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SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

Special Edition

Decade of Peacekeeping

Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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FRONT COVER: A collage of various front covers of previous SA Soldiers that featured articles on peacekeeping during the past 10 years.

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From the Editor's desk

Peace in our time. Peace indeed, as to date the SANDF has spent a decade in pursuit of peace in Africa and beyond through peace support, peacekeeping and enforcement missions. South Africa’s involvement in peace missions began in September 1999, when Col Hans Swart became the country’s first official peacekeeper when he was deployed as Capital Liaison Officer in Kampala.

In this special edition celebrating the SANDF’s ten years’ contribution to peace missions, it is fitting for the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Chief of South African National Defence Force to take time out to honour the heroes and heroines for their continued dedication to the Department of Defence and the South African National Defence Force’s mandate (pages 8 and 9 respectively).

We have endeavoured to bring you a concise history of peace missions since their inception on page 10 to 15.

We bring you some of the stories we once covered on peace missions, they narrate how far we have come. You will see that over the period of these peacekeeping missions this publication has undergone some change from SALUT to SA SOLDIER.

Peace Missions include “Participation in Preventative Diplomacy, Peacemaking, Peacekeeping Operations, Peace Enforcement, Peace Building, Humanitarian Assistance and Humanitarian Intervention”. In the various deployment areas our soldiers assist in various ways, ranging from military training in the Central African Republic (page 18), providing drinking water to the Congolese Defence Force and family members, renovating of Nyaleke and Rumangabo military integration centres (page 16), the rebuilding of the main road, construction of road drainage system to minimise the effects of floods during rainy seasons and bridge construction in Mema village in Goma (page 18).

We conclude the edition on a lighter note: we bring you fact sheet on the Sudan, DRC, CAR and Burundi (page 44). “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”: read about the fun day in Burundi on page 46.

To all our men and women in uniform, the editorial team appreciates the positive impact you have made on the host countries and their people, you are truly good ambassadors of the SANDF and the Republic of South Africa. May you keep up the good work. Peace be with you.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor

Van die Redakteur se lessenaar

Rede in ons tyd. Vrede inderdaad, want tot op datum is die SANW al ‘n dekade lank besig om vrede in Afrika en ander plekke na te streef deur sendings gemik op vredesondersteuning, vredebewaring en vredekundige hulp. Suid-Afrika se betrokkenheid by vredesendings het in September 1999 begin toe kol Hans Swart die land se eerste amptelike vredebewaarder geword het toe hy as Hoofskakeloffier te Kampala ontplooi is.

In hierdie spesiale uitgawe wat die SANW se tienvjarige bydrae tot vredesendings vier, is dit gepas dat die Minister van Verdediging en Militêre Veterane en die Hoe van die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag ingestem het om die helde en heldinne te vereer vir hul volgehewe toewyding aan die Departement van Verdediging en die mandaat van die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Weermag (bl 8 en 9 onderskiedelik).

Ons het gepoep oor aan ons leersers ‘n beknopte geskiedenis te gee van die vredesendings sedert hul instelling (kyk bl 10 to 15).

Ons bied u sommige van die artikels wat tevore verskyn het in verband met vredesendings - hulle vertel hoe ver ons gekom het. U sal zien dat oor hierdie tydperk van die vredesendings die publikasie taamlik verander het, ea van SALUT na SA Soldier.

Vredesendings sluit in: “Deelname aan Voorkomingsdiplomatie, Vredebewaringsoperasies, Vredehulp, Vredeuitbouing, Humanitêre Bystand en Humanitêre Ingryping”. In die verskillende ontlooppesgebelede help ons soldate op verskillende maniere wat wissel van militêre opleiding in die Sentraal Afrikaanse Republiek (bl 18), die verskaffing van drinkwater aan die Kongolese Weermag en familielede, die opknapping van die Nyaleke en Rumangabo militêre integrasiecentra (bl 16), die herstel van die hoofpad en die konstruksie van ‘n paddreiningsstelsel om die effek van vloed in die dorpie Mema in Goma gedurende die reënseisoen tot die minimum te beperk (bl 18).

Ons eindig hierdie uitgawe op ‘n ligter noot: ons bied ‘n feiteuiteenstelling van die Soedan, DRC, SAR en Burundi (bl 44). “Die boog kan nie altyd gespan bly nie” - lees gerus oor die pretdag in Burundi op bl 46.

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Aan al ons manne en vroue in uniform, die redaksiespan waardeer die positiewe impak wat julle op die gasheelande en hul inwoners gehad het; julle is waarlik goeie ambassadeurs van die SANW en die Republiek van Suid-Afrika. Mag julle die goeie werk voortsit. Vrede vir julle.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Assistant Redakteur

* Translation (Afrikaans) by Mr Eugene Muller.
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NEWS FROM DRC

If you receive this message, all is well. Members of the SANDF are settling down well, they are starting to find their feet, and are showing the rest of the countries involved, who we are and what we can achieve. If people are concerned regarding the safety of personnel in Goma (North Eastern side), they are not to be worried, or troubled, members are in excellent medical condition and finding the climate quite the same as KwaZulu-Natal’s weather. Air Supply greetings-Capt X.V. Wilson, Goma

“We are glad that all is well. All the best for the rest of your deployment in the DRC. Col Daan Boshoff, SSO Operational Communication, informed SA SOLDIER that the South African Contingent was complimented on their thorough planning, preparation and positive attitude (vide the articles written by Erika Gibson in Beeld and Rapport at the end of May 2001).

He also mentioned that when and wherever possible, the members deployed in the DRC are attending classes to improve their French skills. This is marvellous news.
Keep it up! - Editor.

INФANTRYMEN ARE PEACEKEEPERS

I write this, as a member of the SANDF, 2 SAI BN and a citizen of South Africa. Here I am far away from home, longing for my family, spending my days under the hot sun of the DRC as a peacekeeper, ambassador and as a member of the best unit in Africa.

We are here to lay foundation with courage, deeds and a spirit of peace. The people of the DRC showed that they had been waiting for us South Africans to bring peace to their land. We are far away from home for six months, only to serve the country with loyalty and pride. We as peacekeepers represent the United Nations, and are present in the DRC to help it recover from the trauma of conflict. We are making SANDF proud.

We are honoured, respected and deserve the praise of the nation. We shall be and are with all our hearts prepared to prove and show the world that we are the best unit in Africa and are in the DRC to bring peace to Africa.

We are deployed in Kindu, Goma, Lubero and Bukavo as Task Force 1, we pledge to support the people of the DRC in finding a long-lasting solution to their disputes. We will always dedicate ourselves to achieving the goal of the United Nations and act with impartiality, integrity and tact. We will never bring discredit to the United Nations or our country South Africa and the nation through improper personal conduct, of our position as peacekeepers.

Cpl B.T. Lesejane, 2 SAI Bn, currently deployed in Kindu.

LEFT THEIR TRACKS AND MARK IN BURUNDI

Our unit was there when it was called upon as we started our mission, as a pride of lions, wandering through Africa from support company to 6 SAI BN and 9 SAI BN. Finally the battalion deployed, with results that speaks for themselves. We were deployed in the first cantonment area and made history as the first battalion to be utilised to safeguard the ex-combatants and to ensure safe passage for rebel groupings to report to the cantonment area.

The unit did exceptionally well in the absence of the NGOs in fulfilling roles new to them. We become a beacon of hope of the ex-combatants and for the Burundian people in general.

4 SAI BN, supported by members of 5 SAI BN, left permanent tracks on the African continent, which was reflected in goodwill, marksmanship and excellence. We received visits from the Chief of the SANDF, political leaders of ex-combatants and various high delegations on a frequent basis.

They all had only high praise for a job well done. We know it is a big challenge to adhere to all the demands of combatants, but Mount Everest was also conquered. I myself, the 2IC, Maj Keith Aarons, to the last man on the ground, took this battalion to a higher level. I gave my team this formula - If a man would be very good, he must imagine intensively and comprehensively, he must place himself in the place of others, and the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own "Barney the Great". To our critics, look at the scoreboard - Maj Barney Klaasin, AMIB Battalion Commander.

THE EMANCIPATION OF AFRICA

The SANDF was formed through the determination and persistent efforts of the people of South Africa to wage a struggle for the emancipation of the African people from exploitation and division and war. Our Defence Force does not speak in isolation about the emancipation of the continent. The genuine emancipation of Africa is that which entrusts responsibilities to its people and involves them in the productive activity of the people in all areas of life. The SANDF considers Africa as an integral part of society, ie the village society, the national society and international society. The aim of our Defence Force is to unite Africans and to promote the educational, cultural and economic advancement of the continent. To propagate and promote the concept of the AU, the SADC promotes unity among the people of the continent. Our brothers and sisters in the DRC and Burundi must develop a high sense of responsibility with respect to all matters relating to the AU. The ideas of the AU and SADC for the continent, Africa for humanity and humanity for God, must be understood and appreciated.

Rfn T.C. Molekudi, Potchefstroom
It is 21 January 2005 in the middle of summer. The buses are idling, soldiers move from left to right, up and down. Equipment is being loaded, the company commander (Lt Col Douglas) wants to give his movement orders and CSM (Wo2 Lizo Mandlendoda) is doing what he’s best at doing: Hey troop fall in – and you, where do you think you are going I want to leave to Umtata, Sudan is waiting”. In the spirit of humanity (Ubuntu) and comradeship, Alpha Company of 14 SAI Bn formed up, and already reported march ready.

On the way from Umtata to the DOD Mob centre at De Brug (Bloemfontein) everybody was quiet, motivated and expecting the unknown, just as Sudan will be, new and unknown. On our arrival at De Brug one immediately saw that it had rained there - the yellowness of the tents spoke for itself. Everything started to fall into place. Wake-up time (04:30) was nothing. Thereafter we went for an hour’s run, which was the best of all. The high spirit and discipline was definitely a point to be highlighted.

To be part of Alpha Company of 14 SAI Bn as a soldier makes one proud, particularly in the South African context. Our sincerity in our mission to the Sudan is forever reinventing itself. That is why we have the eyes of the whole world on us. It is not always easy, but the discipline we have as the “Pride of Lions”, and to be soldiers of 14 SAI Bn and South Africa and the colours of our SA Flag keep us focused. I want to salute my comrades-in-arms who are deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. You make us all proud- I salute you SA soldiers. It inspires and motivates us to stand up and raise the flags of South Africa and 14 SAI Bn high and forever. We are proud South African soldiers. Viva 14 SAI Bn! Viva South Africa! - Capt D. Schrader, Ops Officer Sudan Deployment

"Shh … Shhh …, Listen, a train" Here comes a train! Listen "Choo! Choo! Choo …!!

A train that travels from the streets of South Africa, Through the continent of Africa, Down to the streets of the DRC, where it says, “JAMBO SANA?” (How are you? in Swahili) And down to the streets of the Sudan, and says, “SALAM WALEKO” (May the peace of God be with you in Arabic) And again to the streets of Bujumbura, and says, “AMAKURI NIMEZA” (I am fine in Kirundi) This train is carrying proudly uniformed members of The South African National Defence Force with The aim of promoting peace and stability On the African continent.

This train is not a train for “matatiso” or “mushgular” (problems) But a train for love, peace and hope. This train unites “Abo-Chomi”, “Abo-Rafiki” and “Abo-Sadike” To become friends. Please hurry Rafiki, hurry Sadika, this train is waiting for you.

“I’d love to be there when Africa unites”, PEACE. Spr M.R Mamabolo, 2 Field Engineer Regiment, currently deployed in Burundi

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, accompanied by the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, paid a very successful visit to troops deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Central African Republic from 22 to 28 March 2009.

During the visit the deployed soldiers had the opportunity to interact with the two generals, who assured them of the continued support of the Joint Operations Division and the SA Military Health Service. In the Central African Republic the President, Pres Francois Bozize, invited the two generals to pay him a courtesy call. During the call further possible co-operation between the two countries’ armed forces was discussed.
A message to our peace-brokers

As the nation pays homage to our men and women who continue to make the Department of Defence (DOD) proud by being excellent ambassadors of peace in different parts of the turmoil-stricken countries in Africa, it is fitting as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans that I take time out to honour these heroes and heroines for their continued dedication to the DOD mandate.

