cpl "Lollie" Cyfers as Ms Netball Personality 2006. 




The SANDF men's netball squad.

Military handcyclist speeding at 60 km/h

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: Deaan Vivier, Beeld

When Lt Col Gysie van der Niet woke up on the morning of 27 July 2002 to participate in the "Jock of the Bushveld" cycle race, he never anticipated that the sport he loved would that day make him a paraplegic. But accidents do happen! SA Soldier paid Lt Col Van der Niet a visit in his office at Defence Headquarters where he works as SO1 Prosecutions. Asked how it all started, he said: "I started handcycling in May 2005, having become a paraplegic on 27 July 2002 when I was participating in the "Jock". That's when I broke my back." Three years later he decided to take up handcycling. "The reason for that was until that stage I still had to recover and get to grips with the situation and change to the new circumstances. I had to start all over again, get to work, work at my relationships and basically just live again," he said. Since he took up handcycling as a sport Lt Col Van der Niet has participated in many races, one of which is the Tshwane Mayoral Ride. "This race was held on 31 July

2006. We were five handcyclists who completed the race. What was nice about this was that it was the first time the mayoral ride was presented in the city centre of Pretoria," said Lt Col Van der Niet. Does he want to see more people who are paraplegic get involved in handcycling? "Yes I do,

but handcycling is a very expensive sport. You could end up paying more than R20 000 for a bike. It would be nice if the SANDF could make funds available for people who are handicapped to take up this sport as a form of rehabilitation," added Lt Col Van der Niet. 



Lt Col Gysie van der Niet during the Tshwane Mayoral ride.

Thuto e lwantsha khumanego

Ka Amn T.D. Bapela, *Ad Astra*
Mofotoledi: Sengadi Moshapo

Baithuti ba bagodi (ABET) ba ne ba itumetse tota fa ba ne ba kopana le "mme" wa masole a difofane-motshigetsi wa thuto ya bagodi mo sesoleng sa difofane-ka 13 Phukwi 2006. Ba binne ka boitumelo le go leboga Mme Leonie Gagiano, mogatsa tlhogo ya SA Air Force ka tshono e a ba fileng yone: ga jaana ba itsi go buisa le go kwala.

Mme Gagiano o rile ga go ke go nna thari go ithuta le gore Air Force e tlhoka batho ba ba tshwanang le baithuti ba bagodi, ebong batho ba ba nang la maikaelelo a go bona se ba ka bong ba se fitlhetse bogologolo. O rile se ke sone sebaka sa gore lo imatlafatse (iponele dithata) gore lo oketse kitso ya lona gonne kwa ntle ga thuto lefatsheng ga le kitla le gatela pele." O ba tlhotlheletse gore ba rotlwetse bangwe gore le bone ba tsenele lenane le

bogoloseetona ka gone ga go tlhokege tuelo epe fa e se boineelo fela.


Maikaelelo a ABET ke gore bat-saakarolo ba bona dithata tseo di tla ba kgontshang go tsamaisa dikgwebo mo mafapheng a tshwanang le a temo, thekinologi, boeti le bojanala.

Go tloga ka Tlhakole 2005 dithuto tsa bagodi di rutelwa kwa Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing. Motsamaisi wa projeke, Mme Yvonne Mudimu ebong mogatsa tlhogo ya sesole sa lewatle o lebogile batlhatlheledi, Mme Mamasela, Mme Maqungo le Rre Langa mmogo le mokaedi wa katiso Rre Ndlovu go tsenyeletswa le WO2 Graaff go tswa mo yuniting ka nako yotlhe ya katiso. Ga jaana ba matlafaditswe mme ba ka ya ba dirisa thuto ya bone kwa malapeng a bone le baagi gonne thuto e lwantsha khumanego.

Mongwe wa baithuti e bong Rre Kwena Elias Moabelo o buile gore o ikutlwa a le motlotlo fa a filwe sebaka sa go leboga batlhatlheledi, mogokgo le

Mme Gagiano. "Gompijeno re ikutlwa re le motlotlo gonne re filwe sebaka sa go ithuta sengwe re le mo tirong. Re a itumela. A e se ka ya nna bokhutlo, empa a re tswelole go dira jalo. Re itemogetse go le gontsi mo projekeng e. Re itse go buisa le go saena ditokomane re tlhaloganya bokao ba seo. Gompijeno ke kgona go reka lokwalodigang ka lo buisa.

Go ne go itumedisa go lemoga gore lenaane la ABET le a dira ebile le fetola matshelo a batho le go ba fa dibaka di le dintsi. E tota e dira sentle.

