Budget Vote
Leaders entering Parliament
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FRONT COVER: Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence, and Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, head for Parliament for the Defence Budget Vote 2003. Read more on pages 14 and 15. (Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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From the Editor’s desk

TAKING A STAND

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, said the world cannot tolerate a situation where the few most powerful nations hold the majority of the world to ransom. In what has been described as a “hawkish speech” Mr Lekota in his Defence Budget Vote 2003 to Parliament on 13 June 2003 asked for more money for the safety of South Africa.

“The war on terror inevitably would spill into our continent,” warned the Minister, basing his findings on the US and British invasion of Iraq.

To correct the damage that has been done to the global system of collective security the Minister of Defence suggested that in response African countries ought to singly, regionally and continually equip themselves. “We therefore need to pool our resources,” Mr Lekota re-affirmed.

He also welcomed the decision by Government to progressively reduce Defence involvement at home for the next five years to add to resources available for peacekeeping work in the region and in Africa. (Please read more on the 2003 Budget Vote on pages 14 and 15).

The SANDF is geared for and clearly does not shy away from the fact that it may become even more involved in peacekeeping. It is clearly envisaged that the SANDF could become one of the foremost contributors of forces for international peacekeeping. (Read more on the SANDF and peacekeeping on pages 20 to 22).

Vic Clapman initiated the Comrades Marathon in 1921 as a living memorial to the “comrades” who died in World War I. This idea of a living memorial grew to become “the greatest ultra-marathon in the world”.

While the name “Comrades Marathon” was acquired some eighty years ago, it is considered appropriate today as the race epitomises attributes of courage, commitment and camaraderie among its participants transcending cultural, gender, socio-economic and age barriers. The Comrades Marathon has become one of South Africa’s premier sporting events and captures the imagination and fascination of the entire nation.

Congratulations to all our athletes that completed the race. Cpl Kebonemodisa alias “White” Modisenyane from Group 20 was the first SANDF athlete to complete the Comrades Marathon in a time of 05:47:17 - the 13th overall position! His fellow training partner, Pte Motseotole Koagile from 10 SAI Bn, was the second overall position! His fellow training partner, Cpl Kebonemodisa alias “White” Modisenyane from Group 20 was the first SANDF athlete to complete Comrades Marathon in a time of 05:47:17 - the 13th overall position! His fellow training partner, Pte Motseotole Koagile from 10 SAI Bn, was the second overall position! His fellow training partner, Cpl Kebonemodisa alias “White” Modisenyane from Group 20 was the first SANDF athlete to complete Comrades Marathon in a time of 05:47:17 - the 13th overall position! His fellow training partner, Pte Motseotole Koagile from 10 SAI Bn, was the second overall position! 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African peace - our hope for years to come

Peace for Africa - our hope for years to come. Do you realise how wealthy Africa is, and yet people are cutting each other's throats in poverty? What Africans are doing to their fellow Africans is unbelievable. Africa still has a long way to go before it can say it has achieved human security. We cannot go on blaming our colonial masters because they set up a system, as we have been unable to change it.

The independence of some African states is meaningless unless it is linked to the total liberation of the African continent. Transformation, peace building, reconstruction and development of our continent should be a team effort. All across Africa economies are collapsing, cities are deteriorating, food production is declining and populations are growing beyond food production. Prisons are overcrowded and the farmlands are empty, while refugee figures are incredible.

How can thousands of people be killed for no reason other than that they belong to a different tribe? Women are being abused and the millions of children go to bed hungry - just imagine! What hope is there for the twilight of Africa? African dreams have only been misled, not lost. African leaders must propel the continent from the stormy waters and the blessing shall be yours.

Hats off to the establishment of the African Union (AU) and the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the hope for African peace and security. Peace for Africa our hope for years to come! - Cpl M. Nonyondla, 13 Provost Combat-Ready Coy, currently deployed in DRC.

Prevention is better than cure

I really appreciate the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign of the SANDF. I found it necessary to write this letter to make SANDBF members aware of this killer that kills our leaders.