Over the past decade, the DOD has had to embark on a number of initiatives to promote regional and continental stability. The DOD has deployed its members under the patronage of the UN and the AU. To ensure the successful implementation of AU structures and programmes, the DOD remains supportive of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). It also participates in the Africa Standby Force (ASF).

The ASF was conceived by the AU as a rapid reaction force. Our participation in these regional initiatives assists us not to over-stretch ourselves by deploying the troops of individual countries; instead, in regional matters, the SADC Brigade intervenes. With this Brigade in place, it has become rather less problematic to respond collectively with alacrity to regional peace interventions.

The DOD participates in these initiatives with the conviction the country’s economic prosperity and security in the region and the continent is a major priority, which is also the view of the South African government. For South Africa to enjoy the benefits that the 15 years of democracy have brought, the region and the continent must be stable. This in turn will ensure that the territorial integrity of the country and its people remains safeguarded. We are indeed very proud of our members who work tirelessly to fulfil this obligation.

These men and women not only contribute their military skills, they also offer many of their other talents, for example civil engineering, architecture, construction or artisanship. This has been evident in the peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under the auspices of the UN.

In the DRC, when we began our peace mission, there was no proper infrastructure, which made it hard for the peacekeeping force to carry out its duties. The SANDF was called upon to construct roads and to come up with other infrastructural solutions to make turmoil-stricken zones accessible. These developments have a more far-reaching impact on the lives of people of the DRC as they will be used by generations to come.

The culmination of this peacekeeping mission was when my predecessor, the former Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, handed over the shield during the handing-over ceremony of the first Congolese battalion trained by the SANDF, to the Minister of Defence and War Veterans, Mr Chikez Diemu, as a symbol that the Battalion belonged to the people of the DRC and its government.

Even though we began our peace deployment in Burundi, without any aid from multilateral bodies such as the UN and AU, our men and women in uniform were able to fly the South African flag high in terms of peacekeeping and restoring hope to the Burundians. After years of internal trouble today the people of this country can today engage in democratic processes without the burden of looking over their shoulders, as even politicians who were exiled are now back in the country and carrying on with their political ambitions. The SANDF remains deployed in various peacekeeping missions in different African countries, such as the Sudan, Darfur, Ethiopia, Eritrea and southern Uganda.

The above-mentioned successes are indicative of the S.A. government’s commitment to peaceful interventions in promotion of democratic rule in the continent and beyond. We owe our success to the members of the SANDF who have demonstrated great dedication and professionalism in their craft in pursuit of stability on our continent.

Furthermore, these are not the only success stories. The SANDF has achieved success outside our borders and we recall with great admiration that a few years back the National Defence Force was called upon to lead the rescue operation in Mozambique, where they helped to evacuate destitute people whose houses had been washed away by floods.

Their praises are sung not only in the countries of deployment, but also internationally. Through their tireless efforts as ambassadors of peace, South Africa today is counted amongst the largest contributors to peacekeeping missions by the UN.

It is on account of these dedicated members of the SANDF that this year we celebrate 10 years of successful deployment and trust that our efforts in peacekeeping will continue to yield more positive benefits not only for SA but the entire world.

To all men and women in various regions of deployment, I say you have been excellent ambassadors for our country. The people of South Africa support and appreciate your hard work. You are indeed our heroes and heroines, may we all learn from your act of selflessness in pursuit of making a difference to people’s lives.

Ms Sisulu, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.
When the SANDF took on the government’s mandate to go beyond our borders to take up the gargantuan task of restoring and establishing peace on the African continent and beyond in 1999, it was unimaginable that ten years later the SANDF would put South Africa at the number ten spot as the world’s largest contributor to the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operation. Since the first defence peace deployment mission in Africa, our men and women in uniform have continued to make a difference in various turmoil-stricken parts of the continent.

The decision to deploy was not taken lightly and led to outright criticism. Sceptics frowned on it, but the fact remains that it would have been next to impossible to enjoy our newly found democracy with certain states of Southern Africa and the continent at large, in a state of turmoil.

Accordingly the SANDF got involved in peace operations in the understanding that for SA to enjoy economic prosperity and all that democracy brings there needs to be stability on the continent. Indeed our country cannot survive as an island, as South Africa is inextricably linked to the continent’s stability. In pursuit of this quest, the SANDF continues to be deployed on various peacekeeping missions to assist in the resolution of conflict and in strengthening democracy in a number of African states. These include the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Comoros, the Sudan and others. The SANDF does this work conscious of its responsibility as a member state of SADC, AU and UN.

The year 2006 saw the birth of the African Standby Force (ASF) as part of Africans finding African solutions for African problems. During the same year the SADC brigade was successfully established. The SADC brigade is meant to ensure that SADC member states collectively contribute to advancing the African security agenda. Issues of regional security should translate into peace throughout Africa; hence it is important that all member states continue to participate in the struggle for peace in the African Continent.

In the not so distant future, the SANDF will be lowering the South African flag in Burundi to mark the end of one of the most successful peace deployments in Africa. The SANDF’s mandate in Burundi expired in June 2009 after ten years of peacekeeping in that country. Our national defence force helped end fifteen years of civil strife in Burundi. It is gratifying to learn that indeed peace prevails in Burundi and political parties are enjoying the freedom to campaign democratically in the forthcoming national elections. As South Africa was the first country to deploy military forces in support of the Burundi peace process, we went to Burundi when no other country wanted to go there even though there was prior agreement to deploy us with countries such as Senegal and Nigeria. The UN was also not prepared to send in forces saying that the conditions were not ripe. South Africa ended up deploying on its own. We achieved success after success, which led to the mission becoming an AU mission where we were joined by Ethiopia and Mozambique. A year later, the UN took over the mission. It is incumbent upon me to call upon all members of the SANDF; Generals; Officers; NCO’s to put themselves on the back for a job well done. For having compelled the UN to change its policy of not deploying before a cease-fire as was the case in Burundi.

The SANDF has over the past eight years, under the auspices of the UN, been able to bring hope to the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by contributing to the end of one of Africa’s longest civil wars. During the DRC peacekeeping mission, the SANDF spearheaded different projects, for example stabilising the internal politics, reconstruction and development of infrastructure and the training of DRC troops.

The SANDF’s commitment to assist fellow African countries became more visible when the first trained Rapid Reaction Battalions was officially handed over to the DRC. The trained battalion is expected to provide security and stability, especially after the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping force later this year. This whole operation was concluded when the former Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, handed over the shield to the Minister of Defence and War Veterans, Mr Chiikez Diemu.

It is worth noting that when we deployed in the DRC, that country had virtually no infrastructure to talk about. Specialist elements were sent in such as fire fighters, engineers, and air cargo handlers, the military police as well medical teams who were able to stabilise the situation. That country’s airport in Kinshasa is now the busiest in Africa, all because of selfless efforts by our men and women in uniform.

In March 2007 South Africa also responded to a request from the Central African Republic (CAR) to render assistance with training as well as with the refurbishing of some of the training facilities.

Further, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, South Africa was requested to deploy military observers to the United Nations Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) during April 2007. This was the SANDF’s first deployment outside the African Continent.

Following the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Ugandan Government and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), the AU requested RSA to deploy two military observers in support of this agreement. These military observers were deployed in June 2007.

Looking back on a decade of participation in international peacekeeping missions, it is clear that the SANDF has indeed come a long way since its first deployment in the DRC.

The SANDF is set to become increasingly involved in peacekeeping missions, as we continue to deploy in countries like, Sudan and Darfur. We do so with the conviction that peace and stability will be achieved in problematic region. We will continue to be a messenger of peace in promotion of democratic rule on the African continent and will assist millions of tormented Africans to rebuild their lives.

I wish to mention one of our Achilles heel, that of failing to communicate our achievements to the people of the world and most important, to the people of South Africa who we serve with pride.

As South Africans we are indeed grateful to our men and women in uniform for flying high the flag of SA and we honour them for their noble deeds in the quest for peace and security on our continent and beyond.
Peace support operations

South Africa’s involvement in peace missions began in September 1999, when Col Hans Swart became the country’s first official peacekeeper with his deployment as Capital Liaison Officer in Kampala in support of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 5 September 1999.

The foundation for the country’s involvement in peace missions was laid in April 1999, when South Africa hosted the second South African Development Community (SADC) peacekeeping capacity building exercise, called Exercise BLUE CRANE. As a result of this exercise, presented at the Combat Training Centre it became evident that RSA would eventually become involved in International Peace Missions. Shortly hereafter the SANDF presented its first Military Observers (MILOBS) training course in anticipation of this important role.

When the Lusaka Peace Agreement was signed on 10 July 1999 it paved the way for the establishment of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (known by its French acronym, MONUC).

The first phase of the MONUC deployment saw the deployment of Capital Liaison Officers to the capitals of all the countries involved in the DRC conflict. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) requested South Africa to deploy an officer with the rank level of Colonel to Kampala in Uganda. South Africa remains responsible for this post to this day.

During May 2000 the UN DPKO requested South Africa to contribute certain specialist elements in support of MONUC Phase II. Dr Wayne Hendricks, Defence Secretariat: Policy and Planning, Brig Gen Jan Lusse, Chief of Joint Operations, Brig Gen Thys Zondagh, Chief Joint Support and Brig Gen Sakkie Hurd, Chief Personnel Services visited the United Nations (UN) where they were briefed on the
Peacekeeping Force. Force Commander for an International first SANDF member appointed as a currently Chief of Human Resources, was Maj Gen (now Lt Gen) Derrick Mgwebi, in April 2002.

During the deployment of the South African Task Force (TF 1) the MONUC Concept of Operations changed, and TF 1 now had to assume responsibility for the newly established Sector 5 with its headquarters in Kindu. The TF 1 Commander, Col Lawrence Smith, was appointed as Sector Commander of Sector 5 and he assumed operational control of all the MONUC military elements deployed in this sector. Col Smith was the first SANDF member to command approximately 3 000 multinational force personnel in an international peace mission.

MONUC established the Eastern Division in February 2005, which resulted in reduction of the South African contribution, named Operation MISTRAL, with the repatriation of the Task Force Headquarters and the Headquarters Support Unit. The South African Infantry Battalion was placed under operational control of the Divisional Commander as the Divisional Reserve. The composition of Operation MISTRAL, deployed in support of MONUC, changed during July 2006 when South Africa deployed an Aviation Unit, while the Well Drill and Ferry Units were being repatriated.

June 2007, the UN requested South Africa to extend its aviation unit assistance deployed in support of the UN mission in the DRC.

**OPERATION ESPRESSO:**

**ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNIty LIASON MISSION in ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA AND UNITED NATIONS MISSION in ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA: NOVEMBER 2000 to AUGUST 2008**

In December 1999, the African Unity (AU) brokered a cessation of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which culminated in the signing of a peace agreement on 18 June 2000. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia requested assistance from the UN, which led to the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) and the Organisation of African Unity Liaison Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (OLMEE) to monitor compliance with the peace agreement.

The UN DPKO requested South Africa to deploy operations Plan Officer, Information Officer and an Engineer Cell Warrant Officer and two Military Observers (MILOBS) in support of UNMEE. The AU further requested deployment of a Capital Liaison Officer in Addis Ababa and a Liaison Officer in the OLMEE headquarters in Asmara, in December 2000, Col Martin Kruger was deployed in Operation ESPRESSO.

April 2002, the OAU requested South Africa to provide the Senior Military Representative (SMR) and personal staff to the OLMEE headquarters in Asmara. In May 2002, Brig Gen Elliot Kamteni was deployed as the first South African to be appointed at this rank level in an International or Regional peace mission. During 2002 Capt Adri Frouie made history when she deployed as the first South African female Military Observer in support of UNMEE. UNMEE was not able to execute its mandate due to restrictions from the Eritrean Government and disputes between Eritrea and Ethiopia. As a result the UNMEE force strength was reduced and on 30 July 2008 the UNSC adopted Resolution 1827, whereby UNMEE had to be terminated on 31 July 2008. Operation ESPRESSO was officially terminated when the last South African Military Observer returned to South Africa during August 2008.

