Age of Hope for a Winning Nation
Letters: feedback from our readers

Building a winning nation

Bringing peace to a war ravaged country

Our miracle workers in Burundi

Goodwill visit to the Sudan

Historical Session of the Court of Military Appeals

A Navy that is formidable

Focus on national security

Italy and South Africa strengthen ties

Naval recruits ready to face the seas

Future naval officers step out

At a threshold of second to none

Intercepting smuggling boats

Farewell to the deceased gallant soldiers

Remember and honour our heroes

A bednet can save a life

Impala will be remembered

Integrity and justice

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Reducing the gap for essential skills

High morale in the SANDF is vital

2005 SANDF Sport Merit Awards

Our first Spot the Ball winner

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Reproduction & Printing:
Formeset Printers Johannesburg (Pty) Ltd,
44-66 Wriggle Road,
Heriotdale, Ext 13, 2094
Tel: +27 11 626 1330/2/3
Fax: +27 11 626 1331

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar

Editorial Staff: Ms Nomonde Vuthela

F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

CPO Dennis Ndaba

Sgt Lebohang Letaoana

Rfn Arnaus Rakoma

Text Editor: Mr Eugene Muller

Translation Consultant: Directorate Language Services

Photo Processing: 5 ASU Photo Section

Distribution: Mr Jim Tshabalala

Tel: 012 355 6341

Layout & Design: Mr Werner v/d Westhuizen
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FRONT COVER: President Thabo Mbeki, our Commander in Chief, and the First Lady, Ms Zanele Mbeki (front). Back, fltr: Col Tiny Mokoena, SSO Corp Comm (SAAF), Ms Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the Parliament, Ms Gwendoline Mahlangu-Nkabinde, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Deputy President, at the Opening of Parliament. Please read more about this auspicious occasion on pages 10 to 12.

(Photos: Cpl Lebogang Thlaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
he Editorial Team of SA SOLDIER wants to congrat-
ulate the first winner of the Spot the Ball soccer com-
petition of SA SOLDIER: Cpl Hlengiwe Zikalala from the SA Army Headquarters. The winning prize, sponsored by TOTAL SA, consisted of one cooler bag, one tog bag, one backpack, one all-weather jacket, one golf shirt and one sports cap.

Readers, ensure that you get the April 2006 edition of SA SOLDIER to enter our second Spot the Ball soccer competition. Viva - FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament! Please read more about our first winner on page 47.

"All shall have equal rights" was this year’s theme at the Opening of Parliament. The Speaker, Ms Baleka Mbete, said: "With this theme we want to remind people that this is their Parliament." Read more about this occasion and a summary of what the President said in his address on pages 10 to 12.

The Commander of thousands of peace support troops in battle hardened Burundi, Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi, shows why South Africa is fast making its mark in the international peacekeeping arena. Read more about the goodwill visit to our deployed soldiers in December 2005 on pages 13 to 16.

"There is a silent tsunami under way all the time in rural Africa. Every month, as many children die of malaria in Africa as died in the tsunami - about 150 000 children dying every month," according to Dr Jeffery Sachs, Director of the UN Millennium Project. Please read more about Africa’s Number One Enemy on pages 32 and 33.

In the SANDF morale can be defined as the mental, emotional and spiritual state of our soldiers. It is how members feel - happy, hopeful, confident, appreciated, worthless, sad, unrecognised or depressed. More precisely, it is the determination to succeed in the purpose for which they are trained or for which they exist - whether as part of a stick, section, platoon or company.

We cannot compromise by lowering our standards when it comes to high morale. In war we fight to survive. In times of peace, we prepare for war. Now is the time to prepare high morale. Now. The time to fight will come. In some parts of the world it has already started. The lion cannot afford to die. It must remain the king of the jungle. Read more about this issue: "High morale in the SANDF is vital" on pages 40 and 41.

I agree with the author, Col (Dr) Johan Dill, SSO Spiritual and Moral Support: "Not only do I believe love and peace are possible today, but I believe true life is not possible without love and peace". Read more about this statement on page 46. …An impossible dream or not?

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • MARCH 2006

MARC 2006

message

From the Editor's desk

S einglopha sa Bohlophisi sa SA SOLDIER se rata ho lebohisa mmpodi ya pele ya tlhodisano ya bolo ya SA SOLDIER ya Spot the Ball: Cpl Hlengiwe Zikalala wa SA Army Headquarters. Moputo o hapilweng, o ntshitsweng ke ba ha TOTAL SA, o keneyletsa cooler bag e le nngwe, bog beng e le nngwe, backpack e le nngwe, yase ya all-weather e le nngwe, hempe e le nngwe ya golf le sports cap se le seng.

Babadi, netefatsang hore le fumana phatlalatso ya Mmesa 2006 ya SA SOLDIER ho kenele tlhodisano ya rona ya bobedi ya Spot the Ball. Viva - FIFA 2010 Thonamente ya Bolo ya Mohope wa Lefatshe! Bala haholwanyane ka mmpodi wa rona wa pele leqepheng la 47.

"Boleba ba tla ba le ditokelo tse lekanang" eble seholooho sa selemo mena Pulong ya Palamente. Speaker, Mme Baleka Mbete, o itse: “ Ke seholo-
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"Ho na le tsunami e kgutsitseng e teng ka nako tsohle dibakeng tsa mahe a Afrika. Kgwedi le kgwedi, bana ba bangata ba a shwa ke kemia Afrika jwalo ka ba ka shwele ke tsunami - bana ba ka bang 150 000 ba a shwa kgwedi le kgwedi," ke ho ya ka Dr Jeffrey Sachs, Molaodi wa Projeko ya UN Millenium. Hle, bala haholwanyane ka Sera sa Pele sa Afrika mapepheng a 32 le 33.

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Ke dumellana le mongodi, Kolonele (Dr) Johan Dill, SSO Spiritual and Moral Support: "Ha ke dumelana leka ho lerato le kgotso di ka kgona-
halal kajeno, empa ke dumela hore lebopelo ba nnete ha bo kgona-
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Nelda Pienaar
Editors Mohlophisi

ho Mohlophisi

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Nelda Pienaar
Editor
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Greetings from Belgium

I am British with dual Belgian/British nationality, born and raised in Belgium. My father was a private in the Royal Army Service Corps and died when I was seven. During World War II he was in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Italy. My mother is Belgian. I am now 58 and a retired police chief inspector because I am ill. I was a policeman from 1968 to 2002.

I am very interested in the South African National Defence Force and I discovered on the Internet the site of SA SOLDIER magazine. I like it very much.

It is very interesting and I congratulate you and all the magazine’s staff.

Allow me to wish you, your family, your staff and all the readers of SA SOLDIER a very happy and prosperous New Year 2006.

Kenneth J. Heselwood, Belgium.

Being a peacekeeper in Africa

I was privileged to be part of EXERCISE INDLOVU during my time at the SA Army Combat Training Centre recently. It is indeed gratifying to note that while not much good is said about the SANDF nowadays there are still little things to be appreciated.

Much credit must go to everyone involved, especially the planners. Getting your troops mobilised behind a cause long scorned as a “waste of money” is a mammoth task for any commander.

From the beginning of this deployment (from August 2005) the above-mentioned quote from the Code of Conduct was proved by the members of the SANDF deployed in Burundi; these members acted according to what was said above. It was not always easy, but through comradeship and the support we get from our loved ones back in South Africa we managed to tackle each day, week and month as it came.

Furthermore, I would say we as SANDF soldiers try our level best to improve our capabilities in Burundi by safeguarding property and the citizens of this beautiful country and by developing Burundi with the little we can offer. In Setswana we have a phrase that says: “Bana ba motho ba aroganelana l'lhogo ya tsie” (A family will always share). By these words I mean that this conflict will only stop if we can start sharing as Africans. The little that South African has needs to be shared with other African states and this is exactly what we as the South African battalion deployed in Burundi are currently doing. All the companies of 9 SAI Bn deployed in different provinces of Burundi have started projects such as upgrading hospitals, repainting school buildings, repairing the roofs, donating sports equipment to schools, sharing our food with the local population and participating in different sports with the local population, the national police and the Burundi Defence Force.

We as peacekeepers pray that the Lord will help Africa to be one nation with one goal and one voice of peace. May His Holy Spirit work in our minds and hearts forever, may God’s light shine upon us at all times.

Lord will help Africa to be one nation with one goal and one voice of peace.

May His Holy Spirit work in our minds and hearts forever, may God’s light shine upon us at all times. Amen

- Lt Itumeleng Dihlake, 9 SAI Bn.

Keeping us together

It requires a lot of dedication and a bit of creativity. Army exercises remain an integral part of life in the SANDF, at least for professional soldiers. For me, they actually justify the existence of a defence force. Even businessmen in the corporate world employ simulation tactics from time to time, so why not the armed forces. For a skill to be perfected, it has to be vigorously practised.

During EXERCISE INDLOVU one could observe how challenging it is to blend the "old" and the "new". The "new" was the Military Skills Development (MSD) members, and the "old" the Regular Force members. Their differing temperaments and approach to work in general only strengthened the bond in the end.

Singleness of purpose propelled them to the desired goals eventually. The exercise was a success, proof once again that there is more that keeps us together than what drives us apart!

- Ronnie Msomi, Middelburg.

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 ssasoldier@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.
**Casual Day in Kanana**

In the spirit of Casual Day, the Officer Commanding of the Department of Defence Mobilisation Centre, Col Elvis Mathaba, and a delegation visited the Kanana Centre in Botshabelo, Bloemfontein with donations from the unit on 2 September 2005.

The Kanana Centre is home to 34 children with mental disabilities. The centre is dependent on donations from the public to continue their selfless service to the disabled.

With this initiative Col Mathaba aimed to demonstrate the ability and eagerness of the Department of Defence to support the national Casual Day fund-raising campaign - Ms Nicky de Ru, Bloemfontein.


**Erratum January 2006 edition**

Please take note - The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, held the ninth and final Imbizo with the military veterans in the Limpopo Province on 5 December 2005, and not in the Northern Cape Province, as published.


**Coveted Communicator of the Year Award**

This is a very special congratulation to you and your team on being awarded the coveted Communicator of the Year Award at the Government Communications Awards on 2 December 2005. Not only were you awarded the main prize, but you also won the National Ubungcweti Award as well.

We are very proud of the work that you and your team have done in the past and hope that we can contribute more articles about the Reserve Forces so that you keep the award in the future - Col John Job, Chairman RFC and all at RFC, especially Lt Col Godfrey Giles, RFC Communications (email).


**Reserves in DRC**

Two members from Durban Regiment who were deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a six-month period, from April to November 2005, wrote the following:

‘The one thing I can say about the deployment in the DRC is that I gained a lot of experience, especially working alongside the Regular Force members. I would like to express my particular appreciation to Captain L. Mushwana from 7 SAI Bn for his outstanding leadership during my term of service in the DRC. I am proud to be known as an SANDF Reserve Force soldier from the Republic of South Africa” - Rifleman T.E. Pepeta, Durban Regiment.

“I would like to thank the SANDF for giving me the opportunity to go on a foreign/external deployment to the DRC. As a Reserve Force member of the SANDF I gained invaluable experience in external peacekeeping missions. I am hoping that this system of utilising Reserve Force members on peacekeeping missions will continue to be successful in the future” - Rifleman S.S. Zondi, Durban Regiment.


**Life in the Army**

After successfully completing my Diploma in Journalism in 2001, I still did not know much about the real world, but I was willing to explore it and, to my surprise, the world was not as perfect as I thought it would be.

Growing up I was taught discipline from primary school. My mom would always tell me how important it was to respect both myself and people around me and in high school my former soldier teachers always made sure I maintained the discipline I had learned.

The workplaces in which I have been almost resulted in my losing all those things, and that is what is called the real world. I began as a waitress and worked my way up to be a communication officer for a government department. During those days I got to see what ill-discipline was, as I had to work under managers and chief executive officers who wanted nothing but a salary. They did not care for the people they worked for or the job they were doing. I also thought I might lose all I grew up believing in and so joining the “real world”.

Seeing proud soldiers in the streets of Pretoria kept my faith strong as I knew that they were the only disciplined workers you could find around. Joining the real world would have been a dream come true for me as I also had the same discipline, but I thought I could never get there.

When I saw the advert in the newspaper for MSD members I prayed daily that I would also be selected, and my prayers were indeed answered when I was called for an interview and was sent the call-up instructions after the interview.

Things were said about the Army that scared me a lot, especially with regard to the training, but when I got to 3 SA Infantry Battalion I realised it was not all physical, but mental as well. It was a great experience. I got a chance to learn a lot at 3 SAI Bn, both academically and socially.

I got to learn that nothing comes easily in life, you have to work hard to get what you want and that good things come to those patient enough to wait. It taught me to understand and tolerate people of different races and tribes (both female and male), something no other department or organisation can do. No matter how many places I go to, I will always be grateful that once on my life journey I got a chance to be here. Thanks SANDF - L. Cpl M.S. Lamula, School of Tactical Intelligence.
**SANDF won CISM World Military Golf Championship**

The 2nd CISM World Military Golf Championship took place in Karachi, Pakistan, over the period 24 to 30 July 2005. South Africa sent a men's side over to compete against seven countries that had entered in 2005. The seven other countries were: Canada, Ireland, Namibia, the Netherlands, Thailand, Uganda and the hosts, Pakistan. The SANDF side was made up of the Chief of Mission: Col G. Odendaal, the team captain: Lt Col W. Schoeman, and the team players: Col J.J. Coetzee, Lt Col M. Bruyns, Lt Col R. Loubser, Maj C. Collins, Maj A.A. du Bruyn and F Sgt E. Theron. Brig Gen A. Sedibe also attended the Championship as the representative of the President of CISM. The week was very tough with temperatures averaging 35°C, along with 92% humidity, accompanied by strong winds that blew continuously for all three rounds of competitive medal stroke play. The format allowed for the best four scores from one's six-man side to count for one's team in each round. By the end of the three rounds all six members of our team had had at least one of their scores to count for the team, and we had managed to triumph by three strokes over the strong Canadian and favoured local Pakistan sides. The Men's Team Gold was not only medal we managed to win during the week, with Lt Col R. Loubser winning the Men's Individual Seniors Gold and F Sgt E. Theron winning the Men's Individual Seniors Bronze. Despite having one member hospitalised for heat exhaustion and dehydration, the team as a whole thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at an international level, and we look forward to defending our title at the 3rd CISM World Military Golf Championship in Ireland in August 2006 - Maj C. Collins, Pretoria.