My heart is full of sorrow to see many lives being lost because of ignorance about HIV/AIDS. Many families and relationships are breaking up because of the disease. AIDS is the undefeated champion. It is the champion because it kills all ages, the guilty and the innocent, rich and poor and educated to illiterate. It is undefeated although experts spend sleepless nights to find a cure, money is being spent, but still no cure for AIDS.

I say let us lay ambush everywhere because we are in danger of HIV/AIDS. Let us think about the leaders of tomorrow. Let us not forget AIDS is a serial killer. Let us remember ABC - abstain, be faithful, and condomise.

To those who are affected, I say you are the children of the universe and we are still in the same formation together - Pte Babusajang Matlawe, Hartbeesfontein Commando.

Determination of Africans

Thank you for the role your department played during the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the OAU. Your assistance and support greatly contributed to the success of this momentous event.

Would you also kindly convey my appreciation to the members of your department who so ably assisted during the celebrations.

It was heartening to see the commitment to the African Renaissance and African development determined by Africans - Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Our men and women in uniform stole the show

25 May 2003, which marked the 40th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity, will stay for a long time in the minds of African people who attended the celebrations at the Johannesburg Stadium.

Viva SANDF Viva! Those were the words from the MC of the Day, Ms Baleka Mbate Kgotsisile, after our men and women had left the stadium after displaying their military skills.

The events began with music items from various artists from Africa and when our National Ceremonial Guard entered the stadium the crowds cheered with joy and again when they displayed their marching skills.

Then our artillery gunners fired a 21-gun salute. The crowds again cheered when the two Cheetahs from the SAAF flew over the stadium. But that was not the end!

Our men and women in uniform stole the show before the departure of our President Thabo Mbeki and other dignitaries. The crowd cheered when our paratroopers jumped from the sky with the South African flag and the African Union (AU) flag. Then they went crazy when Col S. Poni, the Officer Commanding Group 15, as the Parade Commander entered the stadium, leading the men and women representing all the Services.

Our infantrymen from 21 SAI Bn represented the SA Army. Col Poni’s men and women demonstrated their marching skills, which continued to send the crowd crazy. Capt Shabalala from the National Ceremonial Guard joined Col Poni’s men and women later. During the National Anthem two Rooivalk helicopters and an Oryx helicopter flew over the stadium with the flag of the African Union. One spectator next to me said, “Today our Defence Force made us proud”. Then the C130 flew over the stadium. There was jubilation everywhere.

When our men and women left the stadium they sang “Shosholoza” and the crowd gave them a standing ovation.

The Africa Day celebrations made us proud to be members of the SANDF. It also left one with the question: when are we going to stop blowing our trumpets in respect of all the important actions we are doing for our country and Africa. To our men and women who participated in the celebrations you made us proud - Maj M.P. Mgobozi, SO2 Communication Infantry Formation.
Looking for eager collectors
I am a Polish collector of insignia for military caps, badges and patches of parachutists, paratroopers, special forces, combat divers and frogmen, as well as air wings. I should like to correspond and exchange my Polish badges and patches with other collectors.

* Interested collectors or persons can email Pawel at: paul@drewpoltorun.pl - Ed.

Do not discriminate against them
Finding out that you are HIV positive does not mean that you are at the end of the road. If you take good care of yourself by not sleeping around, and not smoking and drinking too much you can live up to 15 years or more. This can be done by eating healthy food, such as vegetables, fruit, milk, meat and dried beans, and by keeping your body strong through exercise you can conquer the virus that weakens your immune system. The counselling, love and care that we give to those who are infected are some of the medications that keep them going. There is no need for those who are infected to be isolated, because they cannot infect us through touching and by using the same facilities as we do. The community, families and colleagues of those infected should treat them with love and care without changing their behaviour towards them. To be HIV positive is not an embarrassment. People should take care of those infected because they would also like to be cared for once they too are infected. People who are HIV positive may or may not be our family, but they all need love and care from us as a community. My friend with HIV or AIDS left a positively strong impression - Melanie van Beuningen, Langebaanweg AFB.

R200-00 prize for the best letter
SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001.