**OPERATION FIBRE:**


The South African National Defence Force Specialist Contingent
(SANDF SPECC) was requested to take charge of the planning for the deployment of a military force to Burundi in support of the Arusha Peace Agreement. The primary function of this military force was to provide VIP protection to the returning leaders participating in the Burundi Transitional Government. Maj Gen Jan Lusse and Col Johan van der Walt facilitated the planning of this combined force, comprising Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. On 10 October 2001, the Ministers of Defence of the countries involved accepted the proposed plan. 43 SA Brigade HQ was tasked to prepare for the Burundi deployment under Operation FIBRE, which commenced on 1 November 2001.

Due to the magnitude of this deployment, South Africa approached the UN for assistance in this regard. On 20 October 2001, the UNSC adopted Resolution 1375, in which it "Endorses the efforts of the Government of South Africa and other member States to support the implementation of the Arusha Agreement, and strongly supports in this regard the establishment of an interim multinational security presence in Burundi, at the request of its Government, to protect returning political leaders and train an all-Burundian protection force."

As planned the South African Protection and Support Detachment (SAPSD) commanded by Brig Gen Peter Kobe were ready with all the equipments and personnel on 1 November 2001 to deploy under Operation FIBRE duties in Burundi.

The signing of a number of ceasefire agreements between the conflicting countries provided new momentum for the implementation of the peace process in Burundi. The African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was officially established on 1 May 2003, Maj Gen Sipho Binda was appointed as the first AMIB Force Commander. South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique provided the major military contributions to AMIB. The French speaking countries in Africa primarily provided MILOBS.

Following a UNSC resolution, the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) was established on 1 June 2004, with Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi as the first ONUB Force Commander and the first SANDF member appointed as a Force Commander for an International Peacekeeping Force. The deployed forces became known as the African Union Protection Force.

Following the democratic elections in Burundi in 2005 ONUB began to reduce its forces. As South Africa was the first country to deploy in support of the peace process in Burundi, it was logical that the South African Infantry Battalion be the last ONUB unit to withdraw. The VIP Protection Unit remained in Burundi from December 2006 onwards.


In November 2001 the SANDF was requested to provide members to form part of the OAU team to the Comoros. This team would be responsible for overseeing the collection of weapons
on the island of Anjouan and its deployment marked the beginning of Operation TRITON. Lt Col Charles Payne assumed command of the Mission in the Comoros (OMIC) on 12 December 2001 to 7 February 2002.

From 8 April to 31 May 2002 nine SANDF Military Observers and nine SANDF communication technicians were deployed to oversee the elections held on the three islands that formed the Union of the Comoros as part of Operation TRITON II. Col Bob Gibson was deployed as the Chief Military Observer and the OMIC contingent commander during Operation TRITON II.

The AU further requested the RSA to also supply MILOBS to assist in Operation TRITON III in the Comoros over the period March to May 2004. Operation TRITON IV was established during March 2006, when the AU requested South Africa to become the lead nation during the deployment of the African Union Mission in the Comoros (AMISEC). The rendering of general military assistance to the Comoros continued in Operation TRITON V and during the elections of the President of the Island of Anjouan.

**OPERATION AMPHIBIAN: ASSISTANCE TO THE THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION MECHANISM IN THE DRC: AUGUST 2002 TO JUNE 2004**

After the signing of the Pretoria Peace Agreement all foreign forces had to withdraw from the DRC. A secretariat was established to oversee the withdrawal of the Rwandese forces. This secretariat was later changed and became the Third Party Verification Mechanism (TPVM), comprising four members from South Africa and two from the UN. Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga was deployed as part of the secretariat under Operation AMPHIBIAN in August 2002 and was joined by two additional SANDF members in September 2002. Operation AMPHIBIAN was concluded in June 2004.

**OPERATION SUNRAY: ASSISTANCE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION INTERIM EMERGENCY MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN THE DRC: JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2003**

Due to deteriorating situation in Bunia, capital of the Ituri province in the DRC on 30 May 2003, the Security Council guided by Resolution 1484 authorised the temporary deployment of an Interim Emergency Multinational Force (IEMF).

The French-led European Union Interim Emergency Multinational Force (IEMF), Operation ARTEMIS requested South Africa to provide helicopters for this deployment. RAdm (JG) Dennis Forrest led a small South African planning team to the UN HQ and Paris for the final planning phase for this deployment. SANDF members deployed from June to September 2003 under Operation SUNRAY.

**OPERATION MONTEGO: ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN LIBERIA: OCTOBER 2003 TO JANUARY 2005**

In early 2003, the UN DPKO asked South Africa to provide three Military Staff Officers in support of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). SANDF deployed the Military Staff Officers during October 2003 under Operation MONTEGO. South Africa’s participation in UNMIL was terminated in January 2005.

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The SANDF’s Operation CORDITE was launched in July 2004 with the deployment of staff officers and MILOBs to Darfur, Sudan, in support of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). When AMIS was terminated on 31 December 2007, on 1 January 2008 the first AU/UN hybrid mission named United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) replaced it. The South African contingent, Operation CORDITE, remained in Darfur in support of this hybrid mission.

OPERATION TEUTONIC: BILATERAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DETACHMENT ASSISTING WITH INTEGRATION AND TRAINING IN THE DRC: JANUARY 2005 TO DATE

Following the signing of an agreement between Belgium, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa, the South African Detachment Assisting with Integration and Training (SADAIT) to the DRC deployed in January 2005 under Operation TEUTONIC. The primary aim of this deployment, under command of Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo was to assist with the Security Sector Reform of the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC).

Operation TEUTONIC was expanded later in 2005 to TEUTONIC II with the deployment of additional personnel to the Eastern DRC to facilitate the refurbishing of the “brassage centres” (training centres) at Rumangabo and Nyaleki. The SANDF also upgraded the FARDC Military Hospital in Goma. The tasks of Operation TEUTONIC II were completed in September 2006 and refurbished centres were handed to the Congolese.

TEUTONIC I, currently under command of Capt (SAN) Sonica van Rooyen, the first female South African Mission Commander, carried on with its activities. Support to the Security Sector Reform in the DRC was elevated to a new level with the appointment and deployment of a Project Officer, Brig Gen Koos Liebenberg in January 2006. Brig Gen Liebenberg and his team were withdrawn from the DRC in October 2007 and replaced by a senior Advisory Team under command of Maj Gen Duma Mdtyuana.

OPERATION PRISTINE: BILATERAL AGREEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE IVORY COAST: JULY 2005 TO DECEMBER 2006

According to the Pretoria Peace Agreement, signed on 6 April 2005 between the Government of the Ivory Coast and the Forces Nouvelle, South Africa was responsible for deploying personnel to assist with the peace process. Following reconnaissance done under the command of SANDF Brig Gen Jan Hougaard, South Africa deployed a group of SANDF personnel under Operation PRISTINE commanded by Col Lawrence Majola to assist with the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process in the Ivory Coast.

With the election of South Africa as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the latter half of 2006, the South African mediator at the time, President Thabo Mbeki, requested the AU to be relieved of his role as mediator. As a result,
Operation PRISTINE withdrew from the Ivory Coast during December 2006.

**OPERATION CURRICULUM: ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL PROTECTION FORCE IN BURUNDI: JANUARY 2007 TO DATE**

Given that the PALIPEHUTU-FNL group did not form part of the original Arusha Peace Agreement, the security situation in Burundi remained unstable - this despite the elections that took place in that country during October 2005. A ceasefire agreement between the Government of Burundi and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL was signed on 7 September 2006. As a result of this ceasefire agreement the Burundi Government established the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) on 10 October 2006 to oversee the implementation of what was agreed upon.

It was decided that the UN Operation in Burundi must be scaled down in preparation of the withdrawal of foreign soldiers on 31 December 2006. South Africa was to be the last country to withdraw. During November and December 2006 the AU requested South Africa to retain its military forces in Burundi after the closure of the UN Operation in Burundi to protect the PALIPEHUTU-FNL leaders and personnel.

The new group of headquarters personnel, under command of Col Hein Visser were deployed in Burundi on 20 December 2006 to take over command and control of the South African contingent on 1 January 2007. The new contingent known as the African Union Special Task Force and comprised a Headquarters, Maintenance Platoon, Support Elements, VIP Protection, Protection Unit (Inf Bn) and a Rapid Reaction Force. During a meeting of Special Envoys dealing with Burundi in Cape Town in February 2008 a programme of action to take the Burundi peace process further was established.

**OPERATION INDULI: ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL MISSION IN NEPAL: APRIL 2007 TO JULY 2009**

As a non-permanent member of the UNSC, South Africa was requested to deploy MILOBS to the United Nations Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in April 2007. UNMIN was a political mission, it was for this reason that SANDF personnel deployed in civilian clothes. This was the SANDF’s first deployment outside the African continent. The operation was terminated on 31 July 2009.

**OPERATION VIMBEZELA - SECURITY SECTOR REFORM ASSISTANCE TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: MARCH 2007 TO DATE**

During March 2007 South Africa responded to a request from the Central African Republic (CAR) to render assistance with training as well as with the refurbishing of some of the training facilities. This South African contingent, Operation VIMBEZELA, comprised primarily of training and engineer personnel.

**OPERATION BONGANE: ASSISTANCE TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND SOUTHERN SUDAN: JUNE 2007 TO JULY 2009**

Following the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Ugandan Government and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), the AU requested South Africa to deploy two MILOBS, under Operation BONGANE, in support of this agreement. These MILOBS deployed during June 2007 and returned home on 31 July 2009.

South Africa is acknowledged as a leader in the pursuance of peace within the region and the continent. Looking back on a decade of participation in International Peace Missions, it is clear that the SANDF has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1999 with the deployment of Col Hans Swart.
true to their motto of “Ubique” - the Latin word for everywhere - the South African Engineer Corps members (Sappers) deploy everywhere.

Engineer tasks form part of the core of any military force’s well being - that of survivability and mobility. Safe drinking water, construction of bases (whether buildings, tents or weather havens) and the building of roads and runways.

Bosnia

In 1995 the Dayton agreement paved the way for NATO to deploy in Bosnia in a Chapter 6, Peace Enforcement Operation. The UK Ministry of Defence requested the RSA to provide two staff officers for the UK Multinational Division, which was situated in the City of Banja Luka. The first two Army officers to participate in a Peace Keeping Operation were Maj Andrew Dinwoodie, from the Engineer Corps (now Colonel) and Maj Jakes Jacobs from the Armour Corps (now Lt Col, retired). These two officers were seconded to firstly 2 (UK) Division HQ and thereafter 1 (UK) Armoured Division. Col Dinwoodie served as the SO3 Mines.

Burundi

The first African Peacekeeping deployment to Burundi was in November 2001. This contingent was part of the South African Protection and Security detachment. The buildings that the force moved into (Palace Base) needed restoration. Showers had to be built and safe drinking water had to be provided.

Throughout the deployment to Burundi, the Engineers supported the AU and UN in engineering tasks at the Demobilisation Centres and various South African and other Contingents’ basis. The Engineer element will be part of the last forces to withdraw from Burundi in November 2009.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The first Engineer Squadron was deployed to the DRC in 2002. Operations mainly took place in the northeastern part of this country, elements were deployed in Kindu, Goma, Beni, bunia, Lubumbashi, Bakavu and Geminia.

Apart from the normal tasks such as water purification and constructions tasks, the engineer Squadron tasks in the DRC also included the deployment of the Floatable Foldable Bridge (FFB) System to ferry equipment and MONUC personnel, as well as personnel of NGO’s on the Congo river at Kindu. A Drill Rig was also deployed but was returned with the FFB to the RSA in 2006. Demolition tasks where weapons and ammunition were destroyed were also executed.

In October 2006, the One Force Concept was put into practice when
the Reserve Force members of 19 Field Regiment in Durban deployed for the first time. This Regt contributed members for rotation in November 2009, for the seventh time.

**Operation Teutonic**

The role of the Engineers in Operation Teutonic (DRC - 2004 to 2006) was to employ their skills and knowledge to provide drinking water to the Congolese Defence Force and family members and to renovate Nyaleke and Rumangabo military integration centres (centres de brassage et de recyclage (CBR’s)) while training the Congolese Military members to work with equipment that was donated to them.

Restoration and building tasks included construction and renovation of the sickbays, showers, toilet facilities, walk in fridges and cook houses. Electricity was also supplied to the bases.

**GIS in the DRC**

GIS (Geographical Information Systems) operators also deployed in the DRC and provided the UN with important information utilised in planning and operational activities. In 2005 an in depth study on the lava rocks at the Goma International Airport was executed in order to determine whether civil engineering tasks were necessary to remove the lava.

Another important task was rebel tracking - the GIS operators plotted the movements of the rebels after receiving information from military observers. This information was then used to deploy UN forces to villages to protect local communities before the rebels could reach these villages.

A terrain evaluation study was done to secure Military Observers bases and homes. This included sketches of the home plans, offensive and defensive routes to be followed when necessary and the best landing zones for aircraft in an emergency situation.

**Sudan**

In September 2005, a small composite group of Engineers was deployed to Sudan. Sudan’s extremely hot weather posed various challenges to the Engineers that were used to the Great Lakes area, a desert environment was indeed a whole new experience for them. Female soldiers also had to adjust to the Muslim orientation of the community.

The “Haboob” (sandstorm) was a daily experience, temperature at times rose up to 45 degrees Celsius and as hot as it was, without any warning it would rain heavily. But true to the Sapper culture, no problem was too hard or too big to tackle. Normal engineer tasks like the provisioning of safe drinking water and building tasks were executed. Minesweeping was also executed when required.

The Engineer elements were only deployed only in El Fashir at the Force HQ. They were accommodated at the “Zam-Zam” base that was actually used by the Rwandese Contingent. In May 2009 they moved to three different bases namely Malha, Mellit and Kutum. One of the first tasks was to upgrade base security. Other tasks included the construction of observation posts and the building of ablution facilities.

**OTHER DEPLOYMENTS**

Operational Construction specialists were deployed to the Central African Republic (CAR) to advice and to provide training to their military engineers counterparts in civil construction tasks. GIS operators were from time to time commissioned to the AU Headquarters in Tripoli, Ethiopia. Various South African Engineer Corps members were also deployed as Military Observers and Col Willis Nkosi served in Nepal in 2007/8 as a Sector Commander.
SOUTH AFRICAN citizens may ask, who gave SANDF the mandate to participate in all these peace missions? This question is indeed relevant since it is their sons and daughters who are deployed in various areas affected by conflicts. The intensity of conflict determines the level of danger in these deployment areas, as such deployment always carries with it an element that threatens life and that’s the cause for concern.

South Africa’s involvement in peace missions is executed according to the South African Defence Force’s Military Strategic Objectives to promote peace and stability in conjunction with the White Paper on South Africa’s participation in international peace missions approved by Cabinet in 1998. The White Paper outlines the nature and scope of contemporary peace missions, the international mandate for peace missions, South African philosophy on participation in peace missions, South Africa’s potential contributions, principles and procedures for participation.

It is thus important that SANDF allay the citizens concerns on deployment of South African soldiers. On 05 to 10 July 2009 SANDF invited the media to visit Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC). The purpose of the visit was to expose the media to realities of the situation that the SANDF soldiers face everyday while posted in these areas. On arrival at each individual country, it dawned on media (SA Soldier included) that the citizens of these countries have come to terms with the fact that they will have to share their country with the deployed foreign military contingencies. The sight of the white UN military vehicle is so familiar that kids in the streets run to these vehicles in an attempt to solicit food from soldiers. Peace missions include participation in Preventative Diplomacy, Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, Peace enforcement, and Peace-building, Humanitarian Assistance and intervention. The media has realized that what deployed soldiers do was more than just keeping the rebels away from re-igniting violence but also plays a crucial role in enhancing socio-economic situation of the host country.

The Mission Commanders encourage re-establishment of social contact through various social engagements like organising soccer matches with the locals.

According to Col Chris Byse,
Assistance to the African Union Special Protection Force (AUSTF) and National Contingent commander (NCC) in Burundi said that Operation CURRICULUM has been quite successful in Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). Approximately 389 child soldiers were demobilised and reunited with their families. Approximately 775 weapons were collected from the rebel forces, 714 were in serviceable condition and 79 were unserviceable and a large amount of ammunition was also collected. Politics and military wing activities were separated into two entities, to this effect Mr Agathon Rwasa, Burundian Hutu militia and National Liberation Force ("Forces Pour La Liberation Nationale, FNL) leader officially demilitarised on 21 April 2009. 203 Political and war prisoners were released, 1100 rebel soldiers were integrated into government Police force, 2010 into government official Defence force and 390 into VIP protectors.

In briefing the media in Beni at Mavivi base Col Bunny Modisane, the NCC in charge of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the DRC (named MONUC in French acronym) confirmed that MONUC has helped in the capturing of Tutsi rebel leader Gen Laurent Nkunda. Since his capture the area has been relatively calm. Operation MISTRAL in the DRC is governed by UN resolution 1856. "One of the objectives of the operation in our area of responsibility is to curb violence and maintain high visibility of MONUC in the community", said Col Modisane.

Our Soldiers in Goma are giving humanitarian assistance by building a bridge in Mena village and rebuilding the main road to provide water channels to minimise the effects of flooding during rainy seasons. MONUC has good relations with the Chiefs and the local traditional leaders. The base serves as a local police station due to trust that has developed between the local community and our soldiers. Lt Col Chris Els, the Battalion Commander stated that 13 rebels had surrendered between 15 and 28 June 2009. 5 AK 47 guns, one unknown SMG gun and 7 magazines with a total of 204 rounds were confiscated.

South African Special Force in Central African Republic (CAR) in Operation VIMBEZELA provides military training to FACA. Operation VIMBEZELA mission Commander, Col George Sibanyoni hails the training as successful. 123 FACA members completed Leadership courses, 23 completed RSA based training. During the media visit 3 were busy with junior command staff duties course. Other courses scheduled for 2009 are Combat life support, Pre hospital, Buddy aid, minor tactics, Musketry coaching and Recruit training courses.

South Africa’s quest to establish peace and security has become pertinent in its foreign policy. Currently the Republic of South Africa is one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping missions on the African continent.
Desert orientation Course in Tunisia

By Capt F.S. Vilane,
Com Officer 121 SAI Bn
Photos: Lt Booysen

21 SAI Bn members took to the sky from O.R. Tambo international Airport on 16 May 2009. They began to wonder what lied ahead of their Tunisian tasks that were to unfold. The Desert Orientation Course commenced from 16 to 22 May 2009.

On 17 May 2009 the team of 18 members landed in Tunisia and were received by a Tunisian Army Officer who escorted them to the Ramad International Hotel. On the next day a C-130 military aircraft was ready to fly the group to Ramada Base. The group was transported to Borj Boghiurbar Training Center for execution of tasks. It was interesting to find out that Borj Boghiurbar means Fort where the first Tunisian President was in prison for 3 years by the French.

Lt Booysen, a South African soldier riding a Dromedari that is used for patrols by the Tunisian Defence Force.

Digging a hole for water purification.

One of the Assistant Instructors busy testing communication.
Preparing for the making of bread.

Fitting the training gear.

Preservation of food to protect it from rotting.

Lt Tlabanelo doing the night navigation with a compass and using the Northern Star.

Chopper Sand signaling, how to use sand to send a signal to the chopper.

Members busy with introduction of herbs training

The Camp Commander, Major Dadoo lectured the theory part of the course. Instruction included day and at night navigation course in the rocky desert. They were also taught survival skills which included making bread in the desert, replenishment of water, identification of desert reptiles and the use of herbs for medicinal purpose.

Then it was off to a route march in the 48 degree Celsius heat of the Tunisian sun. The heat could easily dehydrate a human being, but the 121 SAI Bn members executed the route march with ease and carried the SANDF flag high with pride. 121 SAI Bn stole the hearts and minds of Tunisian people by conducting themselves in a professional manner by displaying the high level of discipline.

The 18 member team from 121 SAI Bn border their 22 hours flight back home.

We congratulate them on a task well executed.

These are syndicate teams ranging from 1 to 4 leading vehicle of the Commander mounted with communication system followed by other teams.
Protection Support Detachment deploys to Burundi

By Capt Fundile Siyongwana (deceased 2008)

Pretoria, 10 October 2001: The Defence Ministers Committee, composed of South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, held a follow-up meeting on contingency planning for peace support operations in Burundi.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, South Africa’s Minister of Defence, speaking on behalf of the Defence Ministers Committee, explained that the meeting was a follow-up to the one held earlier in July 2001 to commence a process of contingency planning for possible peace support operations in Burundi.

Minister Lekota said that in July 2001 the Defence Ministers Committee had set up a Military Technical Committee (MTC) charged with the responsibility of studying the ongoing situation in Burundi. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to receive a report of the MTC, evaluate it and, finally, determine the necessary issues to be considered for peace-support operations. This would help to resolve the existing problems.

Mr Lekota further explained that the Arusha Peace Process identified 1 November 2001 as the intended date to establish the interim government of Burundi. Minister Lekota urged the MTC to work with necessary speed to enable the Defence Ministers Committee to report to their respective principals and move to implement the peace-support operations in Burundi.

Memorandum of Understanding

Seen against the above background, the Governments of South Africa and Burundi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Pretoria on 26 October 2001 concerning the SA mission in support of the implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi. The MoU subsequently paved the way for the Department of Defence to deploy an SA Protection Support Detachment to Burundi.

The first group of about 234 troops under the command of Brig Gen Steven Kobe, the General Officer Commanding 43 SA Brigade, left from Waterkloof Air Force Base Waterkloof, Pretoria, on the morning of 28 October 2001, and arrived in Bujumbura, Burundi, later the same day. A second group of 236 troops left from the air base on the morning of 30 October 2001. The third group of about 231 troops left for Burundi on 3 November, bringing the total to 701.

The troops, all in uniform and armed, are drawn from a number of units in the SANDF, such as paratroopers from 44 Parachute Brigade, medical orderlies from the SA Military Health Service, VIP protection units from the SA Air Force, signallers from Wonderboom Military Base. The Headquarters element comes from 43 SA Brigade.

Protecting returning political leaders

The United Nations endorsed the broad operational concept of the South African mission on 23 October 2001. In terms of this concept the contingent is mandated to protect Burundi political lead-
ers returning from exile to participate
in the transitional Government, which
was to be in place by 1 November

The period of service of the SA con-
tingent in Burundi is subject to negoti-
ation and discussion with the transi-
tional government, but it is expected
that it will remain there for a six-
month period with rotation of troops
after that, if required. The possible
entrance of other troop-contributing
countries could also affect this period.

The Burundi peace-process facilita-
tor, former South African President,
Mr Nelson Mandela, negotiated the
funding of this operation.

A mission of peace

Addressing a media conference
held in Pretoria on 26 October, the
Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe
Nyanda, reiterated that the SANDF
contingent is intended to be part of a
multinational force comprising mili-
taries from Nigeria, Senegal and
Ghana. The mission is to protect the
politicians who are going to be part of
the transitional government decided
upon in Arusha last year.

Gen Nyanda continued: “VIP pro-
tection as you (media) should know is
the responsibility of the SAPS in our
country. But the military contingent is
necessary because of the prevailing cli-
mate in Burundi, which is character-
ized by suspicion, tension and even
low-level intensity conflict, which
erupts sporadically.

“It would therefore not be appro-
priate to send policemen to such a
Situation, even though the task is
essentially, or could essentially be
described as policing. The people are
well-trained for any eventuality
although we are hoping the situation
does not deteriorate.”

Sen Nyanda emphasised that
“these men and women are going on a
mission of peace. They are going in
order to give the troubled people of
Burundi a chance for peace. These sol-
diers, who follow in the diplomatic
footsteps of Nelson Mandela, who
helped and is still helping to broker
the settlement, are a further catalyst
for much needed reconciliation in
Burundi.

“We cannot be over-optimistic
about the prospects, for that is the
responsibility of the Burundians them-
selves, to find lasting peace in
Burundi. If peace comes about, how-
ever, our footprint will forever be
inscribed in the chequered history of
Burundi for posterity to see. I am con-
fident of the capability and commit-
ment of SANDF members who are
going there.”

Published in SA Soldier- December 2001
Edition, page 14

Pictured here with the troops is the then First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, who
said, “Many of the mothers in the country support your (the troops’) difficult
mission and we wish you a very successful mission, because that is a very
important mission for our country, and our continent. We need peace on our
continent for our development and to realise all the dreams that we want for
the coming generations and ourselves. Each one of you, as you wake up
every morning to do your duties, must know that we are thinking of you. We
wish you a good trip and a successful mission. We would like to see each
one of you back here in South Africa in due course,” said Mrs Mbeki.
Consolidate the peace process in Burundi

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photos: Sgt (currently WO2) David Nomshongwana

Following the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in August 2000, deployment of the South African Protection and Support Detachment (SAPSD), and further regional initiatives "resulting in the two ceasefire agreements signed on 7 October and 2 December 2002, the African Mission is to be established in Burundi.

The African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) SANDF Contingent - is deployed in Burundi from August 2033 to February 2004. This mission is to oversee the implementation and verification of the ceasefire agreements and to assist in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, (DDR) programmes. It consists of contributing members from the RSA (lead nation), Ethiopia and Mozambique.

As part of the African Union (AU) Observer Mission in Burundi (MIOB) the AU has deployed 43 military
observers (MILOBS) since 17 February 2003. These MILOBS will become part of the African Mission once the mission has been established. Countries providing AU military observers are Togo, Burkina-Faso, Mali, Gabon and Tunisia. The mission will be led by a civilian Head of Mission and comprises a military component of approximately brigade strength commanded by a Force Commander (a major general), and a civilian component as part of the Office of the Head of Mission. This has necessitated identified forces that will constitute the first rotation of the AMIB to undergo certain mission specific training in order to ensure that the forces are mission ready. An exercise known as Exercise CYCAD was held at 4 SA Infantry Battalion in Middelburg from 6 to 11 July 2003. The scenario and approach of Exercise CYCAD was closely based on the real situation within Burundi with the aim of realistically preparing the force for its task at hand.

The participating forces received theoretical lectures, conducted a command post exercise (CPX) and took part in a Forces exercise (FTX). All participants were required to operate and act according to existing SANDF doctrines and AMIB.

Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the CPX and FTX. This ensured that the system and ability of forces participating could be verified prior to deployment in the mission area. A group of external exercise controllers evaluated the forces’ performance and provided feedback.
The SANDF is prepared and ready to deploy a contingent of specialists to the DRC. The 165 member-strong team was selected for their specialist expertise and comprises cargo loading specialists, emergency medical teams, airspace management teams, and water processing units, air rescue and fire fighting teams. These specialists were deployed as part of Operation MONUC 2.

**Prerequisites for deployment**

The deployment only commenced on condition that the UN was satisfied that the domestic climate in the DRC is conducive to UN participation. A ceasefire agreement between the beligerent parties must also be in place and the participation of SA forces must be formally accepted by all parties to the conflict, participation should be tied to realistic criteria for ending an operation, and lastly, a feasible disenagement plan should also exist.

**Three phases**

The training, mobilisation, and possible deployment of the specialists took place in three phases. From May 15 to 20 June 2000 initial preparations were carried out. Thereafter the group assembled at the Boekenhouts-kloof Military Base outside Pretoria where final preparations were completed by 30 June 2000. The third phase was deployment.

**The preparation**

At a press briefing held at Boekenhouts Kloof on the SANDF’s involvement in MONUC 2 on 28 June 2000, the then Commander of the SANDF contingent, Col Steven Kolbe, said they had thoroughly prepared for deployment.

Col Deon Hattingh and his team were responsible to ensure the mission readiness of the contingent for deployment. The preparation consisted of personnel administration, medical examinations, administration and logistic support regarding personal kit and equipment.

**Critical component**

Training was done in conjunction with the UN’s Department for Peacekeeping Operations Training Unit. The UN subsequently sent over five instructors to assist in the training of the SANDF contingent. Participation of the UN training team was a critical component of the preparation, it presented an opportunity to gain contingent training knowledge.

**From liaison officer to observer**

SALUT (now SA Soldier) had the opportunity to speak to Col Swart who said that the reason for the initial deployment of UN Military Observers in the first phase of MONUC 2 was to get UN people on the ground to establish an information network for the UN. “Also to liaise with government representatives.” His main task was that of senior military liaison officer for the UN in Kampala and to liaise with the Ugandan Government as well as the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force (UPDF).

The MONUC 2 mission was due to enter its second phase, which included the deployment of approximately 5 000 peacekeeping troops, and 500 observers to the DRC. “My task changed from a liaison officer to that of an observer, which included liaison with all parties involved in the DRC conflict,” said Col Swart.

The Colonel completed his tour of duty on 6 September 2000, thereafter he returned to his post in the SANDF.

Published in Salut (now SA Soldier magazine) August 2000 Edition, page 12

Col Deon Hattingh and his team was responsible for preparing the SANDF contingent for deployment to the DRC.
Did we make a difference?

This is dedicated to all the South African soldiers who made their mark while deployed in Burundi, your contribution to peace and stability in Burundi will perpetually be appreciated. Your mark is a legacy that will be enjoyed by generation after generation.

For every one child more, that could have been robbed of a normal childhood.
For every mother that was re-united with her child.
For every Burundian that was able to return home from exile.
For every farmer that can now work in peace in order to deliver a crop.
For every citizen that does not wait for the sound of heavy fire from the mountains at night time.
For every successful new development in a democratic Burundi.
For every adult that was able to cast a democratic vote in 2005 and do so again in the near future - Yes indeed - We, (the Suaza’s) made a difference!

Article/poem and photos supplied by Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, SO1 Communication, SA Army Engineer Formation.
Our members do well in the DRC

Article and photos by Capt (SAN) C. Ross, SSO Logistics (Maritime and External Operations) Joint Operations Division

After many months of planning, preparation and frustration, the SANDF Specialist Contingent deployed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of the United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC, MONUC, during April and May 2001.

The SANDF Specialist Contingent comprised 88 personnel and some fifty pieces of equipment ranging from 20-ton container top-loaders to landrovers for use by the Command and Support Unit. Deploying with the SANDF Specialist Contingent were seven MONUC Staff Officers.

The deployment brought with it new challenges to the planning staff at the Joint Operations Division. These included the preparation of cargo and the compilation of a cargo list for each of the UN chartered flights. IL 76 and AN 124 aircraft were used to airlift the equipment and SA Air Force aircraft airlifted the personnel.

The exercise took place in accordance with Letters of Assist from the UN. The compilation and negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the deployment presented unique challenges. In essence, the UN was responsible for all rations, accommodation, offices, fuel, oils, lubricants and water, and South Africa was responsible for maintaining all equipment under the wet lease agreement, providing furniture for the sleeping accommodation and providing leisure-time utilisation equipment.

Deploying for a new mission obviously presented unique challenges. Nevertheless, the SANDF Specialist Contingent had already established itself in the mission area as a contingent committed to the success of MONUC, a staff visit to Kinshasa con-

Capt Van der Merwe of the Aero Medical Evacuation Team attending to a member of the SANDF Specialist Contingent in the well-equipped sickbay in the base under the watchful eye of the 2IC, Lt Col Blignaut.

Col (now Brig Gen) Eddy Mahlobo, the Contingent Commander, in his prefabricated office.
firmed this. The elements deployed in Kinshasa were accommodated within the perimeter of the UN Iveco Logistics Base, half way between the airport and the city. Accommodation was provided in the form of weather-havens and pre-fabricated structures.

The SANDF Specialist Contingent HQ was accommodated in a spacious prefabricated building, complete with air-conditioning and electric lights. The ablution facilities, also in prefabricated buildings with all amenities cleaned on a daily basis by a UN contracted cleaning team. Meals were served around the clock at the UN base cafeteria. The cafeteria was regularly inspected by the UN to ensure that the standard remained high.

The airfield crash, rescue and firefighting teams, along with the air cargo handling team, operated at the Ndjili International Airport outside Kinshasa. The teams departed daily at 06:15 from the Iveco Base and returned late at night after the last UN flight has landed.

At most of the outlying bases the personnel were also accommodated in weather havens or in UN renovated permanent buildings. Only minor problems were experienced when teams settled down. Members of the HQ staff visited the teams regularly, but the mechanics were the most frequent visitors - to repair equipment.
Peacekeeping in the Congo

By Lt Col M.T. Ngobeni, SO1 OP
COMM 43 SA Brigade HQ
Photo: supplied by Lt Col M.T. Ngobeni

It was almost twelve months down the line and in the peacekeeping trenches of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We were fortunate enough to serve under a great leader, Col C.J. van der Merwe. He was the National Contingent Commander for the deployment period of November 2006 to December 2007. The South African forces deployed under his command were 4 SA Infantry Battalion and 15 SA Infantry Battalion as well as members of various units.

Col Van der Merwe, April 2008, Acting General Officer Commanding of 43 SA Brigade at Wallmannsthal. It was a long period away from home, but we achieved both our organisational and personal goals.

We gained a lot of knowledge and experience during this deployment. We as South African peacekeepers believed in the establishment of peace and stability in the region. We established an environment of peacekeeping by working side by side with the other contingents, such as the Indians, Bangladeshis, Indonesians and the Angolans. Through this unity the Multinational Force was established. We brought back the skill of combined operations that we had learned.

We achieved goals by being good learners, committed, proud and confident. Through this courageous display of our members the South African flag could fly high in the sky with integrity, courage and professionalism.

We as South African peacekeepers believed that one-day the Congolese would be freed and liberated from the wars that many years have ravaged their country. We believed that peaceful conditions would be established in Africa and that freedom and peace could only come to fruition through high-level political negotiations and sacrifices.

We can see peace and stability on the horizon of the African continent. The peace signs are evident and can be seen in the DRC.

We thank our wives, husbands, children, families and friends for being so supportive and patient during our deployment period. Your lonely days and nights without your loved ones contributed to the establishment of peace in the DRC. Remember, when a wife or husband becomes a soldier the whole family becomes soldiers as well. It is therefore tough to be a soldier and soldiers are like tigers: they don’t cry. The phone calls, letters and parcels you sent to us took the loneliness away.

We thank the Chief of the SANDF and his delegations for visiting us in the mission area. Their presence made us feel important and secured. It gave us pride and dignity to see our top leader group come to us bringing best wishes and greetings. We are grateful for the wonderful Christmas presents we received from different South African based sponsors.

Different cultures, languages and nationalities were a real eye-opener to us. It made us realise that we were not the only ones on planet earth. We had to accommodate all the different cultures and sometimes people were allowed to express their cultures. However, when it came to work we did it according to the military culture. There was a lot of cultural interaction, especially with the other contingents and the local Congolese. To know other people’s cultures is to start learning respect. Through cultural respect we were able to eradicate discrimination and racism.

To those that will come after us we say: “Karibu Sana, Ben Venue Au DRC”.

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Integration and training in the Congo

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SANDF has done it again! This time the mission was the integration and training (Operation TEUTONIC I) and the upgrading of two Intermixing and Training Centres Nyaleke and Rumangabo (Operation TEUTONIC II) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This mission was not under command of the United Nations (UN) or the African Union (AU).

The South African Detachment Assisting with Integration and Training (SADAIT) was initiated on 18 June 2004 and started to function on 18 January 2005 to execute identification and registration.

South Africa was asked to help with the integration and training, as well as the upgrading of the centres by the Government of the DRC and the Netherlands since they went through this process 12 years ago. “The tripartite agreement was signed between the RSA, the DRC and the Netherlands who funded the project with 5 million euros,” said Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of SADAIT.

