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FRONT COVER: Meet the new Sergeant Major of the SA Army. Read all about the change of command parade on pages 22 and 23. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
From the
Editor's desk

Accepting the SAS MENDI in Port Elizabeth recently the Minister of Defence said: "The commissioning of SAS MENDI is an important milestone in the history of our nation. Today marks the commemoration of the loss of the lives of the sons of our country during the sinking of SS MENDI, and recognises their spiritual return affirmed in our commissioning ceremony today." Do read pages 12 and 13 to get acquainted with the last of four Valour Class SAN frigates acquired under Project SITRON. The SAS MENDI is one of the most advanced warships in the world today.

The SANDF reached out once again to flood victims in Mozambique. Its involvement assisted a great deal in speeding up the distribution of food and water. Read all about the rescue operation on pages 14 to 16.

On pages 10 and 11 you can read the emails our soldiers sent us to tell us more about their deployment experiences in the Sudan.

SA Soldier salutes the Sergeant Majors of the Pride of Lions when we say farewell to WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, the outgoing Sergeant Major of the SA Army, and congratulates WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, the incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army, on his new appointment. Read all about the change of command parade on pages 22 and 23.

Do remember to read all about the Department of Defence Budget on pages 18 and 19.

Great news: a self-defence centre - the SA Army Taekwondo Training Centre - recently opened at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. Apparently unarmed combat is going to be integrated into the training curriculum of all SA Army combat units. Read about spreading the skill of self-defence throughout the SA Army on pages 34 and 35.

Do be aware of Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis. Learn about this disease on pages 44 and 45.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER ● MAY 2007

Ezivela kwitafula
Umhleli


I-SANDF yelule isandla ukusiza abavelelwa ngumshophi kaZamcolo eMozambique. I-SANDF isize kakulu ngokushesha ekunikizeleli ngokudla nangamanzi. Funda ngakho konke lokhu kusukela kwikhasi 14 kuye ku 16.

Kwikhasi 10 kanye no 11 ungafunda ngama-imeyili athunyelwa futhi eblalwe ngamasosha ethu lapho besixoxela ngabakufunde kakulu kumsebenzi wabo abaphakelwe kwu-e-Sudan.

I-SA Soldier isaluta o-Sergeant Major be-Pride of Lions ngokuba bavalelise u-WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, okungu-Sergeant Major of the Army osethatha umhlahla phansi, futhi ibuye ihalisele u-WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, okunguyenya oseza kungena kulesi sikundla. Funda ngalo lonke loloshintsho kumakhasi 22 naku 23.

Khumbula nokufunda ngakho konke okwebhajethi yoMnyango wokuVikela kwikhasi 18 kanye no 19.


Qaphela I-Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis. Ziqwashise ngaso lesi sifo ngokufunda ikhasi 44 kanye no 45.

Nelda Pienaar
Umhleli
Women on parade

On 28 February 2007 women of Army Support Base Bloemfontein were leading men at the parade. Women of ASB Bloemfontein were the Parade Commander, Parade Second in Command, Adjutant, Company Commanders, Platoon Commanders, Parade Sergeant Major, Company Sergeant Majors, Platoon Sergeants and Chaplain.

The parade was well organised. Women of Army Support Base Bloemfontein said this had to come to an end; they had to be acknowledged and developed.

The General Officer Commanding, Brig Gen M.M. Moadira, mentioned that women had opportunities in the SANDF. He said the SANDF prohibited any form of discrimination against women employed in the Department. Women must be offered the same career opportunities and scope as men and enjoy the same service benefits.

Women of Army Support Base Bloemfontein are so lucky to be commanded by Brig Gen Moadira because in 2005 he established a women’s forum in the base were women have been discussing women’s issues on a monthly basis for the past two years.

I want to quote our Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, on the occasion of the Department of Defence commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Women’s March on 11 August 2006.

I quote: “A challenge facing the Department is therefore to identify women in all rank levels who should be trained to occupy specific command posts in the future. Since we already have women in the core mustering of the SANDF there is little excuse for not advancing them in this organisation. The myth that women are not ready to command must be addressed.”

Ladies, I congratulate you, you have done a good job, keep it up. Stop hiding yourself; show the men that you also can be leaders. Halala Basadi Halala. Capt M.M. Semaushu, ASB Bloemfontein.

Flight plan for life

Life is a mission and most of us are trying to fly without any flight plan. They never gave us one in school. Life is indeed a mission, but we must remember that every day is a life in miniature. In the case of Sello Setlai, Senior Falcon of AFB Bloemspuit, his school and the SA Air Force made sure he had a flight plan for his life.

Sello is a very determined young man who knows what he wants in life. He runs the race with courage and endurance towards his dream to become a transport pilot in the SA Air Force. His ultimate dream is to fly the airbus, a dream that surely will become a reality because of his determination and will to win. For him the sky is the limit. He will conquer his fears and live his dreams. He realises that his destiny is in his own hands, and his alone. F Sgt Ethel Lemmetjies

Senior Falcon Sello Setlai reaching for the sky at the South African Gliding Championships in Bloemfontein. (Photo: Soaring Society of SA)

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

Thanks a million

I wish to say thank you for the commitment and dedication displayed by the SANDF during our difficult times. I would also like to say “thanks a million” for the support of your members at this time. May the Lord of Peace be with you in all your undertakings and daily operations and in making Africa a peaceful and prosperous continent. Mrs Binda & Family
Helping ourselves get ahead

We all know that it is hard to get where we want to be emotionally, financially and professionally.

Working hard and going the extra mile towards what we want to achieve is the only way we can reach our goals. Money and emotional satisfaction will not drop from the sky and we need to make an effort to obtain them.

Let us work together and give others the opportunity to share their talents so that they can be empowered and grow from their knowledge.

You must always remember that you are the only person responsible for your success.

The honour to make a success of anything lies on you. So, stand up and be productive - the world is waiting for you to take action.

Pte Mmasehlong Lamola, Wynberg

SA women and our society

8 March (International Women’s Day) was a day of celebration for the victories achieved by women the world over. Though still battling to be equal partners alongside men in the shaping of the political destinations of our respective countries globally, governments have realised how crucial it is for the equal participation of women in the day-to-day running of the overall socio-economic and political affairs of our countries, especially in Africa.

It was a day of celebration, because history has shifted the role of women out of darkness into the glorious light of being individuals who participate not only as caregivers in families, but who also take up their rightful place as leaders in their societies and communities.

Praised are the men worldwide who are striving for the empowerment of women. Men are increasingly working hard for the emancipation of women everywhere. Although more commitment could be displayed, there is a genuine move towards men realising the important role women have to play not only in peacetime, but during war as well.

While women are aptly demonstrating that they are capable, they are daring and committed to all that they are doing, especially in the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Military Health Service.

At all levels women demonstrate this commitment and tenacity while struggling to win the battle over male chauvinism.

With the steady realisation by the dominant males in the DOD of the importance of uplifting women to equal status, women and men will eventually get there and the glorious day will dawn when women and men in uniform, including the civilian component, will be equal partners.

The youth will lead us towards that new era. They are leading us every day by showing us how to work together for success, and are showing us how to shake off the dust of the past. They are showing us, wherever they are, even where they are deployed in the conflict areas that they are united. They are demonstrating that we are one nation.

The youth are demonstrating daily at work that unity in diversity is what makes us unique and that it has to be embraced by all. So let us pave the way for them to make that possible by equipping them with skills and knowledge and by allowing them to reach the highest academic qualifications possible.

While March 8 was a victorious celebration for women all over the world, a war of explosive proportions was being waged by the evil and sick people who prey on the blood of innocent babies, girls, young women, aged women and women in general in our society.

A few sick people who murder, rape and plunder without remorse are turning our Republic into a nightmare and the murder capital of the world.

They creep up onto people in their heavenly sleep and kill, steal and violate mothers, daughters and sisters; they survive on the blood and life of people who have the right to live, whose life has been given by the creator, whose lives are cut short by evil and dastardly criminals.

Let us declare war on crime, let us cry freedom and condemn murderers, rapists and criminals in the strongest of terms, and call on our government to take stronger action against this menace in our societies. Let us declare rape and murder a punishable crime against humanity and that the law should deal in equal terms with such vampires who have lost their sense of human value and humanity.

Lastly, let us all congratulate ourselves in the DOD on working very hard towards the realisation of the emancipation of women in all the services of the DOD. Let us congratulate our principals for leading the way to equality for all in the DOD.

B.V. Martin, Pretoria

Everyone deserves a place in the sun

Every single person has the right to be successful. God blessed us all with a multitude of wonderful talents. We need to multiply these talents and accumulate interest to His honour.

The potential lies within you to be unleashed! Every day is a new day, a new beginning and a new opportunity to be the best you can be in whatever you do.

Never allow people to bring you down, to ridicule you or to cause you to doubt yourself. Because your Creator, your God, believes in you, you can believe in yourself. Be positive. Have a good attitude. Be the salt and the light of the world and you will reap the benefits.

Believe in your God-given abilities, your cause and direction in this world. God wants you to succeed. He blesses you and me.

He assures you and me that we all deserve a place in the sun.

Prov 11:25 - Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others and you will be helped. Ms M. van der Merwe, Pretoria

Ms M. van der Merwe, Pretoria
Believe in yourself

I am a new young soldier in the SANDF. I joined this organisation two years back, and am currently deployed in the Sudan. During these two years I have grown up to realise that if you face challenges in life you must believe in yourself. I would like to share these words with our soldiers, readers and the South African youth: You need to believe in yourself no matter what obstacles or challenges you face. There is nothing as important as the image you portray of yourself. Believe in who you are, what you can do and in the path you have decided to take.

Being confident about yourself and who you are will help you to accept others and feel at ease around them. If you believe in yourself, you will be empowered to make the best of your opportunities and challenges. Be the best you can be. Everything is possible.

Rfn A.M. Leshaba,
8 SAI Bn (Upington)
A collector of South African Militaria

I am a collector of South African militaria, including medals, badges, uniforms, headgear, kit, etc. I am looking for the above items from any members who served in the Rhodesian Army, SA Army or the South West Territory Force from the 1960s to the 1980s, particularly recces, paratroopers, infantry or any other unit.

I wish to appeal to anyone who has such items to donate them to me. I will cover all postage costs. I can be contacted at 041 373 2752 or 47 Mount Road, Millard Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6001.

Colin Stanton

Africa my beginning - Africa my end


I pray for Africa. I pray for a land where my brother does not have to come from the same womb. I pray for a land that does not have colour. I pray for more schools than prisons, a land where kids do not have to travel 20 km on foot to school. A land where kids do not have to starve to death. A land where there are no criminals. A land where a pregnant woman does not have to walk 15 km to a clinic. A land where sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS do not exist. A land where teenage pregnancy does not exist. A land where road accidents are a thing of the past. A land where young girls do not have to prostitute themselves to earn a living. A land free of divorce, domestic violence and child abuse.

I pray for my ideal land. I pray for my country. I pray for my Africa because I love my Africa. I was born in Africa and I will die in Africa.