Apology: The wrong photo caption was published in the July 2003 edition on page 14. It should have read: President Thabo Mbeki and General Amadou Toumani Touré, President of Mali, inspect the National Ceremonial Guard. We apologise for any confusion - Ed.

Now we are creative
I am writing this letter from Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi.

I am one of the luckiest persons to have served in both the South African Protection Support Detachment (SAPSD) and the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) during the critical phase of the first milestone, viz the changeover of power from the Tutsi president to a Hutu president and the birth of the African Mission - the first of its kind.

I have to mention that, during the SAPSD period, we were treated like prisoners and not like soldiers. Thanks to the changes, we can now be creative, work hard and enjoy the deployment as well - Maj D.H. Dlamini, S02 Risk Assessment Processing Officer (AMIB).

A day in the life of a soldier
This story is about Lt Bruce Fraser. He lives in Langebaan where one of the SA Air Force bases is situated. He is an instructor teaching pupils to fly. The aircraft they train on are Pilatus PC7 MKII Astras.

As an outsider undergoing a novel experience, my day started just like his: shower, breakfast and a drive to work. The drive did not get me to his place of work right away, as the security is very strict. Once I had my “visitors pass” though, it was green lights all the way. I was received with great enthusiasm and everyone was very accommodating.

At an airbase, the most important issue to discuss is the weather. This happens in an assembly where announcements are made. Lt Fraser made sure that the flights were scheduled that he had booked the previous day at the operations room. Then he discussed the daily tasks with his pupils, Scott Logie and Themba Sungula.

Before he flies he has the tedious duty of sorting out some administrative matters.

As Themba had to be reinstated in the course he had to complete two simulator sorties before he could fly. Lt Fraser monitors Themba while he goes through the motions of pre-flight check, taking off, flying and landing.

Lt Fraser accompanied Scott on his sortie, sitting in the front part of the cockpit to monitor him. I was given a grand tour of the base. I was shown the process of controlling air traffic and given a very detailed account of the radar. Then I saw where the “Astras” got repaired and took a stroll through the hangars.

The most amazing part of the day was watching the “Astras” taking off and landing just a few metres away. They soar off in a rush of power and are airborne in a wink. Then the next was on its way and then the next was prepared in a hive of activity.

By the end of the day I was exhausted. It was a truly unique experience and definitely one to remember. The people I met that day left a positively strong impression - Melanie van Beuningen, Langebaanweg AFB.
The unselfish leader

The unselfish leader/commander always thinks of his or her subordinates first.

What is a selfish leader? A selfish leader is the one who will provide for his or her own comfort and his or her personal advancement at the expense of his or her subordinates.

What can I do to be an unselfish leader? To be an unselfish leader, you must always place the welfare of your subordinates above your own. Whoever wants to be the greatest of all must first be the servant of all.

Your subordinates will expect you to play your part properly according to your position. They will not begrudge you your position, your comfort or your prerogatives, just as long as you use them to promote their interests and not at the expense of their welfare.

Leadership positions are positions of service to others. They are always created to serve others, not just as a reward to the individuals filling those high and honourable positions. To think of your leadership position as a place which offers you only reward and privileges is completely wrong. Certainly, privileges do go along with your high position, but so does the responsibility of serving others. You can never use your leadership position to practise your own peculiar and petty idiosyncrasies. Your leadership position or management position was created solely to allow you to fulfil your responsibility to your superior or by serving your subordinates.

To all members today who occupy a commanding or high leadership management position, you must realise that it is not just a reward for your past performance alone. It is a position for you to use your present proven abilities and to develop your future talents and potential for your organisation. Although it may be that you do occupy your present high position in the organisation because of excellent past performance of duty, still it is not just a reward: people who look at promotion only as a reward never make it to the very top.

You were paid for your efforts of yesterday. Promotion is based upon future potential far more than it is upon past performance. But still you do not get promoted only because you did a decent job in the past. Lots of people in the organisation did good jobs. I urge you to have something more up your sleeve for the organisation.