** The English version of this article is available on page 25. 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. *

SANDF Cycling Championships

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma

Between the mountains, hills, farms, nature reserves and the Blyde River dam lies the winding course used for road and off-road cycling. It is the testing ground of speed, strength, endurance and the "ticking clock".

The eastern region of Limpopo and Mpumalanga near Hoedspruit is where the SANDF Cycling Association presented the road and off road championships over 6 days to establish the SANDF 2006 road champion in each category and to select the 2006 SANDF men's and women's teams to participate in the SA Road Cycling Championships.

The championships were opened by the Acting Officer Commanding of AFB Hoedspruit, Lt Col Daan Burger, at the sports ground on the base on 31 July 2006.

The road championships were held in the form of a tour in six stages, which included a 10 km time trial and a 5 km hill climb. The longest stage on the road was 120 km and the shortest 45 km. Participants raced for the *yellow* (leaders), *green* (points) and *polka dot* (King of the Mountain) jerseys. More than 120 participants entered for this gruelling event.

The 10 km time trial took place after the opening ceremony and the first road stage of 50 km was held on the same day after lunch. On Tuesday the competitors faced a 72 km road stage with Hotspot and King of the Mountain points en route to be collected. On Wednesday the longest stage of the championships took place, viz 120 km of windswept roads with numerous roller-coaster hills. On Thursday, the last day of the individual road championships, the 5 km hill


climb took place near Swadini Holiday Resort. It took the competitors on a climb to the Blyde River Dam, where they had lunch. After lunch the last 45 km stage took them back to Hoedspruit via the Liseria road. The 2006 SANDF Road Cycling women's champion and winner of the *yellow jersey* was Capt Lizette Nortje from AMHU Gauteng.

The 2006 SANDF Road Cycling men's champion and winner of the *yellow jersey* was Maj David Labuschagne from Defence Intelligence. On 4 August the inter-club competition was held in which the clubs entered teams for the 30 km team time trials. AFB Makhado won the inter-club competition.

The following day the first ever SANDF Mountain Bike Championship was held at AFB Hoedspruit, in which participants had to complete 60 km of gravel and sand jeep track in the game reserve of the Air Force Base. More than 30 entries were received. The first woman to complete the race was the women's team captain, Lt Col Lizelle Bester from 1 Military Hospital, and the first man was the men's team captain, Maj David Labuschagne from Defence Intelligence.

SA Soldier interviewed some of the participants, who commented as follows: "The whole event was a success; it was survival of the fittest and one needs to have power, energy and endurance to overcome certain obstacles," said WO2 Mazwi Nkabinde from ASB Lohatla and Chairperson of the Lohatla Cycling Club. Capt Marsha

Wessels from 2 Military Hospital said: "It was an enjoyable event that tested power and endurance. I experienced a positive attitude, a spirit of sportsmanship and enjoyed the hospitality of the people of AFB Hoedspruit." F Sgt Andre Bezuidenhout from AFB Hoedspruit said: "It was an incredible and tough cycling event. The event embodies the spirit of perseverance."

The SANDF Cycling Association wants to thank all the officials and administrators of the Pretoria Military Cycling Club and all the other military clubs that made the event a success. The event was once again a roaring success and the routes were safe and challenging. 



Maj David Labuschagne - 2006 SANDF Road Cycling men's champion.

Disability 2006

International Trade and Lifestyle Expo

By Catherine Larkin Consulting

Bigger and better! This best describes *Disability 2006*, the international trade and lifestyle show taking place at Gallagher Estate in Midrand from 2 to 4 November 2006. Gallagher Estate offers extensive facilities for people with disabilities.

On 3 November a live production of *"Madness Revealed"* will be performed. This play raises awareness and understanding about one of the most misunderstood psychiatric impairments. The story is based on the real-life experiences and struggle of a woman with schizophrenia. Her struggle covers difficulty at work and at home, psychiatric treatment, degradation and despair in institutions, her courage and determination, and her eventual reintegration into society.

The event organiser, Bette McNaughton of Fair Consultants SA, says: "Through *Disability 2006*, we aim to promote independence throughout

life and work for people with disabilities. There are many products and services available that people are not aware of, all of which can assist people with disabilities in leading more independent lives."


Disability 2006 is aimed at anyone involved in purchasing equipment and services, as well as all end users, careers and healthcare professionals, including government departments.