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**Time for opportunities**

Time and circumstances change. We have limited time in which to be effective. A tired and demoralised soldier, who is largely ignorant about the present battlefield, depends mostly on outdated initiative. Initiative is a weak and limited concept. It is a type of reaction which is only enough for survival. We are not in the battlefield for survival, but for victory.

In the darkest and deepest moments of fear or doubt, the great soldiers see the opportunities. In the present battlefield we need to look for opportunities. Within an opportunity there are many options to choose from. When the windows of opportunity are open, we must use everything before they narrow again. We must plan a graceful exit for ourselves.

The battlefield may influence us, but it does not control our reactions. We remain responsible for choosing the best opportunities for ourselves. When plans and preparations collapse, and everything is confused, only the trained fighting men or women can be relied upon as disciplined and skilled soldiers.

- Capt T. Ngwane, Military Base Wonderboom.

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**Transvaal Horse Artillery begins a new century**

The Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA) celebrated a century in the service of South Africa during 2004. This has formed a solid platform on which to start the next century. In 2005 the THA proved that it could build on this platform and hopes that in the future it will again deploy men in the service of our country in a combat or peacekeeping role. 2005 began with a planning weekend that was well attended. It enabled the THA to comply with the GOC Artillery Formation’s budget and planning requirements. The future plans of the THA will ensure that the new century will be one to be as equally proud of as the last one.

The men of the THA had occasion to celebrate the changing of command of the Regiment on 22 April 2005. Maj Ian McDonald handed over command of the Regiment to Lt Albert Pestana at a Ladies’ Mess Dinner held at the Rand Club. The dinner was attended by, among others, Maj Gen Roy Andersen (Honorary Colonel of the THA) and R Adm (JG) Lukas Bakkes from the Freedom Regiments’ Association. We wish Lt Pestana the best in his term as Officer Commanding and are confident that he will lead the Regiment to achieve the goals that have been set.

The men of the THA have been involved in exercises and have supported the Regular Force during the course of the year. During the period May to July 2005, the regiment called up three members to assist 4 Artillery Regiment to provide fire support for the ISUC and JCSD Course at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla.

The regiment proudly had nineteen members in support of the SA Army Artillery Formation Field Exercise, Ex TSHWARANAKO held over the period 6 June to 8 July 2005 at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom. A further fourteen members attended M5, G5 and G6 courses during the latter part of 2005.

With this proud record the regiment is well on its way to achieving its stated goal of providing combat ready forces to the General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation.

A Reserve Force regiment does not often get the chance to compete alongside their Regular Force colleagues and then outshine them. On 11 June 2005 the Artillery Mobilisation Regiment hosted a table 2 shoot at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom. The Artillery Mobilisation Regiment, SA Army Artillery Formation Headquarters and the THA participated in a well-organised day. The THA had 40 men in attendance.

The highlight for the THA was the prowess of its men who, given the lack of practice, by far outperformed their Regular Force colleagues. Three of the top four shots were THA members. Gnr Lee was also the shot of the day, scoring 113. The Officer Commanding of Artillery Mobilisation Regiment, Lt Col Thiaan Steyn, and his staff were perfect hosts and the planning was excellent.

The year had many challenges. Each challenge was met with new zeal and vigour by the THA. Other highlights were the celebration of the mobilisation of the Regiment on 26 October 2005, the Battle of Sidi Rezegh and Remembrance Day. We hope that 2006 will prove as productive as 2005 and that the THA will be stronger in the support of our country - CO F. Kröhnert and Sgt R. Ngwenya, THA.
What is your labour union doing for you?

With great interest I awaited the outcome of the participating parties in the Military Bargain Council (MBC) for this forum to start adequately addressing improvements in conditions of service of members of the SANDF.

These expectations have been somewhat dashed, as to date the only effective resolution achieved (since 2001) has been a resolution on wage increases for 2004/2005 (the cost of living increase paid in July 2004), which was in fact nothing more than that which had been granted to other public servants (very successful negotiation?) via the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC). Labour has not, as far as I can determine, set any salary demands nor has it indicated that it wants to place salary demands on the table in the MBC for discussion or negotiation concerning the improvements in conditions of service (ICOS) of members of the SANDF for 2005/2006.

Our Public Service counterparts have already been advised of the increases they will receive for 2005/2006 (including pay progression) and the implementation of their Middle Management System (MMS) for salary levels 11 and 12, with effect from 1 July 2005. What is of interest to labour, apparently, is where meetings of the MBC should be held and they are currently holding to ransom the employer on this issue. Matters cannot be negotiated in your MBC as represented by labour, as the MBC appears to be fixedated on this issue (since about February 2005) and hence are holding up the discussion of various other extremely important agenda items.

The employer has offered on many occasions to provide its facilities or, failing which, neutral venues. The employer is not party to holding meetings in the offices of labour and has regularly recommended the use of these alternative neutral venues, at a cost to both parties. Labour resists this, demanding rather an explanation from the Secretary for Defence as to why meetings cannot be held in the labour offices. Surely this is a departmental prerogative on the part of our principal, who has indicated via mandate that the employer is comfortable meeting in our offices or on neutral territory, the latter being the preferred solution. I feel that this is a reasonable approach on the part of the employer, but labour insists that it will not “squander” its members contributions on these arrangements, although this is the route recommended in the Constitution of the MBC, which was signed and accepted by both parties. If your contributions to labour are not for this purpose, then what are they for? I should have thought that membership contributions would be precisely to provide for representation in the MBC. I might be wrong on this issue.

It is clear that the MBC is dysfunctional at the moment and has been for a long time, and I feel that all members of the SANDF, those who belong to organised labour and those who do not, should start bringing pressure to bear on the structures on both sides to mature and start using the facility (MBC) that has been created by legislation to attend to the needs of the members of this organisation.

I believe that it is incumbent on our Honourable Minister and the leadership in labour to expedite conciliation and effect the proper functioning of the MBC in the interests of the very members that this forum has been created to represent - Lt Col Mark Laycock, SO1 Remuneration: Directorate HR Service Systems.

Unselfish service over the Festive Season

It is the dry period in the Cape - extremely strong south-easterly winds are blowing gale force (to supply some much needed rain up north). This is also the season for runaway veld fires. On 24 December 2005 haziness started creeping up on us from the northern suburbs of the Cape Peninsula, indicating that somewhere a veld fire was in progress. The seriousness of the fire became apparent when an Oryx helicopter was heard flying overhead, and it actually became a daily event thereafter. Sometimes there was even more than one helicopter. Fire-fighters were drawn in from all areas of the Cape to help fight the raging flames. This made the situation totally unbearable in some instances. During this time a small thought crossed my mind: "There are people in this country who care and are so dedicated to their country. The SANDF is so concerned with the saving of living beings that its members are prepared to offer up the opportunity of spending a very special time with their families to help fight raging fires and save lives". Our men and women in the SANDF are very special people. Thus my thoughts and profound gratitude as a South African citizen go out to the pilots, co-pilots, flying crew, ground crew and all operational personnel and their families, especially from the SA Air Force (AFB Ysterplaat) who were involved, for their absolute unselfish dedication over that very trying period of nine days. I salute you! - Ms C. Duckworth, the Castle, Cape Town.

Africa, the time has come

Let us have a look at the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU) and the Pan African Parliament, which show the awakening of the Africans. Africa must no longer be the zone of conflict, suffering, injustice and oppression. Women and child abuse must be eradicated. Let peace and harmony reign on our continent. If the Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are not free, Africa can never be declared a free continent. In the Great Lakes region famine and starvation are a daily routine. Let African fortune reign as a gift of the world. African hearts' desires are with you all in Africa. Hereafter, in a better world than this, I shall desire more love and peace for Africans. In my youth I never expected hot and rebellious attitudes on my continent. All Africans deserve liberty, peace and stability. Let us make an honourable retreat from unrest killings and other criminal activities. Those who passed away and their blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Redevelopment and reconstruction of Africa should be a team effort. African leaders and military commanders must come together and find peaceful solutions. The proposed establishment of the African Standby Force will be gratefully received in this regard - Cpl M. Nonyondla, 13 Provost Company, Thaba Tshwane.
“Our country has entered its Age of Hope... this promises to be the dawn of a golden age of growth - an upswing longer than the boom of the 1960s and indeed longer than anything in the postwar period,” said the South African President Thabo Mbeki in his 2006 State of the Nation Address.

Every time all Services get together for a parade you have a feeling that this is going to be one of the professional parades you have ever attended. When SA SOLDIER arrived at the Castle of Good Hope (place where the troops assembled), the place was in a state of excitement because this was not your ordinary parade. The newly appointed Warrant Officer of the SA Army, WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, said to his troops, when they march through the streets of Cape Town, that they should do it with pride. "You had parades before, but make this a very special parade and be proud of being a South African," said WO1 Tshabalala. WO1 Adam Wesso, the ceremonial instructor, said it took them three months to assemble the troops and three days for rehearsals. "This day is always special for me because the whole of South Africa gets to witness what we are doing on a daily basis and personally I am here to honour our Commander in Chief," said WO1 Wesso.

Madame Speaker, Ms Baleka Mbete, said this year’s theme was “All shall have equal rights”. "With this theme we want to remind people that this is their Parliament," said Madame Speaker. The following is the summary of what the President said in his address.

On the future of SA
This year opened with the inspiring news that our people were highly optimistic about their future and the future of our country, and that it ranked 8th in the world on the optimism index. Gallup international, which issued this report, said we had three times more optimists than pessimists, and that the optimism figure had doubled even since 2002. The results obtained by Gallup international have been confirmed by a recent domestic poll conducted by Markinor. According to this poll, 65% of our
people believe that the country is going in the right direction. 84% think that our country holds out a happy future for all racial groups. 71% believe that Government is performing well.

**Public Sector**

The public sector will also accelerate infrastructure investment in the underdeveloped urban and rural areas of our country through the municipal infrastructure grant, an expanded public works programme and other infrastructure funds to improve service delivery in the areas of the second economy, including the provision of:

- Roads and railways
- Water
- Energy
- Housing, schools and clinics
- Business premises and business support centres
- Sports facilities
- Multi-purpose government service centres, including police stations and courts.

R372 billion will be provided for both these sets of programmes over the next three years.

**In the area of health**

Over 1 300 clinics have benefited from the upgrading programme and more have received additional equipment, and the programme to revitalise hospitals is proceeding apace.

The extension of community service to a range of health professionals has ensured that at any one time over 2 000 such professionals are available in public health institutions. Our future plans in this area include the further expansion of the health infrastructure, the refurbishment of existing clinics and hospitals.

(Continued on page 12)
and the reopening of nursing colleges to increase the numbers of these important professionals.

To improve service delivery in our hospitals, by September this year we will ensure that hospital managers are delegated authority and held accountable for the functioning of hospitals, with policy issues regarding training, job grading and accountability managed by Provincial Health Departments which themselves will need proper restructuring to play their role.

On land issues

Land reform and land restitution are critical to the transformation of our society. Accordingly, the State will play a more central role in the land reform programme to ensure that the restitution programme is accelerated, further contributing to the empowerment of the poor, especially in the rural areas. The Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs will, during 2006:
- Review the willing buyer-willing seller policy
- Review land acquisition models and possible manipulation of land prices and
- Regulate conditions under which foreigners buy land.

This will be done in line with international norms and practices.

A survey conducted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) shows that 90% of our population are proud of our country, our National Flag and National Anthem, while 60% consider Freedom Day, 27 April, as the most important National Day. The outcome of these surveys communicates the unequivocal message that our people expect that:
- We should move faster to address the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment and marginalisation confronting those caught within the second economy, to ensure that the poor in our country share in our growing prosperity.
- We should make the necessary interventions with regard to the first economy to accelerate progress towards the achievement of higher levels of economic growth and development of at least 6% a year.
- We must sustain and improve the effectiveness of our social development programmes targeted at providing a cushion of support to those most exposed to the threat of abject poverty.
- We must act more aggressively with regard to our criminal justice system to improve the safety and security of our people, especially by improving the functioning of our courts and increasing our conviction rates to strengthen the message that crime does not pay.
- We must ensure that the machinery of Government, especially the local government sphere, discharges its responsibilities effectively and efficiently, honouring the precepts of Batho Pele, and
- We must harness the Proudly South African spirit that is abroad among the people to build the strongest possible partnership between all sections of our population to accelerate our advance towards the realisation of the important goal of a better life for all.

"It is up to us, through our national effort, to build a winning nation, to do all the things that will ensure that the mountains and hills of our country break forth into singing before all our people, and all the trees of the field clap their hands to applaud the people’s season of joy," concluded President Thabo Mbeki, our Commander in Chief.
Bringing peace to a war-ravaged country

Article and photo by Graeme Hosken, Military Reporter Pretoria News

The Commander of thousands of peace support troops in battle hardened Burundi and father of four, Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi, is showing why South Africa is fast making its mark in the international peacekeeping arena.

Appointed as force commander of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Burundi (ONUB) in 2004 after serving as the African Union force commander, Maj Gen Mgwebi has his task cut out for him. Not only does Maj Gen Mgwebi, who was born in the Eastern Cape, have to ensure that the fragile peace obtained after last year’s elections remains intact and that the country does not descend once again into a bloody turmoil after the expected withdrawal of the peacekeepers later this year, he also has to ensure that the 5 600 UN peacekeepers high morale and discipline remains untarnished and that the final rebel group, the National Force of Liberation, joins the newly formed government.

Speaking from his office in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, Maj Gen Mgwebi, who spent Christmas with his troops, spoke about the highs and lows of his career as force commander, what it was like to be a South African commanding a UN peace support mission and the eventual withdrawal of all UN personnel from the country. “The definite highlights of my career as force commander were the successful demobilisation, registration and integration of thousands of ex-combatants into the Burundi army and the success of the recent elections. Knowing that we were able to bring people who hated and despised each other together and help them form a democratic government is a true honour,” he said.

But while he holds his head high Maj Gen Mgwebi will forever be haunted by the murder of 160 Congolese women and children in the Gatuma massacre. “The site of those mangled and bloodied bodies and the knowledge that we as the UN failed them will haunt me forever. “Knowing that those women and children were killed while seeking shelter in a UN refugee transit camp will stay with me for the rest of my life. That, without a doubt, is the worst point in my life and command,” he said. Speaking on what it was like to be a UN peace force commander, Maj Gen Mgwebi said it was a great honour and privilege to be part of the international community. “It is truly fantastic to know that South Africa and its highly skilled people are being recognised as peacemakers and are being called upon to help ensure that peace is brought to the strife torn regions of the world. It shows that the world is taking notice of South Africa and its capabilities and realises our true value as peacemakers,” he said.

