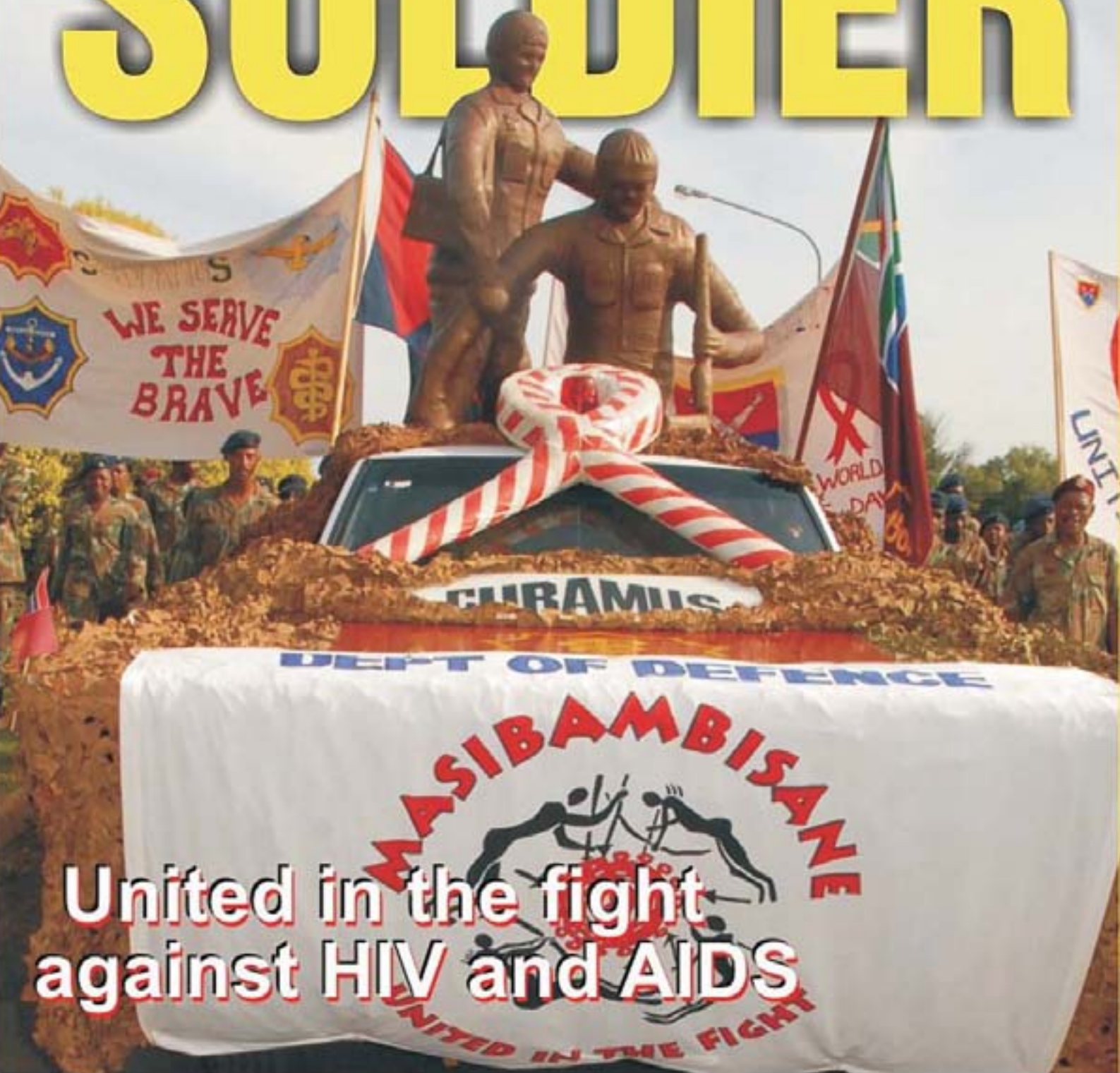


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VOL 15 NO 1 JANUARY 2008 The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence ISSN 1608 - 5014

# SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER



United in the fight  
against HIV and AIDS



defence

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).

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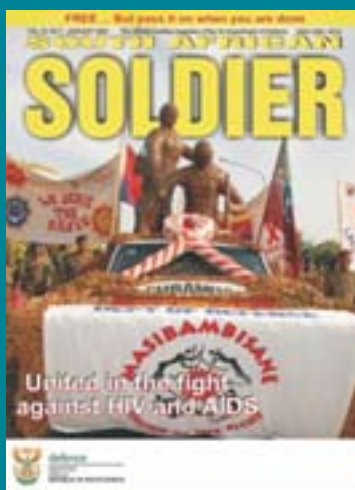
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**FRONT COVER:** United in the fight against AIDS. Please read all about the First International DOD HIV and AIDS Conference (p 22-23) and World AIDS Day commemorations (p 29 + 45). (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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## From the Editor's desk



## Ezivela Kusiba Lomhleli

**W**SA Soldier wishes all our reader a prosperous new year. May 2008 bring you joy and peace of mind. We hope you will be blessed. To all our fallen heroes and heroines, we honour your valued contribution to SANDF.

We congratulate Ms C Ludick and her Defence TV team (sub-section of Defence Corporate Communication) for being a proud winner of the National Ubunqcweti Award hosted by Government Communication Information System (GCIS) on Friday 7 December 2007 at the Kyalami castle. To all our readers please look forward to this article and stunning pictures in our March issue.

We congratulate all new appointees in the SANDF and all the members who got promoted in 2007, this includes the appointment of the first black female helicopter pilot and the first black commander of a warship. Your hard work is an inspiration to all.

In pages 34 and 35 read all about the successful Leadership and Management Development Programme (LMDP) sponsored by the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence. The programme was co-presented by Ashridge College (UK) and the SA Department of Defence in Pretoria.

I urge you to read the New Year's message from the Secretary for Defence and the Ministry of Defence highlighting our achievements and opportunities for the way forward on pages 10,11 and 12.

I am proud to announce that the Editor and the Assistant Editor had a benchmarking meeting with Soldier magazine (UK) on 28 November 2007. The meeting we had was just a first step to foster future collaboration between us (UK and SA Soldier magazine). You can be sure that the editorial team in 2008 will continue with its endeavour to enlighten you with the best and relevant news.

Readers are reminded that SA SOLDIER will again distribute our very popular calendar in February. Make sure you receive a copy. The next issue of SA SOLDIER to be published will be the March issue.

I once again wish you all a productive 2008, may all you wish for come true.

**Lufuno Netshirembe**  
Acting Editor 

**S**iyi SA Soldier siqwenela bonke abafundi bethu unyaka omtsha ozele amathamsanqa. Wanga u 2008 angazisa uvuyo nolontwabo emiphemlweni yenu. Siyathemba no Thixo uzakunizisela amathamsanqa nempumelelo ebomini benu. Kuwo wonke amaqhatwe namagorha awileyo kumkhosi wesizwe ISANDF, sithi siyazindla ngenxaxheba yenu.

Sivuyisana no Ms C Ludick neqela lakhe le Defence TV (besebe loqhakamshelwano lo Mkhosi we Sizwe) ngokuphuma phambili kwabo kukhuphiswano lukazwelonke lobuNgcwethi kwezoqhakamshelwano ngolweSihlanu Umhla wesiXhenxe kweyo Mnga kunyaka ka 2007 e Kyalami Castle e Midrand. olukhuphiswano beliququzelekwa yi Government Communication Information System (GCIS). Siyabathembisa bonke abafundi bethu ukubanika konke obekuqhubeka kulomndiyadala nemifanekiso kwinqaku lethu esiyakulipapasha kweyoKwindla kulo umiyo.

Sivuyisana nawo onke amalungu amatsha ESANDF nabo bonke abathe banyuselwa kunyaka ka 2007, kubosingabalula ukuchungwa komqhubi we Helicopter wokuqala obhinqileyo omnyama, kunye no mphathi wokuqala omnyama wenqwelo yokulwa yaselwandle. Ukusebenza ngokuzimisela kwenu kwanokuzimisela kuyakhuthaza kuthi sonke.

Kwinqaku lethu elikwikhasi 34 no 35 funda konke ngempumelelo yenqubo ye Leadership Management Development Programme (LMDP) exhaswa lisebe lezoKhuselo lwawe Brithane (United Kingdom Ministry of Defence). Izifundo bezonganyelwe yi Ashridge College (UK), nesebe lezoKhuselo lom Zantsi Afrika(DOD)e Pretoria.

Mdiyankhuthaza nonke ukuba ningaphoswa ngumyalezo osuka ku Sosiba wezokhuselo, nesebe Le Zokhuselo lilonke elibononisa impumelelo namahlandinyuka esebe kuloNyaka uphelayo. Ningeva konke oku ukusuka kwiphapha leshumi ukuya kwishumi elinesibini.(Pg 10,11,12)

Ndinovuyo ukunazisa ukuba kulonyaka uphelayo umhleli we SA Soldier nesekela lakhe babenentlanganiso ne Soldier magazine yase Britane nge 28 November 2007. Lentlanganiso besinayo ibilinyathelo lethu lokuqala lokuqinisa amakhonco entsebenziswano phakathi kwethu nabalingane bethu base Britane. Ungaqiseka ukuba iqela lethu lezokuhlalutya le SA Soldier lango 2008 lizimisele ukwenza konke elinako ukuqhubeka linikhanyisela ngezisematheni nakunyaka ozayo.

Abafundi be SA SOLDIER baya khunjuzwa ukuba sizakuphinda njengesiqhelo sikhuphe I Calendar yethu ethandwa kakhulu ngo February. Qinisekisa akuphoswa ukuzifumanela I-Kopi yakho. Abafundi bayakhunjuzwa ukuba ushicilelo olulandelayo le SA Soldier lakuba ngo- March.

Ndiyaphinda kwakhona ndininqwenelela unyaka ogcwele amathamsanqa nonempumelelo.

**Lufuno Netshirembe**  
Acting Editor 

\* Translation: Lt Col M E Dlali (SO1 Communication Strategy, Policy and Planning, DCC)

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## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

"In her smile is your peace; in her anger is your nightmare." These words are from the ever charismatic Chaplain T.J. Mara in his quest to urge men not to abuse and violate women. She spoke these words at the SANDF COLET's gathering for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

On 23 November 2007, two days before the date on which the campaign commenced, COLET held a short programme to raise awareness among staff members about this campaign. The programme started with Col P.E. Venter, COLET's Acting Commandant, welcoming staff members to the session.

On the list of guest speakers were: Chaplain T.J. Mara and Ms A. Bouwer. Chaplain Mara is known in the DOD for his mind-blowing sermons and speeches that always leave listeners pondering and soul searching. Ms Bouwer is a social worker in the DOD and is presently stationed at COLET. She is one person who does not speak much, but she is very analytical and her mouth opens, she utters volumes.


The programme director for the day was Ms M.M. More, who is always

at the forefront when it comes to women's issues, not only at COLET, but wherever she is. The programme included speeches, role play, a video about the campaign and discussions. Chaplain Mara, as a man of the cloth, used Scripture to advise men not to engage in violence against women and children. He said that if we needed to act against crime and abuse, we should go back to God. Quoting from Scripture he also said that husbands should be considerate when they live with their wives. He also mentioned that women were the weaker sex, but their strength lay in their weakness.

At the core of this campaign are good relations between men and women, and parents and child(ren). Family, therefore, is the crux of this campaign. During the launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, the Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that "the bed is the altar on which women are sacrificed". She also said that often women depend on their abusers for survival. We cannot argue then that men who do not physically abuse their women and children are "the converted" when it is evident that women are continuously exposed to mental and emotional abuse, either

through culture or tradition. Violence and abuse co-exist. The abuser sometimes is not aware that he or she perpetuates abuse. Those who abuse others mentally and emotionally are equally as guilty as those who abuse them physically.

In her speech Ms Bouwer asked the audience the difficult question: Who is the abuser? No one could answer this question. In her answer she said that an abuser is someone we know, someone in our midst, someone seemingly innocent. According to her, most of the time abusers were victims themselves. They have been abused by parents or some member of their family. They may also have witnessed such abuse. She called on the audience to help victims to break the silence by reporting incidents of abuse to teachers, priests, social workers and the police.

The time to stand on the grandstand and become cheer leaders when women and children are constantly sacrificed is over. We should join those who say: "16 days is not enough, we need 365 days of no violence against women and children". Let's break the silence. **Mr P.B. Thulare, SANDF COLET** 

## "YOU REST - YOU RUST - GO - GROW"

Thank you SA Soldier for publishing a certain article in the July 2007 edition. This article has given myself and numerous other members in the KwaZulu-Natal military region (KZN MR) purpose and motivation. The article in discussion was "Join the SA Military Christian Fellowship" (SAMCF).


This article has turned my life upside down and inside out. I am so excited about the opportunities afforded to

Christians in the military; my only regret is that I only found out about this organisation in July 2007 and not many years earlier.

At a recent Table Top Mountain Interaction I was exposed to the full understanding of the SAMCF and the Military Christian Fellowship worldwide. Wow! mind-blowing. It is so awesome and exciting to know that there are thousands of Christians united by a


common love for and bond with God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Even more exciting is that they are active for God in the military and not just in their local churches. Already this excitement has overflowed to other members in the KZN MR. Members are talking about home and hospital visitation and other methods of encouraging and uplifting each other in action and prayer. To God be the glory.

I challenge all other Christians in the military to get involved and spread God's love around, according to the KZN MR Military Christian Fellowship motto: "You Rest - You Rust - Go - Grow". Once again thank you SA Soldier for opening this window of opportunity.

\* For more info contact Lt Col Owen Witbooi (SAMCF) on 083 392 9064 or 821 1859. **WO1 M. Bezuidenhout, Durban** 

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### 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. 

## ESTABLISHING NEW DIRECTORATES IN THE DOD

If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live. So says Martin Luther King Junior. I agree with him. By all means go all the way, even at the risk of one's own life in establishing what has to be done.

This is what I am prepared to die for!

One may say we make war so that we live in peace, but hey! Scars and fears left by the past remain everlasting ones. I am currently deployed with 15 SA Infantry Battalion in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and cannot wait to come back home and congratulate some of our leaders who took a great stride in forming some directorates to help ease the adversities overwhelming our Army. I applaud Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi for establishing the Chief Directorate Transformation Management to ensure that Human Rights' principles become an integral part of mission readiness which is needed in building a new Department of Defence identity.

Such a structure is so essential,

especially for monitoring the implementation of affirmative action policies. May Maj Gen Motumi have more strength to continue with the good work, and well done. The launching of the Directorate Career Management for the Public Services Act Personnel (PSAP) is another milestone achievement. This Directorate came at a time when I was having sleepless nights looking at our internal problems, especially the question of these young and gifted Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members whose contracts won't be renewed. We will really miss them and say: "They were so skilled". I so wish they can remain within our ranks indefinitely as they are doing an excellent job during our deployments here in the DRC and elsewhere.