Someone saw a future in you, so do not try to rest on yesterday’s victories. Honourable Generals, Colonels, Majors, Captains, Lieutenants, Candidate Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, promotion is much more than a reward, it is an opportunity for further service.

To members at grass-roots level, the non-ranking members: take action and take up the challenges and demonstrate your abilities and see the difference you can make in our Defence Force. To you I say, do not be the prisoners of the past, be the pioneers of the future.

I urge everyone to perform to the best of your ability in carrying out your tasks and duties as soldiers, and do so with diligence and perseverance. - A.M. Rakoma, Tzaneen.

Devil in the detail

I want to respond to the winning letter: “Crying will not help us” published in the April 2003 edition of SA SOLDIER. While I agree wholeheartedly with the title, the naïveté of the content begs a response. A positive attitude in life and work is not only admirable, but I believe also preferable and a prerequisite for achievement and recognition. This point is then also made in the letter, and once again I cannot deny my sincere support of this ideal.

But it is simply an ideal, and at present it is being flagrantly violated in the SANDF. That this is unfortunate and disturbing should hardly be a surprise, but if I follow the argument of “Prove yourselves and be approved”, it should come as quite a surprise to the author whose letter prompted this response. Let me explain by way of example:

Despite your superior performance on equivalent promotional courses, those who are deemed “senior” (who joined the Defence Force earlier and did their courses before you) will not be preferred in future courses. Principle being violated = equal treatment. Unfair discriminating factor = age and years of service. Relevant discriminating factor ignored = merit.

Despite your proficiency and suitability for a post, those deemed to enhance representativeness will take preference in selection and appointment. Principle being violated = equal treatment. Unfair discriminating factor(s) = gender, race, ethnicity. Relevant discriminating factor ignored = merit.

Not wishing to labour the point, for fear of being called a cry-baby, I think these two examples will suffice for now. What am I trying to say? My eyes are not filled with tears and I can see clearly that there are grave wrongs being committed in the name of “seniority”, “affirmative action”, “representativeness”, “diversity promotion”, “transformation”, …and the list goes on. These terms are abused for purposes other that the original intentions. Whether this is done in ignorance and misunderstanding or intentionally and purposefully remains uncertain, but that it is wrong - that remains an irrefutable certainty.

I so wish these disagreeable realities are not part of our time. It is discouragingly difficult to remain positive with disincentives like those cited above. Social engineering of this kind should be scrutinised with honest open eyes and hearts receptive to and yearning for the truth. Is there merit in disrespecting human dignity? Is there justice in unfair discrimination? The answer is clearly no in both instances. It is often the case that God can be found to be present in the principle (or the ideal), but that the devil hides in the detail.

No matter how positive we are, the question must still be asked: are we part of an SANDF that can deny this? - Capt J. Snyman, Military Academy.
On 3 February 2003 I was transferred from the Chaplain General’s Division to the Armour Formation. What the Formation was all about was never very much my concern, but the important thing was that the one who orders and allows things to happen afforded me this rare opportunity to work in this specialised unit.

As I was approaching the Headquarters Unit, I was attracted by the Formation’s symbol “The Flame of the Armour Burns Forever”. Symbols are very important tools in life. They inform us about the inner feelings, the emotions, the depth of the belief and the width of the perception of life. Symbols tell us what we must expect. Immediately, as I started speaking to the General Officer Commanding, I experienced this energy, this life, this light, the unity of purpose and the purity of the people who do things in a certain way as if they were chosen when the Almighty was ordering life. As I tried to reposition myself I was tongue-tied, just as if I was taken back to Biblical times when Moses saw the burning bush, which though burning, was not consumed.

During the induction phase I was given an induction document wherein the symbolism is explained briefly. While it is shorter than a page, it is pregnant with ideas, very erudite and tells one something of the vision of the mind that conceived it. This flame of the Armour symbolises the inextinguishable spirit and energy of the SA Armoured Corps. Every soldier of substance is reminded of the following qualities when he thinks about the flame that produces energy:

Energy. Energy generates heat and inner strength. Within this Formation and its subunits every one prides himself or herself on the inextricable and inborn strength and heat in each and everyone. This inner heat delivers extraordinary performance and achievements. As a result of this energy, the Armour soldier is as hard as iron. His morale cannot be tampered with very easily. He thus endures harsh and uncomfortable situations. He is always energetic and full of power. This power gives birth to light.