This exciting show will feature adapted vehicles, assisted daily living equipment and service (ADLS), communication aids, computers, easy reaches, emergency medical supplies, hand cycles, hearing aids, hospital furniture, mobility aids, occupational products, patient handling devices, physio-equipment, products and aids for the deaf and blind, prosthetic artificial limbs, showering devices, building products, sports equipment, training institutions, walking sticks, wheelchairs, wheelchair clothing, and much more!

"*Mainstreaming Disability in Society*" is the theme of the three-day long conference, which starts on 1 November 2006. The conference spokesperson, Kim Krynauw, explains: "Disability needs to become and remain part of mainstream development, planning and implementation. Despite great strides made over the past decade, people with disabilities in South Africa continue to face barriers that prevent them from enjoying their full rights - civil, political, economic, social, cultural and developmental." Estimates suggest that more than 7 per cent (3 million people) of South Africa's population have disabilities.

* For more information on *Disability 2006*, contact Bette McNaughton of Fair Consultants SA at tel no: +27 (0) 21 713 3360 or fax no: +27 (0) 21 713 3366 or email: bette@fairconsultants.com or visit the web site at: www.fairconsultants.com 



To celebrate Casual Day personnel of the Budget Management Chief Directorate took orphans from the Mohau Centre in Atteridgeville on an outing to Menlyn Shopping Mall in Pretoria on 1 September 2006. There Elsabé Snyman (left) and Hendrina Bosch of the Budget Management Chief Directorate and the children played tenpin bowling and enjoyed a pizza afterwards. A hearty word of appreciation to all the contributors who assisted in making the day an unforgettable one for the children. A special word of thanks goes to Menlyn Entertainment Centre, with specific reference to Colleen. 

Fun on Casual Day




The reigning SA Veteran Champion

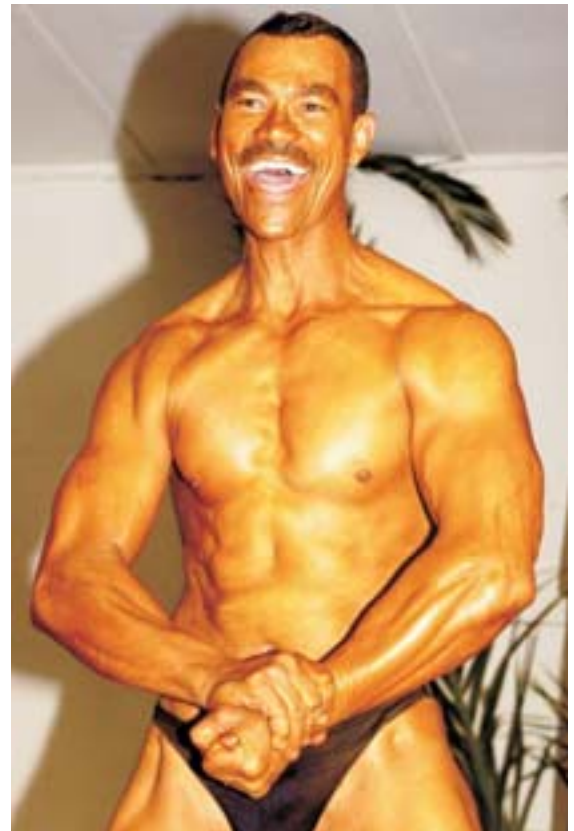
By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The current South African Veteran Body-building Champion, S Sgt Vincent Fraser, will represent South Africa in the Masters Category of the World Natural Body-building Championships of the International Natural Body-building Union (steroid/drug free) in Bilazo, Italy, on 3 - 4 November 2006.

After an absence of twenty years, the 46 year old carpenter who works at the Army Support Base Port Elizabeth returned to body-building at a senior level 3 years ago. In 2005 and 2006 he was both Mr Paarl Classic Veteran and Overall Masters Champion. He was also Mr Paarl Classic Senior Welterweight Champion for 2005 and

2006. He also held the Eastern Province Senior Lightweight Champion in 2005, Mr Sunshine Coast Veteran and Overall Masters Champion in 2006 and the Mr Sunshine Coast Welterweight 2006 titles.

S Sgt Fraser has also taken body-building to the young people in his home town of Port Elizabeth. 



Right: S Sgt Vincent Fraser is the SA Veteran Champion in Body-building.