We are faced with the problem of our members who cannot actively continue doing their duties due to conditions beyond their control. I agree that not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. I was impressed one day when I

read an article about career portfolios for MSDS trainees. These career portfolios can develop valuable skills and be used as a marketing tool to promote military or other careers. It is my wish that some presentations on these aspects can in future be conducted in all units with MSDS members before the termination of their services; this will help in broadening their scope of choices even more.

Sometimes one wonders about the future of our Army if we cannot deploy a brigade externally. The threat is that the country deploying a brigade has the command and control of the United Nations (UN) Forces deployed in that specific area. We even depend on some of these countries for water supplies to our base, which is a high security risk from an intelligence point of view. Sometimes their instructions are biased. A man once said: "He who thinks he leads, but there is no one following him is just talking a walk."

Sgt E.B. Mpakama, 15 SAI Bn 

## CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY


The DOD School of Logistical Training at Military Base Youngsfield is numbered among those units that can be classified as reflecting "cultural diversity". Its members and learners constitute all cultures in South Africa. On Heritage Day, the School held a cultural day to celebrate its diversity of cultures.

On 21 September 2007 different cul-




tural groups presented their rich heritage by displaying their cultural attire, customs, traditional food, recreation, etc. The competition was heavy, especially for the great prizes, which were waiting ...

The display was of a high standard and the judges were fully occupied in deciding the best entrant, but it was also real fun going around tasting, joking and laughing. Yet it was also an educational event because new insights were gained about cultural differences.

Although a first, second and third prize were awarded, all groups were indeed winners. This event was a real team effort. The people went out of their way to bring out their best. The organising team was comprised of the Chaplain and Reserve Force Chaplains of the unit, Dr D.I. Maasdorp, Rev Sokoyi and Rev Mdyesha, as well as the social worker, Capt Botha, and the psychologist, Mr Clint Margott. **Chaplain (Dr) D.I. Maasdorp, Eerste Rivier **

## FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

The athlete, Jacob Thagale, took part in the Harmony Gold 100 Mile (160 km) in Sasolburg in October 2007. He obtained 7th position and a gold medal! This was his ninth 100 miler. "Determination and commitment should be a way of life to achieve one's goals and outsmart life's obstacles," says Jacob. 



A proud Jacob Thagale.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We conclude the year 2007 with the poem written by Lt Col Willem Klink (Coach Klink).

### Down Memory Lane

*In the gardens, named after oppenheimer  
That signify a compelling drive down mem-  
ory lane*

*A sickness called amnesia or is it  
alzheimer?*

*So many have changed so many more still  
the same*

*"chiefs of staff, ssos", who are you holding  
up there?*

*Is it not our generals, the ones to officiate?*

*We need them to dare - we need them to  
care*

*Lower them, they must come and adjudi-  
cate*

*Is this all in the name of a better vision?*

*Into the future, a peek into the far distance*

*Is this all really linked to the mission?*

*What about alleviation?*

*What about assistance?*

*Do we hear some moans, some groans the  
"generals" ask*

*Just the rumbling of water, no problems,  
you proclaim*

*Higher you lift, firmer you hold with your  
self-given task*

*In despair the subordinates felt, yes, it's still  
the same*

*In muddy water, struggling almost segre-  
gated*

*Troopies, subordinates, it's frightening,  
alarming*

*Cut off from the mainstream almost ampu-  
tated*

*Higher you lift firmer you hold. O you so  
charming*

*Look down our leaders remember your obli-  
gation*

*Lesser the observance the lesser the omni -  
competence*

*Firmer you hold, no allowance for oscillation  
Increasing step by step*

*a false perception of omni - potence*

*Spiralling water not even touching the  
"generals" feet*

*Complains, grievances silenced almost dis-  
creet*

*Hold firmer, lift higher a new kind of breed  
of*

*Troopers, subordinates more despaired  
surely indeed*

*Allow me to take you again down memory  
lane*

*We will do well getting rid of amnesia*

*Loss of memory so hard to explain*

*Perhaps caused by a sickness called senile  
dementia*

*How beautiful the garden soft on the eye  
that is*

*Relaxing and calming the garden could be  
Reminding of something else, disturbing  
not at ease*

*Directing, alarming and confronting as in  
"gethsemane" - Ms G.C. Bezuidenhout,*

*Service Corps Kimberley* 

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IS A BENEFIT TO SOCIETY

It is a well-known fact that in South Africa today most households are maintained and supported by women, and that women constitute the majority of the poorest in our country.

Of the various contributing factors one of the worst is the deadly HIV virus, which is reducing our population by dangerous proportions, and thus we have households of orphaned children or households where grand-children, mainly grandmothers or single parents, support their families.

Recent global statistics reveal that there are 25 million more women than men in the world, thus it is unquestionably true that women should be empowered with industrial, scientific and professional skills to keep the world economy stable and prevent it from collapsing. It makes perfect sense that if a section of the population, which comprises the majority, is unskilled and undereducated, the end result will be a stalemate in the economy.

Women cannot in this day and age be confined to certain social roles any-

more; it is vital that they become equal shareholders in the key sectors of the economy to maintain a sound balance and to do away with an economy based on patriarchal dominance. If not, it simply means that the majority of women in South Africa will continue to be poor and children will continue to starve and we will never eradicate poverty in our communities if the majority are poor.

If women are not empowered with skills, knowledge and training, especially in the Department of Defence (DOD), and in society at large, it is patently clear that we will have women in defence who will always be subservient and be regarded as second class in the armed forces, because if they are not afforded the opportunity to undergo the same training as men, if they are denied the right to achieve the highest academic qualifications they can aspire to, if they are confined to certain jobs because such jobs are deemed fit for women, then our armed forces will remain backward and poorly equipped because of the lack of much needed able bodies. It is crucial that women should have a say in the

day-to-day running of the DOD, because as the former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General said: "Efforts to resolve conflicts and address their root causes will not succeed unless we empower all those who have suffered from them, including and especially women" (Kofi Annan to the UN on Women in Peace and Security in 2002).

Mr Annan added that while civilians and non-combatants made up 5% of those killed in World War I, in less than 100 years they account for 90%. In his address to the UN in 2002 he said: "A key change has been the use of gender-based violence, inclusive of rape, forced impregnation, forced abortion, and the intentional and forced infliction of sexually transmitted diseases as war-weapons of choice". The saddest thing he states is: "There is no aftermath for women". Women increasingly bear the burdens of conflict rather than the fruits of peace.

If we study the situation in South Africa today as it affects women and girls, our media headlines are a trail of horror on the rape of infants, young

## ULIGCABHO LESIVE


Uligcabho lesive  
Ushadile  
Unebantfwana  
Unetinkanyeti letilishumi nakunye  
Uchakata ngaso sonke sikhatsi

Umkakhe unesibindzi  
Umkakhe uhlakaniphile  
Ungumake mbamba  
Ufukamela bonke bantfwana  
Ufukamela bantfwana babomakhelwane

Labantfwana batalwa bakhuluma, bagijima  
Batalelwa kuphumelela  
Batalelwa kuvikela  
Bantfwana babomakhelwane  
Batalwa bahlakaniphile kuhle kwenina

Yena ukhululekile nyalo  
Ujabulile  
Angavumela bantfwana bakhe  
Balale ngekuthula  
Nanome bashone baticucwana

Libito lakhe nguMzansi Africa  
Umkakhe i-SANDF  
Bantfwana maSotja.

**Pretty Bhila, Bethlehem** 

## HE IS THE PRIDE OF THE NATION


He is the pride of the nation  
He is married  
He has children  
He has eleven stars  
He is shining all the time

His wife is brave  
His wife is brilliant  
She is a real mother  
She is covering all the children  
She is covering neighbours' children

The children were born running and talking  
They were born to succeed  
They were born to serve  
The neighbours' children  
They were born brilliant as their mother

He is now free  
He is happy  
He can allow his children  
To rest in peace  
Although they die in pieces

His name is South Africa  
His wife is SANDF  
His children are soldiers.

**Pretty Bhila, Bethlehem** 

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff at 1 Military Hospital for the professional manner in which I was treated and cared for upon my admission to the hospital on 3 October 2007.

The hospital has had a lot of negative publicity during the past months, but I believe that credit must be given when due and this is my way of doing just that. Yes, the hospital is getting on in years and yes, the budget is tight, but if one can receive the excellent service that I received then "alles sal regkom" (everything will come right) in my opinion. Thank you to the theatre staff who performed the angiogram and to the staff of Ward 11 who looked after me. Well done!

**WO1 M.A. Hyde, Master-at-Arms of the SA Navy** 

girls and old women, including their brutal murders after being raped, or issues of family violence, where whole families are killed by frustrated men. Murder on the streets of South Africa and in schools is spiralling out of control. Gender-based violence tops the charts among all of these, demonstrating the truth of the words of the former Secretary-General of the UN. In the South African context, women continue to be insecure, marginalised and downtrodden, their humanity violated in almost every way.

Is this the society we want, where women are not respected, because what we have in society is what comes into the SANDF? Who is supposed to be the leader of transformation at this time? To my mind it is the SANDF that should, with pride and dignity, display to society at large that it is doing all in its power to accord women their rightful place, and that they, the leadership of the SANDF, are not threatened by the +empowerment of women in defence, but rather enriched.

**B.V. Martin, Researcher Chief Directorate Transformation Management** 

CHELETE - NALI - MADI - CHELETE - NALI - MADI - CHELETE - NALI - MADI - CHELETE - NALI - MADI  
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Do you have a house/flat property in your name?  Yes /  No

Amount Required: R \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Salary: R \_\_\_\_\_

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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

# We wish all of you a successful and prosperous 2008

**A**s we enter the New Year 2008, it is with pride and excitement that we can look back to the year that has been, 2007. During this year, the Department of Defence registered many success, which can be attributed to men and women who worked hard to ensure that we achieve the objectives we had set for our selves. These objectives were in pursuance of the priorities of government and in support of the broader Government's Programme of Action to better the lives of our people.

During the year under discussion, the Department of Defence achieved important milestones in transformation and particularly representivity. These includes the appointment of the first black female helicopter pilot, the first black commander of a warship, as well as a number of commanders of strike crafts. The year also saw the increase of women serving in all musterings in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Furthermore, a number of females were appointed in the ranks of Brigadier General and Colonel. However, much still needs to be done to ensure that the number of women in senior management of the Department is increased.

The DOD is particularly pleased that it was able to increase the intake of young people into the SANDF through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). During 2007, we recruited 4000 young South Africans who will contribute to the rejuvenation of the SANDF. The



**Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence.**

MSDS is also important for the success of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA) through its ability to impart the scarce skills urgently needed for the economic growth of our country.

We are also pleased with the progress we continue to make in empowering military veterans

through the National Skills Fund SASSETA project. We have completed Phase One and will start the next phase in 2008.

We wish to salute our troops who earned themselves the name "Angels of Mercy" during Operation Bata. Members of the SANDF provided essential services and saved lives

when the country was gripped by the public service industrial action.

The year also saw the delivery of a number of aircraft acquired as part of the Strategic Defence Package for the South African Air Force, as well as the commissioning of two of our newly acquired frigates. We also took delivery of our second submarine, the SAS Charlotte Maxeke. Having equipped the SA Navy and the SA Air Force, our efforts are now set on equipping the SA Army.

interoperability with the NATO Forces.

Our marine combat readiness was further consolidated when SAS AMATOLA underwent a six-week highly intensive and successful Basic Operational Sea Training (Bost) in the United Kingdom. This has ensured that SAS AMATOLA is at the highest war fighting level expected from the frigate.

We further note with great pride the participation in the planning and



**Mr Mluleki George, the Deputy Minister of Defence.**


In the past year the SANDF took part in a multi-national exercise, EXERCISE AMAZOLO with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Task Force Group 1. This exercise provided a unique opportunity for the SANDF to integrate its newly acquired frigates and a submarine to other service capabilities as well as to ensure

the inauguration of the SADC Brigade of the African Standby Force in Lusaka, Zambia on 17 August 2007. The Standby Force will not only enhance defence and security in the region, but will be critical in the formation of the African Union Standby Force that will help to eradicate conflicts on the African continent.

Our participation in peacekeeping operations of the African Union and the United Nations, in support of diplomatic efforts to end conflicts in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and beyond, continues to bring hope to our people in the countries of our region and continent. These countries include Burundi, Central African Republic, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The people of DRC has experience a democratically elected government for the first time in 40 years.

The SANDF was again instrumental in providing humanitarian aid during the torrential floods in Mozambique in 2007. We are also humbled to have been able to assist the people of Mozambique through OPERATION BAPISA during the explosions of unused ordnances in which many Mozambicans lost their lives, including one SANDF member. Our involvement do not only attest to the good relationship we continue to enjoy with our sister countries in the region, but also reflect that the capabilities the SANDF has are for the benefit of all our people in the region.

We also experienced an unfortunate incident during EXERCISE SEBOKA at Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla. The accident resulted in the loss of lives of our nine soldiers, with 14 injured. Every loss of life is a loss to humanity, to a nation and to families. We again pass our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. To those who were injured, we give our support and encourage them to complete their training to become proud family members of the South African National Defence Force.

The Ministry of Defence would like to thank all the men and women who through their hard work, ensured that the Department successfully carry out its constitutional mandate during the past year. We wish all of you a successful and prosperous 2008. Keep up the good work. 

# Maintain discipline and remain loyal

**A**s we prepare ourselves for the year 2008, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success and maintenance of comprehensive defence capabilities. We have promoted peace, security and stability in our region and the rest of the African continent. It is through your commitment that today we proudly pronounce our readiness to provide the necessary support to other national departments rendering support to the people of South Africa. Together, we have worked tirelessly to serve our nation and build within this Department a culture aligned with the norms and values of our society.

During the past year the Department has faced challenges and as a result it has adopted purposeful managerial methods to overhaul its business processes. These will ensure sound management, sustainability, continued improvement of qualitative outputs, cost-effective processes and accounting.

The performance and service delivery improvement for the FY2006/07 has seen quite an upswing with the finalisation of the feasibility study for bringing into play the Balance Scorecard (BSC) at two pilot sites in the DOD. Both study cases (in the SA Navy and the Financial Management Division) proved to be a major success. Our endeavour to forge ahead with the BSC was enhanced, with training being provided to members of the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC), the DOD planners and management and service renewal as part of the buy-in strategy from top management.

Strategy maps for the DOD have been formulated and are about to be finalised, pending the implementation of the necessary measures. These measures will inform the process of disseminating the BSC to all levels within our organisation.



**Mr January Masilela.**

Our readiness to achieve our strategic purpose will be enhanced as this is a learning organisation. To provide managers with the knowledge and skills needed to analyse, interrogate and promote defence and security policy, the DOD will embark on a special programme beginning in 2008.

The Masters of Management in the field of security to be presented at the University of the Witwatersrand will entail governance and development, managing information and communications, economics and public finance, public policy, strategy and leadership.