Africa my beginning, Africa my end - “BOPA” Bdr M.P. Matsoane, Potchefstroom

What is stress?

Stress is a normal reaction to life for people of all ages. It is caused by our body’s instinct to protect itself from emotional or physical pressure or, in extreme situations, from danger.

What are the main causes of stress?

At work:
- Excessive work pressure caused by a lack of time and/or complexity.
- Not knowing what is expected of you.
- Bullying and other forms of harassment.
- Redundancy.
- Promotion or lack of it.

At home:
- The death or departure of a loved one.
- Family illness.
- Separation or divorce from a partner.
- Relocation.
- Children’s behaviour or educational performance. Walter C. Sivalo, Bushbuckridge.
Best Sappers in Africa (SAEC)

Most of us probably started off this year with exciting New Year’s resolutions only to find they fell by the wayside before the first month was over, while the Sappers continued to dedicate themselves to ensuring that life was made a bit easier in the deployment arena for all AMIS personnel in the Sudan. As the Engineer Squadron Commander I used to tell my subordinates to become the possibilarians. We as Sappers will always go beyond our comfort zone and share our skills, no matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, and we will raise our sights and see possibilities. All people dedicated to development and growth will know that part of the process requires ability to give selflessly to others, eg Engineer Squadron at El Fasher in the Sudan.

Why not start this differently knowing who you are, what you stand for and what you really want to accomplish, in the same way as you re-align your personal life? To my colleagues and all RSA troops in the Sudan this is the best time ever to change our lives and the lives of those around us, especially the Sudanese, for the better. At the freedom celebrations parade held on 27 April 2004, our President said the following: “South Africa will continue to play a vigorous role in achieving the goal of an African Renaissance”.

We responded positively to our inability to be with our families, especially during the festive season because we love our country. And we need to keep our flag flying high. Our conduct, both negative and positive, impacts on the success of the whole mission and Africa as a whole. Upon arriving in the Sudan, some faced discomfort, others became homesick or depressed. Peacekeepers are working under extraordinary conditions. They have an increased risk of stress due to the hazardous and isolated environment in which they work. The stress that peacekeepers undergo in this context are occupational hazards and elicit normal responses to extraordinary circumstances.

It is important to promote resilience and functional stress management education. You need a strong burning desire to maintain your vision. You must be totally committed to it and have the faith to put that commitment into action. Doubt is the biggest killer of commitment and action.

The Engineer Squadron never let boredom get to them instead they have implemented a study programme in which members improve themselves by studying on-line through e-learning for African Peacekeepers (ELAP) by UNITAR POCI distance courses on peacekeeping. These are available free of charge for all military, police, and gendarmerie personnel who are citizens of African nations. Squadron members showed more interest in these studies and some achieved up to eleven certificates in the various courses.

Engineers undertook small-scale projects, eg wooden door installations for the tents, built-in wardrobes for AMIS guest houses, construction of LWT area at Kutum (RSA Bn HQ) and many more.

“We cannot underplay the challenges that we face in dealing with the remaining areas of conflict, particularly the general peace process in the Sudan, including the situation in Darfur. We are not there yet. No one, except us, shall ensure that this dream is realised.

And so, let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work, fully understanding that the task to build the South Africa for which we yearn is a common responsibility we all share,” said President Thabo Mbeki in his State of the Nation Address.

Many of us are caught up in the frenzy of consumerism, where the primary focus is on money and our lack of it. Our careers and professions have become money driven instead of purpose and passion driven. Proudly South African let us stand up for our country and Mother Africa - the Sappers have already started. Capt T.V. Lemphane, currently deployed in the Sudan, El-Fasher.

A tour in the Sudan (Sector 6)

I will start my report with timings. A soldier that has time to prepare himself will win half of his battle, because he plans to take everything that he will need in time, and to be in the right place with the right equipment.

Phase 1: Preparation 9 October 2006 14:30. We had an inspection of personnel, battle equipment and vehicles. We were briefed about places and routes. This was to prepare us for what we could expect. Our company commander’s aim was to let us know our tasks and what was expected of us.

Phase 2: Movement from base 10 October 2006 07:30. All stations reported “march-ready” and permission to leave the base was then granted by Capt B. van Rooyen (Ops Officer). We started our movement from Kutum Base to El-Fasher. We arrived at Zam-Zam Base, where we drew 4x4 mambas and some logistical parcels.

Phase 3: El-Fasher to Mellit Base. We travelled a distance of approximately 70 km on our way to Mellit.

Phase 4: Mellit to Malha Base. We travelled a distance of 135 km from Mellit with a bigger convoy under the command of Lt Col E. Visagie (RSA National Contingent Commander). We were all safe and everything was in place. (The Officer Commanding gave the battalion members a briefing.)

Meals. It was a great feeling being served food from same point with the Officer Commanding, this entrenched the spirit of comrade despite our ranks were one. Everyone enjoyed the meals at Mellit and Malha bases because the food was delicious and there was more food than at Kutum Base. The change of menus was a bonus.

Accommodation. Accommodation in
Malha was not good, but at least we managed to rest enough.

Phase 5: Return to Kutum Base 13 October 2006 07:30. We returned on 12 October from Malha to Mellit. The following morning we left Mellit with a small convoy under the control of Maj B.M. Feni, Charlie Company Commander, and arrived at El-Fasher. We loaded some logistical goods and left Zam-Zam Base. We arrived at Kutum safe and sound.

Phase 6: Demobilisation. We had a debriefing on the journey itself. The following points were raised:

- Thumbs up to the drivers for a job well done.
- To the battalion signals for good communications.
- To the “medics” for the treatment that they gave to the people who suffered injuries.
- To the LWT for the checkout serviceability of vehicles.

From my side: I would like to thank the Almighty for blessing our journey, because we reached our destination.

Experience

- To see an Officer Commanding wearing a flip jacket with a rifle in his hand made me realise I had to take this operation seriously.
- To put an R4 rifle on Stage 3 alerted me to the possibility of enemy attacks.
- To see the Sector Commander, Col Lourens, visiting Malha Base kept me on my toes, no matter how tired I was.

Women of the Delta Company took spades, sand, cement and water and mixed the ingredients to build cement platforms for OP positions in the Sudan.

We are not only here in the Sudan to the keep peace between the rebels and the Government, but to make the circumstances for Delta Company user-friendly by upgrading bunker positions for a secure environment.

Delta Company consists mostly of the January 2005 intake of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members. The staff members are mostly Permanent Force members and Medium Contract members. They are all under the watchful eye of Company Commander, Capt A.R. van der Berg, WO2 J.C. Fourie, Sgt I.I. Johnson and Cpl H.A. Nel. Capt A.R. van der Berg, Delta Company Commander, 8 SAI Bn, deployed from September 2006 to April 2007.

The importance of deployment in the Sudan

As I drove through the Sahara Desert passing villages, children stood along the road waving their hands, with beaming smiles, and old folks said “Tamaam”. That gave me the will and dedication to serve with pride in this mission until peace is achieved.

Sudanese need to see light at the end of the tunnel. The Sudan is going through a critical phase where Sudanese are afraid or uncertain about the future.

We as Africans must assure them that we will support them until they pass this challenging phase; after which their children will laugh and enjoy living. We are obliged to aid the Sudan and if it comes to the supreme sacrifice, so let it be, because we are Africa’s very own children.

Deployment experience in the Sudan (Darfur region)

We, the RSA contingent currently deployed in the Darfur region (Sudan), would like to thank the SANDF for giving us the opportunity to use our skills and knowledge in other countries and Africa as a whole. We once again prove to the world that the SANDF can field disciplined soldiers for utilisation in external peace support operations.

We arrived in the Sudan with a lot of expectations, eager to broaden our knowledge during external deployments. We were deployed as peace observers to protect the Military Observers (MILOPS) and CIVPOL in the execution of their duties. Most of us are relatively young and new in the organisation, and part of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). We always receive positive feedback from our superiors with regard to our progress in the mission area.

Hectic it was to be away from one’s loved ones back in South Africa, especially over the festive season. Looking back now after spending six months in the Sudan, we can say with our heads held high that we are proud of our superiors for their experience and approach to the mission. They certainly helped us a lot to get through the deployment and to understand our role in the mission area. Pride and integrity were evident throughout the whole deployment phase. Militarily and mentally we have grown a lot. Everyday we thank the Lord for our beautiful country - South Africa.

We want to say thanks for the huge support from everyone back home, especially our families. Thank you 8 SAI Bn, our home unit in Upington, for the support and for having trust in us, as well as Lt Col E. Visagie and all his staff members for their guidance and courage. Platoon 3, Bravo Company, 8 SAI Bn, Kutum Base, Sudan.

Building a future in the Sudan

Members of Delta Company (Mellit Base) were busy upgrading defensive positions and the temperature was about 40 to 45 degrees. Not only men can mix cement; women of Delta Company took spades, sand, cement and water and mixed the ingredients to build cement platforms for OP positions.
Our Navy warship is a symbol of sacrifice and hope

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The SAS MENDI is a symbol of rebirth for the South African Navy and our country. “I can see that the SAS MENDI is a fine ship just like her sisters,” said the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, as he officially handed over the spectacular SAS MENDI to the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. “Outstanding workmanship,” he remarked to the audience.

The SAS MENDI is the last of four VALOUR Class SAN Frigates acquired under Project SITRON. Designed to the SA Navy’s specific operational and environmental requirements, the ship is one of the most advanced warships in the world today.

Accepting the SAS MENDI in Port Elizabeth on 20 March 2007, the Minister of Defence said: “The commissioning of SAS MENDI is an outstanding achievement for the South African Navy. It is a symbol of our country’s commitment to peace and security in the region.”

Our young sailors stepping aboard the SAS MENDI.

S A S O L D I E R  •  M A Y  2 0 0 7
important milestone in the history of our nation. Today marks the commemoration of the loss of the lives of the sons of our country during the sinking of SS MENDI, and recognises their spiritual return affirmed in our commissioning ceremony today.”

“The commissioning of the SAS MENDI allows for reflection on another episode - the episode of the SS MENDI - a ship which carried upon her the lives of more than 800 sons of South Africa. These young men were to be borne away to fight in World War I.” On 21 February 1917 the SS MENDI, en route to Le Havre in France, collided with another ship, the SS DARRO. The SS MENDI troopship, with a crew of 33 members, had sailed from Cape Town carrying the last contingent of the South African Native Labour Corps comprising 5 white officers, 17 non-commissioned officers and 805 black privates. Minister Lekota said: “It is through the telling of stories that we are able truly to comprehend the complexity of the present.”

“The task of the SAS MENDI is to participate in providing maritime defence for our country, its peoples, the region and the continent. However, her task is far greater than this, for she is also to serve as a constant reminder of the bravery and the valour of our predecessors,” noted the Minister of Defence. The commissioning of the SAS MENDI is a symbol of sacrifice and brotherhood, and also a symbol of hope.

Minister Lekota further elaborated on how the worth of the magnificent ship largely represented the fruits of the democracy we enjoy today. “We shall support vigorously the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) programmes within our region and on the continent through the use of the SAS MENDI and other SANDF capabilities.”

Minister Lekota officially signed off by wishing the Officer Commanding SAS MENDI, Capt (SAN) Jimmy Schutte, and the ship’s company “all the very best”.

The SAS MENDI will also contribute to the ongoing effort to popularise the SA Navy as Employer of Choice. A selected number of learners from local schools attended the ceremony so that this too became their event.
SANDF reached out to Mozambique flood victims

Article and photos by F Sgt David Nomthongwana

Flood water from heavy rainfall in surrounding areas of Mozambique flowed into Cahora Bassa Dam and caused it to overflow. To ease the pressure on the dam the sluice-gates had to be opened. The decision to open the sluices resulted in floods in southern Mozambique. People in areas such as Caia village were stranded.

Most of the people affected by the floods were those who had built their houses on the banks of the Zambezi River. The Mozambican Government requested the South African Departments of Foreign Affairs, and of Provincial and Local Government to assist in humanitarian aid provision to the affected people of Mozambique. The South African aid had been needed since tropical cyclone Favio flooded some parts of southern Mozambique in late February 2007. It was the second rescue operation since the big floods in 2000 followed by those of 2004 and 2007, which was monitored by the Institute National Government for Disaster Management (INGC).

The SANDF Joint Task Force, under the command of Col Ronnie Jonsson, was deployed to assist the affected people. Its mission was to speed up the process of delivering food, as well as to assess the situation and provide clean water to the people in the flooded areas. Two Oryx helicopters, an Augusta 109 helicopter and a Casa 212 transport aircraft from the SA Air Force and two Water Buffel water purification plants from the SA Army engineers and SANDF personnel were provided to support in late February 2007. It was the second rescue operation since the big floods in 2000 followed by those of 2004 and 2007, which was monitored by the Institute National Government for Disaster Management (INGC).

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The resettlement camp of the people on higher lying ground. Behind it is the subsiding Zambezi River.

Although the World Food Programme and the INGC agencies were already busy providing food, shelter and water to the affected people, the arrival of the Joint Task Force came at the right time when food and water were most needed for the people affected by the floods.

The SA Air Force distributed 523.5 metric tons of food to the various identified resettlement centres by air transport and the engineers provided 2,411,000 litres of purified water during the period 6 March to 10 April 2007.

During the media briefing in Caia, Mozambique, are clockwise from front left: Col Phillip Mavhungu, Military Adviser from SA in Mozambique, Col Daan Boshoff from CJ OPS, and Col Coronfi Margarido from the Mozambican Defence Force.

The resettlement camp of the people on higher lying ground. Behind it is the subsiding Zambezi River.

M A Y  2 0 0 7  •  S A S O L D I E R
The World Food Programme (WFP) had distributed more than 1,000 metric tons of food to 120,000 displaced people as of 13 February 2007. Col Jonsson told *SA Soldier* that the time frame for the mission was too short for proper logistical preparation. People, previously deployed such as WO1 Johan Botha, assisted a great deal on this mission. As a logistic expert WO1 Botha made sure that all the important equipment was loaded. Because of the experience he had gained from the previous deployments between Beira and Caia in 2004 he knew exactly what to expect. Col Jonsson concluded by saying that with supporting personnel and equipment OPERATION LITCHI II was successful.

Talking to members of the media the Regional Director of INGC, Mr Jose Dambira, said that the situation would be monitored and the data kept for future reference. The information gathered would be useful when and if disaster struck again, which would improve the handling of such disaster situations. In the future logistics from Maputo to other areas will be decentralised to assist during a disaster. Mr Dambira applauded the Government and the SANDF for their assistance during the flood disaster. He said that this made a difference with regard to how the disaster was managed and had a huge positive impact. The aid offered was felt and seen by victims of the floods. The SANDF involvement assisted a great deal in speeding up the distribution of food and water.
The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, held a formal guest evening at the SA Army College, Paratus Club, in Pretoria on 16 March 2007.

Guests dressed in their best attire, ranging from the SA Army Command Council members, other SA Army generals, the then Sergeant Major of the SA Army, WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, and their spouses joined in the occasion. In his opening address Lt Gen Shoke said he was privileged to have had the opportunity of attending an event in which the command cadre of the SA Army could come together, accompanied by their spouses. "We came this evening not only to get to know each other in an informal atmosphere, but also to share our responsibilities with one another."

He highlighted the achievements of the past year, such as the success of EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE and EXERCISE SEBOKA, and emphasised the need to nurture and develop the future leaders, especially the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members. He added: "There will also be the SA Army and Defence Industry Seminar that will give us a platform for outlining the essential landward capabilities needed to meet the challenges of the future battle space. With South Africa’s new role in the Security Council this reality becomes even more evident."

(Please read more about this seminar on pages 20 and 21.)
he Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, presented his 2007 Budget Speech to a joint sitting of Parliament in February 2007. The main theme of his speech was “The foundation of human association is the idea that human life has equal worth and human beings are equally entitled to political, economic and social rights which allow them to choose a life they have reason to live. Human life has equal worth …”

Tax revenue has grown by an average of 17 per cent a year for the past three years, much faster than the rate of economic growth. Alongside the new taxpayers created by a growing economy, legislative, administrative and technological changes have broadened the tax base significantly. Despite generous tax relief and rate reductions, the tax to GDP ratio has risen considerably in the past three years, reflecting economic buoyancy and the broader tax base. For the fiscal year ending March 2007, the governments revised estimate for revenue was R29 billion higher than the original budget. Company tax and value added tax receipts have exceeded expectations due to higher profits and strong domestic consumption. Personal income tax has also surpassed estimates, driven by both rising employment and real income gains. Government is expecting the strong growth in revenue to continue into 2007/08 leading to a revenue estimate of R545 billion or 28 per cent of GDP.

This year individuals benefit from Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance.
(Photo: Courtesy GCIS)

Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence.

Moderate personal income tax cuts and the elimination of the retirement fund tax. The 2007 Budget provides personal income tax relief amounting to R8.4 billion, increasing the level below which no income tax is levied for people under the age of 65 to R43 000. Changes to the personal income tax brackets provide relief to compensate for the negative effects of inflation on taxpayers, and partially offset the effects of changes to the taxation of medical aid contributions and car allowances.

One of the biggest successes since 1994 has been that the debt interest costs have continued to fall as a share of GDP and are set to reach 2.1 per cent by 2010. The savings on interest since 2001 have provided an additional R33 billion a year to spend on services and infrastructure; money that government would not have had if it had kept on borrowing at the 1994 level.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE BUDGET

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, presented his 2007 Budget Speech to the National Assembly on 27 March 2007.

He started his speech by stating that the “SANDF is in demand everywhere” and that “Our troops are guardians of peace in Ethiopia and Eritrea; they nurture the burgeoning democracies of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to ensure free and fair elections in the Comoros, Madagascar and Lesotho. Alongside sister African forces they...”

By Robert Wapenaar, Directorate Budgeting

Graphs: Courtesy Econometrix
monitor and enforce compliance with the Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement in the sweltering heat of the Darfur in the Sudan. They are providing much needed support to the Central African Republic in repulsing waves of attacks by northern rebels' intent on overthrowing a democratically elected government."

The Department of Defence was allocated R 25,922 billion for the 2007/08 financial year, which is an 8,8% increase from 2006/07. Personnel expenditure that makes up 36,5% of the total budget has increased by 5.6% to R 9,474 billion. The Department of Defence received additional allocations for the following:

- Rm 10,000 Salary Adjustments.
- Rm 50,000 Military Skills Development for the SA Army and SA Military Health Services.
- Rm 14,000 Remuneration of Health Professionals.
- Rm 300,000 General modernisation capacity, including provisions for the strategic airlift capability (A400M), the operational vehicle fleet and intelligence systems renewal.
- Rm 882,479 Foreign Exchange Rate Adjustments to the SPDs.

The annual April shift was successfully executed on the morning of 2 April 2007. The April shift is the means by which the new budget cycle is activated on the Financial Management System (FMS) and the occasion where responsibility for the execution of the budget is officially transferred from Director Budgeting to Director Budget Control. In this specific case it means that the 2007/08 Defence Estimate has now become the official 2007/08 Defence Budget and that Budget Holders can start spending the voted funds. Before activation can take place on the first working day of April annually, the staff from Directorate Budgeting and SITA must finally check and confirm that the amounts on the FMS balances tally with the amounts tabled in Parliament by the Ministers of Finance and Defence. The April shift does not mean that Budget Holders start shifting their allocated funds to fit the new financial year.
The SA Army and Defence Industry Seminar was held at the CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria on 29 and 30 March 2007. The event was hosted by the SA Army and presented in a concerted effort by the SA Army, Armaments Corporation (Armscor) and the South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industry Association (AMD).

The seminar was inspired by the current developments taking shape in the SA Army and thus afforded the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, a platform to present the SA Army Review outlining requisite landward defence capabilities in order to meet the future demands of the African battle space.

Taking into consideration the level of attendance by the Army Generals and the Captains of the Industry, it was befitting for Lt Gen Shoke to describe this event as "the start of a journey of a thousand miles". For a country such as South Africa with constantly expanding regional and international obligations and expectations, this is clearly a significant development in the relations and co-operation between the SA Army and the defence related industry.

The position of the SA Army was clear from the onset that the responsibility of embarking on any major acquisition programmes in the entire SANDF resides with the Chief of Acquisition.

What the seminar essentially highlighted was the fact that the SA Army will for the foreseeable future be engaged in peace support operations especially in mountainous and geographically non-negotiable terrain of the African continent with adverse climatic conditions. These operations will also be conducted within unpredictable socio-political environment with serious challenges to the SA Army. Therefore, this situation dictates a need for Army soldiers to be appropriately equipped to conduct conventional, peace support and humanitarian operations simultaneously and to be able to sustain themselves over elongated lines of logistics and communications, further afield.

These views were concretised in the Army presentations "SA Army Review: The strategic position and profile" and "SA Army Review: Modernisation of Landward systems: Equipping the SA Army for the future" by Colonels Eddie Drost and Adri Kotze respectively.

The Chairperson for AMD, Ms Khapametsi Maleke, ends her presentation at the seminar by encouraging all role players to ensure that increased communication remained supreme in their relations.
and the defence related industry could be established. In the words of Ms Khapametsi Maleka, Chairperson of AMD, "what is key is the fact of our interdependence. Our success is inseparably entwined with that of the Defence Force, and primarily we are supreme in their relations into the future so that equipment congruent with the environment in which the SANDF was now operating could be designed.

She finally concluded by encouraging all role players to ensure that increased communication remained here to serve the requirements of the SANDF". 

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, receives a gift from Ms Khapametsi Maleke, the Chairperson for AMD.
Saluting the Sergeant Majors of the Pride of Lions

By Amn Arnaus Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Army held a change of command and farewell parade at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 30 March 2007. WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, the outgoing Sergeant Major of the SA Army, handed over the reigns to WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, the incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army. Family members, friends, colleagues and various military personnel attended the parade.

“...one of those sad moments when one member of the team is leaving us. WO1 Tshabalala instilled discipline and ensured that members of the SA Army were professional. He had a flair for organising, introduced Programme CARE (Communication, Administration, Rewarding and Empowerment) and instilled pride and respect in the ranks of the SA Army, the Pride of Lions,” said Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, as he expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to WO1 Tshabalala.

In welcoming the newly appointed Sergeant Major of the SA Army, Lt Gen Shoke encouraged him to serve with the Pride of Lions and follow in the footsteps of WO1 Tshabalala with honour, pride and dignity and wished him the best for his appointment.

Before handing over the reigns, WO1 Tshabalala in his farewell note...
said that the occasion has left an indelible mark in his mind and his heart as it was an honour and a privilege that occurred very rarely in a soldier’s life, particularly if that soldier was at the humble level of a Sergeant Major.

“To have a task and distinguished appointment bestowed on me in a very special and dedicated service like the SA Army is, for lack of a better word, extremely fulfilling. This feeling of pride and joy I have observed and noticed is very visible among South Africans in all walks of life,” said WO1 Tshabalala.

To his successor, WO1 Tshabalala said: “As the Sergeant Major of the Army I have all the confidence in you that you will spread and maintain the gospel of discipline in the SA Army. You are custodians of our customs and traditions and I cannot thank you enough for your support and entreat you to remember.”

Continuing his message he urged members of the SA Army to support WO1 Kgaladi, saying: “To the Officers Commanding of all the Army units and your Regimental Sergeant Majors, may the support that I received from you be extended to the incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army; he will be highly empowered as I was”. In conclusion he thanked his wife, Lapo Abigail Tshabalala, and his three sons, Zama, Laduma and Kgololo, who had stood unshaken by all the ups and downs of life, including all the survivals and trepidations, but also all the mercies, blessings and fruits of this earth.

**Incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army**

The incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army, WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, received military training in Angola in 1976 and 1977.

After integration in 1995 he was posted to Group 33 HQ where he served at Dingwell Base.

In 1996 he was transferred to Group 33 HQ and was a Warrant Officer in charge of the Ops Room. In July 1997 he was transferred to Macadamia Ops Base as the Warrant Officer in charge of the Ops Room and was the Base Sergeant Major until March 2001. From April 2001 to December 2004 WO1 Kgaladi was the Sergeant Major of the Inspector General SA Army. Since February 2005, until his promotion as the newly appointed Sergeant Major of the SA Army, he has been the Centre Sergeant Major at the SA Army Combat Training Centre.

**Ftr: Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, WO1 Joseph Tshabalala, the outgoing Sergeant Major of the SA Army, and WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, the incoming Sergeant Major of the SA Army, on the podium during the parade.**

**The SA Army Band leading the parade with their stirring sounds.**
The SANDF Reserves are a core component of the DOD. Reserves are the lifeblood of the DOD and have showed recently with successful deployments in the Great Lakes region that the One Force Concept is now a reality.

In order to build on these successes the SANDF Reserve Force hosted a 3-day symposium from 13 to 15 March 2007 in Midrand, Johannesburg. This symposium will revisit and confirm the principles governing the future Reserve structure, preparations and the utilisation.

The need and demand for the civilian part-time “volunteer” from general society to sign up and be called in from time to time are on the rise. As the SANDF deploys more and more soldiers to peacekeeping missions in neighbouring African countries, so too must the numbers of Reserve Force members increase to provide the necessary depth from which to tap.

These professional Reserves provide the Department with a support system essential for a Defence Force whose role in peacetime is now diverse.

After the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, declared the symposium officially open Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg conveyed a message of good wishes for a productive symposium on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF. He added that of importance was the issue of where the Reserve Force was now and where it was going. "This symposium comes at a time when the role of the Reserve Force is becoming ever more important. On any one day, the equivalent of two and a half battalions of Reserves is deployed on external operations on our borders in guarding key installations and on administrative duties," he said.

"Ever since the approval of the Reserve Force Strategy in 2004, steady progress has been made with the revitalisation and transformation of the Reserves. A hallmark of the successes to date has been the deployments in the Great Lakes region. On my visits to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi with Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief of Defence Reserves, I witnessed first-hand the successful role played by the four infantry companies. They have been supplemented by Reserve Force sappers, signallers, postal officials and members of the SA Air Force," Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg added. He also commended the material improvement in the budget allocated for Reserve Force training and deployment as seen over the past two financial years and the many successes of the Reserve Force over the past year.

Touching on the issue at hand, he said: "The increasing role and profile of the Reserve Force do, however, provide the stimulus to reflect on whether we currently have the best model adapted from a conscript system to ensure that the end result is a professional, representative and guaranteed force".

He also stated that the “Core Growth - One Force” concept had implications for both the Regular and the Reserve Force. "There is a single SANDF consisting in equal importance of the Regulars and Reserves," Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg added. He also mentioned that the Reserves would be represented at all levels of the SANDF.

Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg outlined how the Reserves would be maintained on a relatively large scale for sufficient defence capacity. "In
In order to maintain the SANDF in the most economic, effective and efficient manner, the Reserves of the SANDF must be given their rightful place. This implies involving the largest possible part of South African society in Defence matters (the "Citizen in Uniform" concept)."

"It is imperative that it should be sufficiently resourced and that the service in the Reserves should be popularised and incentivised."

He concluded by saying that Sir Winston Churchill was indeed correct when he said the volunteer part-time soldier was "twice the citizen". Also in attendance and to offer significant contributions and expertise to the making of a strengthened Reserve Force were delegations from Kenya, India, Botswana, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

Reflecting back on 2006

By Mrs Gerda Bezuidenhout, SC RO KBY

Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley may be one of the smallest DOD Force Structures in the Northern Cape, but since the appointment of Lt Col Willem Klink as Officer Commanding this unit has become not only a valuable member of the DOD, but also of the business community of the Northern Cape region.

As a Regional Office of the Service Corps this unit focuses on providing development growth opportunities to the clients of the DOD by facilitating reskilling and employment guidance through empowering and developing clients to become either self-employed entrepreneurs or to assist them in sustainable employment ventures.

The Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley is on top of social and economical development in the region as it has seating on most of the business forums and conducts extensive research on a continuous basis into labour market intelligence. During 2006 this unit, at the invitation of external companies, attended various seminars and workshops on a variety of business and management aspects. A work session on Project Amatenda aimed at Black Economic Empowerment was attended in May 2006. In November last year the unit attended the launch of Telkom Business, a new Business PC Bundle, which was aimed at giving small, medium and micro-enterprises the edge in today's competitive and demanding business environment. The other workshops attended addressed a variety of topics, such as fraud prevention, relationship empowerment programmes, tourism and how to become world-class entrepreneurs.

This unit was the host for a week-long course on leadership abilities, which was presented by Joint Training Public Service Act Personnel Education Training and Development from Cape Town. A total of 34 members attended the course. Topics on understanding and leading the team, as well as controlling stress were dealt with. The arrangements for this course were of such a nature that the Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley was requested to arrange a follow-up course.

The highlight of 2006 was the networking brunch that was hosted at Kalahari Lodge for 84 current and future stakeholders, which included influential persons from the social and economical environments of the region. During this event stakeholders were briefed on the role and function of the Service Corps and the role that the Regional Office can play in the upliftment of the people of the region.

This unit can proudly announce that each member (uniformed and civilian) of the Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley is in possession of a valid military driving license. Health is of importance to this unit: all the unit's members updated their immunisation cycles and participated in three fitness tests in 2006. A health board was put up on which monthly DOD health themes were displayed. These subjects were researched thoroughly by the staff members on a monthly basis.
he first media briefing for 2007 on the state of the SA Air Force took place at Air Force Base Makhado on 9 March 2007.

The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, and members of the SAAF Board conduct these briefings annually with the purpose of enhancing media relations and to interact with the media about issues relating to the SA Air Force.

Here follows the updates on the SA Air Force:

ON AIR TRANSPORT

Of the nine C130 Hercules transport aircraft on the inventory of the SA Air Force, six have already been modified and are available to 28 Squadron. Of the remaining three, two are still in the avionic modification programme and the other is being subjected to fatigue studies. "The latest report from Lockheed Martin indicates that the present wings on our C130 aircraft still have sufficient life to fly, at current utilisation rates, to beyond 2015," Lt Gen Gagiano reported.

HELICOPTERS

Sixteen of the 30 Agusta A109 light utility helicopters were delivered. The planned phasing out of the BK117 helicopter fleet by the end of September 2007 has been started.

Four Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopters are planned for delivery in May 2007. Six of these aircraft are presently operational with 15 Squadron and are based at AFB Durban and AFS Port Elizabeth.

The first introduction of helicopter flying to students is, however, complex and, due to the critical shortages of instructors, it was decided to outsource basic helicopter flying. "It is extremely difficult to keep people and it is also too lucrative out there," said the Chief of the SA Air Force explaining how difficult it was for the SA Air Force to retain skilled members such as pilots, navigators and technicians. He added that this was not only a problem for the SA Air Force, but it could soon become a problem for all of South African aviation.

FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

The Gripen fighter aircraft is undergoing operational testing and evaluation at AFB Overberg. "Many activities are under way at the present time to ensure a seamless transition from the current Cheetah fleet to the Gripen as the main combat capability of the SA Air Force," said Lt Gen Gagiano. Commissioning of the BAE Hawk lead-in fighter trainer has started with the final delivery of the system scheduled for January 2008. The first core of instructors completed their training on the Hawk, while the second group started their training at the beginning of the 2007.

PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

During the past year the SA Air Force participated fully in the Government peace support initiatives in Africa. Approximately 2 100 hours were flown between April and December 2006 in support of deployments, elections and international exercises.

REACHING OUT TO OTHER AIR FORCES

The SA Air Force has achieved significant successes in its efforts to reach out to other air forces in Africa and beyond, with a view to creating an environment of co-operation between these air forces and the SA Air Force. "In this regard I have paid goodwill visits to Algeria, India, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Vietnam. I also attended the 11th Standing Aviation Committee Conference in Angola, the International Aerospace Power Seminar in New Dehli and Aero India 2007 (Bangalore)," said Lt Gen Gagiano. He also reported that the flying instructors exchange programme for three years between South Africa and Zimbabwe was working well. The Zimbabwean instructors are currently based at the Central Flying School in Langebaanweg.

GENERAL ASPECTS

Other general aspects Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano spoke about were the successes of the African Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition at AFB Ysterplaat and the Wings Parade in 2006. Owing to the reconstruction of
the runway and other facilities at AFB Waterkloof the next AAD in 2008 will also be held at AFB Ysterplaat, he said.

According to the Chief of the SA Air Force two wings parades will be hosted in Pretoria and Langebaanweg in 2007. The SA Air Force currently has 63 pilot students and 17 navigators on the two wings courses. Twelve of the pilot students are women. At the Military Academy in Saldanha are 67 pilot and navigator students, 10 of whom are women. In addition 27 members are undergoing officers’ training at the SA Air Force College.

"The SA Air Force is more committed than ever to serving the country and its people,” concluded Lt Gen Gagiano.

A Cheetah aircraft escorting the C130 Hercules transport aircraft to AFB Makhado.

Four young pilots (Hawk), fltr: Capt Lance Mathebula, Lt Thabang Mashilane, Lt Josias Mashaba and Lt Ronny Mashau.
Transformation agent with a vision

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Those who know Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi describe her as a strong, decisive and outspoken leader. She has the courage to tread where others would fear to go. As South Africa moves into the second decade of democracy, this Major General has defined her Chief Directorate’s core business as being to: Conduct sensitivity and awareness programmes on human rights and equity issues within the DOD, monitor the implementation of the Affirmative Action policy, and advise the DOD on the delivery of the mandate embodied in these government policies. Her strategic intent is to pursue constructive engagement with employees of the DOD through the provision of guidelines, strategy plans, programmes and instructions, which will result in behaviour and attitude changes in line with the principles of our country’s Constitution.

Maj Gen Motumi resumed her responsibility as the new Chief Director Transformation Management on 18 April 2006. She is of the opinion that transformation will result in a just and better performing organisation. In this regard her Chief Directorate shall address the following:

- Provides strategic direction and support to the DOD so that the promotion of human rights principles becomes an integral part of mission readiness, and thereby contribute to the building of a new DOD identity.
- Provide strategic direction and support to the DOD in order to promote equity.
- Provide strategic direction and support to the DOD in order to develop exemplary leadership, which would bring the best from subordinates and portray the DOD as a caring and people centred organisation.
- Provide strategic direction and support to the DOD so that the rights of members and those populations where we serve are protected during internal and external deployments.
- Provide strategic direction and support to the DOD in order to promote equity.

The past twelve months since her appointment have been dedicated to the provision of guidelines to Services and Divisions. This year’s focus would be on monitoring the extent to which these have been implemented, including challenges experienced. One of her passions is the correction of gender imbalances within the DOD, and in this regard a Conference on Women in Defence was held in May 2006.

The purpose was to facilitate dialogue among the women themselves so that consensus could be reached on how to move forward in pursuit of this agenda. In retrospect women’s representation in decision-making structures of the organisation is still nothing to write home about. What is of significance in this regard is the fact that the military leadership has accepted that this matter will not go away, it will remain on the organisation’s Agenda until measurable progress is visible.

The delays in achieving significant progress have been described by the Minister of Defence during the SADC Women’s Conference as being caused by the male generals’ conservative attitudes towards women and women’s lack of support for each other (pull her down syndrome). For women in Defence to be able to advance this agenda, Maj Gen Motumi believes women will need to be the agents of the change they want to see for themselves. She further stated that women who are not passionate about their own struggle for equality and justice make it difficult to transform the DOD. As a result deepening understanding and reaching consensus on priority areas is critical at this point in time.

The gender equity dialogue was also extended to women serving in the SADC Defence Forces during November 2006. In this regard Maj Gen Motumi hosted a conference in Pretoria and ten countries attended this historic event. Its purpose was to facilitate the alignment of national policies and practices on gender equity with regional standards and benchmarks. In pursuit of this broad objective, the conference provided a forum for participants to share and learn from best practises relating to the status of gender equity across the region.

Benchmarking with countries, which are recognised worldwide as having been successful in the implementation of affirmative action policies, have also been done. Through this engagement, it was reconfirmed that South Africa’s policies are progressive in this regard. For members of the designated groups to be affirmed to take
their rightful place, training and development will have to be accelerated and treated as a priority. The DOD is also being expected to be proactive in identifying best performers in the designated groups and empower them with appropriate skills and competencies.

Maj Gen Motumi says that it is of critical importance that the DOD ensures that this process is conducted in a transparent manner in order to guarantee acceptance by all. It should be clear in everyone’s mind that those who are being affirmed, is as a result of their capabilities. The Major General also says that, as an organisation, the DOD needs to ensure that our constitutional ideals are seen in the reality of our lives. She is passionate about her transformation agenda and is intensively lobbying and soliciting the Chiefs of Services and Divisions’ support in pursuit thereof, for nothing could be achieved on her own. Maj Gen Motumi has also ensured that her directorate’s vacancies have been filled and that all posts profiled in order to be able to empower the incumbents with the necessary skills and competencies. As Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Motumi sees her task as very exciting and yet challenging.

Upping the Stakes on the Gender Agenda

innovation, vision, dynamism and economic liberation are some of the buzzwords emanating from the content of this year’s Management and Leader-ship Development (MLD) Conference for women managers in government and state owned enterprises in Southern Africa.

Now in its fifth year, the MLD, run by the International Quality Productivity Centre (IQPC), aims at equipping female managers with skills to help them excel in their leadership positions. The conference will be held in Johannesburg from 28 May to 1 June 2007.

High-ranking women in government from Southern Africa addressing the conference will include Swaziland’s Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Constance Simelane, who will speak on women being positive forces in management and leadership development, and Namibian Gender Equality and Child Welfare Minister, Ms Marlene Mungunda, who will talk about mobilising women to be more innovative and experiential in achieving their full potential.

The Director Large-scale Events at the IQPC, Ms Ankia Roux, said the gender agenda remained a key focus in achieving equal representation of the sexes in key positions in government and state owned enterprises. ‘While South Africa has made great strides in women’s representation at top management level, more still needs to be done to support those already there with training to become effective managers, as well as nurture those women who are still climbing up,’ Ms Roux said.

The conference would also address the issues of violence against women, service delivery in the rural areas, prioritisation of education for women, balancing work and home responsibilities, as well as networking skills highlighted by an introduction to golf.

Other confirmed speakers include SA Navy Director of Transformation, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, CEO: Office On The Status of Women in The Presidency, Ms Susan Nkomo, celebrity and 3 Talk host, Ms Noeleen Maholwana Sangqu, and Pretoria University Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ntshabiseng Ogude.

* For more information please contact Tambu Jonherra on +27 (0)11 465 7978 or fax: +27 (0)11 463 3723 or email: tambuj@amavacomms.co.za

African Aid Relief

The 6th African Aid Relief and Disaster Management Expo and Conference will take place at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg, on 29 and 30 May 2007. The event will focus on aid relief, developmental aid and disaster management for Southern Africa. Mr Paul Runge, Managing Director Africa Project Access, will officially open the conference.

For further details pertaining to speakers and the content of the briefing please contact Mr Runge on +27 (0)11 465 6770 or +27 (0)82 651 0707 or email: afric.projs@pixie.co.za

If you are interested in the exhibition, please contact Bette McNaughton, Event Director at Fair Consultants, on +27 (0)21 713 3360 or fax +27 (0)21 713 3366 or email: events@fairconsultants.com

5 questions about micro-Loans

1. May micro-lenders keep clients bank cards, pin numbers and ID books? No, it is illegal. Report micro-lenders doing this to the MFRC.
2. Must all money lenders be registered? Yes, anybody asking in excess of the permitted mainstream interest rate of 23% must register with the MFRC.
3. How do I know he is registered? Ask for his latest MFRC certificate or phone the MFRC and enquire if the micro-lender is registered. If he is not registered, send his name, telephone number and address to the MFRC so that his bona fides may be investigated.
4. How can I obtain a loan? Never enter into an oral agreement or sign a blank cheque. You are entitled to a written contract in which the following is specified: the amount you are borrowing, the amount you will eventual-
Train today for tomorrow

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

The Department of Defence (DOD) is continuously challenged to align Education, Training and Development (ETD) with National requirements and for that reason the Human Resources Development Conference was scheduled in pursuit of compliance.

"Train today for the future" was the main theme of the conference held at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria on 1 March 2007. Various speakers from the DOD and other government departments engaged in a highly strategic debate on human resources development.

In his welcoming speech Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Human Resources, said: "We need to use this conference to reflect on what we can do better to avoid a repeat of similar mistakes and problems during the implementation of the Department's Human Resources strategy. We must also use this conference to signal the steps we plan to take to accelerate service delivery in those areas where we believe we are falling behind. The Department understands the importance of Human Resources Development in our country and as a result it plays a role in a number of structures in the country that addresses human resources development."

When he officially opened the conference the Accounting Officer of the DOD, Mr January Masilela, briefed the delegates regarding the challenges concerning human resources issues that the DOD had to deal with. "As a learning organisation we are faced with critical challenges in the Department," said Mr Masilela, referring to the recent loss of skilled members of the SANDF, who resigned from the DOD for lucrative employment deals in the private sector.

"We must have an effective and efficient recruitment system so that we can have highly innovative employees," said Mr Masilela.

The first sub-theme on the agenda was reflected in presentations on how Human Resources Development within the National Imperatives for 2014 could be achieved. Mr Gwede Mantashe, Executive Manager Strategic Operation Development Bank of SA, presented the first paper on the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGI-SA) and the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA). Ms Vuyelwa Penxa, CEO Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA), gave her views on the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) with reference to the requirement for skills in the future workplace.

The other two sub-themes that were discussed during the conference were: (1) Facing the 21st Century: Educational Perspective - further education and training, and (2) Aligning the DOD's Vision with the Human Resources landscape.

The first speaker on the second sub-theme was Ms Penny Vinjevold, Deputy Director General FET of the Department of Education, who spoke extensively about the National Senior Certificate and an overview of the performance of the national schooling system and the implementation of the curriculum statement. Then Ms Aruna Singh, Director FET Colleges of the Department of Education, spoke about service delivery in those areas where we believe we are falling behind. The Department understands the importance of Human Resources Development within the National Imperatives for 2014 could be achieved. Mr Gwede Mantashe, Executive Manager Strategic
Discover South Africa and its military units

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

From 26 to 30 March 2007 Military Attachés and Advisors Corps (MAAC) members with their families took time off from their busy schedules to visit SANDF installations in Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

A member of Defence Foreign Relations Maj Lesetja Mabula, SO2 Protocol, said that because these members were mostly based in Pretoria, Gauteng, the purpose of the visit was to expose them to SANDF installations in other provinces in South Africa. These opportunities provided them with first-hand experience in identifying possible mutual areas of co-operation with the SANDF and South Africa, thus improving relations between countries. Such tours are arranged twice a year.

This tour was the first for 2007; their previous tour was to Bloemfontein, Free State and the Northern Cape.

Under the command of Col Anton van Rooyen the delegates were flown from AFB Waterkloof to AFB Hoedspruit. The first military base visited was AFB Hoedspruit. The next pit stop was 5 Special Forces Regiment in Balulani, commanded by Lt Col Steven Maloma, the Second in Command of 5 Special Forces Regiment in Balulani. They also toured the base where a static display of Special Forces vehicles, such as the newly acquired Hornet (manufactured in South Africa) and the Vlermuys were on display.

"Survival Camp" was the place that really impressed the delegates. Maj Scott Morgan, the US Military Attaché, said there were similarities between the Special Forces of the USA and South Africa and that he was impressed by the Hornet vehicle. He thought South Africa could market the Hornet vehicle in other countries.

Joint Tactical Headquarters in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, commanded by Col Eugene Mathew was the last unit that the members of MAAC visited. During the various briefings the members asked questions and engaged in a debate about the current status of the military.

They also paid a courtesy call on the offices of Mbombela Municipality in Nelspruit. Addressing safety concerns Mr Vusi Sibiya, the Spokesperson of Mbombela Municipality, highlighted the fact that as one of the host cities of the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament, Mbombela Municipality would rely on the SANDF and other security forces for support.

The Kruger National Park, the Blyde River Canyon, famous for the "three rondavels", the Sudwala Caves and the Shangaan Village were some of the places visited. When asked about his impression of the tour, Col Pustaka Bangun, Military Attaché from Indonesia, replied: "It was quite good, very informative and well organised": "The tour was very interesting. I really enjoyed the interaction we had during the briefings and also the cultural village was an eye-opener," said Col Rick Hatton, Canadian Defence Advisor.
Celebrating the People’s Navy

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The SA Navy Festival held annually in Simon’s Town seems to be one of those public events people do not grow tired of. It has been four years since I last covered the SA Navy Festival and it was extremely pleasing to find that the event’s popularity has not dropped. From 23 to 25 March 2007 the beautiful and historic Simon’s Town was the place to be!

In addition, the festival offered something quite intoxicating as those present left with the unique experience of having witnessed the coming together of the SA Navy and the very people it serves.

From the day the festival started the gates were open to the public from morning till night. At the East Yard of Simon’s Town the A Navy offered all sorts of excitement for adults and children. The East Dockyard Dry Dock remained a popular attraction as our renowned Navy Band concert was held there.

Our ships and first new submarine were open to the public, and a tugboat sailed all day due to the huge demand, while the divers’ exhibition in diving tanks inspired young, aspirant SA Navy divers. The festival offered a fun-filled and educational programme with a variety of activities and intriguing exhibitions and static displays, including model boats.

Locals and visitors swarmed to Simon’s Town Main Road for the Right of Entry Parade and were just in time for a pleasant surprise. This time the parade did not feature visiting foreign navies marching down Main Road, instead the SA Navy not only showed its might, but also showcased its future generation - the young sea cadets.

Accepting the “Right of Entry” R Adm H.v.E. Bester, Flag Officer Fleet, said that allowing members to march through the city bearing arms demonstrated the confidence of civilian authority in the SA
Alderman Nicki Holderness (left) and R Adm H. vE. Bester, Flag Officer Fleet, take the general salute during the Right of Entry Parade.

Navy. "It was estimated that over 100 000 people visited the SA Navy Festival last year; it has indeed become a showcase of naval culture."

He added: "This year the public will also have the opportunity to tour our first new submarine. Suffice it to say that a new era has dawned with many exciting challenges for which your Navy is ready and prepared." R Adm Bester also thanked African Defence Systems for their generous sponsorship in making the festival a reality.

SA Soldier met a group of young people known as sea cadets from the Training Ship Woltemade, who participated in the parade. We spoke to a 14-year old sea cadet, Seaman Ronelda Cleophas from Mitchell’s Plain. She told us that she was a student and had been part of the group for almost three years.

The Training Ship Woltemade is a youth programme funded by the SA Sea Cadet Association and is a corporate social investment of the SA Navy. It focuses on children between 13 and 17 years from all over the Cape. It encourages them to join and taste our Navy culture. "This is like an extramural activity that I attend every Saturday, but I am off during school holidays," Seaman Cleophas said. "We are taught drill work, sunset and colours ceremonies, as well as ship and rope work. I have discipline in my daily life and I feel like I have a career to look forward to."

Celebrating with a Navy that is in keeping with the times, technologically and otherwise, was really enjoyable.
milestone was reached in the SA Army when the official opening of the SA Army Taekwondo Training Centre took place at the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg on 28 March 2007.

The opening ceremony was held in the PT Hall of the Army Gymnasium. The main functionaries at the ceremony were Maj Gen L.M. Dlulane (representative of the Chief of the SA Army) and the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, Mr K.S. Kim.

The ceremony consisted of Scripture reading and prayer conducted by Cpln W.H. Mthimunye, a welcoming address by the Officer Commanding Army Gymnasium, Col R.V. Ludonga, and speeches by Maj Gen Dlulane and Mr Kim. The unveiling ceremony of the first SA Army Taekwondo Training Centre then took place. After the two national anthems were played everyone moved to the hall to be treated to a short demonstration by the learners and the two instructors, Master Cho and Master Kim.

During the ceremony Maj Gen Dlulane thanked the Republic of South Korea for its offer to train our soldiers in unarmed combat skills in the form of Taekwondo. He then briefly explained what Taekwondo was. Literally translated from Korean, Tae means "to kick" or "to strike with the foot", Kwo means "fist" or "to strike with the hand" and Do means "discipline" or "art". Taken together Tae Kwo Do means "the art of kicking and punching, the art of unarmed combat".

Maj Gen Dlulane also mentioned that this group of students were to be the first "pioneers" earmarked for training as the core group of instructors that will introduce this skill to the rest of the SANDF until it is thoroughly integrated into our training curriculum.

It was then the turn of the South Korean Ambassador, Mr Kim, to address the parade. He said: "Taekwondo is the Korean traditional
martial art with a historical background of more than 1 500 years. It is a unique combat skill with a militaristic spirit. It has been used to train military cadets in the old Korean dynasties from the 6th Century. Korean soldiers currently train in Taekwondo for at least one and a half hours every day to acquire not only close combat skills and physical strength, but also essential psychological attributes in the military, such as courage, confidence and discipline. All Korean soldiers acquire black belts in Taekwondo when they finish their military service of two years and it also provides Korea with excellent human resources for building a better country.”

Mr Kim concluded: “I also believe that the South African Taekwondo Programme will further strengthen the friendly relations that already exist between our two countries and two armies. The Government of the Republic of Korea would like to enhance its co-operation in the field of military affairs with the Government of the RSA and promote its further development.”

According to Maj O. van der Westhuysen, SO2 Training Army Gymnasium, the course is aimed at training a corps of Taekwondo instructors whom will be responsible for spreading the skill of self-defence throughout the SA Army. The learners, who represent different units in the SA Army will, on returning to their units, have to implement a training plan to teach their fellow soldiers the art of self-defence.

Taekwondo training is not a formal course for which members can be nominated as part of a career development or specialist course for career progression. According to Maj Gen Dlulane unarmed combat is going to be integrated into the training curriculum of all SA Army combat units.

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(* Translated by Lebohang Mathibela)

The English version of this article is available on page 29. To obtain a translation of this article or any article published in SA SOLDIER in any one of our official languages, please make use of the professional services rendered by Directorate Language Services of the DOD. For assistance contact Dr Johann Marais at Directorate Language Services at tel no: 012 392 2412 - Ed.
DOD resuming the management of union stop orders

By Pte A.M. Mvubu and Amn D.J. Daffue, MSDS second year members at Directorate Collective Mechanisms

Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

In 2002 the DOD requested all military trade unions to submit stop order forms for auditing. The biggest registered military trade union, the South African National Defence Union (SANDU) refused to comply, while the smaller union, the South African Security Forces Union (SASFU) complied with the request.

Non-compliance led to confrontation and litigation, resulting in a court order. Consequently SANDU instituted an urgent court application against the Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF.

The matter was handled and heard by the High Court of South Africa, and Honourable Judge Justice Preller gave the following ruling:

a. "That the Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF are, pending the outcome of the arbitration between the parties, to comply with paragraph 6 of the notice of motion, by continuing with the processing of the procedures".

b. "That the Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF must pay the cost of this application, including the appearance on 6 February 2007, pending the outcome of the arbitration procedures".

In compliance with the order the DOD appointed a crack team consisting of six highly trained and specialised Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and members of the Directorate Collective Mechanisms, led by Col Phillip Dhlamini, SSO Military Labour Relations. The team completed a six month task in two weeks. On behalf of the DOD the team found that SANDU had unlawfully deducted over 4 million rands from its members. The DOD will therefore have to recover all the monies unlawfully deducted from its members and reimburse them.

Further enquiries can be directed to Col Phillip Dhlamini or Cpl Issy Malungana at tel no: 012 355 5505 (SSN 810) or fax no: 012 355 5675.
The weekend of 23 and 24 February 2007 will be remembered as a highlight in the history of 19 Field Engineer Regiment in Durban.

Not only did the Regiment receive its new colours, but the change of command parade between Lt Col Tex Westgate, the outgoing Officer Commanding, and Lt Col Brian Doré, the incoming Officer Commanding, took place. A medal parade was also presented. In between all the parades, a guest evening and a cocktail function were also held.

Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, Chief Director SA Army Reserves, was the main functionary at the Colour Parade. He said that they could reminisce about the record of the Regiment. Its members could remember their work in support of the peaceful National Elections of 1994 and the survival period when integration led to the creation of a new Regular Force. He mentioned that the Regiment had to have a clear strategy to be able to train up to 200 men and women, of which 23 had been deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in October 2006.

The General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, was the main functionary at the medal parade. He indicated that the future of the Regiment was bright and very promising. He stated that the recent deployment to the DRC was confirmation of the trust and confidence the SA Army had in the soldiers performing their tasks.

He promised the young soldiers on parade that they would be given an opportunity to be deployed, but indicated that there was a catch. First they had to honour their commitment to the Reserve Force and the Regiment, and secondly they had to remain healthy.

Brig Gen Nobanda thanked the outgoing Officer Commanding for his services and contributions to the Regiment. He indicated to the incoming Officer Commanding that it was an honour and a privilege to command and lead people. He said that one needed attributes like compassion, firmness, and being a parent and a good listener, but warned him that nice guys usually came second.
SA Air Force opts for Argos military airborne observation system

By Sam J. Basch, Denel Corporate Communication

Armscor awarded Denel Optronics a contract for the supply of the Argos 410-Z military airborne observation system to the SA Air Force (SAAF) for its Cessna Caravan aircraft in March 2007.

The Argos 410-Z enhances and expands the ability of the aircraft to perform long-range search and rescue, surveillance, reconnaissance, and other observation missions.

“We are delighted with this Armscor contract which once again underwrites our commitment to support our local defence force with state-of-the-art technology products,” says Theo Kleynhans, Acting General Manager of Denel Optronics.

German company Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH signed an agreement with Denel on 14 March 2007 to acquire a majority stake in Denel Optronics as part of the restructuring process of Denel.

The Argos 410-Z is a stabilised airborne observation system equipped with the latest generation Carl Zeiss Optronics thermal imager, a 3-CCD daylight TV camera with powerful zoom lens, eye-safe laser rangefinder, autotracker, and mission awareness positioning system (MAPS). The MAPS function provides the operator with GPS coordinates of "objects of interest" by means of a high accuracy integrated inertial measurement unit (IMU).

Denel Optronics has been showcasing its Argos 410-Z at several major global air shows in recent times, notably ILA in Berlin, Farnborough in the UK and Eurosatory in Paris, as well as at the Africa Aerospace & Defence (AAD) in Cape Town. It attracted major interest from international aircraft manufacturers, systems houses and military customers (end-users) looking to retrofit their existing systems.

Built to military specifications the Argos 410-Z offers outstanding day and night image quality. The Carl Zeiss Optronics ATTICA thermal imager is known for generating clear, focused images. With its four fields of view and advanced image processing features, including edge enhancement, local adaptive dynamic compression and electronic zoom, it offers exceptional detection, recognition and identification ranges.

Further information about the Argos 410-Z (the "Z" denotes the system is equipped with the Zeiss thermal imager) is available on the website: www.deneloptronics.co.za

The Argos system mounted on the undercarriage of a Cessna Caravan (German registration), which is similar to the installation for SA Air Force aircraft.
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**Research material needed**

I am doing research on persons who have served in the SADF. I also need old SADF photos, especially of medical units. Please contact Lourens at 072 895 6900

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**SA Joint Air Defence Symposium**

SA Joint Air Defence Symposium (SAJADS) is a prestigious military event that takes place every two years under the auspices of Chief Joint Operations of the SANDF and is facilitated by Armscor. Jointness/interoperability is a recognised force multiplier, and the most complex and advanced command and control issues therefore are addressed by Joint Air Defence. The SAJADS name has therefore been chosen to promote air defence interoperability (it includes interconnectivity) in the diverse African environment of conventional, asymmetric and both technology advanced and challenged situations. Speakers and delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia, South America and the USA will be attending this year’s event at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria on 30-31 May 2007.

It is vital that local role players involved with security aspects at the 2010 World Soccer Cup are exposed to the expertise that is to be presented at SAJADS 2007. Over 400 delegates will be privileged to listen to 22 renowned presenters of papers. Please visit the SAJADS website http://www.jadasa.co.za for additional information and to register.

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**Both DJ’s present: Di-Ngwazi**

PO Eddie Kgomo from Defence TV and his friend DJ Jacky Charma have produced and released their debut CD with 15 hot tracks. The CD features tracks like *Di-Ngwazi*, *Dream it*, *Jerusalema*. DJ Tshepang Mpete, a presenter of Moretele Community Radio (Temba), could not help but invite them to his drive-time show after their performance at the Sammy Marks Square in Pretoria.

The duo have shared the stage with the likes of Solly Moholo, Machance, Bojomojo, Dj Mujava, Dj Takalani, to name but a few, at Makapanstad Stadium for the HIV/AIDS Benefit Concert on 31 December 2006.

The brothers are hot. This is a must have dance CD and it can be found in music stores such as Jive City and Look and Listen. The promotional price is R30.00 a copy.

If you need a DJ and value for your money, please contact Both DJ’s at 073 386 0353 or 072 370 6581.

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**Attention DOD members!**

**South African Soldier Classifieds**

**Free of charge**
Cessna 152 on display at the SAAF Museum

By Capt Leon Steyn, Research Officer SAAF Museum

In a constant endeavour to display a balanced history, which would represent the full facet of its rich aviation heritage, the SAAF Museum recently obtained a Cessna 152 for static display purposes.

Some may frown upon this latest arrival, as it is not of truly military class, but this type of aircraft represents a unique part of African aviation history.

In 1976 a decision was taken by the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) High Command, Central Committee and the Military Commission to train aviators. Altogether 22 cadres were identified and sent to the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre at Zaria in Nigeria, where 14 pilots, 4 aircraft electronic technicians and 4 aircraft engineers were trained.

Many eventually went to serve in the SA Air Force after 1994 and have risen to the most senior management positions within the SA Air Force and the SANDF.

The Cessna 150 aircraft, one of the most successful ab initio trainers, was utilised by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre at Zaria. It was on this type of aircraft that the 14 pilots of this group received their initial flying training.

The need for more sizeable artefacts, especially representative aircraft types to enhance the display was recognised. A Cessna 152 of very similar appearance to the Cessna 150 was identified and obtained for the museum in March 2006.

This particular aircraft was operated by the Aero-Club de Libreville in Gabon before it found its way to South Africa. It was initially identified for a possible rebuild, but it was found in too bad a condition and was eventually relegated to a dusty corner of a hangar at Wonderboom Airport.

The technical team of the SAAF Museum assessed the condition of the Cessna as suitable for static display purposes and no time was wasted in assembling the aircraft at Wonderboom. She was delivered to the museum at Swartkop by road on 12 March 2007. The Cessna will now be refurbished and repainted to represent one of the Nigerian aircraft in which the Class of 1977 was trained.

* Readers are welcome to contact Capt Leon Steyn with any additional information, artefacts or memorabilia from this period at (012) 351 2282 or 073 255 2467.

Seated in front of the aircraft, fltr: Titus Sithole (now residing in Australia) Maj Dlamini (SA Army), Brig Gen Raymond Fihla (Defence Intelligence, Ret), Mass Ngobese (deceased), Maj Gen G. Malinga (SAAF Chief of Joint Operations), Sphiwe Cele, CO P.K. Gaelisewe, Maj Gen T. Ntsibande (SAAF Chief of Logistics), Maj Gen M.M.M. Mangethe (SAAF GOC Air Command). Standing in front of the aircraft, fltr: Maj Gen H.A. Bhembe (SAAF Chief Director Force Development and Support), Brig Gen W. Nkonyeni (Commandant SA National War College), N.G. Njingana (SA Army), Maj Gen N.L.J. Ngema (SAAF Chief Director Air Policy and Plans), Robert Buqwana (Canada), Gordon "Zero" Goba, and Lt Col M.M. Seroto (SAAF Reserves). Standing behind the aircraft, fltr: Christopher Kote (deceased), Themba Nkenene (deceased), Lt Col Khumalo (deceased), Tshaka Komane (deceased), William Rankolegodi (deceased). *Of the 22 cadres sent for training, 21 appear on the photo. The missing member is M. Lebello, who was withdrawn from the course at an early stage.
Add life to your retirement with an Old Mutual retirement annuity

If one of your New Year’s resolutions is to stretch your hard-earned income and get real value for money in whatever you buy, then why shouldn’t your retirement investment also measure up, asks Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager for Old Mutual.

“If retirement is not top of mind for you at the moment, because you believe you are either too young or that your company pension will be adequate, then you need to pay special attention,” Wilson adds.

The alarming fact is that only a small percentage of South Africans are able to retire financially independent. This is largely because people rely heavily on their employer’s pension fund to take care of them during retirement.

That’s fine for those willing to accept a drastic drop in income when they retire, but for those not willing to compromise their lifestyle, it simply won’t be enough.

Add to this the fact that people change jobs often but do not preserve their pension fund benefits. Interestingly, even people with 40 years of uninterrupted service can expect a 20% drop in income when they retire – depending on their pension fund rules.

Wilson emphasises that more people should consider the financial implications of retirement while they are still young enough to do so.

“An investment in Old Mutual Max Investments may be the best financial decision you’ll ever take,” she says. “Designed either to fill the income gap between your employer’s pension fund and your present income, or to provide a stand-alone pension, Max Investments may narrow the gap between living comfortably and merely getting by.”

If you consider that people are living longer due to advances in medical technology and healthier lifestyles, you may find yourself spending many more years in retirement than you thought. Coupled with ever increasing medical costs and the rising cost of living, your employer pension fund benefits might not give you enough income in the long run.

Retirement planning does not stop at retirement. It is important to choose the appropriate retirement product for your needs. Choosing the right product is not a decision to be taken lightly. After all, this will determine your quality of life during a time when it matters most. There are a number of different products and you should discuss these with your financial adviser and evaluate their features, potential benefits and risks.

Retirement may come as a shock to those that have led full and active lives. But it can be a double blow when your retirement income is substantially less than you’ve been used to. If you are not prepared to compromise your standard of living, then now is the time to change your retirement destiny. By taking immediate action, you can design your own happy ending.

And, if you’re serious about getting real value from your retirement investment, contact your Old Mutual Personal Financial Adviser or broker, or go to an Old Mutual Bank branch.
Destruction of obsolete pesticides in Africa

By Cdr Adri Liebenberg, SO1 Environmental Policy

The African Stockpiles Project (ASP) has been initiated to collect and finance the destruction of all obsolete pesticides on the African continent over the next five years. The World Bank is funding the project through various funding resources.

The first phase of the project involves South Africa as one of seven nations in Africa. Within South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) assisted by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) will be managing the project through the establishment of a project management unit that consists of a project manager from the DEAT, a project officer from the DOA and a technical adviser for the destruction of the pesticides. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN) supports the development and roll-out of the project. Other participating organisations include CropLife International, CropLife SA, BirdLife SA, Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), AgriSA, the Transvaal Agricultural Union and the National African Farmers Union.

The Logistics Staff Council (LSC) approved the implementation of the ASP within the Department of Defence (DOD) in July 2006. The ASP will be managed by the Environmental Services section at the Logistics Division, in conjunction with Dr Gerhard Verdoorn of BirdLife SA in order to effectively and comprehensively ensure the collection of obsolete and outdated pesticides present on military properties. Obsolete pesticides are products of which the manufacture, formulation, sale and use have been banned, which are no longer of use to the owners thereof and which have expired, especially herbicides.

It includes any product that is or was registered under Act No 36 of 1947 (as indicated on the product label) and any old containers of products that may have been used as pesticides. These containers may be unlabelled or poorly labelled. The main classes of pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and acaricides. Products that are not eligible for inclusion in the project are any fertilizers, lubricants, animal health drugs such as antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, industrial chemicals and any other chemicals that are not considered to be strictly pesticides. Empty containers that contained only pesticides and no lubricants, industrial chemicals and disinfectants are eligible to be included in the project.

Initially the status, type and approximate amount of obsolete pesticides within the DOD were identified and assessed by means of a questionnaire completed by the Officers Commanding (OCs) of military installations. This was necessary in order for the specialist teams from the ASP to compile a comprehensive inventory of all such products present on military sites.

Once the independent inventory has been completed and approved, obsolete stocks will be collected, analysed, safely packaged and eventually destroyed by members of the ASP. There is only one opportunity for military bases and units to get rid of such obsolete pesticides free of charge. In future, national legislation may very well outlaw the keeping or possession of obsolete pesticides.

Therefore, following the completion of the ASP within the DOD, the OCs of bases and units will be accountable for the high costs associated with the collection and destruction of unnecessary stockpiled pesticides by hazardous waste specialists. However, awaiting the completion of the inventory and the collection and destruction of obsolete pesticides, the OCs of bases and units in possession of such materials must ensure correct storage and safeguarding by repackaging leaking containers in leak-proof containers. Empty steel drums or thick plastic bags must be used to ensure that the obsolete pesticides are stored in secure stores to which unauthorised people do not have access.

For more information on this project contact (012) 339 5275 or for advice on pesticides contact the Griffon Poison Information Centre at 082 446 8946.
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* The principles of budgeting;
* The importance of changing poor habits and attitudes regarding money;
* Interest rates;
* Discerning between good debt and bad debt;
* The importance of ridding yourself of bad debt;
* The importance of having a will;
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<td>R 30,000</td>
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</tbody>
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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY
National health stance on Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis

The bottom line is when diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB), it is essential to complete the entire course of treatment! The consequences of neglecting to do so are almost irreparable as it sets the patient up for more pain and an even more dangerous situation that is almost impossible to manage. It is not necessary to alarm anyone, but patients need to and must finish TB treatment if they intend to recover!

It is disheartening to have to report that the problematic strain of Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a result of TB that has mutated and is now stronger so that the commonly available drugs used to combat the disease are no longer effective.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Col (Dr) Peter Maphaha, Senior Staff Officer of Communicable Diseases at Directorate Medicine, stated that if given a chance a bacterium will mutate. "There are instances where a patient may not take treatment for TB as it should be taken. You might find that after patients have taken treatment maybe for a month and feel better, they decide to stop the treatment, in which case you will find that the bacteria have not been completely eradicated from the body." Col (Dr) Maphaha explained: "The bacterium then mutates or changes to become resistant to TB treatment. This means that the strain will not respond to normal treatment and we then say the patient has MDR-TB."

Col (Dr) Maphaha added that MDR-TB does not always develop because of the patient’s inability to continue with treatment. "It could be that the facility where one was treated did not give the right treatment."

The plot thickens. "It could happen that the person with a drug-resistant strain passes it on to other people, so you might find a new TB case that is diagnosed as MDR-TB. A healthy per-
son infected with MDR-TB will be diagnosed as such.” Unfortunately, MDR-TB in many cases is picked up only after a patient does not respond to treatment. “Sputum is then taken and sent to the lab for a drug sensitivity test.”

“Many South Africans have been exposed to TB, but not all of them get sick. At the same time, if you are exposed to MDR-TB and your body can protect itself, you may still not get it.” On the importance of prevention being better than cure Col (Dr) Maphaha added: “In terms of the severity of infectiousness, whether it is TB or MDR-TB I would not say that the latter is more infectious, but it is more severe if you get sick.” If at all possible, it is important that you do avoid getting sick.

He said that the National Directorate of TB do keep the statistics, and as of 25 March 2007, “statistics released by the National Department of Health were as follows: 352 cases of Extreme Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB), and of those 243 have died,” Col (Dr) Maphaha revealed.

Talking about TB patients in the Department of Defence Col (Dr) Maphaha said: “As of 3 April 2007 we have a total of 2 429 cases of TB in the SANDF of which none have been diagnosed with XDR-TB, but we only have 9 cases of XDR-TB treated within the SAMHS facilities”.

“You must understand there is MDR-TB and XDR-TB,” he added. “With normal TB you will be cured, but with MDR-TB a patient will be treated with additional drugs and this can take up to 18 months to treat. XDR-TB patients are people resistant to treatment despite additional drugs, which could have been the result of not taking appropriate drugs even after having been diagnosed with MDR-TB. These patients are then treated with a combination of more toxic drugs.”

Managing Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis

Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) emerges in the majority of cases where a TB patient receives inappropriate or ineffective treatment, which allows naturally occurring resistant TB bacteria to survive and multiply.

It makes up 2.9% of TB cases in South Africa and is very contagious in actively coughing patients with positive sputum smears for TB.

When people with strong immune systems are exposed to MDR-TB they can become infected, but will not normally become sick.

However, once an infected person’s immune system is compromised owing to illness, a poor diet, stress or HIV, that person can develop active MDR-TB.

At a more advanced state of the disease, that is when sputum tests detect organisms under the microscope, and once a patient develops a cough, others can be infected in their immediate environment.

Normal drug-susceptible TB requires at least six months of treatment, but MDR-TB takes up to 24 months to treat successfully and patients need to be hospitalised for four to six months during this period.

Laboratory investigations are also extensive and include monthly examinations of bacteriological cultures. The toxicity of the drugs utilised also necessitates additional laboratory screening, including liver and kidney function, as well as audiometry to determine hearing loss.

Both normal drug-susceptible TB and MDR-TB patients must be counselled at the onset of treatment on their responsibility to adhere to the treatment regimen and the consequences of interruption and/or default.

Limited drug availability and the best use of scarce resources need to be taken into account when decisions on restarting MDR-TB treatment after interruption or default are taken.

TB (and MDR-TB) is classified as an occupational disease for health care workers. They have the legal right to a safe working environment where adequate protection is provided against TB infection. Infection control must be ensured in all military health facilities by means of protective masks and protective clothing during the treatment of patients with TB.

This rule also applies to visitors to these patients. However, when the sputum smears of these patients are negative for TB they can be treated at home and can even go back to administrative work without any problems. Monthly bacteriological cultures will be required for the extension of the treatment and follow-up period. The implication is that members with MDR-TB will not be allowed to deploy for operational duties during the 24 month period of treatment.

* For more information please visit your nearest sickbay.
Corruption and Criminality

By Chaplain (Rev) S. Tshelane, Defence Intelligence

Should corruption be fought? The answer is “yes” in the affirmative. Corruption is intrinsically perverse. It alienates a person by purchasing the conscience of that person. Corruption is like buying someone’s conscience and thereafter leaving him a dehumanised person. Corruption is like soft violence unleashed on a person who has to accept the proceeds of corruption. In the process the client also becomes dehumanised.

The boundary between moral and immoral, licit and illicit, permitted and prohibited has become more and more indistinct in the present economic system. Goods and services are exchanged. Corruption is neither a property of a social system or an institution, nor a trait of an individual’s character, but rather an illegal exchange. The danger of corruption in the exchange of goods and services is the benign fault of treating corrupt practices as a sin, but not so serious a sin. After all, moralising words attributed to corrupt practices have covered sufficient ground in the social, religious, economic and cultural environment. Calling something corrupt by name and deed proves difficult because out there in the modalities and processes of corruption is a powerful and sophisticated discourse: horse trading, golden handshakes, market takeovers, etc.

At micro-level, where corruption is driven by expectations of a particular community concerning their successful members, spiritual bonds tying the members, including those implicated in corruption, play a critical role. It is therefore difficult for any criminal procedural law to have much influence on the members’ behaviour. Since kinship is inward looking, corruption only looks like a means of extending privileges to the members. Corruption is thereby seen as a substitute for community desires that a state cannot satisfy. In this respect corruption is used by a member of a community to manipulate a state. Reproduction of power relations of demanding kinships turns out to be a replacement of public order. Such powers are intent on creating an organisational mode to protect the kin members’ interests. Corrupt practices in such settings tend to undermine any law working against kinship interests. Kinship relations are essentially regulated by unwritten spiritual codes. Such codes dictate to successful kin members to improve the lot of their relatives. The traditional law of kinship says: “God helps those who help their relatives”.

The interests of kinship tend to overshadow the interests of public entities. In the eyes of kin members, any kin member serving in government or in the corporate world is first of all a child of the soil before becoming a professional. Such a member is looked upon as a benefactor, who in turn must behave according to the ethos of placing family connections first. After all, charity begins at home.

Corruption, like all vices, has a point of departure where tolerance is concerned. The more we tolerate corruption the more we assist in developing an attitude of acknowledging corruption as a normal human sub-culture. Often, when people talk about corruption, there is a laissez-faire attitude of proudly saying: “Let us be realistic, this thing has gone far, there is nothing more we can do. If you cannot beat them, join them”. Corruption thrives on the basis of echoing such self-fulfilling prophecies. Carrying on justifying corruption in pompous words gives it the aura of being tolerated.

Like disease, the vice of corruption is not welcome but tolerated. It can be further illustrated by comparing it to a mushroom growing on compost, and by analogy is a disease breaking out of the complications encountered in our system of administration. For that reason a corrupt person, in spite of giving the impression of being above board, can be judged on the basis of actions. It does not matter how long a corrupt person can escape, the system will catch up with that person.

Fighting corruption should involve more than moral talk. Since corruption is endemic, its effects cannot be disposed of by mere moral statements. Eliminating corruption requires a multi-pronged approach. Corruption as a social, economic, political and spiritual phenomenon requires a multifaceted approach. Social, economic, political and spiritual approaches to corruption can help isolate peculiar aspects of corruption. Construction economics and related disciplines are in a position to clarify the redistribution function of laundered money, while the spiritual approach can point to the inherent beliefs of people regarding corruption. Paul (Romans 7:15-20) sees that, although we desire to do good, we inexplicably fail to do it, because of an inner tendency to evil. Paul further speaks of “the mystery of iniquity” (2 Thessalonians 2:7) residual in people. The Bible does allude to a demonic fall prior to human sin. This sheds some light on the presence of moral and physical evil greater than the total sum of human, sinful actions, yet it does not answer the question “whence evil?” In Buddhism Gautama Buddha (5th Century BC) said the source of evil was unanswerable desire.

In conclusion, fighting corruption requires stepping back from the attitude of laissez-faire. After all, fighting corruption is a battle that calls for the might of the law. Aristotle made it clear that in the quest for good action, the value of good is caution, but the value of good will make no sense without the rule of law. The rule of law in the face of corruption requires enforcement to tackle criminality or corruption.
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The PFMA Challenge!

How well do you know the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)? The objective of the PFMA is to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Department are managed efficiently and effectively. The Intranet address to find the PFMA is: http://www.mil.za:8080/

The winning prizes are sponsored by SANLAM

**ACROSS**

1 The abbreviation for Public Finance Management Act
2 Somebody to whom money is owed to
3 Section 45 deals with _____ about their responsibilities
4 First name of the Minister of Finance
6 What must be done after a loss is reported
7 Another name for a law
9 When money is spent in vain
10 The possibility that something bad can happen is classified as a _____
14 Head of Department and Accounting Officer of the DOD (abbreviation)
15 I must ______ that my equipment is protected from misuse
16 In the SANDF all instructions are issued by means of_____
17 According to Section 44 of the PFMA, the SECDEF may assign ______
20 Section 45 of the PFMA deals with my ____________ as a DOD official
21 When funds are used to procure items which were not covered by the initial authority
22 Where something was done, but could have been done with less if all care was exercised

**DOWN**

5 Where acts are promulgated
8 I must keep my equipment _____ from being damaged
11 When an asset is missing it is regarded as a _______
12 All moveable and immovable items are classified as_____
13 All DOD officials are responsible for the ______________ of revenue
16 All resources must be used in an efficient, effective and ______ manner
19 All DOD officials must take effective steps to ______ wasteful expenditure
23 The person responsible for all revenue, assets, expenditure and liabilities of a department
24 Money that is due to the state is classified as_____

Rules for the Crossword Competition

1. Only employees of the Department of Defence are allowed to enter.
2. Only original or photocopied entries will be allowed (no faxes or e-mails).
3. One entry per envelope.
4. Entrants will carry postage costs.
5. Employees of Directorate Corporate Communication (SA Soldier) and their immediate families are not allowed to enter.
6. Prizes are not redeemable for cash or transferable to another person.
7. The Judges' decision is final.
8. Entries must be posted to the postal address of SA Soldier.
9. No hand delivered entries will be accepted.
10. No late entries will be accepted.
11. Closing date for the competition is 31 July 2007. The name of the winner will be published in the SA Soldier.
12. All correct entries will be included in the final draw.
13. The Department of Defence (SA Soldier) accepts no responsibility for prizes lost during the process of postal delivery.
14. There will only be three prize winners.

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Complete the crossword puzzle and send your entry to
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The closing date is 31 July 2007.

Compiled by Mr Ivan van der Walt