Commenting on this year’s proposed withdrawal of UN forces Maj Gen Mgwebi said that what was encouraging about it was that the Burundi government had approached and indicated to the world body that it was ready to take over the governance of their country. “We are looking at a gradual phase-out of our presence in Burundi, starting with the proposed withdrawal of more than 2 000 peacekeepers by the end of April.”

He continued: “In March we will look at the developments in the country to determine when we can safely withdraw the rest of the troops.” He warned, however, that while he saw no reason for the expected UN withdrawal from Burundi later this year the full withdrawal of the UN presence depended entirely on the country’s security situation.

Our miracle workers in Burundi

Article and photo by Graeme Hosken, Military Reporter Pretoria News

SANDF postmasters, Cpl Justus de Jager and S Sgt Andri Prins, are the most liked and sought after military personnel in South Africa’s United Nations military base in Burundi. The two members, who are part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Burundi (ONUB), are regarded as “magicians” and “miracle workers” (Continued on page 14)
workers” who can conjure up anything, from much awaited mail from South Africa to free subscriptions to the latest up-to-date magazines from throughout the world. And in Burundi news is like gold.

Cpl De Jager from Pretoria and S Sgt Prins from Paarl in the Western Cape command the respect and admiration not only of their colleagues, but also of other international peacekeepers scattered around the country.

Speaking about the conjuring abilities of these two in obtaining magazines and newspapers not found in the Great Lakes region paratrooper Rfn Kholisile Mafutha said he was warned that once in Burundi he would not be able to get copies of his favourite magazine, Kickoff. But, much to his surprise and delight he was told by colleagues that if he wanted any magazine or newspaper all he had to do was speak to forces’ favourites, Cpl De Jager and S Sgt Prins. “Not only were they able to organise me my magazine, but they were also able to speed up my mail,” said Rfn Mafutha.

So delighted was Rfn Mafutha with the service of the forces’ favourites that when he received a portable DvD player from his family in Bloemfontein he decided to lend it out to them.

“It is the least I can do. If it was not for these two guys there would be a lot of very frustrated people here,” he said.

Agreeing with him Cpl Cleopatra Mokhatla said the two postmasters went “beyond the call of duty” when helping their colleagues get hold of much sought-after magazines.

“With Christmas coming their services are going to be in even greater demand, but despite this they have assured us that they will not let us down and have promised several festive surprises,” she said.

(Continued from page 13)

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**Welwillendheidsbesoek na Soedan**

*Artikel en foto's deur Louis Oelofse*

Sy kry byna daagliks huweliksaam- biedinge van die plaaslike Soedannese mans, maar andersins is daar nie enige probleme om as 'n vroue-soldaat in Soedan ontplooi te wees nie. Kapt Rika Bloem, een van net 'n handjievol vroue-soldate wat as 'n militêre waarnemer as deel van die Afrika Unie vredesmag in Darfoer in Soedan ontplooi is, sê sy ag haarsel gelukkig.

“My belangstellings lê in politiek en internasionale verhoudinge en dit maak die Soedan 'n baie interessante plek om te wees.” Nie dat sy na die jaar wat sy in die Soedan ontplooi was weer wil terug gaan nie.

“Ek het dit nou gesien, ek sal daarvan hou om volgende in die Demokratiese Republiek van die Kongo of in die Ivoorkus ontplooi te word.” Kapt Bloem het wel lesse
She gets marriage proposals almost every day from local Sudanese men; otherwise there are no problems in being deployed as a women soldier in the Sudan. Capt Rika Bloem, one of a handful of women soldiers deployed as a military observer as part of the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur in the Sudan, says she considers herself lucky.

“My interests lie in politics and international relations and this makes the Sudan a very interesting place in which to be.” Not that she wants to return after the year that she was deployed in the Sudan.

"Now that I have experienced it I should like to be deployed next in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or in the Ivory Coast.” Capt Bloem did learn lessons from her first deployment in the country where she was one of the 298 soldiers who displayed the South African Flag on their shoulders.

In 2005 she had malaria, like many other soldiers deployed in peacekeeping missions on the continent, and she experienced sandstorms up to 100 metres high. She survived these things and, in addition, had to see her office (Continued on page 16).
being inundated in a flood. "Who’d have thought that we would be waist deep in water in the middle of the desert," Capt Bloem said.

The African Union is adapting, however, and during the goodwill visit in December earthen walls were being built around the office to keep the water out.

Last year South Africa deployed troops in the Sudan for the first time under the mandate of the African Union. As is the case with the rest of the African Union force the deployment is still in its first stage. Recently there was speculation on the possibility that the peacekeeping force would be taken over by the United Nations, but discussions in this connection are still continuing. Further south the United Nations mission in the DRC, of which South Africa is one of the biggest troop contributing countries, is bearing fruit. The chances are good that the elections in this country will take place in mid-year, following a very successful voter registration drive in December. South Africans have increasingly settled here, especially in Kinshasa, the capital.

The pub at the South African base in the headquarters has been decorated with the Springbok, picture of Bafana-Bafana and cricket logos. The base as a whole is well organised.

During the day Sgt Hazel Gouws is the logistical officer, and after-hours she works at the bar.

"Yes, of course we long for home, but we are comparatively well off here with all the facilities we need," she said. All the mod cons are here, from DSTV to the weather havens mentioned, with air conditioning and various other facilities. It is very different from the situation of a few years ago when South Africans in the DRC still had to rely on the old defence force tents.

In the eastern DRC there are still problems with equipment, but the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, gave instructions that these had to be solved as soon as possible. Just across the border in Burundi the South Africans are in the process of scaling down their activities. This small Central African country had peaceful elections last year and the peacekeeping force has already been halved. If everything goes according to plan, most of the peacekeeping soldiers in Burundi, including the South Africans, will be home by the end of the year.

* Louis Oelofse undertook the goodwill visit on behalf of RCP Media in mid-December last year. At present he is a senior reporter at the SA Press Association.

* The Afrikaans version of this article is available on pages 14 and 15. 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.
College still going strong

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Thlaole

After five years the South African National War College is still going strong. What started on the basis of current requirements for the development of senior officers, is the host unit to a wide variety of military capacities, including the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme.

SA SOLDIER attended the official opening of the fifth programme on 24 February 2006. It was opened by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, who was accompanied by Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, the Chief Director National Aviation Academy, Maj Gen Abby Ntshiga, the Chief of Joint Training, R Adm Mosoeu Magalefa, the Chief of Naval Staff, and Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Human Resources.

This programme is considered by the Military Council to be one of its flagships and it enjoys a very high priority within the SANDF. “You have been specifically selected by your respective pool managers to attend this programme and therefore great things are expected of you. You are indeed privileged and the eyes of the Defence Force will be on you as you progress with your training,” said Lt Gen Shoke, addressing the learners.

Based on first principle design and using the latest methods of Education, Training and Development (ETD), the programme develops the competencies required of both the operational level commander and staff officer to be of an international standard so that SANDF officers can confidently take their place in future joint and combined or multinational operations.

Other developments are that the college is at the forefront of hosting two new SANDF-wide sponsored “world-class” military initiatives: the SANDF War Simulation Centre and the fledgling national Peace Missions Training Centre.

The aim of the War Simulation Centre is to provide war simulation and decision support service (computer based and other) to the members of the DOD on a centralised and decentralised basis as required by the DOD clients. The aim of the Peace Mission Training Centre is to enhance the effectiveness and operational readiness (skills) of participants to plan and execute peace missions and facilitate research into, and analysis of, the principles and practice of international and regional conflict, prevention, intervention, management and resolution of peace support operations in order to enhance national contributions to peacemaking and peace-building missions on the African continent.

History was made

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: Maj Charlotte Kilian

History was made on 11 November 2005 when Col P.F. Coetzee officially handed over command of 6 Medical Battalion Group to Col A.N.C. Maminze. Col Maminze was the first black person to become an Officer Commanding of a Reserve Force unit in the SAMHS.

In his speech Col Coetzee compared the change of command to the dawn of a new day, the freshness of a beautiful South African spring day and the promise of a rising warm sun. Col Coetzee also gave a brief history of the unit. He stated that the new Officer Commanding will have his job really cut out for him as the unit is preparing itself to be a combat-ready, fully integrated and representative Reserve Force unit in the SANDF. In describing members and he urged him to continue in this way.

In conclusion, he honoured his fellow soldiers who had allowed him to stand on their shoulders and perform his duty. Then he quoted John F. Kennedy’s inaugural speech in 1961: “Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate”. He also quoted former President Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990: “Our march to freedom is irreversible; I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination, I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and equal opportunity. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die”. Col Coetzee ended his address by saying we should uphold that...
Young Reserve Force member judges international competition

By SLt Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserve

While attending the Young Reserve Officers Workshop (YROW) in Ghent, Belgium a young SA Naval Reserve Officer, SLt Sonnett de Jager (previously an SAS INKONKONI member), was afforded an opportunity by R Adm (JG) Lucas Bakkes to participate in the judging of this year’s international Law of Armed Conflict competition. This was after he had heard that she had studied the subject in depth and had been tested in the subject before.

The YROW forms part of a series of activities under the auspices of Confederation of Interallied Reserve Officers (CIOR) that organises an annual conference so that Reserve Officers from a variety of NATO nations can interact and compete in a range of activities while building relationships.

SLt De Jager was flown to Eisenhorn in Belgium where the international Law of Armed Combat (LOAC) competition was held. The 54 competing teams included teams from Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. Unfortunately no South African team was entered this year.

A scenario was set up which included two Belgian troops and a padre being used to represent the red (enemy) force and one injured member of the blue (friendly) force. Three members of the blue force were then sent into the room to take charge of the situation and to save all injured people. Their response to the situation regarding adherence to LOAC was closely observed.

SLt De Jager commented: “The judging was an enjoyable learning experience as I needed to apply all my LOAC knowledge while giving back something I had learnt over the past years. This opportunity also exposed me to more of the CIOR members from different countries and assisted in sharing knowledge and building relationships.” Thereafter she joined her YROW syndicate and participated in preparing their report and presentation on their assigned topic: “Compare and Contrast Peacekeeping and Reconstruction”. She presented a slide show on the topic and gave examples that everyone could relate to. SLt De Jager noted: “My week in Ghent has raised my self-confidence in many ways. This trip has made me realise that there are growth opportunities available to young Reserve Force members. I recommend that YROW representatives hold a feedback session in their own countries to highlight and to share their experience. Perhaps South Africa should consider running a YROW type conference in our own country to motivate and build relationships between young Reserve Force officers of the various Services.”
Historical Session of the Court of Military Appeals

By Capt (SAN) E. van der Walt, SSO Com Mil Legal Services

A historical session of the Court of Military Appeals took place at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall at the end of last year. For the first time in the history of the Court of Military Appeals it was composed of five members, three being judges of the High Court of South Africa, namely the Honourable Mr Justice B.M. Ngoepe, Judge President of the Transvaal Division of the High Court of South Africa, the Honourable Madam Justice M.L. Mailula and the Honourable Mr Justice I. Hussain, both of the Witwatersrand Local Division of the High Court of South Africa. The military members were Brig Gen D.M. de Lange, as an officer with experience in exercising command in the conducting of operations, and Col (Ms) A.M. Kolbé, an officer of the Permanent Force who holds a degree in law. This session was convened to review a case in which a member of the SANDF had been sentenced to imprisonment having been convicted on a charge of murder, committed outside the Republic of South Africa.

In cases where offences other than treason, murder, rape, culpable homicide or contraventions of sections 4 or 5 of the Military Discipline Code are involved, the Court of Military Appeals is composed of only three members, of whom only one is a Judge of the High Court.

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

Kopano ya histori ya kgorotsheko ya boipilešo ya sešole

Ka Capt (SAN) E. van der Walt, SSO Mil kamogetső molaong (Translated into Sepedi by Ms O.N. Boshoga)

Kopano ya histori ya kgorotsheko ya boipilešo ya sešole e be e swaretšwe holong ya motsemogolo ya Thaba Tshwane go ya mafelelong a ngwaga wa go feta.

Ke lekga la pele mo historigna ya kgorotsheko ya boipilešo ya sešole, e be e hlamilwe ke maloko a mahlano, ba bararo e le baahlobo ba kgorotsheko ya godimo ya Afrika Borwa, Mohlomphegi Moahlodi Mohumagadi M.L. Mailula le Mohlomphegi Moahlodi Morena I. Hussain bobedi go šwa go karolo ya kgorotsheko ya godimo ya Witwatersrand ya Afrika Borwa.

Maloko a sešole e be e le Brig Gen D.M. de Lange, e le MoOfisiri wa maitemogelo a go laola le go hlahaš tshepedišo, le Col (Mohumagadi) A.M. Kolbé, MoOfisiri wa sešole se tišedišwešwe yo a nago le tikrii ya semola.

Kopano ye e biditišwe go sekaseka molato wa leloko la SANDF leo le ahloletšwešwe kgolegong le ge léligišwe ka tatafatišo ya polao, yeo e dirišwešwe ka ntle ga Repapoliki ya Afrika Borwa.

Mo e lego melatong ya go swana le boepammušo, go bolaya, go kata, polaokotsi goba šlolo ya dikarlo 4 goba 5 šeši di akarešago melao ya sešole, kgorotsheko ya boipilešo ya sešole e hlamilwe feela ka maloko a mararo, moo e lego gore o tee feela ke Moahlodi wa kgorotsheko ya godimo.

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A Navy that is formidable and legitimate

By CPO Dennis Ndaba
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

I wish to reflect on the significance of these decorations and medals. They are not just insignia that adorn our ceremonial uniforms, they are authorised at high levels of authority and are awards bestowed on members that have in all respects lived up to high standards and performed exceptional deeds that deserve to be rewarded and honoured. Those were the words of the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu, during a medal parade held at the Air Force Gymnasium in Thaba Tshwane on 2 December 2005.

He went on to pay tribute to R Adm (JG) Bernhard Teuteberg on the award of the Southern Cross Decoration. This decoration is awarded to officers for outstanding service of the highest order and the utmost devotion to duty. "Through the exceptional and unflinching hard work produced by Admiral Teuteberg, who has displayed both professionalism and innovation not only in the SA Navy, but also the SANDF, I extend my congratulations and appreciation. I say that you truly deserve to wear this well-earned decoration with pride and distinction. I am personally proud of this Admiral. It is a joy to have him in my team. Everyday as I enter Navy Office I know that he is always there, working hard to bring meaningful change. He always outperforms my expectations and I want him to know that he is definitely an integral part of my winning team," V Adm Mudimu added.

He also congratulated Capt (SAN) Emmanuel Ndlovu on being awarded the well-deserved MK Merit Medal in Bronze for his dedicated participation in the freedom struggle that brought about this new democratic dispensation. "As I mentioned, these awards have been instituted to reward outstanding service and deeds. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to emphasise the need for us to show recognition and reward our staff members for good performance by taking the time to motivate the award of medals in deserving cases. This does not only express appreciation for their hard work but also provides a means of motivating and building morale within our Navy. Please do not hesitate to show thanks and appreciation to your staff members in this manner, when a formal thank you is deserved. As a good Divisional Officer you are obliged to do so," V Adm Mudimu said.

Our four new MEKO frigates will be commissioned in 2006 and 2007 and our first new Type 209 submarine is due for delivery in early 2006. Successful trial firings were conducted of the locally produced Umkhonto surface-to-air missile, which has not only made the Navy proud, but also the local arms industry and the DOD in
The South African National Defence College opened its doors to other government departments and foreign military students to participate in this year’s Executive National Security Programme (ENSP).

The event was held on the college premises and was officially opened by the Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, on 23 January 2006.

This is the thirteenth ENSP that has been presented at the SA National Defence College since 2000.

The Joint Staff Course presented at the college from 1972 evolved into the ENSP seven years ago owing to political changes, not only the sweeping changes in our country, but also in the world at large.

“This created the need to prepare officers and officials at the national strategic level to plan, manage and ensure national security in a world which places a high premium on human security and increasingly addresses national security issues on a multinational basis,” said the Chief of Corporate Staff.

The programme concentrates on national security issues in a subregional and continental context against the background of global issues. The central theme of the programme is national security. ‘For the DOD members, please bear in mind that you have all been selected to attend this programme as potential future leaders of our organisation,’ said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg in conclusion.

Focus on national security

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

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The third Republic of South Africa and Italy defence committee meeting was held in Cape Town on 1 and 2 February 2006. The aim of this event was to give planning and preparation guidelines for these two countries. The second meeting took place in Rome on 17 June 2004. The Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, said hosting meetings of this nature will strengthen the friendship that has been built between South Africa and Italy. He was referring to the progress made since the previous meeting, specifically the delivery of the first six Agusta LUHs and several reciprocal high-level visits by members of both parties’ armed forces.

During the meeting the following topics were discussed in detail:
- Overview of current RSA DOD international deployments
- Briefing on the security situation in Southern Africa
- The Italian involvement in the EU defence policy - the European Defence Agency
- Current Italian international deployments
- Italian approach to the EU Battle Group Concept
- Security situation in the Mediterranean Sea
- Military-to-military co-operation
- Discussion on co-operation in the field of defence equipment and technology.

The defence committee agreed to renew the existing agreement concerning co-operation in the field of defence and defence equipment for a further period of five years through an exchange of notes and, in the meantime, the Italian side proposed an amended version to include future military-to-military co-operation as well.

Lt Gen Gianni Botondi, the Italian Secretary General for Defence/National Armaments Director and Italian Co-Chairperson, said it was a pleasure to visit South Africa and expressed his appreciation of the warm welcome and support shown to his delegation. He was also a guest of Mr Masilela at the State of the Nation address on 3 February 2006.

The third meeting between the South African and Italian Joint Defence Committee was conducted in an atmosphere of mutual trust and friendliness. Both delegations agreed that the objectives set for this meeting had been achieved and that concrete plans of action had been identified for implementation during 2006 and beyond.

Lt Gen Botondi invited Mr Masilela and his delegation to visit Italy in 2007 for the fourth meeting at a time and venue to be agreed upon.

Focus on peacekeeping operations

Article courtesy IQPC

Peacekeeping operations, stability and development are a top priority for the South African armed forces and the US, Europe and the rest of Africa alike. Peacekeeping is becoming more and more important as South Africa plays a vital role in African missions, mandates, development and reconstruction.

The core of peacekeeping operations in Africa is no longer about the development of armed forces, rather the focus is shifting towards a more integrated approach, including reconstruction, development, stability, civilian involvement and humanitarian aspects. There are many shortcomings when it comes to such matters, which will have to include design, implementation, application, safety and security in Africa.

As the demand, advancement and
application of peacekeeping evolves worldwide, enormous funding is being poured into local research and development, testing and training. Especially in Africa a lack of understanding and awareness must be overcome through education and training in a civilian society. There are many opportunities, both military and civilian, to get involved with peacekeeping, including developing capabilities and providing innovative solutions to challenges.

The first International Quality and Productivity Centre (IQPC) Peacekeeping, Reconstruction and Stability Operations Conference in Africa will be held at the Indaba Hotel at Fourways in Johannesburg from 27 to 31 March 2006. This conference will bring together parliamentarians from European, African and North American countries, which therefore means the governments and the military from all three continents and international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The conference will provide an opportunity for a detailed discussion of past and present peacekeeping operations in Africa.

You will also learn about the deployment of successful support, peacekeeping and developmental missions in Africa.

This conference will provide a unique networking opportunity and a sharing of experiences. It will also boast an international and regional speaker facility. "I am used to peacekeeping conferences organised by research institutions and NGOs, and from this perspective I am interested by the perspective that a commercially driven conference on peacekeeping, reconstruction and stability operations can add to our understanding of this field.

IQPC has managed to bring together a wide range of institutions, experts and perspectives and the mix should prove highly informative and stimulating," said Cedric de Coning, Research Fellow Institute for Security Studies (ISS). "The IQPC Peacekeeping Conference scheduled for March 2006 represents an important event in achieving a better understanding of peacekeeping operations on the African continent which, hopefully, would also contribute to the greater effectiveness of such operations," said Mujahid Alam, National Representative United Nations Organisation Mission in the Republic of Congo (MONUC).

The event boasts senior level speakers from around the globe and has delegates from Germany, Kenya, Switzerland, the UK and South Africa already registered.

Keynote speakers at the event are as follows: Mr Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Deputy Minister of Health, Ambassador Gertrude Mongela, President Pan African Parliament, Ms Theresa Whelan, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs (US Department of Defense), Mr Theo Kaspers, Deputy Head Unit for the African Peace Facility in Europe Aid (European Commission).

* For more information visit: www.iqpc.co.za/SA-204/enews or contact Noxi Mshumpela, Marketing Manager IQPC SA, at tel no: (011) 669 5106 or fax: (011) 669 5069 or email: noxi.mshumpela@iqpc.co.za

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**Reserve Force helped to control swine fever**

By Capt Engela Meintjes, SO3 Ops Com Officer Joint Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape

Amatola Commando sent 32 members to Butterworth in November 2005 to assist in the containment of the swine fever outbreak in the Eastern Cape.

Officers from the Joint Tactical Headquarters Eastern Cape manned the Joint Operational Centre (JOC) in Butterworth on a rotational basis. They were responsible for command and control over the Reserve Force members from Amatola Commando who were deployed during the period. The campaign was a joint effort between the SANDF, the Department of Agriculture, the SAPS and traffic services. The commando members provided security at the Movement Control Points (MCPs), where all vehicles and people crossing these points were sprayed to prevent the disease spreading. They also manned the various burial sites of the pigs where culling took place in order to ensure that there was no interference with these sites.

A group from the Joint Operations Tactical HQ Eastern Cape, Col Z.A. Velle (the then Officer Commanding), Lt Col M. Mbeki (the then 2IC) and Lt Col C. Bezuidenhout (SO1 Ops) visited these members who were deployed in unit’s area of responsibility. Dr Lwanga-Iga from the veterinary services gave a briefing and expressed his gratitude and satisfaction with the work done by the SANDF members.

The visit included a tour of a culling site and the SANDF members experienced the culling of the pigs firsthand. The Reserve Force members deployed at these sites were very positive and feedback on their work was excellent.

Members from Gately Commando relieved the members of Amatola Commando on 1 December 2005. Members from Umtata Commando joined them during December owing to the fact that the Swine Fever spread to a bigger area. The members of Joint Operations Tactical HQ Eastern Cape are still manning the JOC on behalf of the SANDF until April 2005.
A large number of Naval Gymnasium Recruits who underwent basic training in January 2005 at the Naval Gymnasium training base SAS SALDANHA had their graduation day on 30 November 2005. These members form part of the highly successful Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme.

It is the third group since 2003 to graduate under the MSD Programme, which is one of the youth development programmes encouraged by President Thabo Mbeki, and has received positive response and support from both the Government and the public.

The graduation day started off on a high note as the recruits proudly manned the main unit mast and displayed their skills to the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, who was the guest of honour together with the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Ntopile Kganyago. Family and friends who came to support the recruits on their big day also enjoyed viewing the display.

The parade ground was the main arena where the recruits performed other displays, as well such as the gun-run which awed the audience, which was a bit shaken because of the loud noise of the gunshots. The gun-run display was performed brilliantly; it indicated the importance of good camaraderie, strength and fitness among soldiers. Physical training as part of the display showed what the recruits get up to on a daily basis during their training in order to maintain their level of fitness.

Precision drill is another display that requires a lot of discipline and concentration as it is performed only on a drum beat command, and not a verbal one.

Some performances included the sweet, harmonious, well-groomed voices of the SAS SALDANHA Choir and the beautiful sound of the talented SAS SALDANHA Band. Although the choir and the band only started practising their tunes early in the year, they sounded like professionals who have been working together for many years.

After an hour-long lunch break the graduation parade, the main event of the day, commenced. All the recruits marched proudly on to the parade ground in their whites, with family and friends cheering them on and excitedly calling out their names. Following the reading of the Code of Conduct and a prayer, prizes were handed to those students, who had excelled during the course and proved themselves to be competent in different modules and courses offered during the training.

The (then) Officer Commanding of SAS SALDAHNA, Capt (SAN) Robert Shelley, had been commanding the unit since the arrival of the first MSD Programme recruits in 2003. In his final speech as the Officer Commanding of the unit he congratulated the recruits on their achievements for the year and also gave credit to and thanked the staff members of SAS SALDANHA for their commitment and for the support they gave him during his tenure.

The graduates had already been allocated their different mustering before the graduation day, so they knew exactly where they were going to work. Those who commented said they were really happy and looking forward to being in the real Navy and experiencing the life of a true sailor.
Future naval officers step out

Article and photos by AB Lizzy Lebelo

The Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, was the Inspecting Officer at the SA Naval College in Gordon’s Bay during the graduation ceremony held on 9 December 2005. The graduation day had been long awaited by the cadets at the College after almost nine months of hard training had turned them into robust and disciplined future naval officers.

Family and friends had travelled long distances from all over the country in many instances to attend the graduation day and they were all so proud of the cadets and their great achievements. Of the 86 cadets who graduated at the College 32 were women, which proved that women’s abilities were recognised in the SA Navy.

The Officer Commanding of the College, Capt (SAN) P.J. Eldon, delivered the first speech of the day. In his speech he congratulated the cadets on their hard work and achievements, and thanked the Training Commander and the staff for their commitment. After his speech the Officer Commanding handed over to the Secretary for Defence, who said that he was proud to have attended the graduation day of quality future leaders in the SA Navy, who would lead the corvettes and submarines in future. Mr Masilela then handed prizes to those cadets who had excelled in different modules and activities all year round. The last award for the day went to the best division of the year: the Topgallant Division. As stated in the mission of the College that is to provide quality naval officers through dynamic training. At the end of the parade the junior officers marched off proudly in their officers’ ranks, all well trained and ready to go out there and lead.
Lt Makatipe Kgosana received the SA Army Foundation prize as Best SA Army Learner at the Military Academy Passing-out Parade held on 14 December 2005. Lt Kgosana was born in Zebediela, Limpopo Province. He received his degree in Human and Organisational Development and intends to continue with his Honours in 2006. Lt Kgosana received a pair of binoculars sponsored by the SA Army Foundation from Mr Henk Redelinghuys, SA Army Foundation Sales Advisor. In 1973 Maj Gen Johann Jooste, the Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation Board of Control, received a pair of binoculars as Best SA Army Learner.

"Don't wish it was easier; wish you were better. Don't wish for fewer problems; wish for more skills. Don't wish for fewer challenges; wish for more wisdom." These words by John Rohn were in the minds of the twenty-two members of the Special Forces, including one soldier of the Botswana Defence Force (the Commando Squadron), who were awarded their Special Forces Silver Operators’ Badge after a year of suffering and endurance.

Another first in the Department of Defence was that the graduates also received a National Diploma in Special Forces Operations. This happened because the Special Forces School was accredited with the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). Our Special Forces selection and training are among the toughest in the world, because in addition to the physical demands, the learners now also have to comply with the required unit standards for the qualification. The men on parade earned this qualification through sheer guts and determination. Speaking on this auspicious occasion the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Sipho Binda, said the members had chosen one of the most demanding careers, culminating in long periods away from home, rigorous training schedules, the need for constant readiness and an increased exposure to danger. He urged them to accept the challenge of being rated among the best soldiers in the world, which brings with it the possibility of paying the ultimate price.

"I wish you strength and courage for your future. I sincerely hope that your careers in the Special Forces of your country will have a meaning and that you as individuals will ultimately contribute to peace and prosperity on our continent," said Lt Gen Binda.

He also congratulated the trainers and the staff on a job well done. "Continue to ensure that your knowledge and experience are carried over to the next generation so that they will be ready when the times comes. The emotions that are stirred up by this occasion are definitely a reminder of the quality that the Defence Force requires of its elite," Lt Gen Binda concluded.
Intercepting smuggling boats

By Maj Jaco Steynberg, 87 HFS, AFB Bloemspruit

The air gunner takes aim at the powerful ski-boat's engines. He presses the 50-calibre gun hard into his shoulder and takes aim through the laser sights. He tries to put the movement of the helicopter that he is shooting from and the pitching of the boat that he is aiming at, out of his mind. Meanwhile I am trying to take a picture, holding my camera with one hand and steadying myself with the other in the AgustaWestland A109 LUH, which is travelling down the St Johns River at 65 knots.

For the Americans it is just another day at the office, but for me it is a real insight into the way helicopter interdiction operations can be carried out.

I was one of three lucky members of the SA Air Force who had the opportunity to visit the American Coast Guard (USCG) as part of the United States European Command Joint Contact Team Programme. The unit, named HITRON (Helicopter Interdiction Squadron), is based in Jacksonville, Florida. The purpose of this elite unit is to intercept smuggling boats that bring mainly cocaine into the United States through the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean. For this purpose they fly the AgustaWestland A109 LUH helicopter.