Erkenning vir 50 jaar getroue diens


Deur Maj Marinda Meyer,
SO2 Kommunikasie SA Leër
Pantser Formasie
Foto: Charlé Lombard, Volksblad

Dit is nie sommer elke dag dat iemand 'n toekenning vir vyftig jaar getroue diens in die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag (SANW) kry nie. Tydens 'n seremonie in Bloemfontein is 'n medalje vir 50 jaar getroue diens aan die 74-jarige Ere-kolonel, Jonie van der Linde van Bloemfontein, oorhandig. Die medalje is namens die SANW deur Brig Genl Chris Gildenhuys, die Bevelvoerende Generaal van die Suid-Afrikaanse Leër Pantserformasie, op 13 Julie 2006 oorhandig. Kol Van der Linde is die voormalige bevelvoerder van Regiment President Steyn in Bloemfontein. Namens die Pantserkorps wil ons Kol Van der Linde gelukwens met hierdie ere-toekenning. Dit is voorwaar 'n eer om so 'n toegewyde, entoesiastiese en lojale soldaat as deel van die die Pantserkorps te hê.



Brig Genl Chris Gildenhuys, Bevelvoerende Generaal van die Suid-Afrikaanse Leër Pantserformasie (links), oorhandig die 50 jaar getroue diens medalje aan Ere-kolonel Jonie van der Linde by Regiment President Steyn in Bloemfontein.

* The English version of this article is available on page 33. To obtain a translation of this article or any article published in SA SOLDIER in any one of our official languages, please make use of the

professional services rendered by Directorate Language Services of the DOD. For assistance contact Col Daan Vorster, Director Language Services, at tel no: (012) 392 3176 - Ed. 

Making a decision is your choice

By Chaplain P. Roos,
Chaplain of 2 Signal Regiment

Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts ... but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. (2 Timothy 2:22).

"People who win determine their own course with each decision they make and action they take, minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, day-by-day. They take personal responsibility for their own lives and then act. It is their choice and they know it." Michael Kerrigan.

The opportunity to make quality decisions is with you every minute of every day. Your decisions include what time you get out of bed, how you treat your family, associates, co-workers, and others, what you do with your money, how you spend your free time, and where you worship.

It is all a matter of decision-making. But not everyone makes the best decisions. Not everyone even believes that the decision is his or hers to make. But there are always decisions and choices to make. It is called free will.

Free will and choices have been around forever, and they are absolutely indispensable for anyone who wants to live the most effective life possible.

Regardless of what you may tell yourself and despite your own belief system that tells you there is only one way to act, remember this - you always have decisions to make in order to do what is best for you. And all you need to do is exercise your free will to make it happen.

Despite the duelling theories of nurture versus nature, anyone of us

can turn his or her life around regardless of the circumstances, as challenging as that may appear to be. People do it all the time. There are people raised by a family of drinkers who turn their backs on alcohol. Individuals who were raised in an atmosphere of poverty and neglect find jobs, build businesses, and raise productive families.

At birth your potential is unlimited. And so are your choices and decisions to achieve that promise. Making smart, basic choices will help you as you move toward identifying your goals and making the necessary positive changes so that you can accomplish them one by one.

Make the best decisions you can to make the best of your life! The following guidelines for decision-making, however, are important:


- Build on your strengths and follow your dream. Choose an opportunity that can enable you to make it come true, and ask for help from those who are where you want to be.
- Believe in yourself. When you are truly challenged, you are the best, most reliable resource you have.
- Accept others as they are. But see them as they can be, and support them in reaching their potential. Search out those with whom you can compatibly work and accomplish win-win outcomes.
- Decide for yourself. Effective



Chaplain P. Roos,
Chaplain of 2 Signal Regiment.

choice-making for yourself leads to personal empowerment.

- Take responsibility for all your actions. Responsible decisions are more likely to lead to effective outcomes.
- Work for what you believe in. A life lived with conviction is a life fulfilled.
- Heighten your awareness of every detail of your life. All that is required to start on a more beneficial road in any aspect of your life is your decision and the determination to make something positive happen. Then follow through with appropriate action. You can make it happen.

May God guide you each day to make the best decisions. God bless you! 

SA SOLDIER

Spot the ball
competition



touchline
PHOTO

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

Winning prize
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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.

First Name: _____ Surname: _____
Rank: _____ Force No: _____ Unit: _____
Postal Address: _____
Tel/Cell No: _____

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 31 December 2006, and the name of the winner will be published in the SA SOLDIER.
12. All correct entries will be included in the final draw.
13. The Department of Defence (SA SOLDIER) accepts no responsibility for prizes lost during the process of postal delivery.
14. There will only be one winner.

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

Viva - FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament!