Department of Defence uplifting our youth
Letters: feedback from our readers

New Year’s message:
Minister of Defence

New Year’s message:
Deputy Minister of Defence

New Year’s message:
Secretary for Defence

New Year’s message:
Chief of the SANDF

Gone,
but still alive

Our sailors
returned from Burundi

Remembrance Sunday
in Johannesburg

SA Army Seminar

SAN TV scooped first prize
at international film festival

Young soldier
honoured

Together
we can

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come together as one

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battlefield trauma

Phidisa
expands

How to manage HIV and
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Exercise Young Eagle
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First black General Officer
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Operations Seminar

Helicopter causes
deaf kids to hear

A gentleman’s
sport

Blind cricketer
competed in Pakistan

Loyalty is a
jewel worth wearing

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FRONT COVER: Children of the Louis Botha Orphanage with Maj Lauren Pipes, a pilot at 17 Squadron, and Cpl Samson Masilela, airspace control, before enjoying a helicopter flight. Read all about their special day on page 40. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)
From the Editor's desk

A Soldier wishes all our readers a prosperous New Year. May 2007 be all you wish it to be!

In this issue we reflect on some of the members who did our Department proud towards the end of last year. SAN TV scooped the first prize at an international film festival. Col Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, was presented with the Metropolitan Eastern Cape Award for Leadership. CO Arend Hoffman received the President’s Award for Youth Empowerment (the Gold Level Certificate). Congratulations to them all! Please read about their remarkable achievements on pages 18, 20 and 21.

In the sports arena our athletes also excelled. Our blind cricketer competed in Pakistan (read page 43). Our golfers did it in Ireland, at the 3rd CISM World Military Golf Championships (see page 45).

On 1 December 2006 World AIDS Day was marked by a variety of events held simultaneously all over the world with a single common theme: “Let’s all take a moment to look HIV/AIDS in the eye”. Phidisa seized the moment to unite against AIDS by officially opening its 6th Phidisa site in Ba-Palaborwa in the Limpopo Province. Read all about the expanding of Phidisa on page 27.

Do read the New Year’s messages of our principals on pages 10 to 13.

I should like to remind our readers that the next SA Soldier edition you will receive will be the March edition, although in February you will receive our very popular calendar for 2007.

We end this edition on a sad note: we at SA Soldier would like to convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Lt Gen S.Z. Binda. Please remember you are in our prayers and thoughts during this difficult time. Please read the tributes of the former Chief of Joint Operations on pages 6 and 14.

New Year’s greetings.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

Ho tswana ho Mohlophisi

A Soldier e laketsa babadi bohle ba rona Selemo se Sejha sa kateleho. Ha 2007 e be sohle se le labalabelang hore e be sona!

Kgatison ena re sheba morao ho lekola ditho tse ileng tsa etsa lelapha ba rona motlotlho ho ya mafelong a selemo se fetiling. SAN TV e ile ya ikgapela moputo wa pele Festivaleng ya Matjhaba ya Difilimi. Kol Nontobeko Mpaxa, Ofisiri e Laolang Army Support Base Port Elizabeth, o ile a fumantsiswa Kgau ya Boetapele ya Metropolitan Eastern Cape. CO Arend Hoffman yena o ile a fumana Kgau ya Mopresidente bakeng sa Matlatatsi ya Batjha (Setifikeite sa Boemo ba Kgauta). Mahlohonolo ho bona kafoela! Hle bala haholwanyane ka kateleho ya bona e kgolo maqepheng a 18, 20 le 21.

Sedikadiwegeng sa dipapadi, baatlelele ba rona le bona ba ipabotse. Mmapala krikete wa rona ya foufetseng o nkile karolo ho la Pakistan (bala leqephe la 4). Borakolofo ba phomeletse ho la Ireland, Ditlhodisanong tsa Kololo tsa 3rd CISM tsa Sesole sa Lefatshe (sheba leqephe la 45).


Bala melaetsa ya Selemo se Sejha ho tswa ho baetapele ba rona maqepheng a 10 ho ya ho 13.

Ke rata ho hopotsa babadi ba rona hore kgatiso e latelang ya SA Soldier e tla ba ka kgwedi ya Thakukobe, le ha kwana ka Hlakola le tla fumantsiswa almanaka ya rona e ratwang haholo bakeng sa 2007.

Re phethela kgatiso ena ka moleaetsa o bohloko: re le ba ha SA Soldier re rata ho fetisetsa kutshweboholoko le mafeselo a rona ho ba lelapa la Lt Gen S. Z. Binda ya seng a re siile. Hopolong hle, hore le dithapelong tsa rona le mohapologong ya rona nakong ena e basula. Ka kopo balang ka tsu bophelo ba Hlooho ya mehlong ya Joint Operations maqepheng a 6 le 14.

Ditumediso tsu Selemo se Sejha.

(Translated by Lebohang Mathibela)

Nelda Pienaar
Mohlophisi

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
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**Tribute to our hero: the late Lt Gen S.Z. Binda**

We, 4 SA Infantry Battalion, are currently deployed in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We want to take the opportunity to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Lt Gen Sipho Binda, our hero, our military father and my mentor.

I can recall in 2003/4 I informed you of shortages of equipment and the challenges we were facing with the ex-combatants. You’ve worked with us through the challenges shoulder to shoulder and together we won the battle. You surprised me with the cow the ex-combatants demanded. Even the Minister of Defence was impressed when I conveyed this message to him.

You have altered the most famous words to your children of 4 SA Infantry battalion: “You are here deployed externally. As ambassadors of your country, each of you sitting here is busy writing history, even your own history. One day you must look back and be proud of your achievements, or you can fall along the road and throw your family name away”.

Thanks for the extra mile you have walked with us. We appreciate the fact that we had a soft spot in your heart. You mentioned on our final parade that “Men, you don’t have to worry, you have a very capable leader”. Thanks for the trust and this external deployment in the DRC. MONUC will be dedicated to you, Sir. On the completion of our mission, after six months, you will smile from the heavens above, because we are going to make you proud.

Lt Col Barney Klaasin, OC RSA Bn (4 SAI Bn)

* SA Soldier would like to convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Lt Gen S.Z. Binda. Please read the tribute of the former Chief of Joint Operations published on page 14. - Ed.*

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**Research done via SA Soldier**

In the September 2002 issue of SA Soldier, you published an article on the African Union (AU). Thereafter another two articles appeared in the October 2002 and November 2002 editions. Our children are very interested in obtaining copies of these three articles for a project that they have to do at their school. However, we cannot find these three issues of SA Soldier. We would like to know if it is in any way possible to send us these copies? Lt Col J.U. vd Westhuijzen, Malmesbury

* Thank you for your keen interest in our magazine. The three copies are being posted to you. - Ed.

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**Women’s service in the South African forces**

I am doing research for a book I want to write about women in uniform in the South African armed forces through the ages. If you know of anyone who served in the South African armed forces at any time (Air Force, Army, Navy, Medical Services, WAAF, etc) please pass on their details via my email address. I have already done an article on the women in aviation in South Africa, but any information is welcome. The book will cover the history of women’s service, and will include personal accounts. Former SAAF member, email

* Readers who can assist Anne Lehmkuhl can contact her via her email address: ZAFamilyHistory@gmail.com - Ed.*

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**Corporal embodies Ubuntu**

This letter is meant to convey our appreciation of the humane and exemplary civic duty required of the Public Service personnel as exemplified by Corporal X.L. Ntshangase. On 20 October 2006 I lost my wallet with all its valuable contents in the parking bay of the Pick ’n Pay at Heidelberg, and to my great amazement it was found by Corporal Ntshangase who perused the contents to see if he could get a possible lead as to the owner, which he found and immediately called to inform me.

I was really impressed by this, as I was myself oblivious of the loss until he called me, and the more so, because on the same weekend I was on my way to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of the South African Election Observer Mission in that country, and I could only imagine the terrible inconvenience of not having had the necessary and important transactional and business cards had he not alerted me and ensured that I received them back. It is his concern for the losses of others that needs to be commended and I hope that he can extend the same to others far less fortunate than myself. He is indeed a true patriot imbued with the requisite civil spirit and is an embodiment of Ubuntu, something which is sadly lacking in others within the Public Service.

Mr D.K. Maluleke (MP), Whip: ANC Study Group - Environmental Affairs and Tourism

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**Thanks for support in Eastern Cape**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, your Ministry and your Department for the integral role you are playing in assisting the province to grow and develop. Your continued visits to the province and your commitment to service delivery in the Eastern Cape have been lauded in all quarters - from the smallest communities in Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma. Thank you for helping me and my colleagues to deliver on our promise of “a better life for all”. Without your continued support for local, district, provincial and national initiatives we would not be where we are today.

I look forward to seeing you again in the province. Mrs Nosimo Balindlela, Premier Eastern Cape
International learners enrol in Potch

During their course the Botswana members had the opportunity to enjoy a formal dinner introducing them to the SANDF way and culture. Fltr: Sgt B. Morsetha (Botswana Defence Force), Sgto M. Gagomogwa (BDF), Col V.D. Ntlokwan (OC School of Tactical Intelligence), Sgto C.D. Monametsi (BDF), WO1 C.P. Appelgryn (RS School of Tactical Intelligence) and S Sgt A. Mpaphadzi (BDF). (Photo: Cpl W.P. Myburgh)

Family Day bridges differences

The annual International Family Day at the Joint Services Command and Staff College at Shrivenham in Swindon in the United Kingdom took place on 18 November 2006. The event was organised by the international students and their families. It provided an opportunity for the students to learn more about the countries and customs of their fellow students and to meet the families in a friendly, fun atmosphere. The students and their families were encouraged to play music, to prepare their national dishes and drinks and to display them. Members of the Defence Advisers’ Office in London assisted Lt Col Gabriel Katane, currently the only student at the College, and his wife, Henrietta, with the preparations for the event.

The South African table was very popular and the merry South African music encouraged many of the visitors to join the team in dancing to the music. Col Riaan Louw, London

The team that did all the work, fltr: S Sgt Mandy Strauss, Military Attaché Assistant, Mrs Katane, wife of Lt Col Katane, Lt Col Gabriel Katane, Ms Therinia Strauss, daughter of S Sgt Strauss, and Ms Lindiwe Poswa, the secretary of the Defence Advisers Office. (Photo: Miempie Louw)

Best leader with leadership qualities

As a member of the National Defence Force, I am proud to state that the current Officer Commanding, Col N. Mpaxa, is the best leader, with all her leadership qualities.

I have worked under her leadership at the ASB Port Elizabeth. She does not fear to voice what is true. She leads according to our Code of Conduct. She is not influenced by the soldiers’ former forces. I am not writing this paragraph to impress, but to encourage other leaders to follow suit. More important, I never received an opportunity to be an officer because of my age, but under her leadership I got an opportunity and although not successful, something nevertheless happened.

I am a tertiary student who would like to complete my degree, because for the SA Army and the SANDF to recognise me I must have a degree. Leaders need to appreciate the abilities and/or efforts made by some members. Cpl K.T. Liwani, Port Elizabeth

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ATE adding value to SA Soldier

ATE, as a South African Registered Private Company, is honoured to be regarded as one of the major Defence Industries in South Africa. As such, ATE has committed major company resources to make the AAD 2006 Show at AFB Ysterplaat a truly special occasion. ATE wishes to thank your magazine sincerely for the coverage given to ATE prior to and during this prestigious show. ATE furthermore wishes to supply information to your magazine as and when new developments get launched within ATE. As I am responsible for Business Development in the Company, I would wish to be a recipient of your magazine on a regular basis and wish to enquire whether either a free or paid subscription could be arranged. It would be appreciated if you could notify me how such could be arranged. Thanking you once again for the positive ATE coverage.

Mr Lorris Duncker,
Director Business Development (ATE)

* We welcome you on board as a contributor to and reader of SA Soldier. We are looking forward to receiving military related news from you. - Ed.

Col Godschalk retiring after 27 years

On behalf of all environmental personnel in the DOD, we would like to say farewell to the oldest serving environmental member in the military, Col Seakle Godschalk. He will be leaving the Department at the end of 2006 after a colourful career of 27 years, first as a National Serviceman in the early 1980s and later as a Permanent Force member. For the first ten years of his career he was not staffed and was already a Commandant in 1989 when a post for an environmental officer was approved for the first time. Up to that time he was the only permanent environmental officer, and was assisted by scores of suitably qualified national servicemen. In 1990 other Permanent Force officers were appointed, and of this initial number only Commander Adriaan Liebenberg still serves in the DOD.

Under his thorough direction, Environmental Services developed from nature conservation and base beautification into the fully-fledged function that it has today, incorporating cultural resource management, environmental education and training, and environmental planning. During this time he also initiated the highly successful Annual Environmental Awards Programme. Since the shift to Military Integrated Environmental Management (MIEM) in 1992, there have been a number of achievements, including the launch of the video We Manage with Care, the inclusion of land and environmental issues in the White Paper on Defence and the Defence Review and Col Godschalk’s appointment as Co-chair of the Environmental Security Working Group under the DeCom with the US. Other highlights include the adoption of the 1st Edition Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) for Defence, the development of the concept of Environmental Considerations in Operations (ECOps) and his coining of the phrase Green Soldiering in 1996. During his service he completed all the required military courses. At the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) his research topic was: Waging war over water in Africa - the conflict potential of water scarcity. He also represented the Department on numerous committees and was invited to various international conferences to address the international community on a range of environmental issues. He was also instrumental in arranging the first global conference on MIEM held in Pretoria, which was attended by 120 delegates from 26 countries in 5 continents.

Col Godschalk will be joining the private sector as an environmental consultant, specialising in environmental accounting. Good luck to you in your future endeavours. We hope it will be as rewarding and enriching as the last 27 years. Your direction, advice and friendship will be sorely missed by all.

Cdr Adri Liebenberg, Pretoria

The Gift from God

How can I forget the bona fide true leader of this country. I am very happy and proud to congratulate Chaplain Ngesi, an angel, a true leader that we had in our contingent to the Sudan over the period 28 October 2005 to 26 April 2006.

A man who believes in himself and the truth.
A man who is on the ground level with his subordinates.
A man who consoles those left behind by their loved ones.
A man who believes and trusts God.
A man who heals the wounds of those who are injured.
A man who has confidence in himself and his subordinates.
A man who believes and sticks to the Constitution of this country.

Congratulations Chaplain Ngesi - God will give you what you deserve. God bless you!

L Cpl M. Ketelo,
1 Military Printing Regiment

Grateful reader

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to the SA Soldier magazine’s editor, the editorial team and its committee. Since this magazine began, I have always been informed about everything relating to my Service and the other Services. I am very proud of being a soldier in South Africa. Forward with the good work.

Spr E.X. Mothisi, Lohathla
Be what you want to be

Dream what you want to dream. Go where you want to go. Be what you want to be, because you only have one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.

Every morning when I wake up I look outside my window and see a new day and only I can determine what kind of day it will be. It could be a rough, lousy day. It can be sunny, boring, unhappy or cold, but my state of mind is the key determinant, for I am the person I let myself be.

Actually, I would like to send out a message to all my fellow colleagues in the SANDF, in fact everyone in uniform, about this habit of killing themselves or any form of killing.

I am a firm believer that all of us to a very large extent are truly masters of our own health, happiness, success and destiny in life, simply by the thoughts we think, the words we speak, and the actions that we take.

Comrades, never forget where you were, where you are and where you want to go. In the battles of life we fight to win, not to lose. However, not all successes are victories and not all failures are defeats, but people, let us be strong.

Life is much like writing in ink. All you can do is read over, pass and look forward to a blank page. Life is like shooting rapids with rocks: you may fall and either be hurt by the rocks or you can use them as stepping stones. We often tend to forget that when you hit rock bottom, the only way is to get back up!

I count the person braver who conquers his or her desires than the person who conquers his or her enemies, for the hardest victory is the victory over oneself. Remember, we have only one life and one chance to do what we want in life.

Comrades, if you have a problem, discuss, speak out, talk about it to anyone next to you, then maybe you will get the solution. Talk to social workers, chaplains, line managers, section heads and even a friend. Tell him or her. Do not keep your problem inside. Do not be scared to speak out. The world outside is full of surprises. Failure is what we cry over. Pain is what we grieve over. Dreams are what we go after. Goals are what we want to achieve. Success is what we are rewarded with for all we have been through.

I have been through so much this past year, but thank God the social worker of Waterkloof Air Force Base, Lt Nyoni, helped me to overcome it. I thank her, may she continue with her superb service, even to those who are scared to speak out. Lt Nyoni, I know sometimes it is not easy to intervene in certain problems, but your friendly and professional service of a high standard did work for me.

People, let us share our problems. I am sure that we can overcome them. Talk about your problems; leave the guns, ropes and knives alone.

F Sgt Mxolisi Botya, Waterkloof AFB
We have reason to be

The Deputy Minister and I have great pleasure in greeting you at this time of the year - the time of celebration of the Festive Season and the welcoming of the New Year.

Many presents will be exchanging hands during this period and families will be meeting and celebrating together in an atmosphere of happiness and relaxation.

2006 has been a relatively successful year for the Department of Defence (DOD) and it seems a number of the problems we have had are beginning to get solved. However, much still has to be done and achieved!

When we addressed the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) at the beginning of 2006 we deliberated on the State of Readiness of the DOD to implement its mandate. We asked the question: "If we say we are ready. Are we ready to do what?"

This question challenged the DOD to embrace a new way of looking at things: at programmes, deployments, etc.

We also introduced the concept of "relevant readiness". We said "ready" for the sake of being seen to be busy and not yielding any tangible results is not what the nation is expecting from us. In other words, we called for a paradigm shift in the way we do and view things.

A number of people embraced this outlook and this reflected itself in the way new ideas, concepts and programmes were introduced. Sadly, however, it does not seem that this paradigm shift has been institutionalised within the Department of Defence. This introspection and interrogation of our state of affairs seem to be something that belongs to the Ministry and not the Department as a whole. This has to be pursued vigorously in 2007.

The elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has given our region a new hope and strengthens the President’s and Commander-in-Chief’s State of the Nation Address that in 2006 our country has entered its "Age of Hope". The holding of successful elections in Burundi also testifies to the fact that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is and has been the "midwife of democracy" on our continent. This was further evinced by the successful elections in the Comoros and Madagascar in which the SANDF played a pivotal role. This is a cause for celebration as part of our festive activities, and all of us have every right to pop champagne to these achievements!

The commissioning of SAS ISANDLWANA - following soon after SAS AMATOLA - and the opening of Air Force Base Makhado as the training school for the Gripen fighter aircraft also fall into the armoury of our achievements. Let the critics of the Special Defence Packages (SDPs) eat a humble pie as we celebrate these achievements. It was with a source of glee and pride that members of the Portfolio Committee on Defence (PCD) sailed off the Cape Town harbour into the sea to experience what the corvette was capable of achieving - and they were not disappointed! They experienced our State of Readiness - relative and relevant readiness!

Our Department also continued...
proud of ourselves

We wish you a prosperous New Year!

...to make strides in terms of transformation. During the course of 2006 a number of Blacks were promoted to officers’ ranks, especially from warrant officers to captains and majors and a significant number of women of various race groups were promoted during the present financial year to the rank of brigadier-general.

The introduction of pilot instructors from Zimbabwe at the Central Flying School Langebaanweg - working hand in hand with our own people - has contributed to the improvement of the numbers and success rate of cadets who come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. A number of cadets received their wings on 7 December 2006. In 2007 we expect to qualify twelve women pilots, half of whom are Black.

The SA Navy also promoted a number of women and a few were given command of ships. The successes achieved so far by the South African Air Force (SAAF) and the South African Navy (SAN) were mainly due to the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) through which we were able to recruit quality trainees who will contribute to the rejuvenation of the SANDF and also to address the issue of representativity.

We have cause to be proud of this achievement as it represents the success of our transformation agenda and a defeat of those determined to keep this country a prisoner of the old order.

The DOD continued making progress with regards to the empowerment of military veterans and the preparation of our soldiers for civilian life. We are hopeful that with the restructuring of the Human Resource Division we shall be able to improve on our re-skilling programme.

The last part of 2006 has been very difficult as a result of what seemed to be a sustained siege from the media reporting on various issues that reflected weaknesses in our systems. We will continue to work on these and seek to eliminate qualifications from our Audited Financial Statements. This will only be achieved if all of us commit ourselves to have a clean audit, to improve on our monitoring and control systems, and to improve on our governance structures so that we achieve deeper accountability.

As we go about celebrating the Festive Season and welcoming the New Year, we need to remember our fallen compatriots and to pray for their families to gather strength in the light of their lost ones. We need to continue to observe and to continue to preach and observe non-violence against women and to ensure that we *Arrive Alive* wherever we go.

We, therefore, remember and salute the late Lieutenant General Sipho Binda and all those whose souls have departed us and those women and children who have been victims of violent behaviour and abuse.

We wish you and your loved ones an enjoyable and happy Festive Season and prosperous New Year.

*Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence and Mr Mluleki George, Deputy Minister of Defence*
Persist in measuring our performances

It gives me great pleasure to write the 2007 New Year’s message for the SA Soldier. As Accounting Officer and Head of the Department of Defence (DOD), I would like to use this opportunity not only to give a broad overview of the DOD’s performance against predetermined objectives for the 05/06 financial year, but also reflect on some of the successes and challenges that confronted us during the period under review.

As many of you will be aware, Government sets its Programme of Action and cluster priorities within the Medium-term Strategic Framework. During the January and July Cabinet Makgotlas respectively, Government outlined its strategy and plan of action against which we must measure our performance.

In line with our strategic objective of support to the people of South Africa was the assistance rendered by the DOD during the local government elections. One of the highlights of this period was the importing of the rotor, which was brought to South Africa in the SA Navy vessel, SAS DRAKENSBERG, for the Koeberg power station to provide electricity in the Western Cape. The DOD continues to play an integral part in supporting the Government’s foreign policy initiatives through its peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Sudan, Côte d’Ivoire and Ethiopia. The first and second rounds of the elections in the DRC were successfully held with the assistance of our men and women deployed there.

I am also happy to report that we have made significant strides with many of the Parys Resolutions. The Update of the White Paper and the Defence Review were approved by the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) and presented to the International Relations, Peace and Security (IRPS) Director General (DG) Cluster. We envisage presenting it to Cabinet and Parliament in the first quarter of 2007, and will commence with the roll-out of the balance-scorecard at the end of 2007. The Defence Work Group (DODW), tasked with organisational restructuring, completed its work and the macro-organisational design and the new management bodies await ministerial approval.

I am happy to report that the new performance incentive system for levels 1-12 has been approved and personnel who duly qualify for merit bonuses will be rewarded accordingly before the end of the 06/07 financial year. Having approved the performance incentive system, the challenge that lies ahead is to ensure that it is aligned to the achievement of predetermined organisational objectives. I urge managers to ensure that performance bonuses are managed effectively, without bias, to enhance performance and service delivery. However, the year was not without challenges. One of the challenges we continue to face is the qualified financial statements by the Auditor-General, which highlight the lack of controls and compliance with the policy and legislative framework. In order to address this problem we have embarked on ‘Operation Clean Audit’ to ensure that we receive a clean audit report in the next reporting cycle. Let me hasten to add that there are obviously ‘quick wins’, and these qualifications and an emphasis on matters that will require a medium and long-term strategy to address them.

Secondly, many are now aware that in the past few months we were bombarded with stories in the press that sought to portray the Department negatively, particularly regarding the equipment allegedly lost in our peacekeeping operation in Burundi and the conduct of our troops in these operations. The Minister and I have responded to these allegations and have sought to clarify and refute allegations, many of which are extraordinarily malicious.

During November last year the DOD was deeply shocked by the sudden, unexpected death of the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Sipho Binda. I trust that the Binda family will find strength and comfort in this difficult time.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all members of the DOD, and in particular the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, and the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, a prosperous 2007.

Mr January Masilela
Secretary for Defence
Upholding the image of the SANDF

The year 2006 was marked by a number of momentous events and achievements. Thank you to those members whose outstanding behaviour and performances have contributed to the successes of the South African National Defence Force.

During 2006 the SANDF has yet again proved that it is capable of executing successful missions as ordered by Government. By consolidating our resources we achieved optimal preparedness and the Reserve Force contributed well as an integral part of our forces. The rejuvenation of the human resources continued, with the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) feeding 4,569 young, healthy members into our system. The DOD Youth Foundation Training Programme again provided suitable candidates for the scarce skills musternings.

During 2006 the SANDF has integrated more of the Strategic Defence equipment into the Services. Two of our Valour Class MEKO A-200 frigates, the SAS AMATOLA and the SAS ISANDLWANA, were commissioned into the SA Navy and our first submarine, the SAS MANTHATISI, arrived in April. The SA Air Force received the first ten British Hawk Mk 120 lead-in fighter trainers, while the first Gripen fighter aircraft arrived from Sweden. Twelve Augusta-Westland A109 light utility helicopters are now fully operational at Air Force bases around the country.

SANDF members who have been deployed externally in support of United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) peace missions served in Ethiopia and Eritrea, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Sudan and Côte d’Ivoire. The AU’s Head of Mission, Francisco Madera, commended our forces for their professional performance during the presidential election in the Comoros in May. SANDF personnel ensured credible multi-party elections in the DRC and they again assisted with the presidential run-off elections in October.

Plans to establish the Southern African Development Community Standby Brigade (SADCBRIG) are now at an advanced stage. The integration of peace support operations doctrine into the African Union framework during 2006 is a definite step forward.

As planned, the SANDF continued its withdrawal from internal operations. Training remained a priority and during 2006 our Navy and Air Force participated in a combined force training exercise with German forces off the Cape coast. The SA Army’s Exercise SEBOKA enhanced conventional capabilities. Sixteen countries attended the first-ever International Warrant Officers Conference in Bloemfontein, with the National Conference of Women in Defence being a definite highlight. The International Blast and Ballistic Trauma Conference allowed 250 national and international military and civilian medical experts to share information on the saving of lives. More than 400 exhibitors from 25 countries participated in the Africa Aerospace and Defence 2006 exhibition held in Cape Town.

2006 was a challenging, but also a fruitful year. The SANDF has done extremely well in spite of budget constraints. However, the negative publicity we received as a result of ill-discipline and negligence is unacceptable. Let us uphold the image of the SANDF as a professional, well-trained force.

Sadly, Lt Gen Sipho Binda, the Chief of Joint Operations passed away last year. Lt Gen Binda was an exemplary soldier and a great strategist who will be sorely missed.

Please continue with the fight against HIV/AIDS through the Masibambisane campaign and Project Phidisa.

Thank you for supporting me in 2006; I wish you the best for 2007.

General Godfrey Ngwenya
Chief of the SANDF
Gone but still alive

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The late Lt Gen Sipho Binda (may his soul rest in peace) is probably one of the South African soldiers that members of the defence industry and SANDF members will not forget. Yes, he has been buried but he remains alive in the hearts and minds of many, especially those who were close to him.

On the day of the memorial service, 22 November 2006, the hall was packed to capacity. Speaker after speaker shared moments they had spent with the departed gallant soldier at home and in exile.

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, members of the defence industry, SANDF members and the family of the deceased gathered at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall in remembrance of the life and times of the late Lt Gen Sipho Binda. Minister George advised young soldiers to learn something from the departed Lt Gen Binda because he had sacrificed a lot for the struggle. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, described Lt Gen Binda as a “revolutionary soldier” who served with pride. The National Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of the National Prosecuting Authority, Mr Vusi Pikoli, said death has robbed them of a loyal servant of the country.

The funeral service of the late Lt Gen Binda was held at Vista University on 25 November 2006. He was buried with full military honours at Avalon Cemetery in Soweto. He is survived by his wife (Irene), son (Nhlanhla), daughter (Nokululeko), and three grandchildren (Nkanyezi, Nolwadele and Amadla).

Not only those who were close to him will miss him, South Africa and world leaders who knew him will miss him too. SA Soldier and the Department of Defence acknowledge and appreciate all the tributes and/or condolences expressed.

Hamba Kahle Vilakazi, Binda, Mphephete!
Our sailors returned from Burundi

Article and photo by PO Denzyl Williams

In the beginning of 2006 the SA Navy deployed a maritime contingent of approximately 65 sailors to Burundi to assist the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) in peacekeeping operations.

On 2 November 2006 the contingent returned home from Burundi and was met by the Director Maritime Warfare, R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, who represented the Chief of the SA Navy. He welcomed the contingent back and expressed how proud South Africa and the SA Navy were of them and that they did our Department proud once again.

The Admiral commended the behaviour and discipline of the contingent, as there were very few incidents that needed to be addressed through the Military Discipline Code. He also highlighted how important it was for the SA Navy to play a role in operations, such as the Burundi peacekeeping operations because of their importance to our continent, especially in the Great Lakes region.

Speaking about his experiences in Burundi, AB T.D. Makouholola said that he enjoyed the deployment operationally and socially. He said for him it was an excellent opportunity because they were the last SA Navy contingent to be deployed to Burundi, and for him to be part of such a history for the SA Navy, the SANDF and South Africa at large made him a proud South African.

In his last words to the group R Adm (JG) Higgs said: "You must be proud of what you have done. Go back to your communities, churches and families and tell them of this great experience that you have achieved through the SA Navy for the history of South Africa."

R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, Director Maritime Warfare, with CPO S.K.N. Govender, who was one of the Coxswains in charge of the harbour patrol boats and the namacurras.

Assisting Mozambique learners

By Mrs G. Bezuidenhout, Service Corps

The assistance of the South African Department of Defence with the skills development of members of the Mozambique Defence Force who need to be integrated into society has resulted in bilateral negotiations between the two departments.

The Service Corps was identified by the South African National Defence Force to assist the Mozambique Defence Force with skills development and the establishment of a vocational and agricultural training centre in Chingodzi in the Tete province of Mozambique.

The Service Corps is ideal for these tasks due to the experience it has as a redeployment agent of the South African Department of Defence. The Service Corps is an institution focusing on the skills enhancement of persons eligible to become empowered, employable and self-sustainable in society.

Owing to the urgency of the Mozambican Skills Development Project, coupled to its economic revival, the Service Corps was obligated to utilise the Organic Farm Group and Tshwane South College to assist in this venture. The training of the Organic Farm Group will consist of a full agriculture instructors’ course for 22 members, followed by a (practical) second phase on site at Chingodzi.

Staff of the Organic Farm Group will mentor this phase. The Tshwane South College will combine its resources with that of the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) to provide for technical and construction training of 44 Mozambique trainers who will complete their first phase in December 2006. They will return to South Africa in January 2007 for phase 2.
Johannesburg paid tribute to all the heroes and heroines who lost their lives in war and armed struggles for freedom, democracy and peace in South Africa at the Cenotaph on 12 November 2006.

The year 2006 marked the 86th National Remembrance Sunday Service. The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Amos Masondo, hosted the occasion as Patron of this national event. Participants included the SANDF, Freedom Regiments of the City of Johannesburg and military veterans.

Since the inception of the war memorial in 1926 the Cenotaph has always been the place where the National Remembrance Sunday Service has been held. In 1996 the City of Johannesburg rededicated the memorial to all the war and freedom heroes and heroines.

The service commenced with a march-past by a military band, the SANDF and military veterans. This was followed by a solemn wreath-laying ceremony conducted by senior SANDF officials, ex-service organisations, civic dignitaries and diplomatic representatives. SAPS widows, orphans and youth groups were also given an opportunity to pay respect to their fallen comrades.

On this day special tribute was paid to members of the SAPS killed on official duty, especially the shooting of four policemen in Jeppestown, Johannesburg, in June 2006.
In the ancient Egyptian desert on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea lies the battlefield of El Alamein where three main cemeteries bear witness to fierce battles fought during World War II. Nowadays the region is frequently visited by international tourists to the El Alamein Military Museum and the Commonwealth Cemetery, the German Cemetery, the Italian Cemetery and the Greek Memorial.

More than 60 years have passed since the bitterly fought battles of World War II and very few of the survivors have ever been able to revisit this area to pay homage to their comrades.

The annual Commemoration Service is held on a rotational basis. The United Kingdom co-ordinated last year’s ceremony on 20 October 2006. First a veteran from the battle laid a wreath, followed by representatives of the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian Armed Forces. Ambassadors or embassy representatives of all countries affected during the War then followed accompanied by their defence attachés serving in Egypt. After the official wreath-laying, family members who had made the journey to Alamein paid tribute.

As we planted the colourful South African flags in front of each of the 495 South African tombstones we were struck by the fact that the surnames of those brave men were truly drawn from all sectors of South Africa - possibly then the beginning of our Rainbow Nation?

Here in apparent desolation, those who died were remembered and admired for their courage by young and old alike, who read the names on the tombstones or on the walls of the Memorial. Here, a further 1 255 names of South African soldiers whose bodies were never found or identified, are recorded.

The Act of Remembrance is thus even more stirring: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn them. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."
One of the renowned classical military strategists, Carl von Clausewitz, once said it is essential to understand the kind of war on which we are embarking.

Academics and military practitioners from abroad and SANDF high-ranking officers met in Midrand at the end of last year to discuss and share information about the SA Army Vision 2020 seminar.

The theme of the seminar was "Security Challenges Shaping the Future SA Army: A Reality Check for SA Army Vision 2020". In his welcoming address the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, told the delegates that their active participation in discussions was of the utmost importance, as this added value to SA Army Vision 2020. The seminar was not aimed at discussing any documents written under the auspices of SA Army Vision 2020, but should be a military interpretation of world trend security aspects.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, who officially opened the seminar said the SA Army Seminar 21 was appropriate and relevant, and that through this seminar the SA Army would look more closely at the trends characterising future warfare so that we would have a better grasp of the threat patterns and wars our Army could be engaged in during the course of the 21st century.

"Through this seminar the SA Army, as the key custodian of our Constitutional mandate and military strategy, will seek to further consolidate their quest to be prepared at all times to defend and support the people and territorial integrity of South Africa and participate effectively in peace support operations," said Minister Lekota.

After opening the seminar, the Minister of Defence paved the way for the plenary session to begin. A variety of topics were discussed, such as internal, continental and global security challenges and the role that technology will play in future military operations in an integrated, joint, multinational, interagency and interdepartmental context, and reference was made to case studies and emerging world trends.

Comments from some of the speakers

Dr Martin Rupiya (Lt Col Ret) from the Institute for Security Studies making his point during the plenary discussions.

Dr Martin Rupiya (Lt Col Ret) from the Institute for Security Studies said his presentation "Conflict in Africa: Future Challenges" critically examined the limitations of military intervention in addressing Africa's chronic conflicts, while drawing our attention to strategies for sustainable post-conflict reconstruction.

Col John Hutcheson, Director Operations Army from the Australian Army, presented Australian Army operations in East Timor and the Solomon Islands: "In East Timor and the Solomon Islands the Australian Army has discovered that the modern battle space is complex, diverse, lethal and diffused regardless of the level of intensity," said Col Hutcheson.

Prof André Roux from the Institute for Future Research, University of Stellenbosch spoke about the "Guns versus Butter in SA: An economic Analysis." Two aspects of the guns versus butter debate were explored in his presentation. First, an analysis was undertaken of the forces and interrelationships that have shaped the linkages between defence spending and economic growth in South Africa. Secondly, the economic and financial implications of some degree of security co-operation in SADC were examined.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, intends on the basis of the successful first SA Army Seminar 21, to make this event a biennial event.
SAN TV scooped first prize at international film festival

The SANDF was formally invited to participate in, and attend, the 17th International Military Film Festival which took place in Rome in November last year. This was the fifth consecutive year that the DOD/SANDF participated in this festival/competition and it was a second for the SA Navy.

This is the only opportunity available to the DOD to show its military audio-visual capability on an international level, benchmark its products and initiate an international network with other countries' defence forces and their audio-visual sections.

SAN TV entered the DVD "South African Navy Diver’s Branch" in the Promotion category, as it was created as a communication and promotional tool to be used by the SA Navy Diver’s Branch for active recruiting of new divers among South African youth.

This year, 27 countries participated with 90 films in this prestigious event in seven different categories. As this competition is of a high standard, countries with a combination of advanced technology, excellent visuals and high budgets have a distinct advantage.

The SAN TV section under the leadership of Mrs Marianne Dirker worked tirelessly to provide the SA Navy Diver’s Branch with a high-quality, professional product (DVD). Working with a limited budget the dedicated team of SAN TV made a concerted effort to produce a DVD of which the SA Navy could be proud.

The prize-giving ceremony was held at Bracciano near Rome and the South African Military Attaché in Rome, Col Sue Falmer, attended on behalf of the SANDF/DOD. The SAN TV team believed that their DVD was of a high standard and that it had an excellent chance to win in its category and so they waited in anticipation for the results. In the end SAN TV achieved the first prize in the Promotion category for their DVD “South African Navy Diver’s Branch”.

The DVD has already been utilised by various recruiting facilities within the DOD, including the recruiting section in Cape Town (the Castle) and Pretoria (DPAC) and was well received. The DVD was recently shown at the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition held in Cape Town, with excellent and positive feedback.

In addition to this prestigious achievement SAN TV has also been advised by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) that the DVD "South African Navy Diver’s Branch" has been chosen as a finalist in the National Government Communicators’ Awards in the Ubungcweti category. The SA Navy’s SAN TV section is definitely going places …

The winning team, flr: Cdr Z.G. Sithole, WO2 G. Harman, Mrs V. Staack, Mrs M. Dirker and PO A. van der Merwe.
Young soldier honoured

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

Poverty is not an excuse to commit crime; I could have been a gangster or drug addict, but I chose to be an example to my peers to live a clean life.” These were the words of CO Arend Hoffman.

The former President, Mr Nelson Mandela, recently honoured him with the Presidential Award for Youth Empowerment. The President’s Award was founded in 1983 under the banner of the Golden Shield Award. In 1994 it was re-launched as the President’s Award with Mr Mandela as its Patron-in-Chief. The fundamental aim of the programme is to empower young people from all walks of life to believe in themselves, develop new skills, keep physically fit, be of service to others and to challenge themselves.

The award is divided into three levels. The Bronze level for those over 14 years, and the minimum period of participation to gain this award is six months. The Silver level (over 15 years) for which the period of participation is 12 months. The Gold level is for those over 16 years, and the minimum period is 18 months.

CO Hoffman joined the programme in March 1998 when he participated in the sport of hiking. “When I accomplished my first level I was informed after a week that I was chosen as the Best Bronze Level member in the President’s Award nationally,” said CO Hoffman. From there he started with his Silver level. “It was very nice; we integrated with lots of schools in the area. We did many joint programmes and activities, which really boosted my morale,” he added. For all his hard work and dedication CO Hoffman has been rewarded with trips to abroad. He was on an exchange programme for 16 days in Europe.

In 2003 he went to Kenya on another exchange programme. “After this African cultural exchange I realised that how many times do we question our surroundings. There’s so much we have here at home compared to our neighbouring countries, but we still complain of poverty while there are people who are suffering and struggling for survival. We must appreciate what we have,” said CO Hoffman who joined the SANDF in January 2006 as a Military Skills Development System (MSDS) member.

In 2004 he finished his Gold level and he represented South Africa in Hong Kong in September 2005. He felt wonderful and worthy of achieving this milestone, but his tasks did not end there. He had to do months of research and undertake tasks in different provinces before he could attend the International Global Event in Hong Kong. According to CO Hoffman this experience was the best moment of his life, which he would not trade it for anything else. He felt proud to represent his country as a young enthusiastic leader of tomorrow.

What is next for this enthusiastic youngster? “If I am accepted in Saldanha in 2007 I would like to promote the programme in our four Services and among the MSDS members and enrol them for the Gold level. We certainly will be promoting the name of the SANDF and showing other departments, the business community and others that the new leaders in the SANDF are really capable of taking this organisation to a new level,” concluded CO Hoffman.
Together we can

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Thahaole

“A leader is a leader through giving and contributing selflessly,” said the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, Dr Ihron Rensburg, during the keynote address at the 6th Annual Metropolitan Eastern Cape Awards 2006.

This auspicious occasion was held at the Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha on 18 November 2006. The award ceremony celebrated heroes and heroines, created role models and motivated the youth for action. On this day, daughters and sons of the Eastern Cape were acknowledged for the job well done. Sponsored by Metropolitan Life, the awards represent moments to reflect on people’s fragile yet significant attempts to play a role in the building of society.

Presented with the Metropolitan Eastern Cape Award for Leadership was none other than our very own SANDF member, Col Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Port Elizabeth. As the SANDF’s first female battalion commander Col Mpaxa made history as the first woman to command a military base. “I don’t believe it, but because I am standing here, I have to believe that it is really happening,” she said accepting the award.

With a 10 Year Service Medal and a military career spanning almost 20 years, Col Mpaxa said determination and hard work were the secrets to achieving command of an army base. “We in the military always think that because most of our time as members is spent in army barracks, South Africans don’t know us and are unaware of what we are doing.” Col Mpaxa also added that even though an award of this nature could only be accepted by a single individual, it should not be forgotten that awards were achieved collectively, through strong teamwork and understanding. The idea of establishing the Eastern Cape Awards was founded seven years ago. The awards go hand-in-hand with the “plough back campaign” and should influence young people to desire playing a more meaningful role in the development of a better South Africa.

Col Mpaxa shared centre stage with formidable achievers, such as Mama Epainette Mbeki, mother of President Thabo Mbeki, who was presented with the Lifetime Award for the contribution she continues to make in the economic upliftment of the underprivileged in her community.

Struggle stalwart, Ma Albertina Sisulu, was awarded the Legend Award for her lifetime fight for social justice and freedom. Her daughters, Beryl and Nonkululeko, accepted the award on her behalf.

To all the recipients at the Metropolitan Eastern Cape Awards 2006: continue to help shape the future of this great country!
Women of Africa come together as one

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

South Africa hosted the 5th African Women’s Peace Table Seminar from 27 to 29 November 2006 in Centurion, Pretoria. Invited to the conference were senior women officers serving in the SADC defence forces.

Hosted by the Department of Defence in collaboration with Safer Africa, the seminar focused on the state of gender equity in the SANDF. Entitled, “Gender Equity in the Defence Forces of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region”, the overall objective of the seminar was to facilitate the alignment of national policies and practices on gender equity with regional standards and benchmarks.

A partnership has started! It was a very special moment when the DOD Chief Director of Equal Opportunities, Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi, welcomed all the special guests, including delegates from the SADC countries, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the Presidency, the SA Police Service, the Correctional Services, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID).

On behalf of the co-host of the seminar, Safer Africa, Dr Monica Juma (Senior Researcher), commended the delegates for availing themselves of the first SADC Women’s Peace Table and emphasised that gender equality had become an international imperative. She touched on the envisaged outcomes of gender mainstreaming and the extent to which gender equity will improve on mandates and the reason for the existence of defence forces and how gender mainstreaming could add value. “We are serious!” asserted Dr Juma.

When the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, declared the second day of the conference officially opened, he noted that the timing of the seminar was crucial as it coincided with the 16 Days of Activism period.

Mr Lekota said that it was imperative to have more women play their roles in the defence forces of the countries of our region, adding that those present should help complete the promises made to South African women in the course of the National Democratic Revolution.

The Minister added that the African Union’s (AU) Solemn Declaration on Gender Equity in Africa adopted by the Heads of State in Addis Ababa provides for the pursuit of gender parity - a 50/50 representation of women and men in all AU operations and decision-making structures. Mr Lekota advised women to speed up the processes of implementing what would be decided at this meeting.

Shedding some light on how things have been happening within the AU, Ms Bineta Diop, the Executive Director Femmes Africa Solidarité, said the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) was exclusively male. “While the OAU was expected to tackle post-independent challenges by transforming Africa and being the force for positive change, it lacked the contributions of even one woman,” said Ms Diop.

“During the 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 (the Beijing Conference) we suddenly woke up. With the assistance of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and other UN agencies, the Beijing conference was used to bridge African
Delegates from the Zimbabwean, Namibian, Swaziland, Zambia, Lesotho defence forces attending the first SADC Women’s Peace Table.

women together in pursuit of a common cause,” Ms Diop added. “We thus waged our advocacy campaign to establish the African Women’s Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD). Mrs Kazibwe, the Vice-President of Uganda, was elected Chairperson of the Committee and I was made Secretary-General.”

“Regardless of obstacles we decided that the AWCPD would mobilise and become an efficient mechanism within the OAU. We needed to use strategies that would allow us to use the transformation of the OAU into the AU as an opportunity to push forward the agenda,” Ms Diop continued. “The AWCPD has been transformed into an advisory mechanism for the Chairperson of the AU Commission. In addition, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) has established a gender unit with a woman as the Head of the Peer Review Board.”

Detailing the good news and marking the milestones, Ms Diop said: “The Protocol to the AU on Human and People’s Rights adopted in Maputo in 2002 finally entered into force in November 2005. In 2004 we saw the successful adoption of the Solemn Declaration of Gender Equity in Africa (ADGEA) by African Heads of State”. Representing the Government, Ambassador January Bardill stated that South Africa women, both in the Presidency and in the Department of Defence, had spearheaded programmes that seek to assist women in conflict-ridden countries.

“In Burundi women have played a significant role in bringing belligerents to the table. The South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) has played a major role in facilitating dialogue between women from opposing camps,” Ambassador Bardill said.

“South Africa was at the forefront of the campaign to ensure that women were equitably represented in the International Criminal Court.

“In 2005 South Africa appointed its first female Deputy President. Overall there is a 43.33% representation of women in the Cabinet. Three women have been appointed as Office-Bearers in the National Assembly. They constitute 37.5% of Office-Bearers in the National Assembly. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of Committees for the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) are women. Twenty-nine (28.15%) women were appointed as Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul-Generals in 2006.”

Making her contribution to the first SADC Women’s Peace Table, the Senior Gender International Consultant UNIFEM (Nairobi, Kenya), Ms Monique Kande, said it was amazing how most of the time when the issue of gender arose people thought only of government, parliament, civil society and communities in general. They rarely think about women in the defence forces. “We know that the security forces play a critical role in our nations, but we do not ask about the situation of the women in the security forces,” Ms Kande alleged.

Bringing to the fore some of the critical, but not unique challenges to transformation, representatives from the various armed forces spoke earnestly and honestly. Delegates from the Armed Forces of Swaziland, Tanzania, Angola, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia and Namibia openly explained to the house all the challenges and obstructions to gender mainstreaming in their home countries.

In terms of the relatively high number of female senior officers in South Africa, the SANDF is, without doubt, well ahead of its counterparts. Essentially, the prevailing euphoria that binds all the SADC women representatives can be summed up in the notion: “No women, no peace.”

Maj Gen Motumi remarked that the above statistics only served as a stark reminder of just how much more work still had to be done. “I therefore urge each one of you to share your experiences openly and honestly about these matters so that workable strategies can be designed to enhance women’s role in the furtherance of the peace and security agenda. Let us engage constructively and build networks.”
Focus on battlefield trauma

Two hundred and fifty local and foreign delegates attended the International Blast and Ballistic Trauma Congress held at the Armscor conference facility in Pretoria at the end of September last year. Countries represented included Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Egypt, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation.

The purpose of the congress was to afford delegates the opportunity to interact with one another and to discuss on an international level the impact, treatment and prevention of blast and ballistic trauma in terms of both military and civilian casualties who are caught up in conflict situations throughout the world today. It furthermore allowed engineers, scientists, medical professionals and project officers an opportunity to learn how the rest of the world was progressing in this technological era.

More than 30 scientific presentations were made during the congress, which included blast and ballistic mechanisms of injury, blast trauma to the abdomen, pre-hospital management, robotic combat casualty extraction and evacuation, tactical combat casualty care and extremity trauma management of war wounds.

In his opening address the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, said: "Fortunately, South Africa has not been involved in any mine or non-accidental blast situations during the last fourteen years. This, however, emphasises the importance of learning from our colleagues who have been involved in these incidents more recently to keep our skills up to date."
"Mine and improvised explosive device (IED) awareness training is the activity that can have the most immediate impact on reducing the suffering caused by such weapons. Such training, coupled with education in self-aid and buddy aid for victims, has been shown to reduce greatly the injury and death rate.

"This needs to be followed by competent emergency care within the proverbial golden hour and effective evacuation processes. The need for proficient medical and nursing personnel receiving the casualty, maintaining control over bleeding and implementing definitive care cannot be overemphasised. I hope that this congress will benefit all the military medical services present to achieve this.

"During the past decade South Africa has established a well-defined national arms control and non-proliferation policy and control system that is embedded in legislation, for example the National Conventional Arms Control Act and the Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act.

"As a responsible member of the international community South Africa has also acceded to a number of international arms control and non-proliferation agreements, such as the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

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One person is either maimed or killed by a mine every 20 minutes.

"To limit these horrendous injuries South Africa is party to the Conventional Weapons Convention, which controls or prohibits the use of weapons with non-detectable fragments, mines and booby traps, incendiary weapons and blinding laser weapons.

"South Africa is also a signatory to the Ottawa Convention, also referred to as the Mine Ban Treaty, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. This Convention also requires signatories to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines, including mines currently planted in the soil, within a specified period of time.

"The SANDF strategy and concept of operations, which are aligned with government intent and policy, are clear - we will deploy and serve in Africa to promote peace and stability in our region. The much spoken about "African battle space" must now be analysed and defined so that it can guide our doctrine and the development of our weapons systems, our treatment regimes and our evacuation resources. We need African solutions and we must work towards the interoperability of armies in our region. Since 2003 the SANDF has become involved in central Africa on a significant scale. I am sure that this fact not only creates unique opportunities for our local industry, but also holds serious challenges in optimal combat casualty care.

"When users, like ourselves, specify our vehicle requirements for wheeled armoured vehicles we tend to lay down stringent specifications to meet our firepower, mobility and survivability requirements. Furthermore, we want this equipment to cost as little as possible and we always need it urgently.

"This is always a challenge to engineers and scientists and it is up to them to come forward with an affordable solution that is well balanced. By affordable I mean it is affordable throughout the life cycle of the weapons system.

"The tools available to scientists and engineers today are much more advanced than thirty years ago and vehicles are more optimised. The man-machine interface is better managed and soldiers experience better all-round protection in vehicles.

"When I look back into history at the South African vehicle designs, I realise that we have come a long way in the development of mine-protected vehicles. South Africa is delivering vehicles to various foreign countries, including the USA, Sweden and the United Nations. These products have contributed to the saving of many soldiers' lives.

"The SANDF is mindful and appreciative of the work done on its behalf by Armscor and industry. It is through design and a systems approach that acquisition and technology development for the SA Army were entrusted to the said parties as part of the trans-
"The motto of the South African Military Health Service summarises the purpose of this congress - We save the Brave. As medical personnel or engineers we are all here because we believe that we can contribute to saving the brave - be it an innocent bystander or weathered soldiers."

Increasingly, mines have shifted from being primarily a defensive, battlefield weapon, to being an offensive, strategic weapon. It is often aimed deliberately at civilians in order to empty territory, destroy food sources and create refugee flows, or simply to spread terror. Such use has been especially prevalent in internal conflicts involving insurgents or other types of unconventional forces. This is partly because of the limited financial and material resources of insurgent forces (mines are cheap), and partly because mines are particularly effective in terrorising civilian populations for political gain. However, governments and conventional armies have also practised mine use against civilian populations. Targeting civilians in this way is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, which explicitly bans such practices.

Maimed or killed by mines

Over the last sixty years anti-personnel mines have caused more deaths and injuries than nuclear, biological and chemical weapons combined.

The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 800 people are killed by mines every month, and another 1 200 are maimed: a total of 2 000 victims a month. This means that one person is either maimed or killed by a mine every 20 minutes. Most of these victims are civilians killed or injured after hostilities have come to an end.

Nearly a third of mine victims have at least one limb amputated. In the USA there is on average one amputee per 22 000 inhabitants. In Cambodia, one of the countries worst affected by mines, there is one amputee per 384 inhabitants. Angola, with one amputee per 334 inhabitants, has the highest rate of amputees per inhabitant in the world: about 1.5% of the population has been injured in mine or unexploded ordnance incidents.

Practical Demo

On the last day of the four-day congress a practical demonstration was hosted by Armscor at the Paardefontein Range.

The following technologies were demonstrated:

- SIIMA - Scientific Instrumented Impulse Measurement Apparatus - Measures impulse explosions of up to 8 kg
- LLST - Lower Leg System Tester - Measurement of the lower leg during landmine incident
- Casspir Mine Protected Vehicle - Demonstration of a typical landmine protected vehicle
- IED - Demonstration of a typical Improvised Explosive Device
- Mine Boot - Demonstration of the reduced effects of an anti-personnel mine on a lower leg
- Soft skin car explosion
- Casualty evacuation exercise

The main objective of the bomb disposal suit is to save the lives of operators whose job it is to go willingly into the most dangerous known blast zone and try to defuse or disarm potential improvised explosives.

Improvised explosive device

Mines are, however, not the only form of blast trauma. The United States has experienced severe casualties in Iraq, specifically from the new weapon of the day, viz improvised explosive devices or so-called improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These devices vary from a liquid petroleum gas cylinder with artillery shells tied around it and detonated from a distance, to massive truck bombs carrying tons of explosives. The United States has already lost 2 400 soldiers and almost 18 000 have been injured in this conflict, mainly due to blast and ballistic trauma.

These devices cause unspeakable suffering as they inflict appalling physical injuries, which often lead to amputation, severe disability and psychological trauma. Dirt, debris, metal or plastic fragments from the casing, vehicle and environment may be driven deep into the bodies of victims. Treatment is needed urgently, with surgical intervention close to the injury often the only life-saving option to control bleeding.

Surgeons who treat such injuries daily consider them to be among the most horrendous of war injuries and have expressed profound abhorrence at the effects and continued use of IEDs.

Suicide attacks, where the blast is caused by detonating explosives often wrapped around the body, have even more unique challenges. Shrapnel and bony fragments from the attacker in turnix to penetrate deep into often innocent bystanders.
A variety of events to mark World AIDS Day were held simultaneously on 1 December 2006 all over the world with a single common theme: "Let's all take a moment to look HIV/AIDS in the eye". Commemorated annually on 1 December, this significant occasion provides the perfect opportunity for the SANDF to participate in this universal event.

Phidisa seized the moment to unite against AIDS by dedicating site number six of the Phidisa Project to Ba-Palaborwa in the Limpompo Province. The great news is: Phidisa is expanding! This means SANDF members have evolved. To a large extent the growth of Phidisa demonstrates the extent to which members are now willing to participate in a more elaborate manner in the fight to curb the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS.

Proclaiming and announcing the 6th Phidisa site in Ba-Palaborwa, the Surgeon General of SAMHS, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, said that he wanted to use World AIDS Day as an opportunity to encourage those who remained negative and to salute the bravery of those who are living with the virus positively. Urging those members who are negative to stay negative, the Surgeon General said: "Our results show without any doubt that ARVs do save lives. I therefore ask you not to wait until you are very sick to seek treatment".

"You have our support, but we also ask you to help yourselves, live a proper and healthy life-style," said the Surgeon General, adding: "test early and test frequently." He also stated that before they begin to celebrate the fact that the HIV epidemic is under control, there was also an indication that more people with HIV were dying. "The dedication of this Phidisa site shows our commitment to improve the lives of these people and their families in all parts of South Africa," he continued.

Lighting the candle for the Age of Hope, an SANDF and Phidisa member and AIDS activist, S Sgt Philsisiwe Ntshangase, said she was lighting a candle for abused women, members who are living with HIV/AIDS, scientists working hard for a cure, our Government's HIV/AIDS campaign, access to ARVs for all and for all of us to support one another.

Seeking to understand fully the extent of communication work being done for this sort of occasion to be successful, SA Soldier spoke to Capt Sheila Senokwanyane, the Phidisa Communications Officer, who said that they engaged soldiers by talking to them before any site was opened.

She elaborated: 'First of all we visited all the units around the site and did some groundwork by marketing Phidisa. Our presentation was very unique in that we reminded members of how important life was, then we talked about health, then moved a step further to HIV and finally we introduced Phidisa.'

When it conducts work on the ground, Phidisa usually works in a group of three or more, comprised mainly of the principal investigator of a given area, a member of Masibambisane and a Phidisa Communications officer. "People should not be afraid of Phidisa, it is a benefit. Come forward and use it," Capt Senokwanyane said. In the near future new sites will also be opened in Ladysmith and Grahamstown.
How to manage HIV and AIDS in the military

By Dr Dhesi Achary, SSO Medical Services
Photo courtesy Milmed

Over the last 25 years the HIV and AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) epidemic has escalated worldwide to pandemic proportions. This pandemic has continued to highlight obstacles to progress in the global development agenda.

Of the eight key areas covered by the Millennium Development Goals, six, namely reduced poverty and child mortality, increased access to education, gender equality, improved maternal health and efforts to combat major infectious diseases are being undermined by high rates of HIV in many low and middle-income countries. Sub-Saharan Africa and, in particular, South Africa have experienced the most devastating impact of this epidemic.

Since the cause of AIDS was identified in the early 1980s, standards of treatment and care have evolved considerably, primarily in high-income countries. Yet, the human immunodeficiency virus has spread across political, social and economic boundaries much more quickly than have the clinical and public health responses that help curb the epidemic and its impact. Until recently, antiretroviral therapy (ART) was accessible only to the fortunate few, while millions were denied their fundamental right to benefit from the advances of science.

In recent years an international consensus has emerged on the need to fight HIV/AIDS with a comprehensive response, including treatment, care, prevention and impact mitigation. There has been a sharp increase in available funding for HIV/AIDS in low and middle-income countries, which has marked a new era in international public health. It focuses on providing access to treatment, care and prevention for the people most in need, despite poverty and other daunting obstacles. The collective efforts of many countries and their international partners have generated real momentum in scaling up HIV treatment and prevention.

In South Africa HIV and AIDS remain a major health risk and as such, is also a major health risk to the SA DOD. If the HIV epidemic were allowed to continue unabated in the military, it would inevitably have a negative impact on national security and the operational capability of the SANDF. The DOD would thus not be able to fulfil its mandate towards the Republic of South Africa.

The DOD, having realised this impact, developed a comprehensive approach to the management of HIV and AIDS, including the provision of ART. The approach, more commonly known as Masibambisane, is based on the seven generic disease processes of prevention, promotion, diagnostics, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care and research and development. It is important to note that prevention interventions remain the foundation of HIV management in the workplace and that prevention and health promotion should be integrated with treatment and care to ensure a disease management continuum that starts with prevention and ends with terminal/palliative care. There are various enabling and/or cross-cutting processes of governance, communication, stigma and gender, risk management, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation and cooperation and coordination that complete the strategic approach of the DOD towards HIV and AIDS management.

The vision of the DOD in this regard is to achieve a “healthy and HIV-free” military community. The mission of the DOD in this regard is to provide a comprehensive, multi-professional, multi-layered, military specific response to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on the operational capability of the DOD and all its officials, dependants and approved clientele. So in terms of equality, and to ensure a non-discriminatory environment free of stigmatisation, officials in the DOD living with HIV and AIDS must be treated the same as any other officials with a chronic, debilitating and life-threatening illness/disease.

The Cabinet instructed the Minister of Health on 8 August 2003 to plan for the roll-out of ARTs in the Public Sector. The South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), being the health care arm of the DOD, had to follow suit. The Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment Plan for South Africa is a significant milestone both as a health sector intervention and a socio-economic enhancement strategy. The National Department of Health (NDOH) has established extensive minimum guidelines for the achievement of comprehensive management of HIV and AIDS, which has formed the basis of the programme and plan for the provision of ART in the DOD.

The Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care, Management and Treatment Plan for the DOD is there-
fore in line with that of the NDOH plan. An important paradigm within which the plan is conceived and developed is the reality that singular problems, including HIV and AIDS, can only be addressed successfully in a context where the entire health system is simultaneously being strengthened and developed to adequately sustain equitable and quality care while promoting healthy lifestyles. The plan envisions significant investments to ensure that the highest available quality of care is provided to approved clientele of the SANDF in line with international and local norms and standards. The care and treatment protocols are thus based on international best practice.

The primary goal of ARV treatment is to decrease HIV-related morbidity and mortality. ARV treatment is aimed at ensuring fewer opportunistic diseases and other HIV-related illnesses, to increase the immune function as measured by the CD-4 count and to reduce the viral load to undetectable amounts.

ARV treatment is offered to any individual qualifying for such medication according to current policy. The infrastructure, human resource availability and capabilities of the Military Health Units may limit the availability of facilities that can provide such treatment, but it is envisaged that the SAMHS will maintain at least one such facility in every region.

Accreditation of ARV treatment facilities according to the minimum standards set by NDOH is crucial to ensure quality of care within the DOD. These standards include the following components:

- Standard facilities (physical) that are accessible and adequate, with reliable electricity and safe waste disposal
- Standard data reporting and management information systems
- Standard clinical services with regard to the capacity of facilities for diagnosis and treatment and referral systems
- Standard human resource capacity with regard to the on-site availability of particular categories of health care professionals (multidisciplinary approach)
- Standard human resource competency of on-site personnel to provide ARV care, management and treatment. Therefore specialist training in this regard is essential
- Standard diagnostic services available
- Standard pharmacy capacity to manage HIV treatment protocols
- Standard care and support services, including linkages to community support structures
- Standard access requirements to ensure patient accessibility and transport of patients, laboratory specimens and drugs/consumables

Geographical considerations have guided the establishment of ART facilities to ensure that all members of the DOD who qualify for treatment can access ART. The DOD provides ART through research and non-research sites. Six ART research sites provided through Project Phidisa have been established at 1, 2, and 3 Military Hospitals. Mthatha, Mubatuba and Ba-Phalaborwa which opened on 1 December 2006 to coincide with World AIDS Day. In addition, six other ARV roll-out sites have been accredited in partnership with the NDOH at 1, 2, and 3 Military Hospitals, viz Nelspruit, Potchefstroom and Durban. Ten more sites are envisaged for accreditation within a year to ensure wider access to treatment sites.

Healthcare professionals involved in the management of ARVs have received accredited training as sponsored by donor funding from DFID (ie from the British Government), in partnership with the University of Pretoria. To date approximately 150 healthcare professionals have been trained. Further hands-on practical training, updates and refresher courses form part of the ongoing professional development.

The objective is to address the acquisition of medication necessary to provide antiretroviral treatment to members and their dependants, including the cost of diagnostic investigations currently supported through donor funding by the US President’s Emergency Plan for HIV and AIDS Relief. However, funding allocated as a conditional grant by the SA DOD to combat HIV and AIDS is an indication of sustained commitment to fight HIV and AIDS and the accumulated cost in this regard will be transferred soon to the departmental budget.

All members are encouraged to visit their nearest military health unit sickbay, Phidisa clinic or ARV clinic to get tested and to know their status in order to access comprehensive treatment and support, including the provision of ARV treatment.

It must be noted that ARV treatment is not a cure for HIV/AIDS, but does improve the quality of life of an HIV infected person, which makes HIV/AIDS a chronic, manageable disease.
Exercise Young Eagle spreads its wings

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Army wrapped up its conventional capability exercises for 2006 with EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE at the De Brug Training Area near Bloemfontein from 5 to 24 November 2006. Similar exercises under various code names have been presented annually since 1996. The name EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE was officially approved in 2005.

The goal of EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE was the mastering of airborne doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures at tactical level during and independent airborne operation.

SA Soldier and other independent media attended the open day demonstration on 17 November 2006. The exercise was aimed at training the SA Army’s Airborne and Air Assault forces to enhance airborne capability and combat readiness. The code name EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE was chosen because most of the participants were Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members. Basically EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE was the culmination of the training of new recruits.

The exercise was commanded by Brig Gen Sipho Ms, GOC 46 SA Brigade. He said the design of the exercise was derived from the eventuality of a rapid airborne mobile assault over a distance. This capability would very valuable if the SANDF were urgently requested to assist in African Union (AU) peace support operations.

The members of 44 Parachute Regiment demonstrated live fixed wing assault landings and helicopter assault operations (fast roping) to local learners, members of the Office of the Premier of the Free State and other distinguished guests. The SA Air Force supported the exercise with their aircraft, such as the C130 Hercules fixed wing aircraft and helicopters (BK 117, Oryx and Agusta A 109 LUH). This was the first time that this light utility helicopter was used during an airborne exercise.

The highlight of the exercise was the historic moment when Pte Regina Mantoa Leburu (22), the first female soldier of the recent MSDS intake who passed the parachute training and became the first female soldier within the ranks of 1 Parachute Battalion to participate in this exercise. Pte Leburu from Mang-aung started her Basic Military Training at Oudtshoorn on 16 January 2006.

While she was in Oudtshoorn she volunteered to join the airborne soldiers at 44 Parachute Regiment. Asked why she wanted to join the paratroopers she said she liked the adventure and failed to understand why MSDS female members could not pass the parachute selection training if given the proper preparation. However, she wanted to prove that she could make it. She started the parachute course on 11 September 2006. It lasted until 8 October 2006, and she passed all her jumps and qualified as a fully fledged paratrooper. Approximately 834 recruits of the January 2006 intake participated in the exercise.

On the day of EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE it was her 10th jump from the aircraft. Asked how she felt about jumping, she said: “It feels great! I can do this every day now because I have a passion for it.” Pte Leburu’s current base is 1 Parachute Battalion.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, said that he was impressed with the overall success of the exercise. “It is refreshing to see young men and women giving their best and performing their tasks with zeal,” said Lt Gen Shoke.
At the Air Force Gymnasium, Maj Gen Frans “Lappies” Labuschagne officially handed over command as General Officer Commanding Air Command to Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe. On 15 November 2006 Maj Gen Mangethe made history in the SA Air Force as the first black General Officer to command Air Command.

Handing over of the command marked the conclusion of his 39 year military career. In his speech Maj Gen Labuschagne expressed his wish that he had done enough in the course of his career to add value to the future SA Air Force, referred to in Vision 2015 and beyond. Maj Gen Labuschagne has been the GOC Air Command since January 2004.

“We need quality recruits in the SA Air Force especially in the field of pilots,” said Maj Gen Mangethe after taking over the command. He urged parents to encourage their children to take maths and science as subjects at school so that they could become pilots and fighter pilots in the SA Air Force. Supporting what was said by Maj Gen Mangethe, Maj Gen Labuschagne said that the main challenge in the foreseeable future would be to ensure an affordable SA Air Force and one that would be comprised of sufficient people with specialised skills. “You will need to recruit the right people, provide them with an enabling learning environment and the highest quality of training, while taking proper care of our people to ensure their undivided loyalty and dedication,” said Maj Gen Labuschagne.
Conferring the freedom of Overstrand

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On Saturday 11 November 2006 Regiment Westelike Provincie was granted freedom of entry into the Overstrand Municipality by its Executive Mayor, Councilor Theo Beyeleveld, a retired Brigadier General of the SANDF. The parade was held in Magnolia Street in Hermanus. The annual remembrance parade, commemoration service and wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the fallen heroes who lost their lives in World War I were all held on that Saturday.

Reverend Michiel de Kock and Chaplain Steven Bredenhann of Regiment Westelike Provincie conducted the commemoration service, which was held at the Cenotaph at the Old Harbour where wreaths were laid. Members of Regiment Westelike Provincie and ex-servicemen (military veterans) took part in the annual remembrance parade and sentries were posted.

Of special note were ex-members of the Regiment, military veterans, members of the Overstrand Municipality, Brig Gen Les Fouche of the Infantry Formation as the guest of honour, Honorary Col Pat McLoughlin from the Cape Town Highlanders, local dignitaries and members of the public.

Councilor Beyeleveldt in his address invited every Overstrander to participate in the occasion. "Let's roll the drums, fly the colours and open our hearts to the protectors of our glorious nation," said Brig Gen (Ret) Beyeleveldt. The Regiment Westelike Provincie Band played and the unit members paraded through the streets where the Executive Mayor, the Municipal Manager, Mr Jan Koekemoer, Brig Gen Fouche and local dignitaries took the salute. Much of the excitement of the locals at this historic moment, were due to the armoured cars, and the Regimental colours were marched and displayed.

On accepting of the Freedom of Entry to Regiment Westelike Provincie, the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Steven Pierce, said that on behalf of Regiment Westelike Provincie he wanted to thank the Council and citizens of Overstrand for the honour you had bestowed upon us by granting the freedom of entry to the area of jurisdiction of the Overstrand Municipality.

Clockwise: Brig Gen Les Fouche from Infantry Formation, Mr Jan Koekemoer, Municipal Manager of Overstrand, and Brig Gen (Ret) Theo Beyeleveldt, Executive Mayor of Overstrand, taking the salute from members of Regiment Westelike Provincie during the Freedom of Entry Parade in Hermanus.

Members of Regiment Westelike Provincie presenting arms during the annual remembrance parade and wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph at the Old Harbour in Hermanus.
The Freedom of Entry Parade resulted from the tradition that started in London in 1769, when armed soldiers shocked the people by marching in the streets. As a result of this incident the minister of war agreed that military units had to get official permission from the city mayor to enter the city.

Only regiments which have been granted the Freedom of Entry to a city or town are permitted to march through the streets with fixed bayonets, colours flying and drums beating. This privilege is a symbolic token of trust placed in a specific military regiment by the civilian population.

On 11 November 2006 members of the Freedom Regiments Association of Johannesburg took to the streets of Johannesburg to celebrate the Freedom of Entry Parade.

Expressing her pride that the City Council of Johannesburg is associated with the Regiments, Councillor Nandi Mayathula-Khoza, MMC, said it was an honour and a privilege to host the regiments on the streets of Johannesburg in gratitude for the contribution they have made since World War II.

The Freedom Regiments Association of Johannesburg was started in 1986 by R Adm (JG) L.M. Bakkes of SAS Rand and a few regiments, such as the Transvaal Scottish, Witwatersrand Rifles, Rand Light Infantry, etc. These regiments had already had the Freedom of Entry to the City of Johannesburg bestowed on them and felt that they should form an association in order to foster the esprit de corps that they had developed and keep in touch with the city fathers. In 1986 as part of the centenary celebrations of Johannesburg, the Freedom Regiments presented the city with a huge 1,5 m sword, which hangs in the ante-room of the Council Chambers in the Civic Centre.

Inscribed on the sword are the city’s crest and all the regimental names and badges. Since then the Freedom of Entry has been granted to the Witwatersrand Medical Command and 6 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, while in the case of the Sandton, Randburg and Roodepoort Commandos the Council ratified their Freedom of Entry in October 1999.

Regiment President Kruger had the Freedom of Entry ratified in November 2003. On 25 January 2007 the Regiment will receive its scroll of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Johannesburg. Unfortunately some of these regiments have been closed, but the tradition and close working relationship with the city carries on.
Enable greatness in people and organisations everywhere

By Lt Col Neil Bennett, British Peace Support Team (SA)

The SA National War College, in a joint venture with the UK, ran a personal development course, “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” on the Joint Senior Command & Staff Programme. Lt Gen T.T. Matanzima, Chief of Human Resources, accompanied by Maj Gen M.A. Ntshinga, Chief of Joint Training, Brig Gen T.Z. Manyma, Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen V.R. Masondo, Director Human Resource Centre, and other members of the SANDF representing the SA National War College (SANWC) and the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) attended Dr Stephen R. Covey’s 7 Habits presentation.

The key to high-performance organisations

By using these 7 Habits we could all develop further into becoming “Highly Effective Soldiers” in our daily lives, at work and also in peace support operations.

Effective Habits create Effective People who become Effective Leaders of Effective Organisations

“...We, the military, have a requirement for knowledge warriors in the 21st century, who are able to take their roles in peace missions as soldiers, diplomats and developers, as...”

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<th>The 7 Habits:</th>
<th>People who apply the 7 Habits:</th>
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<td>1. Be proactive</td>
<td>Grasp opportunity with determination rather than react poorly, blame others or circumstanc</td>
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<td>2. Begin with the end in mind</td>
<td>Be driven by a compelling mission, vision and strategy, along with a strong set of core values and competencies.</td>
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<td>3. Put first things first</td>
<td>Stay highly focused on a few mission-critical goals that are ambitious, clearly articulated and measured. They believe execution is paramount and have a powerful desire for results.</td>
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<td>4. Think win-win</td>
<td>They are trusted partners with suppliers and customers, valuing and continuously building key relationships to their mutual benefit.</td>
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<td>5. Seek first to understand</td>
<td>Listen carefully to stakeholders and learn to open the door to creative solutions and get the best out of others.</td>
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<td>6. Synergise</td>
<td>Attract and value diversity. They collaborate creatively, constantly seeking innovative solutions - the &quot;third alternative&quot; - in alliances and partnerships.</td>
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<td>7. Sharpen the saw</td>
<td>Place a strong premium on continuous self-renewal.</td>
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well as the various roles throughout the SANDF/DOD,” said Mr Paul Boateng, British High Commission-er, at the SANWC Leadership Symposium 2006.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is one solution that was piloted at the SA National War College. The next course for the Joint Senior Command & Staff Programme is from 24 to 26 January 2007.

“Dr Covey is an internationally respected leadership authority, family expert, teacher, organisational consult-ant and author who has dedicated his life to teaching principle-centred living and leadership to build both families and organisations.

Extracts from: The 8th Habit From Effectiveness to Greatness - Stephen R Covey. Published by Franklin Covey, London, 2004 and reproduced with permission of Franklin Covey Southern Africa.

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**Unite for Women Against Rape**

By Lt Col Neil Bennett,
British Peace Support Team (SA)

The spouses of the British Peace Support Team and the British High Commissions Defence Section held a coffee and cake charity event at the British High Commission for Women Against Rape in the run-up to the 16 Days of Activism.

Women Against Rape (WAR) encourages all South Africans to exercise their rights by teaching them that their bodies and spirits are sacred. No other person may violate these rights in any manner.

In the event of violation or abuse, all South African victims have the right to be heard and counselled through empathetic and skilled care.

WAR empowers through establishing safe houses, beading projects, and by providing comfort parcels to SA Police Service stations in greater Gauteng.

“All hands to the decks” was the call for the day as the spouses made cakes, brewed coffee, generated talk and organised a hugely successful raffle. Maj Bill Blyth and Warrant Officer Trevor Simmonds found numerous sponsors and prizes during their daily shenanigans, including Waterkloof Guesthouse, Isandlwana Lodge, Cornerways Guesthouse in Plettenberg Bay, Furniture City, Casa De Fiori, Catherine Moore, Greek Easy Restaurant, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Waltons, Prosola Restaurant, Magna International Movers, Rittervo Restaurant, Whistletree Lodge, MTN, Rion, Smoke Restaurant, Thomas Jewell and BIT.

The British High Commissioner, Mr Paul Boateng, popped in to support the event, as did Brigadier Andy Mantell, the Defence Advisor.

WAR also used the event to sell their exquisite beaded fashion accessories and scrumptious chocolates. In an excellent joint effort over R11 000 was raised for WAR!

Well done to the spouses of the British Peace Support Team and the British High Commission’s Defence Section, and well done to Janine Rowley, war@womanagainstrape.co.za, the founder of WAR. Thank you for being great in what you do for society.

**Peace Support Operations Seminar**

By Commander Ben Liebenberg,
Directing Staff SANWC

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The 2006 Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme presented at the SA National War College (SANWC) culminated its programme business with a final exercise called EXERCISE TLONTHLORI (meaning the apex) in November 2006.

A College management decision was made to present a two-day security studies seminar at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria on 13 and 14 November 2006. The seminar was co-organised by the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria, and funded by the Training for Peace Africa Programme through the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs. The theme of the seminar was “Complex Emergencies: New Security Challenges in the 21st Century: Implications for the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and International Peace Operations”. The seminar was a befitting end to a year’s work to educate and train the

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Peace Support Operations Seminar

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future commanders and staff officers of the SANDF in a joint and multinational environment.

Local and international speakers attended the seminar. Thought provoking issues, such as the nature of post cold war conflicts in Africa, emerging African security architecture, challenges of peace operations and policy and legal framework for impunity and serious misconduct were thoroughly deliberated upon during the seminar.

The seminar was graced with the presence of the Ambassador of Ghana, Mr James E.K. Aggrey-Orleans, who delivered the keynote address. Speakers interrogated issues such as interstate wars and complex emergencies and the understanding of such matters in the African security environment, the DDR dimension in relation to post conflict societies, the post cold war peacekeeping trends and the African Standby Force developmental peacekeeping concept. The role played by the Pan African Parliament and private security companies in peace support operations and in dealing with impunity, the role of the ICC and special courts were also on the agenda.

The last issues that were scrutinised were the Truth and Reconciliation Committee: A substitute for justice in post conflict countries and a presentation on the conduct and discipline with specific reference to issues to be considered when deployed in international capacity.

Mr Festus Aboagye, Head of ISS/TfP, played a key role in all the arrangements for the seminar. He invited the speakers to empower the 2006 Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme learners. It was a very successful seminar aimed at exposing the officers to the contemporary issues in the security domain that might be experienced in the near future in the African context.

All the feathers of the eagle soar

By Lt Col Neil Bennett,
British Peace Support Team (SA)
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The British High Commissioner, Mr Paul Boateng, was the keynote speaker at the Leadership Symposium of the Joint Senior Command & Staff Programme held at the SA National War College in Pretoria on 16 November 2006. The symposium was a fitting finale to the year-long course and focused on strategic leadership across the diplomatic, military and economic sectors of national power.

Mr Boateng covered a range of issues during his speech, including the increase of democracy in Africa and the African Renaissance, the requirement for integrated and co-ordinated governments to work effectively to meet the ongoing challenges, the key role of South Africa and President Thabo Mbeki in the region and on the continent, and the need for mature and responsible partnerships to achieve national, regional, African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) goals. There is a community of interests across the world that wishes to help Africa in pursuit of its sustained development, and South Africa and the UK have the ability to contribute significantly to stability and future prosperity.

The British High Commissioner told the 120 senior officers that military personnel are required to be soldiers, diplomats and developers in order to assist in solving long-term conflicts on the continent. The military inspires qualities of courage, endurance, of comradeship, and these qualities must be brought to the peace and security environment in the numerous peace missions within Africa.

Finally, Mr Boateng encouraged everybody to “Get up and do it!”
Developmental Peace Missions

By Richard Gueli, CSIR researcher

Over the years, the functional gap between military peacekeeping and civilian peacebuilding (or "post-conflict reconstruction") has received a lot of attention because it remains a weakness in the policy framework of the United Nations (UN) conflict resolution repertoire, particularly in peace missions.

But why is it necessary to bridge the divide between military operations and development work in international peace missions? More importantly, is this idea even welcome or practicable?

While the debate over the proper roles of, and relationship between, military peacekeepers and civilian peacebuilders is relatively young, one thing is certain: the causes of contemporary conflicts are too complex to be addressed by security interventions alone. If anything, peacekeeping efforts in Africa, such as those in Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Côte d'Ivoire, have shown that military activities can prove counter-productive if continued for too long, and not complemented with real economic growth and social upliftment.

So where do we from here? The concept of "developmental peace missions" may suggest an answer. It has been noted that the concept of current peacekeeping approaches fails to provide a fundamental ingredient of security and stability, namely baseline infrastructure, ie water, transport, energy, and telecommunications, which is vital to the functioning of any "normal" society. Infrastructure is important: it provides the basis for human capital, the provision of State goods and services, and enables the creation and functioning of public and private institutions. Needless to say, without access to proper infrastructure and basic services, the disillusioned and the disempowered are more likely to support "generous" warlords than internationally brokered peace agreements (which, in some cases, tend to offer little but starvation and sometimes a wage).

Yet, the idea of putting down infrastructure into what has traditionally been seen as "military peacekeeping space" raises significant issues in terms of the way operations are normally conceptualised, planned and implemented. On a conceptual level, it requires understanding the importance of utilising development as both a "pre-war" and "post-war" strategy that aims at both the prevention and cure of the underlying causes of conflict. On a planning level, it means synergising infrastructure and development planning with military planning (ie "integrated planning"). On an operational level - no doubt a contentious point - it means changing the way peacekeeping operations are staffed to support, among other things, the deployment of civilians alongside soldiers in order to jump-start essential reconstruction efforts (ie "integrated action").

Of course, sustained efforts to promote development will be difficult in areas where armed attacks are frequent. But experience has shown that the window of opportunity for reconstruction and development to start is very narrow: the first few months - if not weeks - following an intervention are perhaps the more critical period for laying the groundwork for lasting peace and establishing the credibility of peace mission interventions. In consideration of this challenge, the concept of developmental peace missions calls for the rapid build-up of civilian and military assets in peace missions, and at the same time the initial force mix should contain a fair amount of capability to kick-start reconstruction and development.
The Centre for Military Studies and the SA National Defence College recently paid farewell to the only serving professor in the full-time armed forces, Col Louis du Plessis. He joined the South African armed forces at the age of seventeen on 1 January 1964. He has been serving as part-time and full-time member for more than 42 years. His mother unit was 1 Parachute Battalion in Bloemfontein.

In the more than four decades that he has been in the Defence Force he has occupied the ranks from Corporal to Colonel and has served, inter alia, as lecturer in Political Science at the Faculty of Military Science at the Military Academy. In 1989 he was appointed as the first Director of the Centre for Military Studies, in which capacity he had to undertake security and strategic analyses for the military and academic community. In 1996 he expanded the Centre from the Military Academy to the SA National Defence College.

In 1988 Col Du Plessis obtained the degree D Phil at the University of Pretoria with distinction. In 2002 the University of Stellenbosch conferred the academic rank of Associate Professor on him, making him, on his retirement, the only professor serving in the South African full-time forces.

As military academic Col Du Plessis conducted many workshops, published numerous articles on security trends and was the co-editor of two books on challenges for Africa. He participated in fact-finding visits to research centres and armed forces on all five continents, and as an Advisory Board member of the Institute for Strategic Studies at the University of Pretoria.

After the former Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, received a study with strategic findings published by Cemis, he stated: “The Centre for Military Studies of the University of Stellenbosch is one of the most important components of the Department of Defence, since it has become our primary source of strategic research. It is the findings of this institution that guide our forward strategic planning and the research of security trends undertaken by other defence force members”.

The 42 years were probably not long enough, as Col (Prof) Louis du Plessis has already joined the Reserve Force!

**Segopotšo sa Sontaga kua Johannesburg**

Johannesburg e ile ya swara segopotšo sa bagale kamoka, bao ba ilego ba lahelegewa ke maphele a bona mo ntweng ya go yela tokologo, temokrasi le khuuto mo Afrika Borwa monumenteng wa go hlompa bagale ba ntwa ka la 12 Nofemere 2006. Ngwaga wo 2006, o kgathlwe go ba wa Segopotšo sa Bosetšhaba sa tirelo ya Sontaga. Meyara wa Khuduthamaga wa Johannesburg, Mr Amos Masingo, O swere moletlo wo bjalao ka Mošireletši go tiragalo ye ya Bosetšhaba. Batšekarolo gotse le SANDF, Balwelatokologo ba Motsemogolo wa Johannesbarg le bagale ba pele bao ba ilego ba somela sešole. Mathomong a segopotšo se sa ntwa ka 1926, Monumete wo wa go hlompa bagale ba ntwa e hlwa e e ba lefelo leo le swarela go tirelo ya Sontaga ya Bosetšhaba. Ka 1996 Motsemogolo wa Johannesburg o ile wa gafela gape segopotšo go bagale ba ntwa le tokologo.

Tirelo e thomile ka mogwanto wa bente ya sešole, SANDF le bagale ba pele bao ba ilego ba moletlo wa somela sešole. Se se ile sa latelwa ke moletlo wa go bea dikgare ka tlhompho, o dirwa ka bafesiri ba bagolo, mekgahlo yea ba bego ba e somela, bahlomphegi ba motse le baemedi ba dinaga tša ka ntle. Bahlologadi ba Maphodisa, dišhivana le diholpha tša baswa ba ile ba fiwa monyetla wa go hloboga maloko a bona ao a welego. Ka leššaši le go ile gwa ba le segopotšo se itšego go maloko a SAPS ao a bolailwego ba le mošomong, kudu go thunthšwa ga maphodisa a mane kua Jeppestown, Johannesburg, ka June 2006.

* The English version of this article is available on page 16. 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.
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SA National Defence College Association (SANDCA) will be held on 23 February 2007 at 15:00 at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria. The AGM is for members of the SANDCA who have successfully completed the Joint Staff Course or the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP). This is a genuine Alumni event to revitalise the aim of the Association, rather than a mere AGM.

The SANDCA was established in accordance with the decision of the Founders Meeting held at the SA National Defence College on 17 March 1978. The Association is registered with the Chief Director Human Resources Management in terms of Chapter IX of the General Regulations as an official association in the SANDF with the purpose of affording members the opportunity to meet regularly to discuss matters of common concern in order to keep them abreast of interesting developments both in the professional field and with regard to the training of senior officers and senior officials.

**Full Members.** All officials of the DOD, foreign defence forces, officials of other State departments and organisations who have successfully completed a full ENSP, as well as officers who have successfully completed an equivalent course in any other country, may become full members of the SANDCA.

**Honorary Members.** Honorary membership of the SANDCA is the highest honour that the Association can bestow on any person at the AGM. On the recommendation of the Management Committee, the Association may award honorary membership to persons who do not qualify for full membership in terms of Article 14.

**Associate Members.** Associate Membership of the Association may be offered to persons who make a contribution to the successful conduct of the Executive National Security Programmes or who make a direct and continuous contribution to the activities of the Association.

**Management.** The Association is managed from the SA National Defence College, which serves as a Head Office for the Association run by a partially elected Management Committee.

* The Association is currently trying to locate all its members. Members who have not received news from the Association must please update their contact details with the Secretary, Lt Col Elize Lochenberg, at tel no: (012) 674 6507 or fax no: (012) 674 6564 or email: defcolas@lantic.net
Helicopter causes deaf kids to hear

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

Is it a big bird? Is it a plane? No, it is the Oryx. Once again 17 Squadron brought smiles to the faces of the desperate and needy, but happy children of four orphanages and special schools in Pretoria. To be so close to an Oryx helicopter was the most exciting thing that kids at these schools could have hoped for to end their year. It was an "angel helicopter" just for that day, and just in that specific context it would have been a good name.

The helicopter rotor and engines (an Oryx has two engines of 1 400 kilowatts each) produce an enormous amount of sound that even deaf ears can hear. The kids could hear the helicopter approaching their school. Hearing the sound was a very special moment for them.

The principal, Mr Allies Dill (54) of Transoranje School for Special Education, was touched by this gesture. According to him this donation could not have come at a better time, since their old copier had just broken down. 17 Squadron, the donors and sponsors were this day champions of the Ubuntu concept.

I could not stop thinking of the love and compassion that people could give if they really wanted to. When one looks at the faces of these kids one thinks they are so "poor" yet full of life. They might be in need of some necessities in life, but their faces are bright like stars.

For Bafana (14), a cancer patient who has been at Louis Botha Orphanage most of his life, even though this was the third time he was flying in a helicopter, it was a special flight because it was not taking him to the hospital emergency room, but rather for a fun ride with his friends.

20 November 2006 has been imprinted in these children's minds. For most of them just seeing a helicopter so close was like a dream. Flying in the Oryx was just what dreams are made of.

Not only did 17 Squadron make the "kids" happy by flying them, but in their social responsibility programme that started two years ago they collaborated with Gestetner, Yebo Ticket and Centurion Ice Cream and Sweets to deliver donated goods and sponsored cash to Olievenhoutbosch Christian School, Transoranje School for Special Education, and President Kruger and Louis Botha orphanages.

In more ways than they could have expected the schools' true spirit of family and giving prevailed during this festive season.

The Squadron's Honorary Colonel, Brian Holmer (Gestetner), donated four photocopying machines valued at R9 000 each for this worthy cause this year. Mr Marius Coetzee on behalf of Yebo Ticket, a subsidiary of Web Systems donated R5 000 in cash to Transoranje School for Special Education. Mr Charles Nesar of Centurion Ice Cream and Sweets donated 400 packets of sweets to be divided between President Kruger and Louis Botha orphanages.

After 20 November 2006, the day 17 Squadron delivered the donations to these schools, it will take the devil himself to convince me that the SANDF is not loving, compassionate and does not care.
Orphans fly high

By Amn Thabang Bapela, Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 Christo Crous

Teachers from Motheong Primary School in Atteridgeville told members of 17 Squadron that flying with their learners in a military helicopter was a once in a lifetime experience. They hoped that more South African learners would have a similar privilege to fly in future.

Both children and teachers were given this opportunity by the SA Air Force to fly in an Oryx helicopter commanded by Capt Fran Allison and his co-pilot, Lt Henry du Toit, and flight engineer, Sgt Michael Wilson, on 9 November 2006.

Also accompanying the children on this excursion were their teachers, Mrs Daphney Strubel, Mr Elias Moyo, Mrs Rushworth Moyo, Mrs Violet Pelo and Mrs Cynthia Morubane. Lt Du Toit held a brief lecture for the teachers and the learners on safety issues and the risks involved in flying the helicopter.

He also told them about the use of the Oryx in the SANDF and the history of this magnificent aircraft.

Motheong Primary School is an independent institution, some of whose learners are believed to be HIV positive.

These learners live at Mohaung Centre for Orphans at Kalafong Hospital in Pretoria.
A gentleman's sport

By Maj Marinda Oberholzer, SO2
Com SA Army Armour Fmn HQ
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, hosted his annual golf day tournament on 10 November 2006 at Services Golf Club at Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria.

This event was instituted to strengthen relationships between the Chief of the SA Army, friends of the Defence Force and industry. The occasion was also used as a fund-raising exercise to generate funds for the SA Army Hospice. "Hopefully all the participants enjoyed the day out of the office and as the Chief of the SA Army, the worst day on the golf course is still the best day out of your office," said Lt Gen Solly Shoke. The winners of the tournament were Brig Gen Addinall (Fred) Fredericks, Director Army Structure, and Lt Col Etienne Meyer, Project Officer Director Army Acquisition.

The National Ceremonial Guard Entertainment Band and comedian, Ronny Madimola, entertained the guests. All the participants this year went home with a prize. "Our sponsors and donors deserve our highest admiration and appreciation. The SA Army values your friendship and comradeship," concluded Lt Gen Shoke.

Sweets bring sweet smiles

By Amn Thabang Bapela, Ad Astra
Photo: Sgt Lebo Vaarland

Sister Catherine Mashao of Kalafong Hospital, west of Pretoria, told members of the SA Air Force on 27 October 2006 that the hospital had a cure rate of 78%, and that to be cured a child had to undergo treatment for approximately six to seven months.

This goodwill visit led by Maj Mogorosi Morake from the SAAF Headquarters was mainly to inspire the children and wish them a speedy recovery. Mrs Catherine Tladi, Public Relations Officer of the hospital, welcomed the visitors. She took them to the pediatric wards where these children suffer from various diseases, such as tuberculosis, cancer, meningitis and cholera. However, Maj Morake and his entourage seemed to have brought happiness to the children when they handed them sweets. It became an absolute pleasure on the part of the SAAF members to see smiles and signs of joy on the faces of the children. Maj Morake explained that his unit visited hospitals, prisons and orphanages, adding that such visits were conducted three times a year.
Blind cricketer competed in Pakistan

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Mr Johan Schroeder who is a switchboard operator at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria was selected to represent South Africa in the 2006 Blind Cricket World Cup.

This was to be Johan’s third World Cup: his first appearance was in India during the first World Cup in 1998. South Africa played against Pakistan in 2004 and won the tournament. South Africa was the runner-up in the 2002 Blind Cricket World Cup, hosted by New Zealand.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa nominated Mr Schroeder the first blind cricket player of the year in 2004. He was also selected in the 2004/05 season as the Northern Gauteng blind cricketer of the year.

South Africa won the bid to host the World Cup in December 2006. Unfortunately the team lacked finances and the bid was given to Pakistan. “It’s sad to let such an opportunity fall through our fingers, but everything these days involves money,” said Mr Schroeder.

Northern Gauteng blind cricket had two players, Mr Schroeder and Mr Schorn Schwan in the squad that represented South Africa at the World Cup in Pakistan in December 2006.

He is still an active playing member of the Pretoria Blind Cricket Club, where he assists with the coaching and development of young players.

Blinde krieketspeler speel in Pakistan

Deur Lebohang Letaoana
Vertaling deur Eugene Muller

Mnr Johan Schroeder, ’n skakelbord-operateur by Verdedigingshoofkwartier in Pretoria, is gekies om Suid-Afrika in die 2006 Krieketwêreldbeker vir Blindes te verteenwoordig.

Dit was mnr Schroeder se derde Krieketwêreldbeker gewees. Sy eerste toernooi was in Indië tydens die eerste Wêreldbeker in 1998, toe Suid Afrika in die eindwedstryd teen Pa-kistan gespeel het en die toernooi gewen het. Suid-Afrika was die naaswenner in die 2002 Krieket-wêreldbeker vir Blindes waar Nieu-Seeland die gasheer was.

Die Verenigde Krieketraad van Suid-Afrika het mnr Schroeder nomineer as die eerste blinde krieketspeler van die jaar vir 2004. Hy is ook verkieë in die 2004/05 seisoen as die Noord Gauteng blinde krieketspeler van die jaar.

Suid-Afrika het die bod gewen om die gasheer te wees vir die Wêreldbeker in Desember 2006. Ongelukkig was daar nie genoeg geld nie en die bod is aan Pakistan afgestaan. “Dis harteer om so’n geleentheid deur ons vingers te laat glip, maar deesdae is geld van deurslaggewende belang,” het mnr Schroeder gesê.

Noord Gauteng het twee blinde krieketspelers in die span gehad wat Suid-Afrika by die Wêreldbeker in Pakistan in Desember 2006 verteenwoordig het, naamlik mnr Schroeder en mnr Schwan.

Hy is steeds ’n aktiewe, spelende lid van die Pretoria Krieketklub vir Blindes, waar hy met die afrigting en ontwikkeling van jong spelers help.

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Friendship through Sport

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Annual General Assembly of the International Sports Military Council (CISM) Eastern Southern African Liaison Office (ESALO) was held in Durban in November 2006.

The purpose of this Annual General Assembly (AGM) was to set the scene for the assembly’s conference in May 2007.

The AGM dealt with the planning of administrators of the Military Sports Council. This assembly took place in South Africa at a time when the spotlight at the highest levels in Government was on sport, particularly soccer, because of the FIFA World Cup 2010.

In his keynote address the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, said: “For us in the SANDF, being a member of the CISM family is more than just participating in sport. Our membership affords us an opportunity to foster relations with our brothers and sisters from other parts of the continent. Such relations are important to us as a nation, in building bridges with our neighbouring countries.”

Since joining the organisation back in 1994 the SANDF has participated in three World Military Games and various world military championships and has had the opportunity to host CISM events, such as board of directors meetings, medical symposia, the World Military Boxing Championships, and bilateral and trilateral events with the armed forces of neighbouring countries.

“This Military Sports Council, which is one of the largest multi-disciplinary sports organisations in the world, has a noble objective, which is to unite the armed forces of countries that may have previously confronted each other because of political and ideological differences. In so doing, and as it is outlined by its philosophy and the ideals stated in its mission statement signed by all member countries in 1998, this 126 member Sports Council is contributing to building world peace,” concluded the Surgeon General.

The Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan (centre), with the members of the International Military Sports Council at the opening of the CISM ESALO Annual General Assembly.
Playing golf in Ireland

Article and photo courtesy
Lt Col Karin Watts

The SANDF golf team was invited to participate in the 3rd CISM World Military Golf Championships hosted by Ireland in August 2006. This tournament was played under the auspices of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM), or International Military Sports Council. The selection of the SANDF team was based on current form, track record and commitment to and involvement in SANDF golf.

Teams from the defence forces of Ireland, America, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Namibia, Uganda and South Africa participated in the championships. Teams consisted of two female and six male golfers.

The tournament was played over three rounds at the Ballinrobe Golf Club in Galway. The format was 54 holes of stroke play, and made provision for both individual and team competitions. In the men’s team competition, the best four scores out of six counted each day, while both scores of the female team members counted every day.

The warm Irish summer welcomed all the players on the day of the practice round. On the first day of competition the sunny weather lasted only for a few hours. The playing conditions deteriorated during the course of the morning, and after five hours play was suspended. This meant that some players had to finish their first round on the second day before starting their second rounds. This became a very long day for these players. On the last day of competition both the SANDF men’s and women’s teams were in second position. As the day progressed the SANDF women’s team retained their silver medal position, while the men’s team was in third place beaten by a strong German side.

The final result in the women’s competition was USA first, South Africa second and the Netherlands third. In the men’s competition the USA were winners, with Germany second and South Africa third.

After regulation play, Maj Craig Collins of Area Military Health Unit Gauteng had lead draw with Arnell Garza of USA in the men’s individual competition. This resulted in a sudden death play-off on the 18th hole until a winner was decided. The USA player made a birdie on the first play-off hole to beat Maj Collins to second place. Maj Stefan Venter of 16 Squadron in Bloemfontein finished in fifth position. In the women’s individual competition, Col Lizette Potgieter of Air Command finished fourth and Lt Col Karin Watts from Defence Intelligence was one shot further back in fifth position.

The SANDF will host the 4th CISM World Military Golf Championships at Sun City from 30 September to 5 October 2007. The next SANDF Golf Championships will take place at King David Golf Club in the Western Cape from 15 to 20 April 2007.
SA Soldier was invited to attend this year’s DOD Disability Thanksgiving Service at SAAF Air Command in Pretoria on 10 November 2006.

The service was held to commemorate the sacrifices and contributions that people with disabilities had made to the Department of Defence (DOD) and to South African society.

Speaking on behalf of Chief Director Equal Opportunities, R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren, Director Equity Strategic Direction, told the audience that nothing substantial and of lasting value could be achieved in the DOD without actively involving people with disabilities in the struggle for equality, respect and independence.

The service was an emotional and tearful one as two invited schools, Terauh Choir of the Prinshof School for the Blind and the Filadelfia School for Children with Disabilities brought the house down when they sang inspirational songs.

“IT IS important to note that people with disabilities in the DOD still struggle to be recognised because they have to deal more with perceptions and attitudes regarding their capability and adequacy, as well as with the hostile environment in which they work,” R Adm (JG) Jansen van Vuuren concluded.

Chaplain Lentikile Phokontsi conducted the service. He said: “In the eyes of God we are all equal and we should not discriminate against people with disabilities.”

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Loyalty is a jewel worth wearing

By Cpln N.T. Magodi, JSB MOD

Mr Martin Luther King Junior puts it succinctly: “Not everyone can be famous, but everyone can be great because greatness is determined by service”. The first line of our Code of Conduct for uniformed members of the SANDF reads as follows: “I serve in the SANDF with loyalty and pride, as a citizen and a volunteer”.

Members of the SANDF are assets to the organisation. Without their dedication, devotion, commitment, and loyalty the Defence Force will never be effective or efficient. Their efforts matter! Loyalty in this context means commitment to keeping the SANDF flag flying high.

It means firstly that the Defence Force can count on its members. Secondly, that all of us will strive to add value to our organisation. Lastly, that we shall serve our organisation with relentless determination. Let us never forget that it is indeed an honour to serve. We are called upon to serve. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working not planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

You and I have the opportunity to make a difference now. We dare not miss the opportunity! Time wasted is never regained.

Let us roll up our sleeves. Let’s take up the challenge and make a difference. Soldiers never march backwards, but forward. Forward March, yes! Backwards, never!

When I look at our society today, I am deeply concerned. A rare breed of loyal people is almost extinct. The Defence Force is no exception. The prevalence of the problem has caused the coining of terms such as the “credibility gap”. Let me explain: to say that something is “credible” is to say it is authentic or capable of being believed. In other words it is trustworthy: One can depend on it. On the other hand to refer to a “gap” suggests a reason for doubt.

I ask you, do people doubt you as a member of the SANDF? Can you be trusted? Does your family trust you? Can your family depend upon you? What has gone wrong in our society? Across the world citizens doubt the promises of politicians. Parents doubt their children’s word and vice versa. The credibility of an employee’s word is questioned by the employer. Creditors can no longer believe a debtor’s verbal promise to pay. I ask again, where has loyalty gone? Very few people do what they say they will do. Loyalty is in crisis.

Recently the name of the SANDF has been taking such a beating from the print media. Together we can and must change such bad publicity. No one can restore our sense of dignity and pride except ourselves. Let us all be faithful men and women. Let us be faithful at home, faithful in the workplace, and faithful in our society. Let us be role models to our children and role models in the workplace. Let us all stand for truth and righteousness. Dishonesty must be absent from our vocabulary and life-styles. Remember that as members of the SANDF at home or in the mission, we are constantly under surveillance.

The very best platform upon which we may build a case for soldiers at work rests on the following values: faithfulness, quality work, pleasant attitude and enthusiasm.

With such pillars in place our organisation will improve, and our skeptics will be impressed. In conclusion: in judging yourself on the matter of loyalty, are you bridging or widening the credibility gap. Are you encouraging or discouraging others. Let us build each other up. Let us have the mind to work. Let us build our Defence Force.

Remember, loyalty is a jewel worth wearing, a battle worth winning. Let us all work at being loyal. May God bless us all and our families!
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