These aviators, as they like to call themselves, deploy into the Caribbean or the Pacific on a USCG cutter (a ship about the size of the SAS PROTEA) for up to 45 days at a time. The 'go-fasts', as the ski-boats that transport the drugs are called, are located by a maritime patrol aircraft or by sightings from the cutter or, alternatively, during patrols flown with the A109 LUH. The A109 LUH provides the only reassurance in this whole operation, which is taking place at about 50 feet above the water.

With authority to shoot from the pilot in command, the gunner rests the sniper gun on a rope in the door of the A109 LUH. The helicopter is now positioned towards the back of the 'go-fast'. The air gunner takes aim at the powerful ski-boat's engines. Looking at their statistics, these guys can obviously shoot. Seven shots take out five 250-horsepower engines on the back of a 'go-fast'. In addition no one is injured. Once the ski-boat is immobilised, a boat crew from the cutter will round up the smugglers and contraband. If the smugglers set the drugs alight by pouring fuel over them or throwing them overboard in an attempt to destroy evidence, the video recordings made through the FLIR system will assist in getting convictions. This was indeed a very interesting operation. The focus was on the job, which was executed with precision. Furthermore, they can do this whole operation at night as well. The A109 LUH with its sleek lines can definitely hold its own in the international arena. I am really looking forward to trying my hand at one of ours when they are fully operational.

An air gunner takes aim at a powerful ski-boat engine.
Farewell to the deceased gallant soldiers

By Pte Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Thlaole

An historic event took place at the time when all of us as a country and a nation celebrated one of the important historical days on our calendar: 16 December. On Reconciliation Day, 16 December 2005, a re-interment ceremony of twelve black soldiers, who took part in World War I was held at the Clive Solomon Stadium in Bloemfontein.


During the re-interment ceremony an extract from Scripture was read and prayers said by Chaplain Xolani Mzayiya from ASB Bloemfontein. Bloemfontein Serenade showed its worth and performed the National Anthem and the SA Army Band played the Ghanaian National Anthem in honour of J. Ancoe, a soldier from Ghana. The National Ceremonial Guard executed the drill and thereafter stood in readiness for the general salute.

The welcoming address was delivered by the Acting Mayor of Mangaung, Ms Eva Moiloa, followed by the introduction of the Premier of Free State by the MEC, the Department of Sports, Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Ms Susan Mnuzana. The Premier of Free State, Ms Beatrice Marshoff, was the key functionary at this event. The event was graced by the presence of high-profile civilian dignitaries and senior military officers from all Services of the SANDF.

An invitation was also extended to the Ghanaian Ambassador to be part of this event in recognition of the role played by the soldier J. Ancoe during World War I in our country.

In the Premier’s final address she noted that the reburial of the remains of these soldiers is itself a historically significant event. She further added that even if we have different and divergent opinions about wars such as World Wars I and II there was no doubt about the fact that these wars changed the course of history and touched our shores in Africa and South Africa in particular. Soldiers from the oppressed communities engaged in these wars and fought gallantly to defend the fatherland in the same manner that their compatriots did in Europe. She commended the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for its continuing efforts to locate and identify the graves of our fallen heroes and also thanked the SANDF and SAPS for agreeing to form part of the steering committee to prepare for this important ceremony.

Members of 44 Parachute Brigade and 1 SA Infantry Battalion in Bloemfontein were present and served as bearers at a re-interment ceremony of twelve black soldiers, who took part in World War I. Members of 44 Parachute Brigade and 1 SA Infantry Battalion in Bloemfontein were present and served as bearers. They were divided into two groups and executed the slow march drill during the procession to the cemetery and thereafter stood in readiness for the removal of caskets from the hearse to the marked grave sites.

Our fallen heroes

These twelve soldiers took part in World War I and were buried in the Rooiadam Native Cemetery near Bloemfontein. The location of this cemetery was lost and was only discovered about five years ago. The graves of these soldiers were marked by a metal iron cross with their names engraved on the cross, and this was the only means they had of identifying the specific burial.

As the cemetery fell into disuse a decision was made to re-inter the bodies of the fallen heroes in the Hamilton Military Cemetery in Bloemfontein, which is the closest cemetery to the previous burial location, and a cemetery that is properly maintained. Among these soldiers, there is also the name of J. Ancoe, who originates from Ghana, the then Gold Coast. He participated in World War I as part of the Gold Coast Regiment. It is presumed that he died in the Tempe Military Hospital in Bloemfontein and was therefore buried in the Rooiadam Native Cemetery in Bloemfontein.

They did not live long enough to see the justice and equality that have now come to characterise our land. We sincerely appreciate and gratefully acknowledge their selflessness, kindness and thoughtfulness during this time that the beauty of life may survive. We pray that the seeds of humanity, friendship, forgiveness and reconciliation nurtured by our fallen heroes shall further blossom with sincerity to all.

God our loving Father, You gave your only Son to suffer and die for men. Grant that when we are found worthy to endure suffering for Christ’s name, we may rejoice in our calling as soldiers and be enabled to bear our part in completing His sufferings for the sake of your children. Lord, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

May the soul of these fallen heroes rest in peace.
Remember and honour our heroes

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Thaole

“The Infantry corps is the backbone of any army and the life-blood of any defence force anywhere in the world. Therefore, if you break the back of the Infantry, you are crippling the army,” said Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde, General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Infantry Formation, during the annual infantry memorial service held at Fort Klapperkop in Pretoria on 22 January 2006. Year after year, unfailingly, families and members of the Infantry Corps drive up to the hilltop to revive the spirit of the warrior.

“All told, we have every right to be here today to remember and honour our heroes who during their times courageously carried the torch, and when they fell, trustingly passed it over to us to continue the arduous race,” said Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde. The SA Infantry is deployed all over Africa: in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Comoros, the Sudan and Ethiopia - all over the continent to promote peace and maintain peace.

“Lamentably infanteers, as we know, are always the Cinderella of the Defence Force, always over-tasked, under-resourced, over-chastised and seldom commended. In other ways, high expectations are always placed upon us to achieve what sometimes appears to be humanly impossible. Yet because of the inherent characteristics of the infantry, namely endurance, resilience and bravery, we always rise to the occasion,” concluded Maj Gen Nkabinde. As the memorial was well attended by foreign military attachés and other dignitaries who paid their tributes by either laying a wreath or planting a cross.

Ukukhumbula nokunika imbeko kumagorha ethu

Ng u Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Umfanekiso ngu Cpl Lebogang Thaole
(Translated into IsiXhosa by Ms Ntombie Ndumbini)


Unyaka nonyaka, isiXhosa kwezincane eziphentfeka ego lamajoni ahamba ngenyawo akakhelele ukunyaka intaba esiyi kuvuselela umoya wamajoni alwayo. “Sonke sibhuzo ukuba sinelungelo lokuba sibetha sikhumbuzo ngenyawo ngumqolo womkhosi nobomi negazi lezkohusele eliweni lonke. Ngako oko ukuba ngaba uphula umqolo wamajoni ngenyawo uya-wuqhwela isemalungu umabhakathi, watsho uNjengele Themba Nkabinde ongunuqhobeni, uMqungu maphathi olubeni wakhe lezokhuselo eMzantsi Afrika, kwinkonzo yisikhumbuzo yonquka eyayifakazi eyaphelele e Fort Klapperkop e Pitoli ngomhlaba wama-22 kweyoMqungu kunyaka wama-2006.”

Ungayo uMqungu maphathi olubeni wakhe lezokhuselo eMzantsi Afrika, kwinkonzo yisikhumbuzo yonquka eyayifakazi eyaphelele e Fort Klapperkop e Pitoli ngomhlaba wama-22 kweyoMqungu kunyaka wama-2006.

Ungayo uMqungu maphathi olubeni wakhe lezokhuselo eMzantsi Afrika, kwinkonzo yisikhumbuzo yonquka eyayifakazi eyaphelele e Fort Klapperkop e Pitoli ngomhlaba wama-22 kweyoMqungu kunyaka wama-2006.

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The General Manager of the SA Army Foundation, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, was the recipient of a prestigious award, the Laureate Award, on 19 November 2005. The Laureate Awards are presented by the University of Pretoria to pioneers who distinguish themselves by changing the lives of ordinary South Africans for the better. Keith Matila Mokoape was born at Wallmannsthal on 1 July 1947. From his early childhood Keith strived to better the lives of his fellow men.

After many years of hardship in exile without his loved ones he returned to South Africa and settled himself in business. In 2003 he was appointed Chief Army Reserve and took over the reigns of the SA Army Foundation in April 2004. Maj Gen Mokoape heads the black empowerment consortium Katleho Linkages and is chairperson of Sigma Logistics, Cybersim and IFG Africa.

Maj Gen Mokoape holds several directorships and memberships on the boards of various companies and organisations, such as iFour, the CapeSpan Foundation, the National Business Initiative and the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut.

Maj Gen Mokoape is married to Magirly and is the father of Otsile and Banetse.

Hard work produces worthwhile results

The Staff Officer of Naval Legal Services, Cdr Riaan Pieterse, was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa on 14 November 2005. Having this great honour bestowed upon him was not easy. Not only was he giving Defence Force members legal advice, looking after the SA Navy’s interests and entering into negotiations to help people solve problems, but he was also studying for his law degree and admission exams on a part-time basis.

Cdr Pieterse, who was born in Pretoria, completed his BLC degree in 1992 at the University of Pretoria. In December 1992 he joined the SA Navy as a legal clerk. After obtaining his LLB degree through the Navy, he went to Gordon’s Bay to complete his officer’s course in 1995. He completed the Junior Command and Staff Course in 2003 and was promoted to Cdr in April 2004. Cdr Pieterse’s vision to be an attorney evolved when the opportunity to remain in the SA Navy and be seconded to the State Attorney’s office for a year to do his articles of clerkship (a compulsory practical requirement to be admitted as an attorney) became a reality.

He was employed in Simon’s Town’s Naval Legal Office for five years where he gained more experience in prosecution and Defence Counsel duties. While in the Cape he participated twice in the Cape Argus cycling challenge and the Burger Sanlam cycling tour.

Apart from cycling, his interests include watching rugby, swimming and, most importantly, spending time with his family and friends.

When asked what he loves most about his job Cdr Pieterse replied: "Helping people with legal matters/problems, entering into negotiations to solve problems and being able to apply one’s mind and the legal principles to a problem before tackling a case in order to obtain the best results for your client. "In the legal fraternity you always have to do proper research to give the best advice, as wrong decisions can be very costly for your client."

His advice to everyone out there that would like to walk in his footsteps are: "Never give up, be dedicated in whatever you do and do it to the best of your ability" and "be positive, believe in yourself and you will achieve". Even though Cdr Pieterse was admitted as an attorney to the High Court of South Africa, he still wants to further his achievements. His golden goal is to specialise in Labour Law so that he can assist in solving labour problems in the Navy and he wants to play a positive role in negotiations between the unions and the Navy to settle labour issues.
Knowledge is the key to the future

By LS Jaqueline Pietbooi, SA Navy PR Clerk

Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) employed in the SA Navy are afforded the chance to complete their education, which they could not do due to difficult circumstances in the past.

Mrs Ellen Shibambo (PSAP) is currently completing her Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET). Mrs Shibambo is working as a tea lady for the directorates on the 8th floor at the Navy Office. She started working for the SA Navy in 1992. She left school in Standard 6 because she had to provide for her family. "Ever since I joined the SA Navy, I have been very happy, as the people are very friendly and helpful," she says. Even though times are hard at home, she always greets one with a sweet smile every morning. Her six children, three of whom are unable to hear, were ecstatic when they heard she was doing her adult education. "They always assist me when I do my homework," she adds with a gleam in her eye. Ms Phillipine Motseleng, a very good friend of Ellen's, advised her to complete her adult education and to enroll for the computer courses held at the Navy Office. Ms Motseleng, who met Mrs Shibambo in 1997, added that Mrs Shibambo is a good, caring mother who is constantly available to give advice and that her kitchen is neat and tidy at all times. We all agree that Mrs Shibambo, also known as "Mashibambo" by close friends, is a very dedicated worker and that she strives to succeed. Even though she is 53 years old, she proves to many that it is never too late to learn and to achieve your goals. A comment from the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Refiloe Mudimu: "I am proud to see the number of SA Navy members taking advantage of this training opportunity being offered to develop them. I encourage members at all levels to make use of the ABET and other skills development training. By doing so they not only become members of society who actively contribute to the growth of our country, but can also achieve the status of being appointed to posts at higher levels within the DOD. It would indeed be most inspiring to see one of these members eventually being appointed in a post at the highest level. To achieve our vision, mission and core business we must not forget the emphasis that must be placed on the development and well-being of our people through out good Human Resource management."
Africa's Number One Enemy

Compiled by Sgt Lebohang Letaoana

“Here is a silent tsunami under way all the time in rural Africa. Every month, as many children die of malaria in Africa as died in the tsunami - about 150 000 children dying every month” - Dr Jeffery Sachs, Director of the UN Millennium Project.

Many people do not realise how dangerous malaria can be, or that in some cases it can lead to kidney failure, seizures, coma or even death. It threatens the lives of about 40% of the world’s population, infects 300 to 500 million people and worldwide causes over one million deaths each year. Malaria is an infectious disease caused by the Plasmodium parasite. It is transmitted to humans by infected female Anopheles mosquitoes that feed on human blood.

Brig Gen Pieter Oelofse, Director Medicine, compiled this report on malaria: “The Army trains to fight the land battle in protection of the sovereignty and the constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Air Force must be in a position to protect the air battle space and the Navy to protect the sea battle space. Within this context the SAMHS is trained and equipped to fight, within the human battle space, countless “enemies” who would like to annihilate not only the SANDF, but even the human race at large.”

Within the human battle space there are many “enemies” and we can categorise them broadly into communicable disease (infections) and non-communicable diseases (metabolic diseases). Examples of non-communicable diseases are hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes (high blood sugar) and too much cholesterol in the blood (high blood fats). Examples of communicable diseases are malaria, tuberculosis, HIV infection and influenza (flu).

Our focus is on the malaria enemy. Sun-Tsu, a well-known philosopher, once said: “Know your enemy and in a hundred battles you will not be in peril”.

How malaria spreads

The malaria parasite enters your body when you are “bitten” by a female mosquito of a specific species, which happens to carry the parasite in her salivary glands. The parasite then enters your bloodstream and goes through a life cycle of different stages as it multiplies within your body. In the end the malaria parasite destroys the red blood cells in your body. If not treated promptly and effectively, the host can be dead within a relatively...
short period of time. Malaria is a formidable enemy and must never be underestimated.

The medical treatment of malaria is also a costly exercise and the patient often ends up in hospital and even in the intensive care unit. The good news is that malaria is preventable. It is a well known saying in the medical field that prevention is always better than cure, and obviously much more cost-effective.

How to prevent malaria

The first element of prevention is to get rid of the mosquitoes in the environment. Avoid having pools of stagnant water or swampy areas close to your base. If they cannot be avoided or drained, then they must be sprayed to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. This helps, but cannot be the only precautionary measure as mosquitoes can fly several kilometres and it is often just not practical to prevent mosquitoes from coming into your proximity (entering your personal space).

The next strategy is to prevent the female mosquito from "biting" you, especially between dusk and dawn when they feed on blood. Cover as much of your skin as possible by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long trousers. Diligently apply insect repellent to the exposed areas of your skin and when you retire to bed, sleep under a mosquito net.

The malaria-carrying mosquito is usually found in areas with a high rainfall. Malaria is therefore an endemic disease in a broad band over central Africa and even in the north-eastern parts of South Africa in the rainy season.

Soldiers are often deployed in malaria areas and therefore malaria can be seen as an occupational disease. It is therefore of the utmost importance for the task force to obtain a health intelligence briefing before it enters any unknown territory, in order to be prepared for the established and emerging enemy from a communicable disease perspective.

Malaria presents itself in a very non-specific way. Patients often complain about headaches, flu-like symptoms and fever. All of us must therefore be very suspicious of any such signs. Please tell the doctor that you have been to a possible malaria area and remember the symptoms can often only start weeks or even months later. I should like to re-emphasise the fact that malaria is, for the most, a preventable disease. You can therefore make all the difference - often between life and death - for yourself.

For more information please feel free to contact Brig Gen Pieter Oelofse, Director Medicine, at tel no: (012) 671 5509 or visit your nearest sickbay or military hospital.

Sources:
www.malariahotspots.co.uk
www.freefromhunger.org/landing

Impala will be remembered with nostalgia

By CO Maryke Lynn,
Journalist Ad Astra

After four decades the Impala MK I and MK IIIs of the SA Air Force finally turned in their wings at their decommissioning parade at Air Force Base Hoedspruit. This occasion, on 30 November 2005, brought together those crews who, since the Impala’s inception in 1966, had the privilege of flying and maintaining this graceful aircraft.

Sixteen Impalas were imported from Italy, ready for assembly at AFB Ysterplaat. Delivery of the first of these (with tail number 476 and now known as an Impala MK I) was taken in November 1966. The official symbolic handing over to the SA Air Force took place on 3 June 1966, with the dual-seater MK I (tail number 460). Since that day, 151 MK I (MB-326M) dual-seater and 100 MK II (MB-326KC) single-seater Impala aircraft have been manufactured, the last delivery being that of an MK II with tail number 1099 in 1982.

The Impala aircraft has seen service as an ab initio trainer, a primary jet trainer and an operational light attack fighter. It also served from 1968 for almost three decades as the aircraft of the SA Air Force’s aerobatic team, the Silver Falcons. In all, the Impalas operated from ten bases of the SA Air Force and pilots of both the Regular Force and Reserve Force flew this aircraft with great distinction in times of war and peace.

Fourteen Impala MK IIIs previously belonging to the SA Air Force will soon grace Brazilian skies. The Brazilian Air Force recently bought these aircraft together with their support components and is in the process of rebuilding the aircraft with the SA Air Force’s assistance.

Even though the Impala will always be remembered with nostalgia and affection, this is the dawning of a new era in the SA Air Force, and the Hawk, which will now have very big shoes to fill, is awaited with great expectation and enthusiasm.
Military Prosecutions in the South African National Defence Force

Article courtesy of Directorate Military Prosecution
Photo: F Sgt David Nomshongwana

The Directorate Military Prosecutions has been mandated in terms of section 22 of the Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act, Act No 16 of 1999 (MDSMA) to institute and conduct prosecutions in any military court, to discontinue prosecutions and to exercise prosecution authority on behalf of the State. In addition, Director Military Prosecutions (D M Pros) may carry out all necessary functions incidental to instituting and conducting prosecutions, including the determination of whether or not investigations are complete.

The Directorate is headed by Brig Gen G.I. Slabbert (D M Pros), whose office is situated at the Military Legal Services Division (MLSD) head office at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. D M Pros is supported by five staff officers, namely Col J. Yarrow, Col P. Loselo, Lt Col G.G. van der Niet, Lt Col T.O. Manzana and Capt M.B. Papo, who exert functional control and direction over five assigned senior prosecution counsels (SPCs), who respectively exercise prosecutorial functions in each of the five Legal Satellite Offices (LEGSATOS).

The Military Justice System

The organisational structure of the new military justice system, the Minister of Defence established a task team to advise him on the transformation of the military justice system. Recommendations made by the ministerial task team may in future have an impact on the current system that is elucidated upon hereunder.

The current structure for the military justice system was introduced in 1999 and comprises:

- Chief Military Legal Services, also appointed as the Adjutant General, Maj Gen S.B. Mmono;
- Directorate SANDF Legal Support, headed by Brig Gen R.A. Kobedi;
- Directorate Legal Services Support, headed by Brig Gen E. Zwane;
- Directorate Military Judges, headed by Brig Gen A. Myburgh;
- Directorate Military Judicial Reviews, headed by Brig Gen J.L. Larney;
- Directorate Military Defence Counsel, headed by Brig Gen G.D. Spammer; and
- Directorate Military Prosecutions, headed by Brig Gen G.I. Slabbert.

The five LEGSATOS with sub-offices, which administer military justice throughout the country, are situated at:

- Thaba Tshwane (rendering service within Gauteng, the North West Province and Mpumalanga [Middelburg]);
- Bloemfontein (rendering service within the Free State and Northern Cape Province);
- Wynberg (rendering service within the Western Cape Province and geographical areas of the Eastern Cape Province from the southern boundary up to and including the N6 freeway);
- Polokwane (rendering service within Mpumalanga and the Northern Province); and
- Durban (rendering service to KwaZulu-Natal and geographical areas of Eastern Cape Province from the N6 freeway to KwaZulu-Natal).

Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act

The Military Discipline Supplementary Measures Act (MDSMA) was enacted on 28 May 1999 and provides for the proper administration of
The Credo of the Military Law Practitioner

The Credo of the Military Law Practitioner (MLP) is a pledge by Military Law Practitioners (MLPs) to honour the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and his or her commission, and to uphold the Code of Conduct for uniformed members of the SANDF. Each MLP also undertakes to perform his or her duties without fear, favour or prejudice and to pursue justice in the execution of his or her tasks diligently in accordance with the prevailing law and military prescripts.

Queries and Complaints

Directorate Military Prosecutions aims to deal with queries and complaints regarding prosecutorial aspects sensitively, fairly and in confidence. Complaints regarding the handling of military prosecutions can be forwarded to the relevant senior prosecution council (SPC), who will then acknowledge receipt of the complaint within three working days. The SPC will aim to reply to a query or complaint within ten working days. The following guidelines are submitted to ensure a query or complaint receives the appropriate attention without undue delay:

- Queries and complaints must be in writing.
- The following information should be included where available:
  - Name and contact particulars of the inquirer or complainant.
- Members of the Permanent Force.
- Members of the Reserve Force, while rendering service, undergoing training or doing duty for the SANDF.
- Members of the Reserve Force, when liable or called up, who fail to render service or to undergo training or to do duty.
- Every person not otherwise subject to the MDC, with the consent of the commanding officer of any portion of the SANDF, is with or accompanies or performs duty with that portion of the said Force which is outside the borders of the Republic or on service.
- Every prisoner of war who is detained by the SANDF.
- When a person, who is subject to the MDC, is suspected of having committed murder, treason, rape or culpable homicide within the Republic, the National Prosecuting Authority shall deal with the matter and any ensuing trial shall take place in a civilian court. If it is suspected that any of the aforementioned offences, sec 4 MDC (endangering safety of own forces) or sec 5 MDC (offences by a person in command of troops, vessels or aircraft) has been committed beyond the borders of the Republic by a person subject to the MDC, military jurisdiction will not be forfeited in favour of the National Prosecuting Authority, but such a case will be heard by three senior military judges under the presidency of the senior of those judges.

Contact numbers and addresses

Queries and complaints regarding prosecutorial aspects may be directed, in writing to the relevant SPC at one of the following addresses:

Lt Col M.E. Keefer
LEGSA To Thaba Tshwane
Private Bag X1044
Thaba Tshwane, 0149
Contact numbers: (012) 351 2146 or (012) 351 2156
Facsimile: (012) 351 2190

Lt Col J.J. Buys
LEGSA Bloemfontein
PO Box 20599
Bloemfontein, 9300
Contact number: (051) 402 1285
Facsimile: (051) 402 1064

Lt Cdr D.E. Banda (Acting)
LEGSA Wynberg
PO Box 1
The Castle
Cape Town, 0800
Contact number: (021) 787 1328
Facsimile: (021) 787 3980

Lt Col P.E. Matlou
LEGSA Polokwane
Private Bag X9304
Polokwane, 0700
Contact number: (015) 299 1116
Facsimile: (015) 299 1235

Lt Col K.B. O’Brien
LEGSA Durban
Private Bag X12
The Bluff, 4036
Contact number: (031) 369 1556
Facsimile: (031) 369 1558

Military Courts

The military court system consists of the following military courts: The Court of Military Appeals (CMA), the Court of a Senior Military Judge, the Court of a Military Judge and the Commanding Officer’s Disciplinary Hearing (CODH). * (Part II will be published in the April 2006 edition of SA SOLDIER.)
The scourge of African wars

By Francois Vrey, Military Strategy Department, Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha

African futures are primarily framed by the African Union and the eradication of destructive wars is set as a priority and pathway towards achieving success. This commitment to a prosperous Africa presupposes that the role of African armed forces is sufficiently tailored to contribute to the “demands” for warless futures.

The use of military forces by political leaders and their operational and tactical employment by military leaders are two complex matters that influence the desired outcome of an African landscape devoid of war. The political demands for terminating African wars cannot progress without educated and trained military leaders to sustain the success and contain the failure of political initiatives.

The challenge for defence leadership: Shaping the future use of African armed forces

One prominent challenge for African defence leadership is depicted by what the future utility of war entails. Using military coercion is currently in dispute and now more than ever subjected to calls for its termination. Using military coercion has also slipped from the presumed monopoly and control imposed upon it by the State. Modes of military coercion are now regularly employed by entities operating at a level above the State such as the United Nations and the African Union. At this level the constructive character of armed forces is accentuated for the protection of vulnerable societies through preventative and reconstructive missions. Simultaneously actors below the State, such as warlords, terrorists and armed rebels are also reconfiguring the use of military coercion. They employ military force, but in a way that tends to exploit and perpetuate its destructive side and defy traditional conventions on its employment.

On a more positive note, African defence decision-makers have to master the art of using military force as a constructive policy instrument amidst sentiments questioning its destructive features. This latter outlook is supported by a number of related theories on the demise of war and the use of armed forces for executing policy. First, war is portrayed as an outdated concept for doing things and no longer serves the function traditionally ascribed to its use as an instrument of policy to pursue wealth, protect the national interest or obtain territory. Secondly, there is little to profit from war as its costs nowadays generally exceed the tangible and intangible profits to be gained. Societies are therefore reluctant to authorise their leaders to go to war in the name of questionable goals. Thirdly, the growth of open and participatory political systems is prone to marginalise those systems and actors deemed to sustain war in the international system. As pluralistic societies and forms of government grow, war in the system is judged to be in decline. Fourthly, and perhaps an outcome of the former, some theorists hold that the mission profile of armed forces is to undergo dramatic shifts with war fighting an increasingly fringe option as opposed to more constructive alternatives such as preventative and protectionist peace missions.

A major criticism of anti-war arguments is that the idea of war being on the decline points towards warless futures for only a select few - mostly the well-developed tier of states. The decline is furthermore only observable in interstate wars, not intrastate and community type wars that threaten the social fabric of states and regions. Certain regions should therefore not expect the demise of war to arrive upon their doorstep any time soon. Africa is one such region where leaders grapple with the eradication of destructive wars.

However, the degree to which this eradication remains immature at the level of political leadership, and the need for competent military leadership increases proportionally to meet the new patterns of warfare that emerge.

The challenge to military leadership: New futures for employing armed forces

Contemporary manifestations of warfare can be described in a myriad of ways. The layout below portrays one alternative in a rough typology of future warfare modes. Future warfare is a matter that is often debated and recently became influenced by at least three evolving outlooks that are generally shared by theorists and that...
content to warfare modes that military leaders have to face (Bunker).

- Warfare as the outcome of successive generations. The latest generation is fourth generation warfare with new technology and the rise of on-state actors configuring its character.
- Warfare as the outcome of wave theory. The latest wave is the third wave as the quest for knowledge and the means for its pursuit are growing features of warfare.
- Warfare resulting from epochal changes. This outlook holds sway with changes within civilisations and their energy modes from which the idea is distilled that post-mechanical and non-Western ideas about warfare are on the rise.

The above three outlooks on future warfare underpin an interplay between technology and ideas to impart the dynamics for different forms of warfare to unfold. Emergent and declining forms of warfare call upon military leaders to keep abreast of the technologies and ideas that independently or co-jointly configure future warfare and the complexity and simultaneity now facing decision-makers. These alternatives are assuming the following profiles:

The Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). The RMA is driven by technology with its locus primarily in the developed world. Underpinning it is the idea that technology can be closely integrated with concepts of battlefield dominance through superior information systems, precision munitions and focussed logistics. This connectivity is held in place by the idea of a surgical capability to achieve the military objective through limited and controlled destruction.

Strategic Information Warfare (SIW). Effecting an outcome in an independent and non-destructive way, and without engaging in battle with opposition armed forces, underpins SIW. By not fighting traditional military battles, but using the cyber-domain to enforce your will upon the opponent is judged the future art of warfare. Information technologies, a societal reliance upon it and the idea of using this societal-information dependency, afford SIW the leeway to pursue political objectives independently through the conduct of disruptive warfare in the cyber-domain. This outcome is not yet achieved, although the prominence of information in war has been growing rapidly.

Non-lethal Warfare (NLW). This outlook of warfare without casualties still depends upon technologies and ideas for their use. NLW adds a new dimension to warfare where death and destruction is optional. Incapacitating personnel and material become the focus whilst damage to society and the environment is limited. One matter that remains important, however, is the effort to minimise the loss of human lives-an outcome without lethality and one that leans towards the non-violent and more constructive use of armed forces.

Insurgent Warfare: A new Warrior Class? Wars of low intensity have become important structuring variables of future warfare. One view holds that as states are increasingly able to fight one another and forfeit control over armed coercion, leeway is allowed for the low intensity conflict (LIC) paradigm. This lower end of the spectrum harbours warfare between state and non-state entities with the latter operating in the asymmetric mode. A longer-term future facing military leaders is located in the State disappearing and non-state entities (now named terrorists, guerrillas, bandits and robbers) rising to prominence - something akin to the fourth epoch outlook of non-Western ideas on warfare. These groups (now viewed as irritations) are judged to assume more formal titles in future and to become future peer-type competitors to states.

Insurgent Warfare: The Rise of Network Insurgencies? Certain difficulties emanate from this lower end of the future conflict spectrum. New non-state entities and organisational structures, such as warlords, gangs, and drug cartels can organise into sprawling networks more readily than hierarchical armed forces. Future insurgencies are also judged to assume network-centric features and in this new wave format, are bound to include new actors with fuzzy profiles. Politics, crime, cartels and syndicates come into play to be reconfigured as networks through organisational and related doctrines, strategies and technologies to assume an independent insurgency as demonstrated by the Chiapas in Mexico.

Warfare through Terrorism: The Rise of Virtual Networks. Future terrorism is emerging as an autonomous way to operate while shedding the idea of territorial dependence. In this manner insurgency is extended to that of a future network beyond territorial confines by its assuming a virtual mode for a new generation of terrorists. A network-based movement becomes a supranational arrangement that ignores State guidance and inhibitions on how it operates. It is not restrained by a popular support base nor is it accountable to State institutions or their constituents, but is dependent for success upon the exploitation of the features of globalisation, eg technology, international transport and telecommunications. Networked terrorism avoids the entrapments of accountability and legitimacy and, on account of its character, is prone to establish its own rules of engagement and Laws of War. To this effect, Al Qaeda is masking itself behind a networked sanctuary and exploits virtuality as a refuge. It thus combines the non-Western and high technology line of thinking about future warfare.

**Concluding remarks**

Given the African agenda, African military leaders face a strategic environment that is underpinned by two important dynamics: first, amidst calls to terminate the military policy option, the legitimate and more constructive use of military forces by African leaders has to be mastered before one assumes that destructive wars can be toned down and eradicated. Secondly, for as long as their political leaders falter in removing the illegitimate and destructive use of military coercion, African military leaders are depended upon to contend with and contain its repercussions. These repercussions unfold as an array of sophisticated or crude warfare modes employed by an extended range of new actors.

(Continued on page 38)
The political responsibility to use armed forces responsibly is underpinned by the skills of military leaders to cope with the outcomes, whether constructive or destructive, through professional leadership. The growing defence architecture of the African Union calls for quality leadership with military leaders fast becoming one of its indispensable pillars. For military leaders to contribute to the vision of an African landscape devoid of war presupposes the art and skills to operate within uncertainty and simultaneity brought about by the technology-information-ideas interface. This challenge is to be met by a renewed look at the education, training and exposure of African military leaders to bridge the divide from a war-torn to a warless African landscape.

Sources consulted:

Reducing the gap for essential skills

By CPO Dennis Ndaba
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Service Corps Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) was instrumental in equipping 56 members of the Department of Defence with lifelong credit bearing skills. A certification ceremony to reward the 2005 Learner Group for their toil and sweat was held at CAT in Atteridgeville on 7 December 2005. The learners completed national certificates at the National Qualifications Framework Level 2 in the following learnership fields: welding, mechatronics, servicing vehicles, autotronics, electrical engineering and as tourist guides.

The Chief of the Service Corps, Maj Gen Kenny Mokoena, said the training of these young men and women was consistent with the Minister of Defence’s directive of adding value by imparting essential skills to reduce the gap. The Chief Director Army Force Preparation, Maj Gen Paul Ramahlo, added that at this juncture of transformation we were shifting from the old way of thinking to the new way of progress, peace and democracy.

Maj Gen Ramahlo said that the SA Army was engaged in the task of acquiring skills to perform its core business. He reminded the graduates that technical skills needed constant practice and urged them to go and use their skills for the social development and upliftment of their respective communities. The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, thanked the German Advisory Group for their contribution, support and for making CAT a resounding success. He added that the training, infrastructure and the level of accreditation make CAT one of the finest training institutions in the DOD.

“We will build on the solid foundation with vigour, but the departure of the Germans will leave a vacuum. Make sure that this is not a white elephant. You have succeeded in imparting skills to our people. Be prepared to take more responsibilities and select the best instructors in the DOD, even if they are hiding behind a desk at Defence Headquarters, to make CAT a success story,” Lt Gen Matanzima said.
Educational tour to Durban

The Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Level 1 to 4 students and personnel from ASB Potchefstroom before leaving on their educational visit to Durban.

The Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Level 1-4 students and personnel from ASB Potchefstroom went on an educational visit to Durban from 19 to 23 September 2005. This was a huge success and many students had never been out of the Potchefstroom area or beyond the borders of North West Province. Most of them had never experienced places such as an aquarium, museum or even the sea. For a number of them, it may also be the last. The learners were accompanied by Ms Hannah Dreyer, an ABET facilitator, who made all the arrangements.

According to Ms Dreyer one of the specifications of the unit standards of these levels is that various field trips in the eight different learning areas should be introduced to learners. With the regular ABET programme of the ASB, however, there is not enough time for learners to discover and study environmental issues as required for life orientation and human and social science subjects. Ms Dreyer felt that an educational tour to Durban would be a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn more about their environment and heritage. There are not enough words to describe the feeling of seeing these students when they see the sea for the first time. The satisfaction of just knowing that we did this was indescribable. All the students found it very interesting and the tour made the practical way of illustrating the different learning areas easier. The trip programme included educational outings to a crocodile farm, a snake park, a safari park, bird gardens, the Sharks Board and the Ushaka Aquarium. There was also a visit to a Zulu village where many of the Tswana students were exposed to the true Zulu traditions for the first time. Recreational and leisure activities included a visit to Mini Town, Fun World and a trip to the beachfront with its riksha rides and hundreds of flea market stalls along the beach. The students found it very informative, because this is part of human and social science. The holiday of a lifetime ended with an unforgettable sea cruise on the Sarie Marais pleasure boat. It took us into the harbour where all the different ships were being loaded and offloaded. This was very educational because we were shown diesel being pumped into the ships and how ships were being offloaded. For Ms Dreyer it was a life-changing experience to share the joy of the few days with her students. For the students it was a time of relaxation, enrichment and team-building. Ms Dreyer expressed her gratitude to the unit for making the excursion possible. “I also want to thank you for your support during the planning and organising of this trip; be sure of it: you helped us to make a difference in these people’s lives. The students were accommodated at the Salisbury Island Military Base and transported in a military bus. Ms Estelle Venter from Joint Training in Pretoria did a wonderful job helping us put it all together,” said Ms Dreyer.

Above and beyond the call of duty

By Capt Lebo Lebese, Medical Officer Dept of Anaesthetics, 1 Military Hospital

When deployed on a mission or simply away from home one will inevitably miss the familiarities and conveniences 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. As anyone can attest, a single bad meal or being hungry can make one miss home terribly. The chefs in the officers’ mess at Basoko Base in Kindu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) made sure that we never had the opportunity to complain or even miss home. It is impossible to please all the people all the time, especially when we come from different backgrounds, have special dietary requirements and limited resources. Despite these difficulties they went above and beyond their call of duty to 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 even at home, let alone in the mission area. I salute Sergeant Major Bremmer and his team for a job well done and for consistently going above the call of duty to ensure that everybody was comfortable. The team set a high standard of service delivery, which would be envied by any organisation.

As our members work to establish political mandates in Africa, we must thank all who make peacekeeping pleasurable and contribute to making Africa a better place for all who inhabit it. Let us follow their example and take our duties seriously and show pride in our work!
High morale in the SANDF is vital

By Prof Dr Johan Ras,
Chaplain Insele Commando

In the SANDF morale can be defined as the mental, emotional and spiritual state of our soldiers. It is how members feel - happy, hopeful, confident, appreciated, worthless, sad, unrecognised or depressed. More precisely, it is the determination to succeed in the purpose for which they are trained or for which they exist - whether as part of a stick, section, platoon or company.

Morale is the most important single factor during times of peace, but especially during war. A soldier with high morale is a person who is confident, resolute, willing, self-sacrificing and courageous and who will do more than what he or she must do - no matter what the task or demand. This is especially important when you are in the Special Forces, an aggressive patrol or reconnaissance group.

An individual with high morale shows pride in the achievements and aims of the group and simply believes that what he or she is doing is right. There is no room for doubt, uncertainty or hesitation. A person with high morale is focused, determined and is driven by his or her objectives (task oriented). During times of war soldiers who reveal high morale will simply keep on going and will move forward towards the danger zone and enemy, through their lines, and will keep maintaining the momentum as long as the order exists to proceed.

Soldiers with high morale have faith in their appointed leaders and devotion and loyalty to other members of the group. In fact, loyalty, discipline and commitment are special features that reveal that a state of high morale exists among members. Persons who are characterised by having high morale walk the proverbial second mile. During the time of the Roman Empire a Roman soldier could just tap any civilian with his sword on the back, indicating that the civilian was forced to carry the soldier’s equipment for one mile.

Committed and highly disciplined men and women certainly will double this mile without any complaints. When you reveal high morale you will continue and to go on as an individual because you know you are not alone, but part of a bigger group whose success depends on your individual performance, commitment and dedication.

It is the challenge, job and responsibility of especially the chaplain in the SANDF to see that the individual soldier develops, reaches and maintains high morale - no matter the background and quality of the soldier in front of him or the given circumstances or context in which we operate. To achieve this the chaplain must have an in-depth knowledge of people and what soldiering is all about. Chaplains must be able to change the minds and perceptions of those without high morale. Soldiers who are not spiritually well and healthy simply cannot fight effectively and win a
battle. They also cannot operate effectively and perform peace operations or any daily activities. A soldier’s mind must be sound as well as his heart and his soul. The soul is, in short, the seat of the soldier’s personality. It can also be seen as the door that leads to the conative (will), cognitive (mind) and affective (emotions) components of every soldier.

To influence and persuade people to higher levels of performance, service delivery and esprit de corps, chaplains first need to change the mindset of people (their cognitive aspects). Once the “head” (the will to succeed and to do things) has been changed you must convince him or her to make the cognitive commitment part of his or her “heart”. Once somebody is motivated intrinsically (voluntarily from within), then the “hand” will start to do what is required to be done.

All religions in the SANDF reveal certain universal truths that emphasise issues that are building blocks to achieve high morale. To care and to share, to love, to show mercy and compassion, to assist and to help others, to smile and motivate, to support and lead through example, are all issues that every soldier needs to take seriously and must make a part of himself or herself in order to reveal high morale.

From a psychological point of view morale is simply the psychological forces within a combat group that impel or drive its members to fight. It is the capacity of any group of people to pull together consistently for a common purpose. An organised group has high morale when it performs consistently at a high level of effectiveness. Every soldier does what is expected of him or her and he or she believes that each and every other member of the group will do the same. Mutual encouragement is common and the few who do not comply with the objectives of the group will feel and experience pressure from the others to comply.

When there is high morale the successful completion of each task is not a surprise, it is expected. Members with high morale develop a sense of identification with each other, they develop pride in their unit, become conscious of their reputation and take pleasure and pride in what they do. Most definitions about high morale include factors pertaining to the individual and secondly those involving the group. The group cannot reveal high morale if every individual that forms the building blocks of the group is not a committed performer. In the long run, one rotten apple certainly influences and affects the whole pocket. Morale can also be described as the enthusiasm and persistence with which each member of the SANDF engages in the prescribed activities of the group.

During World War II military psychiatrists were confronted with about 929 000 neuropsychiatric casualties. The main characteristics of the soldier with a combat induced neurosis (state of anxiety) were that he or she had become a frightened, lonely, helpless person whose interpersonal relationships had been disrupted. He or she had lost the feeling that he or she was part of a powerful group and, instead, had become a lonely and frightened person whose efforts to protect himself or herself were doomed to failure.

It is said German soldiers were not driven by ideological forces, but by their group relations. When a soldier is supported by his or her immediate group members and all his or her basic needs are met, and when he or she is experiencing affection and esteem from both officers and comrades, then all elements of self-concern that can lead to disruption are minimised. In other words, a caring and supportive group environment creates high morale among soldiers that will keep and hold them together in times of war or crises. Korea and Vietnam have taught us the importance of buddy relationships and group bonding where interpersonal relationships need to develop in order to “glue” members together in order to achieve military objectives.

In the 1980s the US Army started to implement cohesion development by introducing the Unit Manning System in which they moved soldiers from an individual basis to one based on units of up to company size. Commitment among members must be built - it is not something that automatically exists. The chaplain plays a vital role in creating, maintaining and developing a “spiritual man or woman” within every soldier, so to speak (by way of illustration), something that has been formed through “building blocks” such as sharing, caring, commitment, discipline, determination and all other factors that lead to high morale. The presence of high morale among members leads to a strong esprit de corps which will contribute successfully to achieving any military objective.

When high morale is present among members in the SANDF then the military performance of members is better and faster. Think how many millions of rands can simply be saved when military operations are simply short and sweet (successful and effective) because “we went in and finished the job!” High morale creates a strong self-confidence among members and leads to proud satisfaction that the group has done it. Chaplains must tackle seriously the challenge to motivate and inspire members to achieve high morale - even if it means that they have first to break down those things that they regard as stumbling blocks in achieving this desired state. Our authority is not primarily based in the lines forming the pyramid - it originates higher.

Soldiers with high morale need to be disciplined, committed, high performers and people who are eagerly following the military objectives as set by our leaders. Simply put, high performing soldier is a soldier who goes when you say “Go”, he or she comes when you say “Come”, he or she stays when you say “Stay”.

We cannot compromise by lowering our standards when it comes to high morale. In war we fight to survive. In times of peace, we prepare for war. Now is the time to prepare high morale. Now. The time to fight will come. In some parts of the world it has already started. The lion cannot afford to die. It must remain the king of the jungle. iNkosi enkululekile.

MARCH 2006 • SA SOLDIER
Caring for one another

Article and photo by Nelda Pienaar

Members of the SA Army Intelligence Formation extended a hand of friendship to the disadvantaged communities around Gauteng and Potchefstroom at the end of last year. The members visited various places to donate clothes and food parcels. African Defence Systems (ADS) was the main sponsor.