SA Soldier and Defence Television visited the Democratic Republic of Congo from 2 to 9 July 2006. Col Daan Boshoff, the Senior Staff Officer Corporate Communication at Joint Operations HQ, said the aim of this visit was to expose (in print and visually) the good job that the SANDF members are doing outside the country.

In his briefing Brig Gen Nelwamondo said that 18 members were deployed for 5 months in the DRC to execute the project. Presently the SADAIT Team under Operation TEUTONIC I has 37 members on their strength and Operation TEUTONIC II has 51 members.

Our first briefing was with the Project Officer TEUTONIC II, Col Johan Brandsen, who said their mission was to upgrade current facilities in Intermixing and Training Centres (ITC) Rumangabo and Nyaleke and to provide the inhabitants with clean water, power, shelter, sickbay facilities and medicine for ITCs and the military hospitals in Goma and Beni.

Our second visit was to the offices of SADAIT, where Capt (SAN) Sonica van Rooyen briefed us about the tremendous work the SANDF members were doing and the challenges they were facing every day. One of the challenges they faced when they arrived here nine months ago was the language barrier. According to Col Brandsen it is also a concern: “I think it is time now that we must take our members to do language courses, especially French because it is one language that is being used a lot where we are deployed.”

Integrated stats

Our next stop was the location of the Identification Team, where we found more than 200 Congolese soldiers in the process of being integrated.

WO2 Sipho Motaung, a SADAIT member, observing the process of integration, while the Congolese soldiers are verifying the documents.

Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo, General Officer Commanding SADAIT.
deployments in the DRC

from page 31

"So far we have identified and integrated the following number of members of the Congolese military force: Green: fit (82 880), Red: unfit (34 707), Registered personnel (141 215) and ID Cards issued (117 587).

Take note that the difference between registered personnel and ID Cards issued is as follows:

Altogether 23 628 personnel have undergone Phase 1 of identification card and registration only.

ID Cards issued means that the people have registered and issued with an identification card (complete process).

The Presidential Guards identification and integration statistics are as follows: Green (11 166), Red (530), ID Cards issued (11 696).

Altogether 12 brigades and 35 191 personnel underwent the intermixing and retraining," said Brig Gen Nelwamondo.

S Sgt Agnes Manzini from Wonderboom Military Base (Information Technology) said this mission has been very challenging and rewarding at the same time. "I am the only one who is responsible for servicing the laptops when they have a problem, which means I do a lot of traveling from one base to another," said S Sgt Manzini, who also designed the Identification Cards.

She also offers lessons to the soldiers on how to use a laptop and other equipment, such as computers and printers. "I have been here for the past nine months and every day I learn something new. I have experienced it positively," said S Sgt Manzini. WO1 Henry Adams, the leader of the Identification, said he was very happy to be part of making history. "We put a lot of effort and hard work to make this project successful. One day when there is peace in the DRC, I will be happy because I also played a major role," said WO1 Adams.

On 5 July 2006 we flew from Ndjili Airport to Goma. The SANDF played a major role in the upgrading of ITC Nyaleke and ITC Rumangabo in Goma. ITC Rumangabo used to be a colonial base for the Belgians. "The first day when we came here, this place was in a bad state. I never thought we would finish it because of the time frame we were given. But when I look at this place today, I feel very proud of my team for the hard work they have put into this project," said Brig Gen Nelwamondo.

"We could not do this without the help of the community. We had to give back to the community by providing them with jobs," said the GOC SADAIT. Some of the work that was done in Rumangabo includes the installation of water tanks and electricity, the upgrading of the living quarters and clinic and the installation of power supply.

Col Katanga Kabaitanga, Officer Commanding of ITC Rumangabo, said he was very happy about the contribution of the SANDF members. "Since this training centre started to operate, I have seen some positive change among our soldiers." Currently the ITC has 1 393 soldiers and the number is expecting to increase. When we arrived at the Rumangabo, there was a group of rebels (Mai-Mai) who have just declared their weapons and they were waiting to be identified.

Our last pit stop was the Intermixing and Training Centre Nyaleke, where Col Emmanuel Kimputu, Officer Commanding of Nyaleke, welcomed us to his base. "We call this centre the promised land, because we have been given hope by the SADAIT," said Col Kimputu. "Here we train soldiers from the last rebels' army."

During our tour through the centre, I met two instructors (team builders), Capt Susan Kriel and Capt Mukondeleli Khuba. They were busy posing for photos with the recruits. "We get good co-operation from these guys. So far they have been able to see the objectives of this exercise," said Capt Kriel. As team builders one of their mandates is to bring the soldiers together. Their team consists of four social workers and five psychologists.

"Our task is to encourage the soldiers to try to work together as a group. Do not forget they come from different rebel groups and they also have different cultures. So it is going to take some time for them to understand each other," said Capt Kriel. Like Capt Kriel and Capt Khuba, the other challenge they faced was the language issue.

Col Kimputu said he wished that the good relations that have been built between the two countries could exist beyond this operation. Asked who is going to make sure that these ITCs are sustainable after the mission was over, Brig Gen Nelwamondo said the Congolese must take ownership of these ITCs.

"The process of integration and upgrading of the facilities has achieved results beyond expectation and with minimum available resources. Numerous compliments were received from international role players for South Africans for a job well done," concluded Brig Gen Nelwamondo.
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The card fee is R35 per month, with all benefits fully inclusive in this fee. Other cards are linked to rewards programs, which charge an additional loyalty program fee, typically R100 per month ... or more.

Consumers can apply for the Old Mutual Investment Credit Card Account online at www.oldmutual.co.za/card or by phoning Old Mutual on 0860 007 007.
In March 2005 Mr Mluleki George, former Deputy Minister of Defence (1999 to 2008) embarked on his first visit to the area of peacekeeping operations in the Great Lakes region.

In his first term as the Mr George focused on key priority of the Ministry with regard to support for the ongoing transformation of the Department of Defence (DOD), including representivity, performance and the consolidation of civil control.

"I do not believe in working exclusively from the four walls of an office or boardroom when it comes to dealing with people issues," said the then Deputy Minister referring to his ongoing visits to the bases across the country and external operations.

"I want to understand first-hand the reality on the ground so that I can put the concerns and proposals of all stakeholders into proper context."

The objective of his trip to the Great Lakes region in March, where the bulk of SANDF peacekeeping soldiers were deployed, was to get a better understanding of the political environment in the region, to ensure that the soldiers were made fully aware of the broad political support for and appreciation of their role, to investigate and confirm concerns with regard to operational conditions, both human resource related and infrastructure, and to reinforce the military Code of Conduct and commitment of the Department to deal decisively with any proven cases of ill-discipline.

Rwanda

"Any political visit to this part of the world should start in Rwanda, the epicentre of the political climate of the Great Lakes region," said South Africa’s Ambassador, Ezra Sigwela on receiving Mr George on the first leg of his Great Lakes tour. Although the
Our soldiers patrolling the Great Lakes region.

The SANDF was not conducting operations in Rwanda the DOD has a Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda and an appreciation of the pivotal role the country plays with regard to peace and security in the region.

The Rwanda genocide in 1994 when close to one million people were slaughtered still represents the moral conscience of Africa and the world. The country’s history is a stark reminder of what can happen when the deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the escalation of political opportunism (both local and international) were left unchecked by Africa and the international community.

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mr George met with his political counterpart, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Brig Gen Bule Gbangdo Mohammed, to discuss progress with regard to elections and the ongoing support of the DOD for the integration of the armed forces, a critical prerequisite for a peaceful transition. He was briefed by Mr ROSS Mountain, the United Nations Secretary General’s Deputy Special Representative to the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC), on security issues in the volatile eastern DRC where SANDF soldiers were involved in military operations, the disarming of militias, progress with logistical challenges to the election process, allegations of sexual exploitation and humanitarian rights abuses by peacekeepers, and a tour of the operations and facilities of the SANDF (MONUC) operations in Kinshasa, Goma and Kindu.

**Burundi**

In Burundi, Mr George met with the Minister of Defence, Maj Gen Vincent Niyungeko, and the Minister of Public Security, Col Donatien Sindakira, to discuss the general security situation and support of the SANDF, under the auspices of the UN Mission in Burundi (ONUS), for the successful referendum and election preparations. He was briefed by Ambassador Satti, the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative on the current status of the political process with regard to pending elections in Burundi. He was further briefed by the ONOB Force Headquarters on issues relating to demobilisation of militia and progress with the cantonment areas, the integration of the Burundi armed forces and progress with operations. He visited the scene of operations and facilities of the SANDF (ONUS) in Bujumbura, the Muramvya Demobilisation Centre and Kabezi.

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deployments in the Burundi

The Force Commander in Burundi speaks out

Article and photo by then F Sgt (currently WO2) David Nomthongwana

The first commander of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was Lt Gen Sipho Binda (then Major General). His successor, Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi, took over from him under the African Union (AU) flag in April 2004. In June 2005 AMIB was deviated as the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUS).

SA Soldier visited the UN HQ in Bujumbura to interview the ONUS Force Commander, Maj Gen Mgwebi, a man of few words is a tall and well-built senior officer.

Explaining the then status of situation, challenges and his experience as a second commander of the African Mission in Burundi he said: “South Africa played an main important facilitation role in the peace process of Burundi, as requested by the region. The former President Nelson Mandela took over from the late Dr. Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania. Mr Mandela gave the role to former Deputy President Jacob Zuma to continue with the process until it was given to the former Minister of Safety and Security (now known as Department of Police), Charles Nqakula”.

The SANDF created an environment where all stakeholders in this mission gained confidence and trust in each other. Our presence has allowed political leaders who had been in exile to return and to start implementing the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi. Our soldiers were responsible for protecting the VIPs who were in exile. South Africa played a vital role in trust and confidence building, the rebels were confident of the SANDF protection service to gather at the assembly areas to disarm.

“I experienced working with multinational forces and civilians in a setting where culture and language were different. It was a great experience to work with forces from Pakistan, Nepal, Mozambique and Ethiopia, as well as observers from Russia, Belgium and other countries. Being part of the UN system and understanding its policies and procedures was a great experience.

These missions were multidimensional, the military components created a favourable condition for other components to operate, including a political component that had to perform its tasks optimally in this volatile country,” said Maj Gen Mgwebi.

“The organising of the election, ensuring that there was a referendum and a constitution, and people going through the process was quite a revelation for me. South Africa played a role by providing the electoral material and its distribution, as well as the necessary protection and escorting military observers to give their own reports. This is an experience that one never forgets,” Maj Gen Mgwebi continued. The advantageous usage of the South African equipment insured that this machinery remained serviceable mission after mission. It was decided that not only the machinery was to be used on different mission but policies and procedures relevant to missions remained unchanged so that they can be implemented whenever the need arose.

It was indeed a humbling experience to be in Burundi. The Burundians regard the South Africans as brothers and sisters. I noticed that they respected and were proud of SANDF and South Africans.

Maj Gen (now Lt Gen) Derrick Mgwebi, the QNUB Force Commander, salutes at the RSA Battalion medal parade at the Modderfontein Eaae in Bujumbura.
In 1996 South Africa was a young Democracy and was just accepted back into the world events, economics, sport and politics and peacekeeping.

After a protracted conflict in the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 with a United Nations Protection Force being deployed in the region, the Dayton Accord was finally signed in November 1995. The conflict began as a result of General Tito’s death in 1980. Gen Tito was the former leader of the Former Yugoslavia who had kept the country together. Demands for greater autonomy and growing nationalism made it increasingly difficult to keep the country united. The resentment of centralised federal control in the late 80’s resulted in the deterioration of economic conditions and demand for political reform and increased tension among ethnic groups. The conflict was also accelerated by Serb nationalism, influenced by Slobodan Milosovic, which was backed by nationalist movements in other federal republics. The point in case being the independence of Slovenia and Croatia in 1991.

The Dayton Accord set the scene to restore peace in the newly formed country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina was in the centre of the Former Yugoslavia and consisted of Serbs, Croats and Muslims each of which wished for their own autonomous state. This led to the bloody conflict fuelled by support from neighbouring countries and alliances. United Nations Protection Force effectiveness was questioned, as it could not bring the war to an end.

The Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) consisting of three divisions was deployed. There were three multinational divisional headquarters, with USA, UK and France forming the multinational Division Headquarters.

The UK Ministry of Defence requested that South African National Defence Force (SANDF) provide two staff officers for the UK Multi National Division (MND), which was situated in the City of Banja Luka. Maj Jakes Jacobs (Lt Col retired) from the Armour Formation and Maj Andrew Dinwoodie (currently a Colonel) from the Engineer Formation were sanctioned for this deployment. These two staff officers became the first two officers to deploy in an UN/NATO operation since the country’s acceptance back into the international community. These two officers were seconded to firstly 2 (UK) Division Hq and thereafter 1 (UK) Armoured Division.

Maj Jacobs was posted to the G3 Operation and Training Cell and was responsible for both own force training functions and the former warring faction training related aspects. Maj Jacobs enforced restrictions on training placed on the former warring factions when and if Dayton guidelines were contravened. On many occasions the former warring factions pushed boundaries resulting in restrictions being placed on training or weapons being confiscated.

Maj Dinwoodie was assigned to the Engineer Cell as the SO3 Mines. The mine threat was so great that the SO2 Geographic and Intelligence (Geo/Int) required additional manpower to maintain the Geo/Int function as well as the mine related aspects. A few of the tasks assigned to Maj Dinwoodie (with a team of interpreters) was to collect minefield records from the former warring factions, have them translated, analyse the content, redraw any diagrams, and then capture the information of a centralised data base. The data was handed over to the Geographic Support Section who updated the Bosnia 1:50 000 route maps weekly. Force protection carried was a high priority, and these maps provided the user with current information of safe routes, suspected mine and mine fields etc. Maj Dinwoodie was also responsible of supporting the Immediate Reaction Teams (IRT), he had to at any time be able to filter out minefield information, so that the team would be aware of mine/UXO threats in their area of operation. A great deal of interface was also expected with NGO’s, Demining Agencies as well as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mines Action Centre in Sarajevo.

The officers were integrated into the Hq personnel. No compromises were made in terms of command and control, staff work and mandate to operate.

Both Staff Officers enjoyed a 9 month deployment and a great deal was learnt from the Divisional staff.
Securing the elections in the Comoros

By Lebohang Letaoana (deceased in 2008)
Photos: Sgt (currently S Sgt) Lebogang Tlhaole

Located a little more than 10 degrees below the equator in the western Indian Ocean, the different islands of the Comoros, namely Nzwani (Anjouan), Mwali (Moheli) and the Ngazidja (Grande Comoros) have a maritime tropical climate.

SA Soldier got the opportunity to go there and provide media coverage for the presidential elections in the Union of the Comoros from 11 to 19 May 2006 as part of Operation TRITON 4. The elections are held every four years, with the office rotating between the three islands.

On 11 October 2005 the Government of the Union of the Comoros requested the African Union (AU) to monitor the elections in their country. In response to this request the AU established an AU Mission to Support the Elections in the Comoros (AMISEC). This mission was composed of military and civilian officers.

The duties of AMISEC were exclusively international and its personnel carried out their duties and conducted themselves in a way that promoted the interests of AMISEC. The mandate of AMISEC included the following:

- To create a secure environment for the holding of free and fair and transparent elections in the Comoros.
- To monitor, observe and report on the situation on the islands to the

Chairperson of the Commission.

- To ensure that during the electoral process the Comorian security forces, i.e. the Union of the Comoros’ security forces and those of the autonomous islands and their equipments were confined to barracks. However, the local police dealt with routine law enforcement not related to the electoral process, without weapons. Control mechanisms were established to monitor such police activities.

South Africa as the leading nation under the authority and control of the AU sent a considerable number of sol-
soldiers on this mission. Lt Col Oscar Viljoen, the Chief of Staff, said the SANDF had 460 soldiers deployed on the three islands and an additional 675 were deployed for five days to secure the elections. The idea was to deploy soldiers at every polling station, of which there were about 550.

On 12 May 2006 a large part of the contingent began arriving. Col George Sibanyoni, the Contingent Commander AMISEC, immediately briefed them about their tasks. He urged the soldiers to execute their tasks in a professional manner and not to forget that their mission was to secure the elections. Other nations that took part were Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Madagascar and Mauritius. The bulk of these forces were based in Moroni at the old international airport.

The forces’ main objective was to create a secure environment for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections in the Comoros and they were deployed in Anjouan, Moheli and Grande Comoros. SA Soldier travelled to Anjouan with the C-130 Hercules crew and spoke to the local people about the upcoming elections. "I hope these elections will bring change to our country. They (elections) will give our people hope, especially because of the presence of the soldiers who are very friendly. We get along very well with them,” said Abdou Wihamaune, a shop owner in Anjouan. Capt Herald Engelbrecht, Signal Officer from 2 Field Engineer Regiment, said his task gave support by means of radio communication. He was working with a team of five personnel (covering the whole island), and they made sure that communication channels were clear and accessible.

On Sunday 14 May 2006 Comorans from across the three islands descended on the polls to cast their votes. The elections were contested by the following three individuals: Ahmed Abdullah Sambi who was favoured to be the next president of the country, Mohammed Djaanfari, a retired French Air Force officer, and Ibrahim Halidi, a long time politician. The polls were packed and the voting went well even though there were minor incidents when individuals tried to disrupt the elections.

Lt Col Oscar Viljoen said he was very proud of the members of the SANDF who had put in a great effort in such a short space of time: “They really did us proud. The commitment and discipline they portrayed were amazing considering that some of them had just came back from deployment,” said Lt Col Viljoen.

The Islamic religious leader, Ahmed Abdullah Sambi, was elected as the new President of the Union of the Comoros. Sambi pledged real reform, an end to years of government mismanagement and squandering of public funds, and the creation of new jobs and housing for the poor.

**Interview with the “Teacher”**

Amina Ali Amadi (28), who the soldiers call “teacher” because of her general knowledge, was a humble and down-to-earth person. SA Soldier spoke to her briefly where she was busying herself with the voters’ roll. Three years ago she came to Johannesburg to study English at Barnato Park High School and later at Pinnacle Business College. Asked why she came back to the Comoros, she said: ‘I had to come back because of financial matters. You see here there are no job opportunities, and people are making a living by selling fish and groceries. Most of my friends and family members are in France. They are the ones who are able to send us money to survive’. Only French and Arabic are spoken in the Comoros, but Amina is fluent in English as well. “People are very friendly and kind,” said Amina, trying to make me feel comfortable. She said one day she hopes to come back to South Africa to pursue her studies and maybe, who knows, to settle down there.

* Additional info: www.ksu.edu/sasw/comoros

Published in SA Soldier July 2006 edition, page 14
The crisis affecting the Sudanese people led to the fundamental emergency in the process of liberation and peacekeeping. This Sudanese crisis was driven by the thirst for freedom, justice, and the struggle by the Sudanese to recover their despoiled humanity. Addressing the soldiers at the SANDF Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein on 25 February 2005, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the former Minister of Defence (from 1999 to 2008) cautioned the South African soldiers who were heading for the Sudan on a peacekeeping mission not to bring this country in disrepute.

The South African peacekeepers from 14 SA Infantry Battalion in Umtata joined their colleagues in Kutum and Darfur in the Sudan later during the year. "What you men and women are about to embark on is an extremely important mission not only for South Africa, but also for the rest of Africa. We cannot and will not tolerate any abuse of human rights. Our laws along with international humanitarian laws will be used to mark your behaviour. Just as you treat our citizens with respect and dignity so must you treat the Sudanese people," Mr Lekota emphasised.

"Like your counterpart in the other peacekeeping mission you will have huge responsibilities in that you will be expected not only to comply with our country’s law, but also with international laws which dictates that we treat people with respect for their humanity. Stay focused and make sure that people’s lives are protected at all times." Minister Lekota concluded by saying: "We cannot afford that something should go wrong."
South African Motorised Infantry Battalion under the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Thamsanqa Patrick Gosani and WO1 Ennos Ndlovu, the "Viper" were earmarked by Infantry Formation to be part of the Infantry operational plan to deploy in the Sudan as from May 2009, for six months. The General Officer Commanding Infantry Formation (GOC INF FMN), Maj Gen T.M Nkabinde, commissioned 4 SA Infantry Battalion (4 SAI Bn) to deploy in the Sudan.

On 19 January 2009, 4 SAI Bn started with the pre deployment Training in the unit in preparation for deployment. Phase one of the training was to ensure that the administration of all the members scheduled was ready. SAMHS also participated by ensuring that the Concurrent Health Assessment (CHA) of those who were scheduled to deploy was green and met the requirements for External deployment. In February 2009, phase two of the deployment was conducted at the Doornkop Training Area. It focused on military training and included section, platoon battle drills and table shooting. 4 SAI Bn finished the physical training part and was declared combat ready. These members took two weeks leave in anticipation of the deployment in the Sudan. They were to the CHATSEC Course that was presented to them to plan and prepare for the social and financial aspects of deployment. These members were prepared both emotionally and physically for the adverse desert conditions in which they would find themselves. At the time the Sudan was understood as a country totally at war with opposing factions in Darfur. "You must be prepared to fight in order to restore peace or sometimes defend yourselves". Those were the words of the Officer Commanding of 4 SAI Bn when he addressed the proudly South African soldiers who were prepared to sacrifice their lives to save the people of Darfur from the shackles of poverty and civil war. On the last day in 4 SAI Bn, the Mayor of Middelburg and the civilian pastors prayed for the unit before they departed to Bloemfontein.

The Mayor of Middelburg said "The people of South Africa and the Middelburg community trust 4 SAI Battalion as the ambassadors of this country: go and make us proud".

On the second week of March 2009, 4 SAI Bn known as the "best of the best" arrived at the Mob Centre in Bloemfontein to finish the last part of the preparation called the "Mobilisation Phase", which was usually conducted by Joint Operations under the command of Lt Col Olivier and his staff members. 46 Brigade HQ, Col Thinus van Staden, SSO Operations, conducted the training phase. He was impressed with the morale and understanding of the operational and training aspects by 4 SAI Bn. The morale of these South African soldiers was high at all times during this training session. They were singing and running in the Mob Centre until the last day when they boarded the first flight to the Sudan.

The 4 SAI Bn deployment was a golden opportunity for it to regain its strength and for recognition at the Infantry Formation and Chief Army level. The following words were quoted during the difficult moments of preparation "Opportunity dances with those who are ready on the dance floor" - Jackson Brown.

4 SAI Bn arrived in the Darfur on 01 May 2009. These Champions of Africa experienced the desert for the first time in their lives as a Battalion deployed. Conditions were not favourable at all on their arrival. They were exposed to high temperatures exceeding 50 degrees. They were exposed for the first time to long distance escorts of convoys that had to use very poor roads and they were sometimes stuck on sand for hours. In the confined space of Kutum they learned to make the best of things by playing volleyball to keep fit and be ready for the next mission.

To show pride in and a sense of belonging to their unit, Rfn Mashabela of Bn HQ erected a 4 SAI Bn monument, where the OC stayed.

Lt Col Patrick Gosani, Officer Commanding 4 SA Infantry Battalion.
The cream of the Sappers in the Sudan

Article and photos by Lt Z.P. Malgas
Engineer Squadron Second in Command

On 23 April 2009 an engineer element consisting of a field troop from 2 Field Engineer Regiment and a construction team from 1 Construction Regiment arrived at Sudan’s Al-Fasher airport as a part of the Operation CORDITE IX deployment group. It was a long and tiring journey for most of us, as we had to travel overnight from Bloemfontein International Airport to unknown territory. Upon our arrival at Al-Fasher airport we were greeted by the realities of a country torn apart by years of fierce battles involving the Government of Sudan (GOS), JANJAWEED, SLA, JEM and many other fighting groups or factions. Armed Mirage F1 attack planes and assault helicopters guarded the airport area and armed foot soldiers were all over the place.