Light. When, in the beginning, God was ordering the world into existence, He said ‘Let there be light’. The same light shines over the Armoured Corps. It is that light that changes insecurity into certainty and confidence. An army that lacks the destructive firepower of the armour is not worthy of its name. The agility and mobility within which the Armoured Corps operates gives clarity to the manner in which our enemies can be crushed and our security guaranteed. It is a guarantor of peace and stability.

With the flame in the hearts and minds of the Armoured Corps, the members’ confidence is gained and certainty established. Without peace and stability a country is clouded by a mist of death, starvation, poverty, unemployment and disease. Most citizens, especially those who are not well versed in defence matters will definitely think that to buy armoured vehicles is a sheer waste of the taxpayers’ money, but on the contrary it contributes to the security of the country. The light that shines in South Africa will shine in Angola, the DRC, Burundi and Zimbabwe. With its small numbers, the Armoured Corps remains one of the beacons of hope in the SA Army. It produces life for the lifeless citizens.

Life. Life is a timeless phenomenon. There is no time when life does not exist. It exists with its own creator. It conceives realities and brings formations into being. It is inelastic and it cannot be stretched. Time wasted never returns. It is gone forever. It goes and it never stops. Life is in constant motion. Once a person becomes motionless, he ceases to exist. Life cleanses and refines. Life is pure like its own maker. It is, indeed, like a watch that tells a story about its own maker.

Purity. There cannot be purity without impurity. In life, a law of contradictions or opposites exists. In order for life to be worth its own choices, there must be purity as well as impurity, light and darkness, security and insecurity, certainty as well as uncertainty, strengths and weaknesses, as well as heat and cold. In refining this life, the giver of life gives purity to us all, any of which is in its first nature pure. Purity is the state of cleanliness. It alludes to the fact that that which is clean cannot be mixed with the unclean, water cannot be mixed with oil, day cannot co-exist with night and the two are bitter enemies. But enemies find a common ground. Once that common ground is secured, unity dawns.

Unity. One is immediately reminded of the South African National Coat of Arms - unity in diversity. The people who labour in the SA Army Armoured Corps are united in their diversity while they are people of many colours, races, cultures, languages, religions and origins. They are forged together and linked to each other by a million visible and invisible threads that point to the future, which is a vision for them to co-exist. It is a common dream that makes a clarion call to each one of us, that we must be united, otherwise we will die together in disunity as fools. Our destiny is common and we must share it.

It is a destiny that confirms our independence, but at the same time it is a destiny that emphasises our interdependence, interrelationships, multiculturist approach, interfait and multiracial tendencies. Unity can never be born out of disunity, but can precede disunity. Our footsteps will clearly demonstrate our ignorance in terms of sharing a meaningful life. It will also inform the generations to come of our inability to live as humans. It will rather inform them that we preferred, in the midst of all choices, to live as barbarians of the dark ages. While unity is essential for our existence and development, it is also necessary to say that unity is not uniformity and unity in diversity is healthy. This symbol of the SA Army Armoured Corps has left an indelible mark in my humble mind and the minds of others. This flame which burns forever, responds accurately to the challenges of life. It is a source of encouragement. It instils in the members the spirit of comradeship. It says, yours is a noble task: a supreme task of defending your country by your strength and blood. That task energises one’s soul and body during the difficult times, flashes the light during the times of darkness, gives meaning to life when life is threatened and challenged, for it is pure like its own maker and it forges unity among the members.

Col (Rev) C.B. Bosiki, Pretoria.
Caring together for our children

A

n amount of R720-00 was collected by members of Counter-intelligence Processing at Defence Intelligence to support the SAPS Child Protection Unit. Each year the Directorate identifies projects to support. Office-bound members of Directorate Processing are supposed to wear their uniform. For every day the members do not wear their uniform they are “fined” R1-00, which goes to the project identified. It is hoped that this small amount will contribute to the plight of abused children.

Corvette named in Hamburg

Courtesy SAN Splashes

The third SA Navy Meko A-200 patrol corvette for the SA Navy was officially named in Hamburg by the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Ms Thandi Modise, on 4 June 2003. The patrol corvette was named SAS SPIOEKOP to recognise the extreme valour shown by all concerned in famous battles on South African soil, this time the British and Boer forces in the Anglo-Boer War.

Alvis OMC achieves international standard certification

By Ronél van Dyk, Alvis OMC

Alvis OMC has been rewarded for its continuous focus on improving the quality management system (QMS) of the company by the achievement of ISO 9001:2000 certification. The certificate was issued in May 2003 after a successful audit by Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQi).

“We are extremely proud to have achieved this distinction, which can be attributed to the combined efforts of all at Alvis OMC to continually improve on quality at all levels,” said Alvis OMC’s Director, Quality Assurance, Mr Tjaart van der Walt. “We have been ISO certified since 1995 and are pleased that we now comply with the latest ISO standard,” he added.

Alvis OMC’s quality management system prescribes the processes to be followed by means of procedures and instructions. “The key is to encourage high quality inputs at all levels and phases in the organisation,” said Mr Van der Walt. “Our motto says it all - Quality in Everything We Do.” To this end, two unique Alvis OMC initiatives have been developed to ensure and maintain excellent levels of quality and customer satisfaction:

- Customer Support Assurance Initiative (CUSAI) is a comprehensive customer-focused initiative that emphasises shortened turnaround times and feedback to customers. Customer satisfaction surveys serve as an instrument to measure customer satisfaction and CUSAI success.
- Quality Improvement Drive (QID) allows and encourages all employees to propose improvements that will ensure quality and optimise resources.

Alvis OMC sees quality assurance as a continuous process, from the onset of a project to its conclusion, as well as being the responsibility of every employee.

Alvis OMC is South Africa’s primary military vehicle facility. It covers all facets of the military vehicle spectrum, from conceptualisation to design, development, manufacture, production, and in-service support. The company specialises in a wide range of wheeled armoured vehicles and mine-protected vehicles.
Air Force makes flying history

On 26 March 2003 the SA Air Force made flying history when the first black aircrew transported Lt Gen Themba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Support, and six passengers from AFB Waterkloof to AFB Bloemspruit and back.

Maj Mondi Gxoyiya commanded a Falcon 50 of 21 Squadron with the Squadron Officer Commanding, Col Gerald Malinga, as co-pilot.

F Sgt Themba Pululana was the flight engineer and Sgt Gift Lebona the flight attendant. This is another milestone in the SANDF transformation process, which is gathering visible momentum.

Experience the beauty of Limpopo Province

By WO2 S.J. Ludick,
Defence Foreign Relations
Photo: F Sgt Amelda Strydom

A Military Attaché Advisory Corps (MAAC) tour to Limpopo Province took place from 12 to 16 May 2003. The first base visited was Hoedspruit AFB.

The group was briefed on the history, the role of the base and the courses, which are presented at the base.

The Lowveld Air Space Control Sector made presentations on the roles and functions of the Sector, ground command and control, as well as airborne command and control.

During the SAAF air capability demonstration at Roodewal Louis Trichardt AFB provided an exiting exhibition of an aerobatic display presenting the Silver Falcons, Rooivalk, Impala, Astra, Cheetah, Impala MK II and Oryx aircraft.

The Corps was also entertained with paratroop drops, cargo slinging, Oryx fire-fighting, Impala MK II and Cheetah dive bombing, making it a day to remember.

Upon visiting the Headquarters of Soutpansberg Military Area (SMA) a briefing was presented on the vision and mission of SMA, the impact of illegal foreigners, the Nabob Fence, operations and Reserve Force units. First-hand knowledge was obtained about borderline control by visiting an echo station and the Beitbrug Border Crossing.