To ensure irreversible change and the implementation of the intentions of the Government regarding skills development, the DOD HRD policies are being aligned with the revised national HRD strategy and the National Skills Development Strategy (2005-2010). This will lead to a multi-pronged approach regarding the utilisation of the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) in general and the Safety and Security Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) in particular. I am confident that this approach will lead to the desired results as these are institutions focusing on skills development for our country.

In an effort to enable the Department to achieve its defined mandate and objectives within the allocated resources, commanders, managers and supervisors at all levels must strive to adhere to section 44 of the Public Funds Management Act (PFMA) of 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999). They are to ensure that the policy regarding the responsibilities of officials is executed in compliance with section 45 of the PFMA. It is important to note that this must be fully implemented by June 2009.

It is in this spirit that Services and Divisions are required to develop the necessary prescripts (DODDs, DODIs, JDPs) within 12 months, information systems within 3 years, capacity within 3 years, accountability control systems within 12 months and compliance control within 12 months. This capacity building is essential and members who transgress must immediately be held accountable.

The fight against the scourge of HIV and AIDS was taken to a higher level. In this regard the first international DOD HIV and AIDS Conference was hosted in November 2007, co-ordinated by the SAMHS. The platform demonstrated our commitment and conviction in this fight. It has provided a worldwide comprehensive account of the epidemic and explored intervention mechanisms to address the realities of HIV and AIDS. This has reinforced the existing policy for managing the pandemic within the DOD.

In conclusion, I urge every member of the DOD to maintain conscious discipline and remain loyal to ensure organisational success. Adherence to the objectives we set for ourselves will place us in a better position to strengthen our ability to achieve peace, security and stability in our country and the region. I wish all the DOD employees a fruitful and healthy 2008.

**Mr January Masilela**  
**Secretary for Defence** 

# The SANDF has achieved much to be proud of

In 2007 our National Defence Force was shaken by great losses that almost eclipsed its successes. The worst ever training accident occurred during Exercise SEBOKA, which claimed the lives of nine young gunners and caused dreadful injuries to the survivors. The SANDF also lost a dedicated member during Exercise BAPISA in Mozambique. During that Operation 600 tons of unstable explosives were successfully detonated. I offer my sincere condolences to the families that have lost loved ones. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

However, in spite of serious setbacks and challenges, the SANDF has achieved much to be proud of. Thank you for your hard work and contributing to our successes. The year started well with an intake of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) recruits into our Services. A total of 4 690 MSDS members rejuvenated the SANDF and ensured mission readiness in 2007. I want to commend our Services for their contribution which ensured that the opening of Parliament was stately and dignified. You really stole the limelight and I am looking forward to your display this year.

As part of Government, the SANDF has continued contributing to regional and continental peace and security initiatives. A Joint Task Force assisted Mozambique when the southern part was flooded in February. Later, in August, the hard work paid off and we witnessed the launch of the SADC Brigade as a regional brigade of the African Standby Force. This effort will allow for collective regional efforts to ensure peace and stability.

The SANDF's external deployments also went exceptionally well. Our personnel continued serving in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, the Sudan, Ivory Coast, Nepal and the Central African Republic. Last year, generous sponsors made it possible for the SANDF



**General Godfrey Ngwenya.**

to distribute goodwill parcels to our deployed members and hamper packs to their families at home. I appreciate your dedication while deployed on foreign soil.

At home the SANDF assisted the Department of Health during a wage strike. It was humbling to see the gratitude of patients for the friendly, professional services of our personnel.

The SA Navy had a lot to celebrate in 2007. Two patrol frigates, the SAS SPI-OENKOP and the SAS MENDI, were commissioned and the CHARLOTTE MAX-EKE, our second type 209 Class submarine, arrived in Simon's Town. The rejuvenation of the SA Air Force is on schedule, as to date it has received 20 Agusta A109 light utility helicopters, four Westland Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopters and 22 Hawk lead-in fighter trainers. The first Gripen advanced light fighter aircraft is still to complete the test flight phase before delivery of the fleet can commence.

A new structure was proposed for the SA Army last year with the focus on "we train as we fight". I can assure you that the upgrading of our landward defence system is receiving close attention. We are also taking into account that the Army will for the foreseeable future be one of the main contributors to peace support operations.

In 2007 Lt Gen Temba Matanzima was appointed as the new Chief of Joint Operations. Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi succeeded him as the Chief of Human Resources. The SANDF has improved its gender equity by appointing eight new female Brigadier Generals. In August, the 3rd National Conference on Women in Defence focused on empowering women to achieve gender equity. Transformation in the SA Air Force and the SA Navy is becoming more visible every day.

As all fallen South African soldiers should be honoured, our members participated in the 90th commemoration of the sinking of the SS MENDI in the United Kingdom. On the sports field it was an exciting year. The SANDF hosted the 4th World Military Golf Championship (CISM) and sent 32 athletes to India to participate in the 4th Military World Games.

HIV and AIDS are causing global concern and therefore it was appropriate for the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) to host the International Department of Defence HIV and AIDS Conference. I urge every SANDF member to be cautious. Let us prevent this pandemic from spreading even further.

Unfortunately, there were again disturbing incidents of shooting in our midst. The SANDF is a national asset and you are responsible for upholding its professional image. Incidents of ill-discipline, misconduct, immorality and disobedience destroy our credibility as a disciplined, professional force, both internally and externally.

My vision is to lead a National Defence Force that is ready and capable of effectively and professionally executing successful missions and operations as directed by Government. This will only be possible with the support of my leadership cadre and a highly trained, disciplined force. I am counting on your co-operation. Enjoy 2008.

**General Godfrey Ngwenya**  
Chief of the SANDF 

# South African and Zimbabwean talks

By Lebohlang Letaoana  
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The third session of the South African and Zimbabwean Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was held in Vanderbijlpark in November 2007.

The Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency, Mr Manala Manzini, opened the commission with these words: "When democracy was ushered in South Africa on that historic day of 27 April 1994, our bilateral relations were affirmed, leading to full diplomatic relations between our countries." He added: "These relations have culminated in frequent exchange visits by cabinet ministers and high-ranking officials to our respective countries. This noble course has indeed yielded immense benefits for our people and played a significant role in safeguarding and promoting regional peace, stability, economic and social development."

During the Defence Committee meeting, which was spearheaded by the SA DOD Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, a number of issues were discussed, such as the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, co-ordinating patrols along the border, the launch of the SADC Standby Brigade, exchange of course schedules for 2007/08 by South Africa and Zimbabwe and the Special Forces' training programme offered to Zimbabwe.

The Commander of the Zimbabwean National Army, Lt Gen P.V. Sibanda, expressed his appreciation for the co-operation between the two defence forces and the respective

roles they were playing in the SADC.

The meeting concluded with the ministerial session between the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his Zimbabwean counterpart, Minister Sydney Sekeramayi.

"The security sector in our countries is a strategic sector because it has to do two things at the same time. It has to protect our people from identified external threats and it has to ensure that they are protected from people acting outside the law. A balance between these two must be retained at all times," said Minister Lekota in his welcoming speech.

He elaborated on the external security threats. "A growing danger to our sovereignty comes in the form of private military companies and private security companies. This is a complex area because it is difficult to legislate against it. We need to share informa-

tion so that we can at least keep an eye on what these companies are doing, who they are recruiting, how and where they are operating," said Mr Lekota.

Immigration matters were discussed and the following developments were noted: lifting of requirements for diplomatic and service visas and the introduction of multi-entry visas for cross-border trade.

In his closing remarks, Minister Sekeramayi said: "I am delighted to note that as I embark on my journey back to Zimbabwe, I go with the satisfaction that our Joint Commission has achieved its objectives. Our meeting provided us with an opportunity to remind ourselves of the shared vision and principles that define our relationship. We are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future and a community of shared values".



**Ftr:** The Zimbabwean Minister of Defence, Mr Sydney Sekeramayi, the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the SA Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula, the SA Minister of Intelligence, Mr Ronnie Kasrils, and the Minister of Home Affairs, Mrs Nosiviwe Mapisa-Ngcakula, during the ministerial session.

# Signing agreement between SA and Mozambique

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

**O**n 20 November 2007 Defence Ministers from South Africa and Mozambique met at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria to sign the Agreement on the establishment of a Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security between South Africa and Mozambique.

The SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, welcomed his Mozambican counterpart, Minister Tobias Dai, and his delegation to South Africa. Minister Lekota mentioned that the association between the two countries was enhanced during the liberation struggle and


Mozambique played a critical role in ensuring that South Africa attained its freedom and democracy.

Mr Lekota revealed that in 1994 the RSA/Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation (JPCC) was signed, which established the legal framework for South Africa's bilateral relations with Mozambique. He said that the Joint Permanent Commission for Co-operation had been an enabler and catalyst mechanism for the current existence of more than 20 agreements covering various spheres of co-operation, such as fisheries, Maputo harbour, agricultural development, natural gas, de-mining, the Maputo Development Corridor, a joint water commission, promotion and reciprocal protection of investments and customs, etc.

"The Agreement on the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) we are signing today will see our two countries promoting co-operation in the fields of defence and security, exchanging information on the activities and movement of elements involved in crime, such as drug smuggling and human trafficking," said Minister Lekota.

He also mentioned that in the course of the implementation of the provision of the JPCDS, they will establish effective channels of communication between the defence and security forces of the two countries, especially along the common border to deal effectively with matters relating to cross-border crime and illegal migration. "Co-operation

between the two countries and all our SADC neighbours on these issues are critical if South Africa is to host a successful and secure 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament in two years to come," said Minister Lekota.

In conclusion, Mr Lekota said that they needed to affirm co-operation on the Lebombo/Ressano Garcia one-stop border post project, which would include separate facilities for processing passenger and cargo traffic ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. 



The SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota (right), and the Mozambican Minister of Defence, Mr Tobias Dai, during the signing ceremony in Pretoria.

# Committed to fighting crime

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
 Photo: Maj Manie Smith  
 (S01 Safeguarding)

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, before officially declaring the DOD Anti-Criminality Conference open on 9 November 2007 emphasised that criminality and criminal activities in general are not only harmful, but also severely disturbing as it seeks to undermine the ideals of a hard-fought democracy and affects the service delivery that our people are rightfully entitled to.

"We need to turn the spotlight on ourselves and ask how much we are doing to end crime in our military environment," said Mr George.

"Certainly, we all know that we are not immune to the global phenomenon of crime in the military environment. However, we need to grapple with a different combat exercise in bringing to a halt the unacceptable criminal tendencies within the confines of the Department of Defence.

"A number of interventions have been put in place to ensure that this anti-social syndrome has no place in our Department. Any member who is found guilty of taking part in such unbecoming activities will be dealt with accordingly," said Mr George.

The Deputy Minister of Defence stated clearly and without fear of contradiction that the time to deal decisively and vigorously with this deed of greed was long overdue.

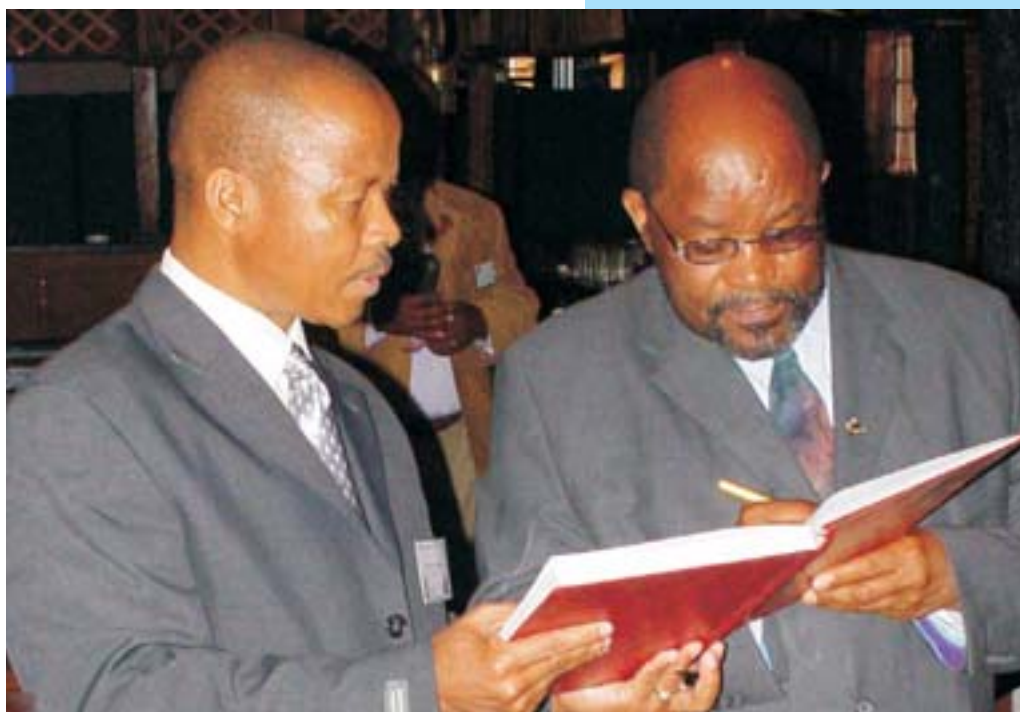
"We must consciously look for and address the challenges that exist in our intervention strategies on account of loopholes. We must re-examine our accountability control systems in order to advance appropriate solutions to maintain the integrity, discipline and professionalism of our membership. We need to make a thorough assessment as to whether our Anti-Criminality Strategy is responding to the problem as we envisaged," said Mr George.

"I believe wholeheartedly in the

vision entailed in the Department's Anti-Criminality Strategy, and that it indeed contains the ingredients to form a corporate value-driven culture that is accepted and understood by all in the DOD.

He added that he had confidence that together, united as one against the same enemy, the development of a centrally co-ordinated structure that discouraged criminal behaviour and serves as the viable deterrent to crime, would be the answer.

It is very important to understand that the first line of defence to ensure a crime free environment starts with oneself. "Whether or not you are tasked with keeping the roots of crime afar, you have a personal responsibility



The Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, Chief of the Military Police Division and the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George signing the visitors book at the MP Division Anti-Criminality Conference in Thaba Tshwane.

to guard against any symptoms of criminal activities."

He asked the question: how do you respond when owing to the privileged position you occupy, you find yourself tempted to defraud the State or abuse its assets. "Do you even remember your pledge when a desire to commit crime against the Department arises?"

It is important for us to learn to fight temptation and control our desires. "If we, who are in positions of trust, cannot be relied on, what about the multitudes who have less and thus have more desires?" Mr George asked.

"It should never feel right to steal from the Department. Ultimately the victims of fraud or theft are the poor people who go to bed hungry in the informal settlements. It is the orphan who begs at the street corners. It is the widow who relies on an old-age pension. It is the man with disabilities who has to be pushed around in a wheelbarrow because he cannot afford a wheelchair.

"You are rightfully called public servants or civil servants. These are highly charged terms. You are supposed to serve the public civilly. You are entrusted with the trust of the public or the nation. Thus as the peoples' servants, you are not expected to dip into the cookie-jar if you are not supposed to.

He also stressed that the Batho Pele principles need to be grounded in our hearts as we continue to work for the people of this country. "Batho Pele, among other things, states that public servants should promote and maintain high standards of professional ethics and render an accountable, transparent and development-orientated public administration.

As public servants we are guided by the Code of Conduct which points out that a public servant is honest and accountable in dealing with public funds and uses public property and other resources effectively. "In the course of official duties the public servant shall report to the appropriate authorities fraud, corruption, nepotism, maladministration and any

other act which constitutes an offence or which is prejudicial to the public interest."

He added that the Department had received a qualified audit for a number of years, and it is probable that acts of criminality within the DOD may be a contributing factor.

"We need to agree that the time for action against crime has come. We need to deal correctly with unacceptable levels of criminality by assessing criminal incidents and identifying crime patterns and trends in order to respond appropriately. We need to set ourselves timelines with clear targets so that we remain focussed on our war to defeat crime once and for all," concluded Mr George.

## ANTI-CRIMINALITY CONFERENCE

The conference was hosted by the Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, and its mandate was to establish an effective anti-criminality strategy to ensuring that this anti-social syndrome and unbecoming activities are rooted out and for us to realise the goals of the DOD Anti-Criminality Strategy and encourage value-driven culture understood by all in the DOD.

The conference received overwhelming support from officials of the DOD, senior officers, the academic sector, the security sector, law enforcement agencies, and representatives of the public, private and civil society. Several experts were invited to participate in the conference and to shed light on crime issues and the dimensions of criminality.

Brig Gen Ledwaba gave a presentation on criminality in the DOD, threats and opportunities and the status of anti-criminality measures in the DOD. He described the overall objectives of managing criminality from a nodal point at corporate level and ensuring the involvement of all role players ensuring the capacity to manage criminality effectively in terms of human resources, facilities, equipment and specialists and the safeguarding


and protection of assets. He noted threats to the DOD, eg theft, misuse of resources, fraud, lack of consolidated control database, violent crime and the military Discipline Bill. He also presented the reactive and proactive systems approach.

The various participants, speakers and guest speakers made important inputs, points and resolutions.

In concluding the conference, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff, said that the conference clearly displayed the required structured approach to combating crime, including involving partnerships with civil society. "On behalf of the Minister of Defence and the top echelons within the DOD, I thank you on their behalf. The responsibility for implementing the goals of the Anti-Criminality Strategy within your respective areas is an internal departmental, service and divisional responsibility. It will require the commitment and dedication of every member of the Department."

## TALKS WITH PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

Speaking to SA Soldier the Provost Marshal General said that the conference presented a unique opportunity to help us in the DOD to fortify our defence missions in curbing criminality and conserving the resources that have been entrusted to us. "A crime free DOD must be taken to heart and must become part of every member's mindset in upholding the values of the DOD. It must be something that all of us in the DOD want to do to help root out criminality and to demonstrate the willingness of Services and Divisions to help each other to make a major contribution to our defence environment."

Brig Gen Ledwaba added that we must all have a spirit and attitude that is prepared to work for change in the best interests of the people we serve and our country. "We will provide more effective crime fighting combating capacity and will make use of our expertise to fight criminality in the DOD." 

# Launch of the Peace Mission Training Centre

By Lebohlang Letaoana  
 Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi, officially opened the multimillion Peace Mission Training Centre at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 28 November 2007.

The mission of the Centre is to prepare members of the Department of Defence (DOD) and other State departments for peace support operations to enhance national contribu-

tions to peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace building missions.

This comes after the agreement during a ministerial meeting between the United Kingdom (UK) Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Des Browne, and the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, on 22 May 2006, where they welcomed the establishment of the Centre in Pretoria and the UK contribution of R2.3 million to this process.

Welcoming the guests Brig Gen William Nkonyeni, the Commandant of the SA National War College, said it was an honour and a privilege for him and his staff to finally deliver this project. (This project was handed to SA National

War College in June 2005.) He handed over the proceedings to the two commanders to share their experiences on peace support operations.

Lt Gen Mgwebi and Lt Gen (Sir) David Richards, Commander Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, both gave an in-depth presentation on challenges facing the commanders in the African Union/United Nation's Peace Support Operations and Reflections on Command: A Commander's perspective.

"Peacekeeping is not only about merely disarming combatants or focusing on the security of the state. Aspects of peacekeeping, such as a



Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, addresses the guests after unveiling the Peace Mission Training Centre at the SA Army College.




**Lt Gen (Sir) David Richards, Commander Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (left), and Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, sharing their experiences about peace support operations at the opening of the Peace Mission Training Centre.**

holistic understanding of human security, conflict management and post conflict reconstruction interventions are key in ensuring that peace is sustained. Our troops therefore, require

more training than training on conventional peacekeeping or peace enforcement," said Lt Gen Mgwebi.

His counterpart, Lt Gen (Sir) Richards, gave case studies on East

Timor-Op LANGAR, Sierra Leone-Op PALLISER and Afghanistan-Op HER-RICK. Mr Paul Boateng, the British High Commissioner to South Africa, made a donor's statement about the opening of the Centre. "We are here today to mark the opening of this support training Centre, we do so in a historic building, a building conceived and built by a combination of expertise between Britain and South Africa. The building modernised today was built with great skill and expertise from a similar source but funded by joint nations and the nations of the USA, the UK, Canada and SA."

The scope and capabilities of the Centre have developed considerably since May 2006. The UK contribution has increased to over R13 million. The USA, through the ACOTA Programme, has contributed R5.5 million and the Canadian Government R3 million. The SANDF, through Joint Operational Divisional Headquarters, is contributing R3 million to the project. 

## Praise to our Mighty God

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A highly successful and well-attended thanksgiving service was held by the Chief Director Human Resources (HR) Management, Maj Gen Solly Mollo, at the Wesley Church in Pretoria on 7 December 2007.

What made the service of special significance was that it was not only meant to recognise and praise staff members of the Chief Directorate HR Management and HR Support members for having distinguished themselves throughout the year, but also to give glory, honour and praise to the Mighty God for having led them through 2007 and for having enabled them to contribute to the betterment of our National Defence Force, our society and the people we serve.

The sermon and prayers were conducted by Col (Rev) Mantsi Mohapi. He could not have said it better than when he read the Scripture from Matt: 2 vs 1-8. He




**Maj Gen Solly Mollo, Chief Director Human Resources Management, giving his address at the thanksgiving service.**

reflected on what Christmas meant. During the service candles were lit in remembrance of those who have died of HIV and AIDS and also as a sign of sharing and hope for people and

orphans living with HIV and AIDS.

Maj Gen Mollo expressed his heartfelt gratitude to members for having worked hard throughout the year and wished them well, as befitted the occasion. He emphasised: "The origins of thanksgiving were rooted in work, in its earliest incarnations it was a day to celebrate the hard earned bounty of the harvest."

He encouraged members to spare a thought for others by sharing love, kindness, compassion and generosity with the less privileged and less fortunate during the Christmas holidays.

"Let us all enjoy our festive season, and foster communion, forgiveness and reconciliation as we reflect on this year and look towards 2008 with its unknown challenges. Let us share our hopes," concluded Maj Gen Mollo. 

# SA Army holds Fittest Soldier Competition



**By Lt Col Frans Pale**  
**Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

The very first SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition was held at ASB Bloemfontein in November 2007. It provided participants with a golden opportunity to prove themselves as worthy soldiers and fit enough to defend their country during their hour of need.

Both young and old soldiers from the SA Army braced themselves for a win as they took part in various sporting activities under the blue sky of the ever changing weather conditions of the Free State.

Their courage and enthusiasm were bolstered by the words of encouragement from Lt Col Spook le Roux, Chairperson of the Bloemfontein

Military Sports Club, who told them about the importance of a fit soldier during the opening parade.

"I congratulate you on having been selected to represent your formations in this first Fittest Soldier Competition of the SA Army. I urge you to go back to your units to convince your fellow soldiers to be as fit as you are," said Lt Col Le Roux, who was the officiating officer at the competition.


The soldiers took part in the following sporting codes: 10 x 25 m shuttle runs, pull-ups, push-ups/sit-ups, 2.4 km run, military pentathlon, obstacle course, 300 m sprint, standing long jump, agility T-test, stork stand, side lateral step test and route march for men and women.

The other source of courage for the soldiers came from Surefire, an African Division of the American



The Parade Officiating Officer, Lt Col Spook le Roux, addressing the participants during the opening parade.

company based in Pretoria. Surefire is involved in the manufacture of equipment, such as flashlights, laser knives and ear protection aids used by soldiers in their daily operations.

In an interview with *SA Soldier* in Bloemfontein, Mr Cornell Grove, Sales Executive for Surefire in Pretoria, said his company was privileged to work with the SA Army by encouraging fitness among soldiers. "Our company is always ready to encourage soldiers by offering our products to them so that they can always be combat ready," said Mr Grove. 



Fltr: Mr Cornell Grove, Sales Executive at Surefire, Rfn Alphina Nkoana, the Overall Female Winner (1 Parachute Battalion), Lt Col Louise Janeke, SO1 PT of SA Army, and Capt Eugene de Wet, the Overall Male Winner (SA Army Gymnasium), after receiving their winning trophies.



# The pandemic that knows no boundaries

By Nomonde Vuthela  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

There are 40 million people in the world infected with HIV and approximately 12 000 new infections occur globally each day. South Africa is thought to carry 10% of the world's HIV burden, yet below 1.0% of the world's population lives here. This makes South Africa a country fast gaining the reputation of "a nation with the highest infection rate", where over 90% of the infected are people in the most productive time of their lives. These are but a few of the startling revelations made at the First International Department of Defence (DOD) HIV and AIDS Conference held near Pretoria from 12 to 14 November 2007.

This was no ordinary conference; it was the beginning of an enormous process that would eventually decide the future of all HIV infected soldiers in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). International and local HIV experts, delegates from for-



**Fitr: SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, with the SA Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and our Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, at the First International DOD HIV and AIDS Conference.**

eign defence forces and members of the SANDF were expected to deliver in the space of three days a conclusion that would set off a chain reaction, the result of which was expected to mark the beginning of the SADC regional militaries and the international world

working together to eradicate communicable diseases.

The outcome of this historical gathering is expected to emerge as the foundation on which to base very carefully formulated policies with regard to the culture of the SANDF as it faces the HIV dilemma, including the strategic alliances to be formed thereafter.

"*Ntwa E Bolotse*" is the national slogan of Botswana in the fight against HIV and AIDS. What it means is that the Batswana as a people have declared war against the scourge - civilians and uniformed members alike. "When one member is not well, the whole family is not well" as wisely put by Maj Gen J.G. Tlhokwana of the Botswana Defence Force at the conference. He repeatedly stressed that neighbouring countries had to work together and begin to learn from each other about beating HIV and AIDS.

It is therefore recognised that the First International DOD HIV and



**Flag bearers present the flags of the delegates attending the conference.**

AIDS Conference took place because the pandemic had become a threat to national and therefore regional security. The SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, in his keynote address said that through the conference the DOD sought to engage its strategies critically and still maintain "a combat ready force".

He said: "It is also a reality that we are not immune to the scourge," adding: "The conference will assist our policy functions to be valid and relevant as the SANDF endeavours to fulfil the military prescripts of the international world."


Local experts at the conference were of the opinion that in relation to the countries' current mortality rate, "the HIV virus is the sort of thing that has not happened for a century or longer". Another fact mentioned was

that when looking at the different strains of the HIV virus affecting South Africans, it had become clear that the disease had come from all over the world. South Africa, in particular, has been found to have a combination of factors that contribute heavily to the high prevalence of AIDS, eg poverty and sexual behaviour.

The three days of intense talks led to the universal view being expressed that HIV and AIDS presented the greatest threat to public health.

Speaking on behalf of PROJECT PHIDISA - the SANDF's ARV-roll-out programme and the very first vehicle to provide HIV positive members with ARV treatment - Col (Dr) Andrew Ratsela said the mortality rate had risen after ARV's were first provided, but that the quality of life in patients had improved tremendously after 12

months of treatment. He added: "Maybe this is because the ARV's are beginning to kick in." Col (Dr) Ratsela indicated that as much as the clinical study found that ARV's do save lives, there were still matters to be looked at in terms of the roll-out process and issues pertaining to treatment.

Continuing on the theme of "Combat Readiness and Security", the guest of honour to the conference, the SA Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that the First International DOD HIV and AIDS Conference had underscored the fact that HIV and AIDS was one of the many killers the Defence Force needed to protect the State against. She was happy the theme was about striving for an AIDS-free Defence Force. "We need to enforce intervention and to work towards an AIDS-free continent," she added. 

# International Sea Power Symposium

By R Adm (JG) R.W. Higgs, Chief of Fleet Staff  
Photo: US Navy

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, was invited to attend the 18th International Sea Power Symposium (ISS), held at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, in October 2007.

The purpose of the symposium, where 98 countries were represented, was to provide a platform where naval leaders could discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. In addition it was aimed at meeting and liaising with other chiefs of navies and senior naval

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Fltr: V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, Adm Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations of the US Navy, and R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, Chief of Fleet Staff.



## ➤ from page 23

representatives from various countries in order to exchange ideas and gain better insight into worldwide naval and maritime issues. There was a significant increase in numbers from the 17th ISS, where only 71 countries attended.

A number of objectives were achieved through this symposium. These included the development of maritime partnerships. A number of panel discussions and seminars were held. Papers were presented by numerous officials and dignitaries, including the introduction of a new Maritime Strategy of Co-operation for the US Navy by Adm Gary Roughead, the Chief of Naval Operations of the US Navy (the Chief of the US Navy). This strategy stresses an approach that integrates sea power with other elements of national power and those of US "friends and allies".

US citizens were involved in the development of this new strategy through a series of public forums known as the "Conversations with the Country". Three themes dominated these discussions: "Our people want us to remain strong; they want us to protect them and our homeland; and they want us to work with partners around the world to prevent war". These themes, coupled with rigorous academic research, analysis and debate led to a comprehensive strategy designed to meet the expectations and needs of the American people.

It is interesting to note that the process followed by the US Navy mirrored, in many senses, that utilised by the Department of Defence in South Africa during the process of deriving its Defence Review in 1998.

V Adm Mudimu moderated the panel on "Information Sharing in Pursuit of International Maritime Security". This provided an opportunity for a South African perspective on this very important issue to be aired, as V Adm Mudimu introduced

the five panellists, namely R Adm Mohammed Berrada-Gouzi, the Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy; R Adm Joseph L. Nimmich, US Coast Guard; V Adm Rogelio I. Calunsag, the 29th

Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy; R Adm David Ledson, Chief of the New Zealand Navy; and Adm Paolo La Rosa, Chief of the Italian Navy General Staff.

In addition, V Adm Mudimu, supported by the Chief of Fleet Staff, R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, participated in a seminar discussion with the Cameroon, Columbia, Finland, Iceland, Jamaica, Madagascar, Morocco, Romania, Saudi Arabia, the Seychelles and the United States on "Information Sharing in Pursuit of International Maritime Security - Group D". R Adm (JG) Higgs was designated by the seminar to conduct the report-back.

Additional discussion panels included: "Economic Maritime Security and Solutions - Group A" reported by R Adm Marco Antonio Palacios Luna from El Salvador; "Economic Maritime Security and Solutions - Group B" reported by Adm Sir Mark Stanhope from the United Kingdom; "Economic Maritime Security and Solutions - Group C" reported by Maj Gen Samson Jefwa Mwachethe from Kenya; "Information Sharing in Pursuit of International Maritime Security - Group E" reported by R Adm Michel de Freese de Monval from France; "Information Sharing in Pursuit of International Maritime Security - Group F" reported by Adm Paolo La Rosa from Italy; "Lessons Learnt from Humanitarian Operations (Interagency Co-ordination and Working with NGOs) - Group G" reported by Adm Eduardo Darcourt Adrianzen from Peru; "Lessons Learnt from Humanitarian Operations (Humanitarian Operations and Command and Control) - Group H" reported by V Adm Rustom


Faramroze, a Contractor from India; and "Lessons Learnt from Humanitarian Operations - Group I" reported by V Adm Sergio Enrique Henaro Galon from Mexico.

The findings of these panels included a consensus that building trust between navies and breaking down suspicion was vital to the future of the globe. "Trust and co-operation cannot be surged" - this has to be built systematically and continuously.

It has become apparent that the ISS, in addition to growing from 71 to 98 countries in 2007, has spawned a number of regional sea power symposia, allowing the global thrust to devolve down to practical levels. These regional symposia include, among others, the Indian Ocean Navy Symposium, the Sea Power for Africa Symposium, the Australia Sea Power Symposium, Columbia Caribbean Conference and the North Atlantic Coastguard Forum.

The significant impact of the African continent and its naval leadership on the proceedings of the Conference were readily apparent. This was given particular reference during the closing remarks by the Chief of Naval Operations, the most powerful navy in the world, when he referred to comments by the Chief of the SA Navy on the concept of collective responsibility.

The fact that the continent has achieved this distinctive honour is surely because of the international status of its leaders and the fact that navies of our region are proudly able to stand toe-to-toe with NATO. This symbolises the collective navies of the developed world, as evidenced in the recent exercises during NATO's historic first circumnavigation of the African continent.

As the South African delegation we played an integral part in charting the new path of international naval co-operation within the collective of global naval leadership. 

# The first Starstreak missile shooting in Africa



Low cost aerial target systems (Locats) were used as targets during the Starstreak field trials fly at Overberg Testing Range.

Insert: Fltr: Cpl Steven Graaf (23) and S Sgt Frans Ali (41) taking aim to the target with a light multiple launcher.

By Col Frans Pale  
Photos: F Sgt David  
Nomtshongwana

The Starstreak High Velocity Missile System fired up to the blue sky at lightning speed towards its target at the Overberg Testing Range in Bredasdorp on 31 October 2007.


To the delight and satisfaction of onlookers, including generals and senior staff members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), the missile shot up to a mock enemy aircraft, missing it by less than three metres.

According to the project officer for

the Starstreak field trials, Lt Col Jacques Baird, any hit of less than three metres to the target is considered a real hit. Lt Col Baird was impressed and excited by the performance of his team. "This is the first Starstreak missile shooting in Africa and I feel very proud about it," he said.

The Starstreak is the new shoulder launched missile product that forms part of the SABLE System, which was procured for the SA Army Ground Based Air Defence System. This system will enable the Ground Based Air Defence to establish and maintain an effective ground based air defence capability for the Department of Defence (DOD).

The primary aim of the ongoing Starstreak field trials is to perform a live fire exercise to declare the first eight operators of the Starstreak missile ready for operational employment, and to prepare them for the final operational test and evaluation of the bigger SABLE System in 2009.

S Sgt Frans Ali, a Starstreak missile operator, and a father of two sons from Bloemfontein, has been involved with the Starstreak missile operation for the past four years. "I feel proud to operate this accurate machine. If we continue using it accurately, our country will be protected from any potential aggression from the sky," said S Sgt Ali. 

# The German Provost Marshal visits our Military Police Division

By Col Stanley Buhali, SSO  
Protection and Security, MP Div HQ  
Photo: Maj Manie Smit

The co-operation between South Africa and Germany is growing and becoming stronger at all levels, thanks to the effective SA/Germany Defence Committee (DEF-COM), which ensures close co-operation between the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the German Armed Forces. A delegation of two from the German Military Police led by Col Erdmann Heiner, Director of the German MP, accompanied by his staff officer, Maj Zytariuk Bernhard, visited the SANDF Military Police Division (MP Div) in October 2007.

The aim of the visit was to explore matters of concern in the military police environment and to develop a working relationship between the SANDF MP Div and the German MP.


During the visit discussions between the two parties focused on the following issues:

- Discussions in respect of training and training opportunities;
- Exchange of ideas on the conduct of security and the protection of assets in a defence organisation;
- German MP involvement in the Soccer World Cup during 2006, as South Africa will be hosting the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament;
- Developing a working relationship between the SANDF MP Div and the German MP;

- Exchange of ideas regarding military policing.

The Germans visited the SANDF MP Div HQ at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria where they had an opportunity to meet the Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen M.J. Ledwaba, the SANDF MP Div Command Council. Informative discussions on the above-mentioned issues took place. They were also taken on a tour of various SANDF MP Div units in order to get a better understanding of how the SANDF MPs conducted their military policing functions on a daily basis. The units visited were the Military Police School, 13 Provost Company (operational deploying company), Northern Region Military Police HQ and the Thaba Tshwane MP Area Office.

Col Heiner was impressed by the organisation and the professionalism of the SANDF MP Div and expressed his feelings as follows: "I must say that I have met professionals who know what they are doing". Although the visit revealed many similarities between the military police of the two countries, one of the most important lessons for the SANDF MP Div was the extent to which the German MPs were prepared to support the Soccer World Cup 2006 held in Germany. Though the event was entirely the responsibility of the German civilian police, the German Armed Forces and the Military Police were thoroughly prepared and on the alert for any situation throughout the tournament.

This experience will be invaluable for the SANDF MP Div as it prepares to support the South African Police Services (SAPS) through joint operations during the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament. 



Ftr: Maj Z. Bernhard (German Military Police), Col E. Heiner (German Military Police), Brig Gen M.J. Ledwaba (SANDF Provost Marshal General) and Col R. Rabotapi (SANDF Deputy Provost Marshal General).

# Our Military Police visits the New York National Guard

By Maj Manie Smit,  
SO1 Safeguarding MP Div HQ  
Photo: Lt Col Sullivan  
(New York National Guard)

Col T.S. Buhali and Maj H.P. Smit of the Protection and Security Section of the Military Police Division visited the New York National Guard in the United States of America from 16 to 21 November 2007. The purpose of this visit was to familiarise the SANDF Military Police Division with the New York National Guard Military Police operations, force protection procedures and VIP close protection services.

Col Buhali and Maj Smit arrived with the Airbus A319 on a cold Saturday evening at Albany City Airport, New York. Maj Patrick Chaisson, the New York State Partnership Programme Co-ordinator assigned to JFHQ-NY, welcomed them warmly and took them to the Hampton Inn

located in Albany for a well-deserved rest.

There was, however, no rest for them and at 12:00 on the Sunday the two officers visited Troop G of the New York State Police in Loudonville, New York, a few kilometres from Albany. State Police Sergeant David Kolb, who is also a member of the New York Air National Guard, met them at their offices in the beautiful little town. During the visit to the New York State Police, Sgt Kolb informed the two military police officers about their various functions and responsibilities. An interesting fact that emerged was the number of State Troopers that were also enlisted in the New York National Guard.

Col Buhali and Maj Smit departed from Loudonville and drove to Albany, the capital of the State of New York, where they were taken on a tour of the New York State Governor's mansion. This was truly an awe-inspiring experience. The SANDF delegation met the State Troopers who provided VIP close

protection to the Governor, and a very interesting discussion followed regarding the way that close protection is executed by the New York State Police. This was followed by a visit to the State Capitol building where they were shown the Governor's office.

Monday morning the group were off to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, New York, where they met the Command Group of the New York National Guard. During this event Mr Dennis Kavanagh provided the South African officers with a briefing regarding force protection concepts, tasks and responsibilities. Both Col Buhali and Maj Smit were quite surprised and happy to see an SANDF flag in this building.

The afternoon was spent at the Schenectady Armory in the beautiful town of Schenectady. At this venue the SANDF officers met a few non-commissioned officers of the 206th MP Company who provided them with a very insightful briefing regarding the functions of the military police, which included manoeuvre and mobility support, area security, law and order, police intelligence and internment and resettlement operations. Tired but happy the SANDF delegation returned to their accommodations.

Maj Smit's heart sank into his shoes when he awoke the next Tuesday morning and saw the weather. It was very cold and rainy and he realised that their scheduled Black

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Fltr: Col Patrick Murphy, Col T.S. Buhali, Maj H.P. Smit and Maj P. Chaisson in front of the SANDF flag at the JFHQ-NY in Latham, New York.

# The SANDF is a national asset

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

**T**he true strength of a defence force lies in the calibre of its human resources." These were the wise words of Brig Gen Petro Mari, Director Human Resources Divisional Staffs, who acted as the programme director. She welcomed the members of the media and invited guests who rose to the occasion in recognising the value of the event.

Representatives of all Services were present at the media breakfast hosted by Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Human Resources, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 5 December 2007.

The purpose of the gathering was to brief the attendees on the developments and the rejuvenation of the Human Resources in the Department of Defence (DOD), its aims and mandate. He echoed the sentiments of nationwide efforts by the DOD to contribute to youth development programmes in support of government initiatives, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for SA (ASGI-SA) and the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA).

The SANDF is a national asset, and we must be worthy of the trust of the people we serve. "We are continuing to meet new situations and are development orientated in the military and we are also in the process of recruiting healthy, young, eager and aspiring South African young men and women. In the process of rejuvenating our National Defence Force we must have the right human assets for the future and the process of increasing our staff from next




**Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Human Resources, addresses members of the media and invited guests at the media breakfast.**

year has already started," said Lt Gen Mgwebi.

He also added that the issue of good health, discipline and adherence to the military Code of Conduct are the most important facets in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF). "The DOD is in the process of establishing its Works Regiment which will be responsible for helping retain the technical skills of our members involved in the maintenance and repair of all the DOD facilities," said the Chief of Human Resources.

He also highlighted the issue of the Human Resources policy initiatives, military veterans and the Reserve Force. A question was raised about how

the DOD was doing in supporting and caring for families of members who are deployed for a long period far away from their families. Lt Gen Mgwebi responded: "In the DOD there is Project Resilience which is a healthy response of people to difficult times, stress or crisis, including injury, death, ill health, financial difficulties, and any of other events in the lives of individuals and families. The programme contributes to the effective functioning of the family and individuals and helps them to cope and be able to look after their well-being." 



**Brig Gen Petro Mari, Director Human Resources Divisional Staffs, welcomes the attendees to the media breakfast.**

# UNITED AGAINST AIDS

"STOP  
HIV  
AND  
AIDS.  
KEEP  
THE  
PROMISE."

By Nelda Pienaar  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The whole community of Potchef-stroom joined hands to unite against AIDS on 1 December 2007. Military members in Potchef-stroom, the SAPS, medical infrastructure, the residents and communities around Potchefstroom gathered, as a united people of North West Province, to commemorate World AIDS Day at the Olen Park Stadium in Potchefstroom.

But before that the impressive, tell-tale floats, with messages to combat HIV and AIDS, could be seen in the streets proceeding towards the stadium.

The float parade started at the Trim Park and manoeuvred its way towards the stadium.

People were reminded to prevent infection with the virus; they were asked to take responsibility for their actions, live healthy lifestyles and practise safe sex.

On entering the stadium everyone received a free combo meal and drink with a squeeze bottle with the printed slogan: "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise".

The tents at the stadium were packed to capacity with spectators ready to receive messages from the various dignitaries, including the Premier of North West, Ms Edna Molewa. The crowd was also entertained by numerous groups ranging from Zulu dancers to children and the SAPS Brass Band. Everywhere were manned stalls providing information about the deadly virus, condoms and goodies.

Maj Maggie Khabo, the Local AIDS Council (LAC) Chairperson and member of Area Military Health Unit North West, lit a large candle on the podium in remembrance of everyone who had died of HIV and AIDS, as well as for those infected or affected by the disease.

For more information on HIV and AIDS call the AIDS helpline: 0800 012 322 or the Department of Health AIDS Unit: 012 312 0038.



# Demonstrating combat readiness

By Lt Col Frans Pale  
Photos: F Sgt David  
Nomtshongwana

The Rooivalk and the Oryx fighter helicopters demonstrated their complementary roles in airborne capability. The Rooivalk struck and destroyed enemy targets on the ground, and the Oryx safely dropped and airlifted troopers during the Open Day of the annual exercise of the SA Army - EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE - at the De Brug training area near Bloemfontein on 16 November 2007.


The Rooivalk showed its airborne

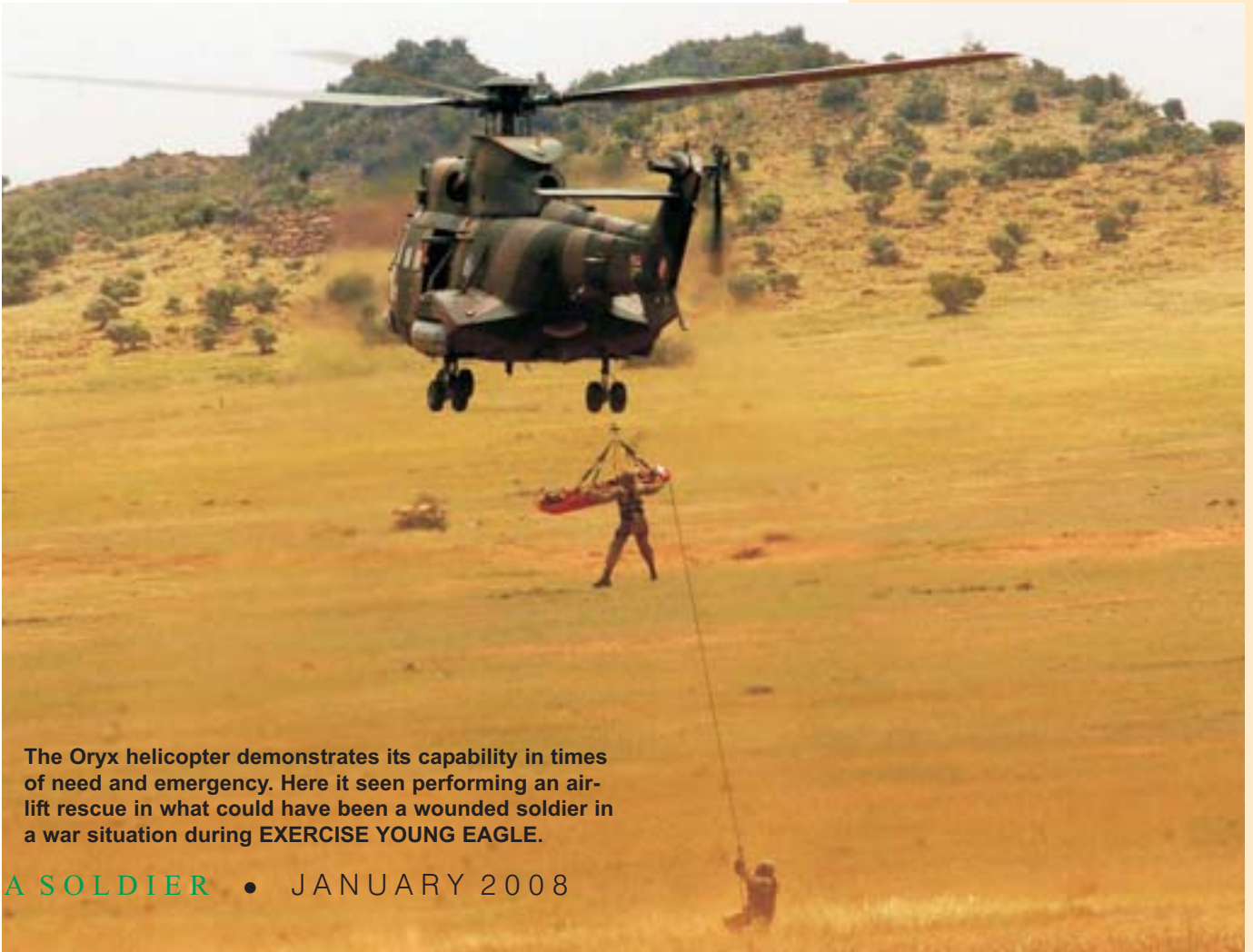
capability and combat-readiness as it shot at targets from approximately 400 m to the jubilation, cheers and smiles of spectators.

Other aircraft involved in EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE were the Augusta 109, CASA and BK 117. According to Lt Gen Shoke the aim of the exercise was to train the SA Army's airborne and air assault forces to enhance their airborne capability and combat readiness.

Commenting on EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE Ms Nombeko Daniels, a member of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, said the committee was pleased with the combat readiness of the SANDF in airborne

attacks. "Occasions of this nature enable us to understand the activities of our soldiers, so that we report to parliament from an informed position," she said.

A community activist based in Kagiso near Mogale City, Mr Sello Matsobane, who is also an active Reserve Force member, was also impressed with the exercise. "Never before have I seen young men and women as charged as those that are serving in the SANDF. These are people who have put their country first, even before themselves. These young soldiers are armed with confidence and a sense of mission and value for the task before them," said Mr Matsobane. 



The Oryx helicopter demonstrates its capability in times of need and emergency. Here it is seen performing an air-lift rescue in what could have been a wounded soldier in a war situation during EXERCISE YOUNG EAGLE.

# South Africa and France hold strategic talks

By Lt Col Frans Pale  
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

South Africa and France held strategic talks to explore areas of co-operation on matters of peace and security between the two countries at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 22 November 2007.

The South African delegation at the talks was led by the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, and the French delegation by the French Director for Strategic Affairs, Mr Michel Miraillet.

In his opening remarks, Mr Masilela said co-operation on matters of peace and security between South Africa and France was important because of the role the two countries played in peacekeeping efforts in Africa and beyond.

Mr Masilela noted that since France was an important member of the European Union (EU) the talks would go a long way towards helping South Africa understand how the EU policy on defence and security was unfolding.




The French Director for Strategic Affairs, Mr Michel Miraillet (left), listening to the SA Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, during the SA/France strategic talks at Defence Headquarters in November 2007.

"Furthermore, the dialogue between ourselves (SA and France) presents a significant opportunity for us South Africans to gain first-hand information on President Nicolas Sarkozy's foreign policy concerning security on the African continent," said Mr Masilela.

In his response, Mr Miraillet said his country viewed South Africa as an

important partner in peacekeeping missions, especially on the African continent.

"We are aware that we cannot succeed in peacekeeping missions in Africa without the involvement of South Africa. In our briefings in this dialogue we intend to inform you about how we conduct our presence in the African region," said Mr Miraillet. 

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Hawk helicopter flight to Camp Smith in Cortlandt Manor, New York, might be in jeopardy. Luckily the flight took place and they received a beautiful bird's-eye view of the Hudson River from inside the cockpit of a New York Air National Guard Black Hawk.


Col M. Warnecke welcomed the two South African officers to Camp Smith, a training facility that is utilised by the New York National Guard for various types of training, such as military operations in urban terrain, convoy protection and musketry. Numerous civilian law enforcement agencies, including the US Secret Service, utilise the small arms ranges

for shooting exercises. Col Buhli and Maj Smit demonstrated their proficiency in musketry on the Engagement Skills Trainer and were given a virtual "tour" of Iraq in the Convoy Skills Trainer. The day was rounded off with a very nice dinner at a local restaurant.

On their last day in the United States, Command Sergeant Major Daniel Ames took Col Buhali and Maj Smit on a very scenic, though misty tour of Camp Smith. After the tour they met two members of the 106th MP Regiment who were involved with military police transition training at Camp Smith. They provided the South African officers with a briefing that explained MP transition training and the involvement of the mil-

itary police in VIP close protection in the United States Department of Defence.

Thus the short but busy visit came to an end on 21 November as the two members left Camp Smith and made their way to the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. They did not look forward to the long flight ahead of them, but were happy to return home in the Boeing 777.

Numerous new relationships were forged during this visit that may lead to future interactions between the SANDF and the New York National Guard to improve the standards of asset protection and VIP close protection in both institutions. 

# EXERCISE INYATHI



Members executing quick attack.

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The important factors in successful military operations are highly motivated soldiers equipped with the right combat skills, fighting equipment and who are well trained to execute the missions and tasks expected of them. On 16 November 2007 SA Soldier visited the SA Army Infantry School in Oudtshoorn to witness the execution of EXERCISE INYATHI first-hand.

The exercise is conducted twice a year at the SA Army Infantry School to enhance the SA Army Infantry soldiers' combat power capability in order to facilitate and achieve the mandate of the SA Army and the objectives of the SANDF.

EXERCISE INYATHI is a mobile exercise executing phases of war

and part of the exercise is to incorporate the integrated learning programmes offered at the SA Army Infantry School, namely the Infantry Platoon Commanders' Course, the Company Commanders' Course, the Company Second-in-Command Course, the Operational Officers' Course, the Company Sergeant Majors Course, the Company Quartermaster Sergeants Course, the Senior Infantry Non-commissioned Officers' Course, the Section Leaders' Course and the Riflemen's Course. The exercise is also part of the force preparation.

On the arrival of SA Soldier for the mechanised training exercise, we were

welcomed by Maj John Thys, SO1 Training at the Infantry School and the EXERCISE INYATHI Leader, who briefed us on the aims and objectives of the exercise and said that the exercise would also help to reinforce the theoretical and practical training members received at the Infantry School and during the rehearsals for the exercise. Maj Thys accompanied us to the fire-power display, infantry weapon systems and combat vehicles used by the Infantry.

We witnessed the practical phase of battle, which started with an initial light attack and aggressive manoeuvre of the attacking force. The forces executed quick attack, deliberate attack, defensive position, ambush, bridge crossing and column night attack. In each stage of the war and battle scenarios Maj Thys explained the actions and movements that would take place in order to attack and defeat the enemy opposing force. His company and platoon commanders and section leaders gave feedback and post-exercise debriefings. Participating members gained much knowledge and the skills required to conduct battle drills at the tactical level of war. Commanders of forces and section leaders exercised



Soldiers camouflaging a Ratel.


their reactive and quick decision-making capabilities calmly when ordering forces to execute attacks. Members of Infantry units across South Africa engaged in every aspect of the exercise and showed remarkable consistency and kept the pace.

The tranquil atmosphere of the Karoo was disturbed by the movement of Ratels and other combat vehicles moving from the assembly area to the forming-up area where they were to execute bridge crossing and then move in columns of battle formation. I applauded the forces enthusiastically as they executed their battle drills and Ratels roared in the bushes and on the move displayed the concept of mobile attack and mobile defence. Forces quickly dismounted from vehicles and rapidly executed quick attacks and column night attacks and took up defensive firing positions to ambush and destroy enemy forces by counter-attack.

The distinct sounds of light machine guns, mortars, multiple rocket launchers, R4-rifles, smoke grenades and light thunders were heard as they fired and bombarded enemy targets. In the realism of live fire Maj Thys, Maj Jackie Nthejane (Wing Commander of the Weapon Training Wing), and Capt Fortunate Ncube, (Company Commander of the Deliberate Attack) ensured that the mechanised infantry

rules were applied during the exercise. During the post-exercise debriefing, time management, control, co-ordination, emergency plans, movements, occupation of deployment areas and maintaining battle formations were emphasised.

Hats off to the three chefs from the SA Army Infantry School who were on the Company Sergeant Majors' Course. They added flair to the exercise and were engaged in every aspect of it. The three chefs to deserve mention were: S Sgt Madoda Ziyane, S Sgt Tembisile Nqeketo and S Sgt Khanyi Mthlane. They were consistent as they kept the

pace and proved that in modern warfare a chef's place is not only in the kitchen, but also at the front adding support and fighting power to fellow troops in order to win the battle and destroy the enemy opposing force. May their courage serve as a motivation to other supporting elements within our National Defence Force. The exercise was also supported by the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS), the Command and Management Information Systems Division (CMIS) that provided communication support, and the fire brigade crew. 



A night attack ...

**Ratels in the bush displaying mobile defence.**



# Leadership and Management Development Programme for PSAP

By Ms Karin Swart,  
Ass Dir PSAP ETD, and Dr Dhesi  
Achary, SSO Medical Services  
Photo: 5 ASU

The Leadership and Management Development Programme (LMDP) sponsored by the United Kingdom (UK) Ministry of Defence, co-presented by Ashridge College (UK) and the SA Department of

Defence (DOD), in Pretoria in October 2007 proved to be extremely successful and quite an unforgettable experience.

Forty highly enthusiastic and motivated Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) and Uniformed members on middle management level in the DOD attended the programme. Thirty PSAP were fortunate to attend the same programme at Ashridge College in the UK from 1998 to 2001. In an earnest

drive to maximise the numbers participating in the programme, it was based in South Africa from 2002, with 240 DOD personnel having completed the programme.

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The LMDP is an ambitious programme that covers a wide range of topics ranging from leadership, time management, personal effectiveness, lifestyle planning, coaching, emotional intelligence, creative problem solving, elite performance to leading change. Despite the long hours and working over weekends, it was extremely well received as it carefully balanced learning with fun. A brilliant mix of different forms of teaching and learning methodology that integrated adult-based teaching techniques were utilised.

The objectives of the programme were clearly defined to all participants as follows:

- To clarify relations between core competencies, skills, knowledge and performance.
- To enhance appreciation for the operational tools and techniques and their application to a changing workplace.



Attendees of the 2007 Leadership and Management Development Programme.

- To share best learning practices, networking and review improvement opportunities from internal and external partners, so that there is a strong focus on business leadership and performance.

The benefits of the programme were vast and too many to mention, so a few are mentioned here.

The programme provided:

- A broader understanding of general management and role of leadership in management.
- A better understanding of key management issues.
- A focus on personal development, highlighting the benefits of leverage strengths.
- A tool to adapt and improve current management practices.
- Learning tools and techniques for implementation towards a positive change in the work environment.
- Alertness to organisational strengths and shortfalls.
- A networking opportunity that is immense in its potential to benchmark.

### CO-PRESENTATION OF THE LMDP

Sustainability of such a programme beyond sponsorship is of vital importance to the DOD. In an attempt to successfully build capacity to enable the DOD to manage the LMDP further, a two-day preparatory "train the trainer" event was held from 8 to 9 October 2007. The success of this programme was widely attributed to the fact that Ashridge College, SANDF tutors (locally based) and trainers contributed immensely to the teaching experience by drawing on their personal training, experiences and the attendance of other similar programmes. The DOD trainers have demonstrated great commitment, passion and talent as co-facilitators and co-ordinators of the programme.

### PARTICIPANTS ON THE LMDP

Forty DOD personnel, 35 PSAP

and 5 Uniformed members from diverse working backgrounds with representation from all Services and Divisions, attended the programme.

Participants were privileged to include the presence of the Dean of the Military Academy, Prof Edna van Harte, who obtained her Professorship during the week. Wow! And what a celebration that was.

Programme evaluation was extremely positive with more than 95% of participants giving the overall programme a very good or excellent rating on the principle measures of "Meeting the Programme Objectives and Value to the Individual".

Participants were ecstatic and genuinely grateful for being afforded the opportunity to attend this world class learning opportunity. They indicated that the programme provided an opportunity for networking, personal growth and practical exposure to new tools and techniques that can easily be applied at both the workplace and their personal life.

The following comments by participants captured this brilliantly:

- "I can only say Thank You. Thank you to every presenter for empowering me to lead with confidence. I salute you!"
- "A lot of valuable and practical content was covered in a short period. Thank you to all presenters. It was the most positive, uplifting and exciting experience I have had in five years."
- "Life changing. Requirement for all leaders. Only when you know yourself can you know others."
- "It opened my eyes regarding my strengths and developmental areas and provided me with another perspective on the functioning of my team at work."
- "This programme is important for the development of any young leader."
- "This course has given me the hope to reach for the stars, achieve more objectives with strong


conviction and be a better team player."

### TEAM BUILDING: DRUMMING SESSION

Participants were enthralled as they enjoyed an unforgettable drumming event with Red Zebra that emphasised the role of different members within a team and the importance of being guided by, and following a good leader.

### TRIBUTE

Another highlight was the evening spent with the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi. He placed emphasis on the important role PSAP played in the DOD and encouraged participants to implement what they have learnt back in their workplace. He also paid tribute to the UK for their continuous support to the capacity building of PSAP. Lt Gen Mgwebi was delighted to state that the programme was consistently presented at a high standard and quality throughout. The capacity building of our DOD personnel is continuously growing and this is due to the UK sponsorship, concerted efforts and personal commitment of the UK and the DOD trainers.

The distinguished learning approach of Ashridge College is evident in its highly interactive style involving activities that maximised learning in the limited allocated time. This enabled excellent results in a lively interactive mix of new thinking, as well as individual and group learning. A key part of this learning process was to generate a network of like-minded participants to share their ideas and maintain a common interest in ways of improving their own performance and that of their respective workplaces. In so doing, the LMDP successfully contributed towards making the SA DOD a "world-class professional defence force". 

# All you need to know about Diabetes (Part 1)

By Dr Lehlohonolo Majake, a general medical practitioner at 1 Military Hospital

**D**iabetes is an illness familiar to many. Yet, how much do we really know about it? If you have a family member who has diabetes, do you ever consider yourself at risk? In Part I of our two-part series on diabetes, we shall be focusing on getting to know more about the disease. The second part will focus on the classification, medical management and end stage complications of diabetes.

## What is diabetes?

Diabetes is a chronic disorder due to the lack of the hormone insulin in the body, as a result of which fats, carbohydrates (sugars/glucose) and proteins are not stored and utilised correctly.

Under normal circumstances, after eating, the body will remove the sugar from the circulation (bloodstream) and store it in the muscles and fat, thus preventing any production of glucose by the liver. This is made possible by the hormone insulin provided by the B cells of the pancreas.

The opposite happens in someone who has not eaten for a while: insulin is suppressed and other hormones, such as glucagons, stimulate the liver to produce glucose for the body to continue functioning as normal. An abnormality of insulin as in the case of diabetes results in an increase in glucose (sugar) in the body - a term referred to as hyperglycemia, as well as an increase in sugar in the urine, known as glycosuria.

Diabetes is classified into Type I and II. Type I insulin dependent diabetes commonly affects people below

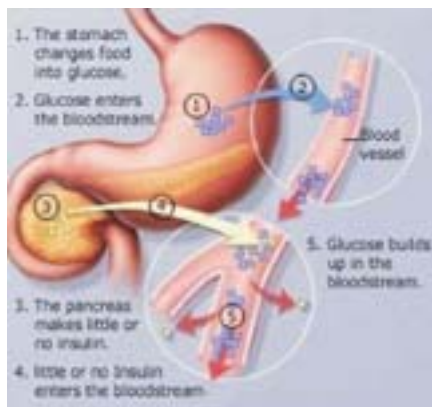


Dr Lehlohonolo Majake.

30, the peak age groups being 12 to 14 years. Type II non-insulin dependent diabetes is seen in older people.

## What causes diabetes?

- Genetic factors account for 30% susceptibility to type I diabetes.
- Environmental factors such as diet and stress.



- Age (particularly for type II which affects the middle aged and the elderly).
- Pregnancy - as the placental hormones reduce the sensitivity of insulin, they cause an increase in glucose thus making the insulin secreting cells of the pancreatic islets unable to meet the increased demand. This is known as gestation-

al diabetes and can become permanent with repeated pregnancy, especially in obese women. Diabetes in pregnancy is also a big cause of delivery complications.

- Infection - certain viruses have been implicated, including mumps, Coxsackie B4, retroviruses, rubella (in uterus), cytomegalovirus and Epstein-Barr. These cause autoimmune damage to the pancreas.

## Who is at risk of getting diabetes?

If you have first or second degree relatives with diabetes, you are considered at high risk of getting this disease. Diabetes is also associated with disorders such as obesity, hypertension and hypercholesterolaemia.

## How do I tell if I have diabetes?

Diabetes, like hypertension, is a silent killer, especially in the case of type II, and often you cannot tell that you have it until complications occur. The three critical symptoms to look out for are polydipsia (always thirsty), polyuria (constantly passing urine) and polyphagia (constantly eating, yet associated with weight loss).

These symptoms tend to be more prevalent in type I than type II diabetes. If these symptoms are present, it is advisable to visit your local sickbay or outpatients department for blood glucose reading and urine test.

In men, erectile dysfunction may also be a factor. Other symptoms may be continuous fatigue, dry mouth, skin sepsis (boils) and genital candidiasis. Type II diabetics may present with obesity, hypertension and high cholesterol. Other complaints may be that of paraesthesia (pins and needles), pain and muscle weakness in the legs with signs of peripheral neuropathy (feet have reduced sensation) or foot ulcera-



tion, or deterioration of eyesight due to cataracts or retinopathy.

**How do I prevent myself from getting diabetes?**

Since diabetes is an inherited illness, in many instances one cannot

completely prevent it. However, basic measures can be taken to ensure that the progression of the disorder is slowed down. Healthy living, a daily exercise routine of 30 minutes or more, and reducing smoking and alcohol are also important. This is something to be done at all times, whether you are in a familiar environment, on deployment or on holiday. Adequate stress management is imperative and it is better to consult a professional if you are not coping with stress. This is a common problem for people working for the Department of Defence (DOD).

**Can I be fully cured of diabetes?**


With diabetes being a consequential pathological problem of the pancreas, one cannot completely remove the problem. What is important, however, is to manage the disease. Depending on the type of diabetes one has, medication or insulin injections need to be utilised.

Type II diabetes may initially be managed by exercise and a healthy diet. Daily monitoring of your blood-glucose

level is necessary, with an ideal reading between 3-6 mmol/l. Frequent visits to your specialist physician are essential for blood tests, urine samples, ECG and thorough full body examinations for any complications, compliance and any need for adjustments in medication.

Regular inspection of feet and the immediate management of any foot sores is important as diabetes is an illness that damages the immune system, thus infections tend to complicate even the smallest infections of the feet which can end in amputation if these problems are not well taken care of from the start.

Now that it is clear what diabetes is all about, who those at risk are, and how to diagnose it, the onus is on you to get tested and know where you stand. This will ensure a healthy Defence Force.

*\* Reference: Davidson's Principle and practice of medicine: 18th edition, 1999. C.Haslett, ER Chilvers, JAA Hunter, NA Boon* 

# Induction and Reorientation Programme

Compiled by Mr D.P. de la Rey,  
Dep Dir PSAP ETD and  
Ms K. Swart, Ass Dir PSAP ETD

**C**hief Directorate Human Resources Development (PSAP ETD) presented an induction and reorientation programme for Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 9 to 13 during August 2007.

It is a Government imperative that all Public Service employees must undergo induction and reorientation.

Identified Education Training and Development (ETD) functional matter experts from the SA Management Development Institute (SAMDI) and the Services and Divisions compiled an induction and reorientation programme for the Department of Defence (DOD).

## PILOT PROGRAMME FOR PSAP

Twenty-seven employees from diverse working backgrounds attended the programme over the period 20 to 24 August 2007.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- Creation of mutual expectations between employer and employee (the right type of employee for the DOD in order to fit the culture, values and DOD objectives).
- Reduce anxiety, uncertainty and unnecessary turnover (the initial job decision of the employee is positively confirmed and experienced).
- Create a positive image of the DOD as a desirable employer, which will lead to increased loyalty towards the DOD - a high standard of professional ethics is promoted and maintained.
- Encourage socialisation and create a feeling of belonging, as well as acceptance by colleagues.
- Initiate a developmental process and encourage productive input as soon as the employee commences work in the new position.
- Promote efficient, economic and effective use of resources.

All participants were ecstatic about being afforded the opportunity to attend a professionally designed programme,


which allowed networking and provided information of great value. Mr P.M. Pillay from Naval Engineering Services in Simon's Town indicated that he had been in the DOD for more than 20 years; he had gained new and relevant information that would be of great value in his workplace. Mr M.G. Zwane, the new Director of Labour Service Relations indicated that this programme should be recommended for all middle managers and new employees in the DOD.

It is the wish of the Chief of Human Resources that the induction and reorientation programme should be presented to all PSAP in the DOD, irrespective of years of service.

It is envisaged that in future two programmes will be presented annually in Pretoria for PSAP on salary levels 8 to 13. Furthermore, it is intended to develop an induction and reorientation programme for PSAP on salary levels 5 to 7.

In future these programmes will be included in the annual reporting on compliance with the Skills Development Act as it affects ETD of PSAP.

The Chief Director Human Resources

Development is delighted to state that the tremendous effort put in by presenters from Services and Divisions reflected high professional ethics and was of a high standard. Continuous collaboration will contribute to the successful development and delivery of an induction and reorientation programme of high quality. 



The attendees of the 2007 Induction and Reorientation Programme. Front, fltr: Ms A. Aggenbach, Ms S. Tredoux, Ms K. Swart, Mr D.P. de la Rey, Mr M.P. Zwane, Mr P.M. Pillay, Ms P.N. Manyane, Ms L. Lebese, Ms M. Mulaudzi, Ms D. Nkosi. Middle, fltr: Ms E.M. van Wyngaard, Ms S.L. Bodikologa, Mr S. Martin, Ms J.H. Pelsler, Mr J.M. Ncube, Mr M.S. Williams, Mr W.T. Mashiloane, Ms B. Ketani, Ms K.J. Muller. Back, fltr: Mr T.S. Ratsiale, Mr P.D. Hangone, Mr M.A. Gabier, Mr C.R. Olivier, Mr S. Rajoo, Mr P.K. Thamaga, Mr L.H. Cameron, Mr P. Murray.

# Creating a convenient workplace for people with disabilities

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Department of Defence (DOD) in supporting and appreciating members with disabilities once again demonstrated to South Africans and the military community its commitment to raise awareness about people with disabilities, their needs, potentials, rights and contribution to the Department and the society at large. A glittering event - the DOD Disability (Equity) Unit of the Year Awards ceremony - was hosted at Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria on 30 November 2007.

The awards ceremony was held to recognise the DOD unit that has gone the extra mile in creating a convenient workplace for people with disabilities.

The main aim of the award is to motivate DOD institutions to remove barriers impacting negatively on people with disabilities in terms of their individual needs in their working environment.

Before presenting the awards Maj Gen Ntsiki Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management, said that our Government was a signatory to various international protocols and laws that promote the rights of people with disabilities.

She added that none of us would be truly free until people with disabilities were free of discrimination, stereotyping and prejudices. "It is only after the removal of these barriers of unfair discrimination against people with disabilities that they will be able to reach their full potential and be allowed to contribute equally alongside their fellow colleagues," Maj Gen Motumi said.

She added: "Since the advent of democracy in our country the Government has adopted an approach that mainstreams disabilities in the context of fundamental human rights, and that also ensures that persons with disabilities are continuously at the centre of decisions that affect them."

The following speaker, Mr Kobus Swart, Deputy Director Disability Equity, expressed his appreciation of the DOD, the DOD Disability Committee, the chiefs of Services, supervisors, managers and all those who contributed and assisted in making the event an unforgettable one for the people with disabilities and for rising to the occasion in recognising the value of the event.

When he asked those who attended the occasion if there was anything they would like to share with SA Soldier, they responded that through interactions and events of this kind they learn valuable lessons that lead them to explore their possibilities of empowerment that will lead to and increase their self-reliance.

## DISABILITY EQUITY AWARDS

**Disability Equity Command Post of the Year:**

Fleet Command Post Simon's Town.

**Disability Equity Training Unit of the Year:**


School of Signals.

**Most Improved Disability Equity Unit of the Year:**

Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal.

Special recognition for career development and empowerment of non-uniformed people with disabilities in the DOD was awarded to Directorate Career Development PSAP.

**Disability Equity Unit of the Year:**

Air Force Base Langebaanweg. 



**DISABILITY EQUITY UNIT OF THE YEAR: AIR FORCE BASE LANGEBAANWEG.** R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Rensburg, Dir Equity Strategic Direction (right), congratulates WO1 Gerda Tallie, representative of Air Force Base Langebaanweg, on the achievement of the unit, while Ms Antina Hlabela, Ass Dir Disability Equity, looks on.

# Scrap booking is a terrific creative outlet

By Maj Marinda Meyer,  
SO2 Comm Army Armour  
Fmn HQ

It is a common misconception that you have to be an artist to do scrap booking. "I love scrapbooks," my friend Linda told me, "but they never turn out the way I want them to. I guess I am just not artistic enough." The truth is anyone with the right tools can create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind scrapbook!

What is scrap booking, anyway? The SA Army Armour Formation Headquarters decided to organise an upliftment programme for the women - a scrap booking day. Scrap booking is much more than photos and clippings. A scrapbook is an artfully arranged collection of photographs, memorabilia and journalistic writing that is fun to look at. Scrap booking is a terrific creative outlet that helps preserve your family history and it is also a craft that can help you slow down, reflect and spend time with the family.

Madalyne Groenewald of Scrapin'a Box presented the scrap booking class at the SA Army Armour Formation Headquarters in Pretoria on 30 November 2007. The aim of the day was to introduce the women to scrap booking, promote team spirit and at the same time equip them with new skills.

Two companies, Denel Land Systems and BAE Land Systems OMC, which are considered to be part of the armour fraternity and key role players in armour programmes and projects, were part of this exciting endeavour and made generous contributions. Without their sponsorship this day would not have been the success it was - thank you!

For most of the women this was




**Fltr:** Ms Adriana Schwartz, WO2 Debbie Greeff and Lt Col Sandra Lekalakala do the final touches in their scrap booking project.



**Scrapppers in action, fltr:** Ms Mapula Tema, S Sgt Florence Sithole, Ms Nosisa Maqubela, Sgt Maria Nyadzani and Ms Linda Lategan.

their first experience of scrap booking. Madalyne taught them all the new skills of chalking, tearing, how to make their own embellishments, put in eyelets and much more. Some of the women felt overwhelmed and inadequate when they started scrap booking, but at the end of the day we had the pleasure of seeing them blossom into great scrapppers and everyone had a

complete scrap booking project to take back home.

I love to sit down with my family and friends and look back at events and moments from our lives. These events mold us and make us who we are. While memories are not always happy, they are important, and those memories connect us to each other. All that is left is to say ... Happy scrapping! 

# 30 Minutes with the Minister's PA

By Lebohang Letaoana  
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

**N**ot in a million years did Tinyiko Dickson Shibambu think he would be the Minister of Defence's Personal Assistant. *SA Soldier* caught up with him in his office to get up close and personal.

I called him by his "Christian" name Dickson and he immediately told me that in this office Mr Mosiuoa Lekota prefers to address his staff by their African names. He explains how he got the name Tinyiko: "At home they wanted a baby boy and they were blessed with twins, so my twin was named Nyiko, which means gift, so Tinyiko means more than one gift," he said.

Born 29 years ago in Malamulele in the Limpopo Province, Tinyiko matriculated in 1996 at E.P.P. Mhinga High School. He spent four years at Technikon Northern Gauteng (now known as Tshwane University of Technology) where he studied Commercial Practice. In his final year of studies he got himself a "piece job" at the Technikon as a student assistant.

"When I completed my studies I didn't have to apply for a job, I was head-hunted," Tinyiko said confidently. So, when I asked if he passed with flying colours, he laughed and said he attributed his academic success to hard work. During the merger of the institutions his contract as a student assistant was in jeopardy: "I got the letter saying my contract had been renewed until further notice, but I was not comfortable with that further notice. I started applying for a job so that when the time came for me to leave I had something to fall back on," said the



**Mr Tinyiko Shibambu, who ensures provision of efficient and effective administration support to the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.**

Minister's PA.

It was not easy; he applied for posts in many companies and government departments, including the Department of Defence (DOD). "The South African Weather Service (SAWS) was the first to respond. They offered me a job as an office manager at the Focusting Division. I was in charge of finance, administration and writing reports," he said with a smile.

He worked at SAWS for three months and one day he received a call from the DOD. "I was so shocked when the lady told me there was a post for a personal assistant to the Minister of Defence; shocked because the post I had applied for was an assistant to the Principal Officer. I didn't have a clue what the Principal Officer was", he said.

He served his one month notice


with the SAWS, and joined the Ministry of Defence on 4 December 2006. Did you know what awaited you? "To be honest, I only did my research when I got the news that I'd been invited for the interview. I didn't know anything about politics or government systems," Tinyiko confessed.

He is still learning about his new environment and told me that he was with the Minister in his capacity as the Minister of Defence and also in his capacity as the ANC National Chairman.

Describe your relationship with the Minister. "So far I think it's perfect, because he's open to me whenever I want to talk to him. I don't have to go through channels of command to speak to him; he has an open relationship policy.

With any job there are challenges, so what are the downside and upside aspects of your career? "There are lots of challenges, the private sector and the government departments are different."

As the PA to the Minister he gets to travel a lot. I asked him about some of his travelling arrangements with the Minister. "It's strenuous; some people think travelling is an enjoyable activity, but it can be hectic sometimes. However, there's nothing one can do, it comes with the job," he said. He added: "Before I took this job I sat down with my wife and we talked about it and she said it was an opportunity of a lifetime and I must take it."

"I like challenges. I don't want to sit for a period of five years doing the same thing. I'm glad that I am the one who makes sure that the Minister's work is done, that fulfils me. It is satisfying to know that I have contributed something to the organisation", concluded Tinyiko Shibambu. 

# SA Army Foundation honours its business partners

By Lt Col Elize Lizamore,  
PRO SA Army Foundation


The SA Army Foundation held its "A Day at the Races" at Turffontein Race Course in Johannesburg on Saturday 3 November 2007. Under the baton of the Marketing Department of the SA Army Foundation spearheaded by Mr Angel Ramplele the event was again a huge success. The aim of holding "A Day at the Races with the SA Army Foundation" was to establish a platform for the SA Army Foundation's business partners to interact with one another and with members of the

Foundation in an informal manner within a relaxed atmosphere.

The Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation Board of Control, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, paid tribute to the Foundation's business partners, such as SANLAM, Liberty Life, Metropolitan, AVBOB, Old Mutual, African Life, SAFI, Maxi Credit Solutions and Flexi Club. The Chairperson thanked them for their loyal and sustainable support throughout the year. The SA Army Foundation's Controlling Authority and Chief SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, was full of praise for the well organised and enjoyable occasion.

The SA Army Foundation remains a fund that belongs to all its members. It

is without question then, that the Foundation is continuously striving to improve the quality of life of all its members by providing them with affordable and cost effective benefits and products that are in line with the true spirit of *Batho Pele* - people first. The SA Army Foundation appreciates its business partners and will strive to uphold the sound, co-operative working relationships with them.

For more information on the Foundation's products and benefits, visit our website on [www.armyfoundation.co.za](http://www.armyfoundation.co.za) or contact our Head Office in Clubview at (012) 675 9400 or contact your local SA Army Foundation Representative. 



**A DAY AT THE RACES:** Lt Gen Solly Shoke, SA Army Foundation's Controlling Authority and Chief SA Army, (front, 2nd from left), and Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation Board of Control (front, centre), with the Board of Control members and business partners of the SA Army Foundation.

# Speech therapy and audiology

By Lt Col Susan Koen (1 Military Hospital)  
Photos: Lt John Sverdlhoff

The roots of profession of speech therapy and audiology were established during World War II. Clinics were developed to test the hearing of soldiers who returned from the frontline with hearing loss as a result of exposure to excessively loud sounds (gunfire and bomb blasts). Many of these soldiers also acquired communication disorders owing to injuries to the head, face and throat and they had to be rehabilitated to regain functional oral communication.

Today the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) provides SANDF members and their dependants with the services of speech therapists and audiologists.

Health care professionals (HCPs) in this profession in the SAMHS are qualified both in speech, language and voice therapy, and in hearing testing and hearing therapy after obtaining a 4-year degree. They then do community service for a year before registering as independent practitioners with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

Speech therapy and audiology is an exciting, dynamic, ancillary health care profession that assists those with hearing impairment and verbal communication.

## SPEECH THERAPY

Assessment and treatment are provided for patients (from newborn babies to the aged) with speech disorders and language and voice problems and feeding that occur for medical reasons. Their scope of practice includes:

- Stuttering
- Hoarseness and other voice disorders
- Difficulty in pronouncing certain sounds
- Verbal communication difficulties due to hearing loss



Capt Vija-Louise Heath tests a patient undergoing speech therapy at the Ear Nose and Throat Clinic at 1 Military Hospital.

- Communication difficulties after stroke or brain injury
- Feeding difficulties in babies and adults
- Speech difficulties owing to cleft palate, orthodontic problems, etc
- Auditory perceptual difficulties in school-age children
- Delayed speech and language development in children
- Augmentative and alternative communication advice and devices

Speech therapists work closely with HCPs of other professions in interdisciplinary teams (IDTs) and play an integral role in rehabilitation.

## AUDIOLOGY

Audiology is a preventative, diagnostic, counselling and rehabilitative profession. Audiologists also evaluate the need for hearing amplification and fit hearing aids and other devices.

Their scope of practice consists of the following:

- Prevention of hearing loss
- Monitoring the hearing of those at risk of hearing loss
- Screening newborn babies' hearing
- Diagnostic assessment of hearing of children and adults

- Determination of hearing handicap for medical boards
- Fitting of hearing aids
- Counselling hearing aid users
- Evaluation of possible cochlear implant candidates
- Rehabilitation of auditory deficiencies
- Provision of hearing results that are used for medical classification (for CHA, etc)

Audiologists work in conjunction with ear nose and throat (ENT) medical officers. All patients referred for diagnostic hearing tests are first examined by the ENT doctor.

The Audiology Service Unit at 1 Military Hospital acts as the co-ordinator of the SAMHS Cochlear Implant Programme and functions within an IDT.

Speech therapy and audiology services are available at 1 Military Hospital, 2 Military Hospital and 3 Military Hospital, while audiology at the Institute for Aviation Medicine specialises in industrial audiometry and balance disorders.

\* Enquiries: Lt Col Susan Koen  
(012) 314 0476. 

## SANDF and COSATA sport partners

By Amn Ally Rakoma

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF sporting code meeting was held at Gerbera Officers Mess in Thaba Tshwane on 8 November 2007. The occasion was supported by the general membership of the sporting fraternity of the SANDF, regional chairpersons of the Military Sports Council, Advisory Board members of the Directorate Physical Training Sport and Recreation, members of the Korean Embassy and members from COSATA and Penta Systems.

The Confederation of Southern African Taekwondo Associations (COSATA) and Penta Systems donated sport equipment to the SANDF. The donated items were received by the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi. On accepting the donated items, Lt Gen Mgwebi expressed his gratitude and said: "It was quite moving to know that in the SANDF we have friends. Being good friends to the SANDF, you saw it fit to be part of us in helping to teach and share with us and promote unarmed combat skills in the form of Taekwondo to our members."

Taekwondo is the art in the Korean traditional martial art. It is the art of unarmed combat skills of self defence. Our SANDF is beginning to exemplify Taekwondo and a milestone was reached in the SA Army when the



Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, the Chief of Human Resources, testing some of the equipment.

Taekwondo Training Centre was officially opened at the SA Army

Gymnasium in Heidelberg in the beginning of 2007. 

## Armcor CEO Awards 2007

By Lebohlang Letaoana

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Mr Siphon Thomo, Chief Executive Officer Armcor, recently held his annual prestigious awards ceremony on 1 November 2007 at the company's premises in Pretoria to reward those hard-working individuals and teams who keep contributing to the success of Armcor.


There were four finalists in the technical category: MECORT new generation transportable radar and electro-optical laboratory, the multi-

purpose stand-off weapon, the acquisition of four MEKO A200 frigates and multi-purpose armour projectile.

In the non-technical category the finalists were the Armcor internal quality training course, the transformation and transfer of Naval Dockyard Simon's Town to Armcor and the Military Information and Communication Symposium of South Africa (MICSSA) 2007.

The winner in the technical category was the multi-purpose stand-off weapon under team-leader Mr Jan

Durand, and the winner in the non-technical category was the transformation and transfer of Naval Dockyard Simon's Town to Armcor, with Kevin Hanafey as the team-leader.

In his speech Mr Thomo referred to the recent victory of the Springbok Rugby Team that won the World Cup of 2007. He said: "The lesson we all learn from this victory is that proper planning, patience, perseverance and hard work always pay. These lessons also applied to the successful execution of Armcor projects." 

# HIV AND AIDS KNOW YOUR STATUS HEALTH WALK

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma  
Photos: F Sgt David  
Nomtshongwana

Every year 1 December is commemorated as World AIDS Day and the fight against this pandemic seems to be gaining ground. The Department of Defence (DOD) celebrated the day on 29 November 2007 in an effort to promote HIV and AIDS awareness among its members.

On this day the Defence Sports Ground in Thaba Tshwane was filled to capacity as the DOD hosted the HIV and AIDS Know Your Status Health Walk. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform to help promote HIV and AIDS awareness and show support for those infected, as HIV and AIDS affects everyone in all walks of life. The DOD is in the forefront in the fight against the pandemic and is rising to meet the challenges of providing lifelong care for HIV infected members and their dependants.

The desire to know more about the epidemic and involvement in the fight to make a difference was evident on that day as members of the SANDF went the extra mile to take part in the HIV and AIDS Know Your Status Health Walk. This mass awareness and solidarity showed that our members cared for each other and yearned for a strong HIV and AIDS free nation. Various units displayed banners with HIV and AIDS messages. The team of 1 Military Hospital won the best banner category.

Addressing the gathering, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, said that the DOD had committed itself to the fight against the pandemic and collaborated with other State departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the fight against HIV and



Members taking part in the HIV and AIDS Know Your Status Health Walk in support of World AIDS Day in Thaba Tshwane.


AIDS. In his message he said that sometimes people become stronger when they are able to get through the difficult times and circumstances and emerge stronger than they were before. "We started the walk in the fight to eradicate HIV and AIDS. Let us continue in the long walk and eventually we will succeed and curb the spread of HIV and AIDS," said Lt Gen Ramlakan.

Col Tobias Masuku from the Chaplain Service of the SANDF, on behalf of the Chaplain General, said that we were all meant to have life in abundance and to help to combat HIV and AIDS through spiritual and ethical support and to conduct pastoral care and counselling for those affected and infected. He stressed the values and attitudes that members must possess.

The motivational speaker, Dr John Tibane, added flair to the gathering and uttered words of wisdom to our members. He encouraged members not to waste the persons they were. He mentioned that members

of the SANDF were nature's greatest gifts and were designed to achieve. They are engineered to win and born to succeed.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Dr Dhesi Achary, Acting Director HIV and AIDS, said: "World AIDS Day has become an awareness day and it is very important to make people aware of HIV and AIDS prevention, HIV treatment and management. Awareness campaigns are a significant way of showing commitment and finding solutions to help curb the spread of HIV and AIDS and help in rolling out comprehensive strategies in the fight against the pandemic," said Dr Achary.

"With a clear sign to motivate I want to say let us have a philosophy for our own lives, nothing is impossible to a willing heart. We all have more to live for. A philosophy is the principle by which one lives. Be it right or wrong, every individual is entitled to his or her own philosophy. What sunshine is to flowers, everyone of us is to our very own lives." 

# Chief SA Army Golf Day

By Col Frans Pale

Photo: S Sgt Noleen Oberholster


The Chief of the SA Army Golf Day on 9 November 2007 at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane did not only raise funds for the SA Army Hospice Project (home for terminally ill soldiers), but the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, also used this opportunity to financially empower the families of the caddies.

Although the caddies could not disclose to SA Soldier how much money they individually made, they were visibly satisfied with the amount they got.

The former Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Siphwe Nyanda (Ret), and the former Director General in the Ministry of Arts and Culture, Prof Itumeleng Mosala, attended the 2007 Chief of the SA Army Golf Day.

Lt Gen Shoke explained that this hospice project was born out of a need

to look after terminally sick soldiers. "The plans for operating the hospice are at an advanced stage, and I promise

that by next year when we come back here, the hospice will be in operation," Lt Gen Shoke declared. 



Absolute concentration ... Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, aims his shot on his Golf Day.

## Friends of Air Command Golf Day

Article and photo courtesy Ad Astra

The Patron of the Friends of Air Command Golf Day, Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe, arranged this annual event at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 5 October 2007.

Director Command and Control Systems, Brig Gen Les Lombard, was the champion of the day. With a well organised team this Golf Day may be said to have improved exponentially.

The General Officer Commanding Air Command said that without the tremendous response and participation by all the sponsors and the SA Air Force's friends from industry, the day, in which 172 golfers participated, would not have been such a great success.


Certainly the day relieved stress for the golfers as they enjoyed the Golf Day that offered them an informal opportunity for interaction with



Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe, the Patron of the Friends of Air Command Golf Day (left), congratulating Mr J. Strydom from SAB Avitronics on his achievement.

SA Air Force members and representatives from industry.

In closing, Maj Gen Mangethe said:

"Everyone has been a winner today, and I am proud to have been able to host a day like this." 

# Chief SA Navy Golf Day

By Lebohang Letaoana

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana


This time it was the turn of the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, to renew and consolidate friendships and to extend appreciation to those who render invaluable support to the SA Navy. He hosted his Golf Day at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 2 November 2007.

Members of defence industry and senior officers of the Department of Defence (DOD) interacted and experienced healthy competition in a relaxed atmosphere. Delivering his speech V Adm Mudimu paid tribute to the sporting heroes of our country, such as the Rugby World Cup Champions - the Springboks.

"Sport plays a major role in not only uniting us as a team, but also as a nation," V Adm Mudimu said. He also paid tribute to our new ships and submarines for performing beyond expectations in multinational exercises, both at home and abroad, with foreign navies.

"Just as our skills were measured

today on the golf course, so were the skills of the frigate SAS AMATOLA measured when she recently underwent the internationally respected and gruelling Basic Operational Sea

Training Programme in the United Kingdom. By working as a professional team the combat readiness of the ship and her crew was scored as satisfactory," he said. 



Fltr: R Adm (JG) John Barker, Inspector General (Navy) and Patron of SA Navy Golf, Mr Siphon Thomo, CEO Armscor, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief SA Navy, and Mr Ron Jones, Business Director Agusta Westland - the main sponsor of the Day.

## Chief Human Resources Golf Day

Lebohang Letaoana

Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

"You can buy world-class weapons and state of the art equipment, but without the right people to handle and operate these machines you will not succeed," said the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, as he welcomed the guests to the Chief of Human Resources Golf Day.


"People are the most important asset of the Department of Defence (DOD); that is why in my view the Human Resources Division is the most important division in the DOD," said the former Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Matanzima.

Although the newly



Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief Human Resources, at his Golf Day.

appointed Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, is still learning to play the sport, he really enjoyed himself on the greens where he was able to interact with his guests.

Positive attitudes and a better understanding of the needs of the DOD and its human resources were created during the Golf Day held at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 18 October 2007. 



**BEING  
DISABLED  
DOES NOT  
IMPLY  
INABILITY  
TO WORK**