Sudan is a country that knows famine very well as it was hit by draught between 1983 and 1984, the effects of which are still visible. It is a country with a very strict government. The war that divides this country has been going on for years between the Muslim north and the others. Some say it’s unlikely that the fighting will stop in the very near future. There is something that amuses me about this country: almost everybody has a donkey as his/her mode of transport. A donkey here knows no rest: its right to rest has been taken away completely by the Sudanese. If you were to be any of the animals living in this country, please don’t choose to be a donkey otherwise you will definitely curse the day you were born.

Capt B. Brummage, the outgoing squadron commander gave us “warm” bottled water, as some of us were sweating because of heat wave. It is very hot and temperatures here can rise up to 45 degrees on a good day. Our home away from home for us engineers (as it has been since the beginning of deployments) was a place called Zam-Zam Base, which was under the command of a Rwandan Commanding Officer. Engineers were just given a portion of the land to call their unit.

The main task that of my predecessors involved cargo handling and loading and offloading of RSA flights (sustainment flights). It was necessary for them to do this kind of task as they were the only RSA members who were in the area closest to the international airport, so the sustainment of...
own forces deployed in various sectors of the Sudan depended largely on these engineers. However, the incoming engineer element was determined not to continue with the task that was way out of line with what we were skilled to do. A week or two after our arrival in the mission area Col S.B. Dlamini, the RSA National Contingent Commander, together with the verification team from J OPS informed Lt Z.P. Malgas, the then Acting Squadron Commander of the incoming group, ordered us to prepare and deploy the engineers to all sectors where South African soldiers were deployed (Malha, Mellit and Kutum).

The relocation in the engineers went well although it was done hastily. We were faced with the challenge of transporting our equipment to the new site, and TLB Bell and shipping containers had to be transported by road to Kutum.

On our arrival in the different sectors we immediately realized that a lot of work lay ahead of us as engineers. These sectors were not properly maintained, as no engineers had been assigned to these sites before our arrival. We took over control of the water supply points, base maintenance and all other engineer related tasks. Lt Col T.P. Gosani, the RSA Battalion Commander, tasked us according to the security status of Kutum, Malha and Mellit base recommendations of UNAMID Force Engineer Commander, Col Tabassum. Our main task was to erect Hesco Bastions around Kutum, i.e. a base for the protection of our own force. Considering the day and night shootouts of faction groups, this place was not safe at all. As the HQ for South African force it was a disgrace to find that the perimeter protection of this base was only barbed wire.

It took us only two weeks to erect and assemble Hesco Bastions to a distance of ± 600 m around the base and everybody breathed a sigh of relief as they now felt safe and proud as South African soldiers in a protected area. The protection force members at the airstrip were not safe either as they were housed in a tent with absolutely nothing to protect them from a possible attack, so we had to erect Hesco Bastions and make a safe base. The Force Commander was impressed with the progress we had made and we were awarded a certificate for the best section of the month (June 2009).

Base protection was not our only concern. Because the strength of the contingent did not meet UN requirements we had to expand the Kutum base so that it could accommodate 250 more members in time for the next rotation. The base expansion included among others the construction of observation posts, UN tents, ablution facilities and their installation.

Generally LTU is something that one must create for oneself. The Haboob (sandstorm) was an order of the day. To survive it you had to have at least a pair of lungs that were very healthy. We were not so fortunate as a Haboob greeted us while we were still finding our feet and believe me this was not the experience you would like to have while on deployment. We did not have any drop of rain while we were in the Sudan, but we were told that July was a rainy month.

In conclusion it must be said that the Sudan is not a place for the faint-hearted, it needs people who are well trained and mentally prepared, as there is definitely no room for mistakes. I can now boldly say to the critics who asked me during the pre-deployment phase where I was taking the two ladies: guys eat your hearts out, these two ladies (Cpl X.I. Mbangeleli and Spr C.B. Shongwe) made their mark and contributed greatly to the success we had as engineers. The only challenge they had was the replenishment of their makeup accessories, as beauty will always be part of the female species whether they are at war or in peace.

Danger lurks everywhere in the Sudan; the use of metal detectors are essential to detect any landmines or hidden bombs.
Interesting facts on DRC, CAR, Sudan and Burundi

Compiled by Lufuno Netshirembe

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The DRC, Africa’s second biggest country after the Sudan, is a vast mass of rainforest, very fast running rivers and under its soil are tremendous deposits of minerals wealth. The Congo River, is one of the biggest in the world, is also a known as the highway of Africa since it provides transport to millions of its inhabitants annually. Lake Kivu, lake Albert and lake Edward are some of the beautiful lakes found in the DRC, lake Tanganyika that forms part the Eastern Border of the DRC is only the deepest lake in Africa with a maximum depth of 1.2 km, but also more than 50km long from North to South.

Eastern DRC has also been in the world news due to the continued fighting between the FARDC and the rebel forces under MR Nkunda. This has again led to thousand of people having to flee their homes and seeking refuge elsewhere.

The country with Kinshasa as its capital has a population of nearly 60 million people and bordered by CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia, Angola and Zaire. The total land area is 2,345,410 sq km compared to the 1,219,912 sq km of South Africa. Although there are hundred of local dialect, the official language is French.

BURUNDI

Burundi, with a population of 6,095,156 million people, is bordered by the DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda. The capital, Bujumbura lies at the northern end of lake Tanganyika which is one of the biggest lakes in the world. The lake is teeming with fish that forms part of the staple diet of Burundians. The official language is Kirundi and French and the total area is 27,830 sq km.

Since Burundi has had a successful election, a lot of funds have started to flow into the country. Major improvements have been made to the infrastructure and there is an overall optimism amongst it inhabitants.

CAR

Full name: Central African Republic
Location: Central Africa, north of Democratic Republic of Congo.
Geographic coordinates: 7 00 N, 21 00 E
Land boundaries: total: 5,203 km
Boader countries: Cameroon 797 km, Chad 1,197 km, Democratic Republic of Congo 1,577 km, Republic of the Congo 467 km, the Sudan 1,165 km
Area: 622,984 sq km (240,535 sq miles)
Area comparison: slightly smaller than Norway and Sweden combined, just larger than France.

Capital: Bangui
Economy: Decades of instability have undermined the economy, people here are among the poorest in the world, and government struggles to pay wages.
International: a pan-African military force has been in place since 2003 to restore order; violence has flared over Sudan and Chad
Major languages: French, Sangho (lingua franca)
Major religion: Christianity mostly
SUDAN

The name Sudan actually means, in Arabic, "The Land of the Blacks." Capital: Khartoum. It is located at the point where the White Nile and the Blue Nile rivers join to form the Nile River, which flows north through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.

Location and size: It is located in North Africa. Sudan is the largest country on the African continent.

Boarder countries: CAR (1,165 Km, 724 miles), Chad (1,360 Km), DRC (628 Km), Egypt (1,273 Km), Eritrea (650 Km), Ethiopia (1,606 Km), Kenya (232 Km), Libya (383 Km), and Uganda (435 Km). Its total area is 2,505,810 sq Km. The 853 km long coastline borders the Red Sea and lies between Egypt and Eritrea.

Population: The population of Sudan was estimated at 35,079,814 in July 2000 and represents a net growth of 2.84 percent in comparison with 1999. Estimates increased to 36,080,373 by July 2001. The birth rate stood at 37.89 per 1,000 and the death rate at 10.04 deaths per 1,000 in 2001. In 1975, the total population was estimated at 16 million, in 1998 at 28.3 million, in 2001 at 36.1 million, and in 2015 it should reach 39.8 million.

The population is relatively young: while 45% are younger than 14 years old, only about 2% are older than 65. A majority of the population (69%) lives in the rural regions, while 31% live in the urban areas. The average population density is 9.8 per sq Km. The highest density is in the western and some southern provinces of the country, while the northern part of the country is rarely inhabited.

Population development and assessment is highly complicated by a continuing civil war and famine. Many people fall victim to the conflict or die as a result of the famine or diseases, and some of them escape to find asylum in Chad or Uganda.

Ethnic groups: The Sudanese population is highly diverse, consisting of about 19 different ethnic groups. Most of the inhabitants are of black African origin (52%), 39% are Arabs, 6% Beja, and 3% foreigners and other small national groups (these figures hide the fact that there are more than 600 distinct ethnic groups with over 400 languages/dialects in Sudan).

Life expectancy: the average life expectancy is estimated at 55 years for men and 57 years for women. Cultural conflicts between the black Africans, who live mostly in the south, and the Arabs, who live mainly in the north, have been the source of many internal struggles within the country.

Language: the official language is Arabic. There are about 134 living languages listed. Some of the more major ones are Bari, Bedawi, Dinka, Fur, Hausa, Kanuri, Kenuzi-Dongola, Masalit, Nobin, Nuer, Otuho, Shilluk, Toposa and Zaghawa.

Literacy rate: 58% for men and 35% for women.

Monetary unit: Sudanese dinar (SDD). One Sudanese dinar equals 100 piastres. There are bills of 10, 25, 50,100 and 1,000SDD.

Main exports: Cotton, sesame, livestock, groundnuts (peanuts), oil, gum arabic. Main imports: Foodstuffs, petroleum products, manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, medicines and chemicals, textiles.

Poverty and wealth: Sudan is one of the poorest countries of the world. Most of the population lives in unbelievably hard conditions. One of the Sahel countries, Sudan is located in the Sahara desert. Hard climate conditions and lack of natural resources are contributory factors to the poor life conditions. But the country’s political instability and internal conflict has increased the poverty.

Sudan
Time for fun and games

Article and photo By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, SO1 Public Info (RSA) Aug 2003 to Feb 2004

On 25 October 2003 various peacekeeping forces came together with one objective, namely of having fun. The Inter-contingent Fun and Game day was organised to unite multinational force in sport.

The South African, Ethiopian and Mozambican contingents competed in activities such as the bag race, three-legged race, egg run, ball run, tug-of-war, volleyball, juba (African board game) and soccer. Although winning was important the focus was on having a ball of a day.

What did it take to arrange a day like this?

Various meetings were held with all the role-players to determine the items, number of teams to compete in various sporting categories, VIPs to be invited, the venue and other nitty-gritties relevant to a successful sporting event. Writing of the Part 1 Order was also part of the organising that went into this day.

Lt Col Abebe Mekonnen, SO1 Public Info (Ethiopia) arranged with the local authorities for AMIB to use the sports ground for the day. After the permission was granted 4 SAI Bn pitched tents to serve as an administrative and VIP area.

17 bags were bought from the local coffee plant ‘Ocibu’ for an amount of 17 000 Burundian francs ($17) to be used in the bag race. For those who knew Burundian businessmen a fair amount of negotiation and persuasion was necessary!

A rope was received from the SANDF Tug-of-War team (Tshwane) for the tug-of-war competition (although it was an old rope it served the purposes of the deployed members in Burundi). We would have loved to have forgotten about security matters for the day, but unfortunately the safety situation according to the UN was still orange. The Military Police patrolled the area to curb any hostile acts.

**Back to the GAMES**

The Sergeant Major in charge of the ball-run explained to all the participants in detail what they were supposed to do. His explanation made it seem easy, but we all knew it was easier said than done. In the ball-run, with a 2-litre polythene bottle filled with water, wrapped around the waist, hanging down in front, you had to tackle a tennis ball as you would a soccer ball, see … it sounds easy, but try it!

The Mozambican and Ethiopian forces were introduced to most of the sporting codes for first time on the inter-contingent Fun and Game day. The tug-of-war and the bag race were popular with the Mozambicans. Afterwards they even came to borrow the rope in order to practise for the next games.

The Force Commander, Maj Gen Binda, handed trophies to the winners in the various categories at the end of the day. The Ethiopians were the strongest team in volleyball, but luckily the South Africans won the soccer match.

... If my memory serves me well, a female soldier from South Africa won the juba board game.

Volleyball: Burundi vs South Africa.
WHAT IS AN AUDIT QUALIFICATION?

operation: clean AUDIT
The Department of Defence (DOD) intensified its efforts to promote security, peace and stability on the African continent in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

The role that the DOD plays while participating in the structures of the African Union (AU) demonstrates its commitment to resolve conflict in our neighbouring states by peaceful means.