The members first visited the elderly at Promosa Happy Harts Old Age Home. A female representative of the old age home thanked them for their loyal support and service. She said that their welcome visit always gives them "woema". Then she added that nothing could disturb them because they were safe in the hands of their soldiers. Before leaving for the next destination Brig Gen M.A. Kula, General Officer Commanding SA Army Intelligence Formation, said that this community project was started five years ago. "We are borne by you and our elder citizens. ...Thank you for your support."

The Director of the crèche, Ms Elmarie Hattingh, welcomed us to the second pit stop, which was the Amaphella Kids Hospice in Promosa. She said that they had a difficult financial year, and a burglary. "The thieves did not even leave a teaspoon to feed the children!" said Ms Hattingh. They had to send the children home. Luckily, they had insurance and purchased a better home in town to which they will be moving soon. Ms Hattingh also said that unfortunately the little girl who sat on Brig Gen Kula’s lap the previous year had passed away in June. That was her last Christmas. Everyone was touched by the terrible news. Nonetheless the little children were singing and demonstrating while singing beautiful songs to us. Most of them wore a yellow T-shirt with "Wela-ka-pela" printed on them. They were all very excited when Father Christmas, S Sgt Bongele Mqadi from the School of Intelligence, brought them presents. During his short speech Brig Gen Kula said: "We lack role models. What is wrong with criminals taking from needy children? They are our future leaders. Only God knows, money will not give you Heaven." He encouraged the personnel of the kids' hospice to keep up their good work.

From there we went to Ikageng Day Care Centre for the Aged. There we were welcomed by a very energetic seventy-year old lady, Mrs Susan Lethule. It was her birthday and each of us received a cup cake with a candle to celebrate this special day with her. She was born and bred in Potchefstroom. Mrs Lethule also invited the members of Kopanang Old Age for her birthday. That meant she combined two pit stops into one for us!

Then we arrived at the Bophirima Crèche in Ikageng. There the children entertained us with songs such as "January, February, March..." and "ABC...Z". Lt Col René Mercuur, the Officer Commanding 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment, told the children that they were the leaders of the future, and then it was time to hand out their presents. "It is not everyone who runs a crèche. It is a calling," concluded WO2 Zanele Maseko, the Communication Officer SA Army Intelligence Formation, during the visit to the crèche.

Our last pit stop was at the Serelatlhe (meaning don’t throw us away) Service Club for the Aged. The Chairperson, Mrs Dorothy Tsiamo, said that it was the first time that soldiers had visited them. She said that the service club provided food for the elderly while they were waiting to receive their pensions in this building. They started the service club in 1998. Brig Gen Kula said: "The Bible says: 'Help those who help themselves.' We soldiers decided to come here to give you fuel to go forward with your good service. This friendship must go from strength to strength," concluded Brig Gen Kula. Then the women sang in beautiful, clear angelic voices... which concluded the visits.

The following day the invited elderly of Promosa and Ikageng enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas lunch at 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in Potchefstroom.

Brig Gen M.A. Kula, General Officer Commanding SA Army Intelligence Formation, and the children from the Amaphella Kids Hospice in Promosa.
Secure the Child, Secure the Future

By Pte Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Thlhaole

It was a special day for children at the SOS children’s village in Mamelodi when members of the DOD paid them a visit on 7 December 2005. The theme of the day was “Secure the Child Secure the future”. This village caters for orphans and destitute children from all backgrounds from the age of 1 to 22 years.

The visit was arranged by the SSO Gender Focal Point, Col E. Langa, together with the Gender Forum, which comprises members from each Service and Division. The aim of the visit was to raise awareness in the DOD of the link between violence, abuse and homelessness.

On arrival at the SOS children’s village Mr Jacob Skhosana, the SOS representative, warmly welcomed members of the DOD. He briefed the visitors from the DOD about the activities conducted by the SOS and proudly gave a short historical background to their village. He said that SOS was a non-governmental organisation (NGO) established 52 years ago in Syria by Ahmed Gamainer who was a World War II orphan.

SOS generates its funds from different donors. Forty percent comes from individual donors, 20% comes from government social grants, 20% comes from Corporate South Africa, and companies that lend a helping hand are Ford, BMW, Daimler Chrysler, KFC and Putco, and 10% comes from the International Office.

The SOS children’s village in Mamelodi is a social development organisation. It provides care in a family environment to destitute children and supports the local communities in social, educational and community upliftment programmes. Mr Skhosana mentioned the challenges they were facing: to bring change to the lives of the children, and to develop the sense and the will to succeed. He requested professional help from the DOD to provide them with counselling, career guidance, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses and doctors.

An achievement of the SOS has been that the village has a child and youth development co-ordinator responsible for the children’s development. They work together with the University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand. Some of the children from the SOS were attending courses at these institutions during school holidays. Healthy living is encouraged and they offer love-life programmes. The village is in partnership with other government departments, such as the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Labour and the Department of Safety and Security.

The SOS offers computer literacy courses accredited by Damelin, and sowing and knitting courses approved by the Department of Labour and the SABS. They have produced intellectuals, of whom a good example is Tinto Seotlodi, an orphan from the SOS who graduated from the University of Cape Town and obtained his Masters Degree in Economics in June 2004. He is currently employed by the Old Mutual Head Office in Cape Town. Another good example is Lizo Tom, a singer who has travelled to Sweden and this year has been to Japan to promote himself in his musical career. He is currently studying music at the Ochrim School of Music in Pretoria.

All Services were represented and members shared their words of wisdom with the children and encouraged them to strive always for the best and have goals in life.

The children entertained their visitors by singing, cheering and dancing. The visit ended with a presentation of gifts.

Well done to members of the DOD for their support for and recognition of the orphans and destitute children of South Africa. It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire life to forget them. Children are like flowers; we should prepare the soil for their growth.

Children and staff of the SOS children’s village in Mamelodi with their visitors from the DOD.
Phenomenal Musical Geniuses

By Pte Arnaus Rakoma
Photo: Cpl Lebogang Thlaole

On the beautiful night of 25 November 2005 a gala concert was hosted by the Gauteng SANDF Choir supported by the SAMHS Band and the NCG Entertainment Corps at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall in Pretoria. To top it all the three soloists: Cindy Nontshinga from the National Ceremonial Guard, Priscilla Malefahlo, a learner from Phelindaba High School and Vuyelwa Matiwane from the Department of Science and Technology (CSIR) enchanted the audience with their angelic voices.

The Programme Director was Cpln T.E. Masweu from 43 SA Brigade. In a short speech the chaplain said: “Music is the vehicle that distinguishes the uniqueness of a nation among the nations of the world and music feeds our souls, nourishes our hearts and relaxes our minds.”

The Gauteng SANDF Choir, which was conducted by the charismatic Cpl Thabo Matiwane, impressed the audience with their beautiful voices when they sang their popular songs: Ndikhokhelo Bawo, Mintiro, Sutha re bone, Dinaledi, etc. The audience was also entertained by good sounds and rhythms from the SAMHS Band which showed their worth with a good musical display when they played Call me Al, Christmas Festival, Plea for Africa, etc.

Lt Col S. Mawela-Gaye, CEO of the Gauteng SANDF Choir, said: “The choir was formed in June 2003 and was established by Sgt N.T. Fuzile.” It has performed at memorial services, funerals, unit functions and parades, and took part in the interdepartmental choral music association competition in which it won three trophies in 2004, when it came first. In 2005 the choir participated in the same competition and won two trophies in coming second.

The concert ended with a few songs by the Gauteng SANDF Choir and the SAMHS Band, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The audience sang along enthusiastically. The loud applause and smiles on all faces was an indication that everyone enjoyed the event, with its great fanfare of dancing, singing and cheering.

Ackermans assists Curamus

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: Cpl Lebohang Thlaole

Curamus Association, established in 1990, has only two employees who are permanent, while the rest are working on voluntary basis for the love of it. SA SOLDIER was invited by Mr Rassie Erasmus from Curamus to the Mall @ Reds in Centurion to receive clothes and other articles from Ackermans at the mall.  The donation will go to veterans and their families in the Eastern Cape, where Mr Erasmus is currently working on a few projects. The Curamus Association is an organisation caring for veterans with disabilities and their dependants. It not only cares for persons with physically disabilities, but also for veterans with social disadvantages. Most of Mr Erasmus’ time is now spent in the Eastern Cape where he gets much needed help from Col Tshaylisi, Officer Commanding of 14 SAI Bn in Umtata. The latter assists because he can penetrate communities that Mr Erasmus cannot reach. Most of veterans with social disadvantages lost family and belongings when they went into exile. Thus they had to start afresh in life, often marrying young wives, which resulted in old men having very young children, and in many cases they could not even provide for their families. Curamus operates on donations received from Lotto and Casual Day, among others. It also sponsors wheelchairs for persons with physically disabilities. All donations go to the people, and all administration costs are covered by money the association has invested. Today Ackermans did its good deed for the day!
2005 SANDEF Sport Merit Awards

By Lethube Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthshongwana

SA SOLDIER was invited to witness the sportsmen and women of the SANDEF being honoured for excelling in sport. The glittering Sports Awards function was held at SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 23 November 2005. Sportsmen and women from all around the country were there to be honoured for their participation in their different sporting codes. Brig Gen Aubrey Phehelelo Sedibe, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, gave the opening address. In his address he praised Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, for the exceptional work he did as Surgeon General and as the Controlling Authority for Sport, before handing over to Lt Gen Vejayand Ramlakan, the newly appointed Surgeon General. He formally welcomed Lt Gen Ramlakan as the new Controlling Authority of Sport, and said: "We together with you, as the SANDEF sporting community, are committing us to work hard in order to produce a combat ready Force".

Brig Gen Sedibe said that to prepare for such a prestigious event takes a lot of hard work and requires dedicated people to pull succeed. Before the wonderful event could commence Brig Gen Sedibe and the guests observed a moment of silence for SANDEF sportsmen and women who had passed on during 2005. Then traditional dancers from Mabopane, with their rhythmic moves, wowed the guests. Then it was time for our sporting heroes and heroines to be thanked for exceptional participation in their different sporting codes. As most had expected the sports code of the year award was scooped by none other than the SANDEF cricket team.

After the awards had been presented, it was time to enjoy some meticulously prepared meals, while listening to the SANDEF Choir and the opera singers of the SANDEF National Ceremonial Guard.

From railway line to Samil

By Mrs Nicky de Ru, Com Officer DOD Mobilisation Centre

Aiming to communicate the willingness and ability of the Department of Defence to serve the community, the Officer Commanding Department of Defence Mobilisation Centre, Col Elvis Mathaba, hosted the destination venue for the Spoornet Children’s Train Project on 11 November 2005. The Spoornet Children’s Train forms part of the annual fundraising projects of Child Welfare Bloemfontein and Childline Free State. The train departed from Bloemfontein Station with 800 children from Bloemfontein and environs at 08:30. The train arrived at Olienhoutplaat Station at 09:30, from where personnel of DOD Mobilisation Centre transported the children in Samil vehicles to a facility in the unit. The children were entertained with various activities and the day concluded at 14:00 with a barbecue. The DOD Mobilisation Centre is committed to serving the community by extending a hand of friendship. The success we have achieved with communication projects of this nature proves that the DOD has the resources to ensure that a positive image of the organisation is received in local communities.
Love and Peace

By Col (Dr) Johan Dill,
SSO Spiritual and Moral Support

Many people in this day and age would argue that love and peace are old-fashioned values that do not fit in today’s world. Today only the toughest and fittest will survive and this has little or nothing to do with love or peace. Just a scant browsing through the stories that make the news columns today would seem to confirm this point of view.

However, I should like to present a different view. Not only do I believe love and peace are possible today, but I believe true life is not possible without love and peace. This is not always evident in the dramatic, scandalous and alarming stories that reach the news headlines, but if we take time to listen to ordinary people around us we will find many examples of positive living, because the main ingredients are love and peace.

True love and peace of course emanate from God. Let me try to explain with the following example. Imagine a man is sound asleep. His wife, who has been away for a very long time, returns unexpectedly in the middle of the night. She gently approaches his bed, bends down and awakens him. The awakening is exquisite, not just because it is tender and caring, but because it awakens in him the love of the one that has awakened him.

God, the Eternal Lover, comes to us in the same way and bends down to us to awaken the same love in us that He has for us. The eternal love of God could not bear to see us living in ignorance, or sleeping in unawareness, and so God comes to awaken us to his eternal love for us. By doing this God wants to teach us the deepest secret of quality living.

Yes, I do agree that the perfect love of God is not possible for us human beings. Yet, I find it is better that people love badly and imperfectly than not trying to love at all. God does not need perfect instruments to spread his message of love. Our task is to keep on trying to love and to be faithful in our continuing attempts to love. Also, the real test of my loving is not that I feel love, but that the other person feels loved by me. Love is what I do to create this sense of feeling cared for.

A living example was the type of loving care Mother Theresa demonstrated in the poverty-stricken city of Calcutta in India. Through her loving care the city could be transformed to what she called "the city of God", where her acts of extravagant love touched peoples’ lives in such a way that it created peace and hope for true living. Let’s learn from her and especially from God, the Eternal Lover, not to become tired of spreading the main ingredients of life everyday - love and peace.

Scriptural reference:
Matthew 5:9 - "Happy are those who work for peace, God will call them His children!"

Colossians 3:14-15 “And to these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.”
Our first **Spot the Ball** winner

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana  
Photos: Cpl Lebogang Tlhaoe

Cpl Hlengiwe Zikalala from the SA Army Headquarters, a big fan of SA SOLDIER magazine, was announced as the first winner of the *Spot the Ball* soccer competition of SA SOLDIER. Congratulations!

Mr Vuyo Zambodla, the Head of Communication, drew the winning entry at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 7 February 2006.

SA SOLDIER paid a visit to Cpl Zikalala’s house in Thaba Tshwane to hand over her winning prize on 9 February. She was on sick leave recuperating from an operation, as her tonsils had been removed.

“I am so happy I don’t know what to say,” said an overwhelmed Cpl Zikalala, a mother of three children, on receiving her prize.

She urged fellow soldiers to read SA SOLDIER, because it was an informative and educational magazine.

The awesome winning prize, sponsored by TOTAL SA, consisted of one cooler bag, one tog bag, one backpack, one all-weather jacket, one golf shirt and one sports cap.

Readers, ensure that you get next month’s edition of SA SOLDIER to enter our second *Spot the Ball* soccer competition. Viva - FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament!
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