Although military establishments were visited every person on the tour experienced the exceptional beauty of nature and the hospitality of the people of the Limpopo Province. We were treated to game drives and traditional dancing, which made us as accompanying SANDF members very proud to be South Africans.
Visiting two countries in conflict

By Col H. Schobesberger, SSO
Army Corporate Communication

Building within the framework of military diplomacy is one of the objectives of visits by senior military personnel to other countries.

The visit by Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, to India and Pakistan during March 2003 was no exception. The fact that the General was able to visit two countries, which are in conflict with one another during the same journey, is an indication of the acceptance of South Africa by the wider community of nations. South Africa’s multilateral approach in settling conflicts and disputes through peaceful means and negotiations has contributed to this acceptance.

This visit included meetings between Lt Gen Ramano and top military key personnel of both countries. Tours to training institutions, units and headquarters formed the major part of these visits.

During a stop over in Dubai, Lt Gen Ramano attended the Defence Exhibition IDEX 2003 in Abu Dhabi to give support to the South African Defence Industry in its effort to market South African military hardware in other countries.

The armies of both India and Pakistan are very professional, highly motivated and their leader groups can look back on many years of operational experience on the borders of their countries and during peace-support operations.

The Army Training Command in India and the Military Academy in Pakistan are the two most impressive institutions in these countries and should be benchmarked by the SA Army. Training opportunities, which can be utilised by South African officers have been evaluated in both countries.

A lasting impression in both countries was the very strong regimental approach to duties, based on British Military tradition with a strong Indian and Pakistani flavour.

Indian and Pakistani flavour, and the huge military garrisons/cantonments forming military towns.
Excellence through endurance

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Air Force College held a commissioning parade at the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane on 19 June 2003. It was the first time that the Air Squadron Sword was presented.

"The United Kingdom Air Squadron was founded in 1966 by a group of passionate aviators with a common interest in all forms of aviation. Over the years the Air Squadron developed and from modest beginnings progressed to the point where it undertook flights to Russia, Jordan, Tanzania, Morocco, Pakistan and the USA, apart from widening its links with aviation internationally. The Air Squadron also developed its support for aviation at grass roots level," said Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, the Chief of the SA Air Force, during his address.

"Part of this support was to introduce a trophy, promoting aviation awareness, for the best air cadet in the UK, and in the United States Air Force. This year the UK Air Squadron visited South Africa. During this visit the Air Squadron Trophy in the form of a Wilkinson Sword was handed over to the SA Air Force.

"This Air Squadron Sword will not only serve as a reminder of the very strong link the SA Air Force has with the Royal Air Force and the UK Air Squadron, but also as a motivator to all future officers to make an effort to earn this really remarkable piece of workmanship," said Lt Gen Beukes.

Lt Gen Beukes said that the cornerstone of the SA Air Force has always been professionalism, adherence to high flying standards and work ethics, self-discipline and dedication. He also reiterated that commissioning is not simply another promotion: on the contrary, it is a great honour and with it comes increased responsibility.

"The Air Force is moving rapidly into a new era, and I cannot think of a better time for you to become involved at officers’ level. As officers in the SA Air Force, you will all play a vital role in the future of our Air Force. I am convinced that good progress has been made by the Air Force towards shaping the future. Towards the end of last year the Air Force Board approved the SA Air Force strategic transformation plan aimed at the achievement of vision 2012," said Lt Gen Beukes.

"This, we believe, is a milestone document in the history of the Air Force as it provides a clearly defined road map towards the desired end state of vision 2012. A number of key strategic issues that the Air Force has to deal with successfully in order to realise vision 2012 have been identified. The first is the transformation of the Air Force’s human resource component to a point where it will be truly representative of the nation it serves, and where it will be sufficiently competent to apply air power to the maximum benefit of the country," said Lt Gen Beukes.

Lt Gen Beukes added that another crucial strategic issue that has been identified is the need to bring the Air Force to a point where it will be affordable and sustainable. A key factor in achieving the levels of affordability and sustainability that we are aiming for is the direct involvement of local industry, not only through improved support concepts and contracts, but also through the innovative use of Public Private Partnership initiatives.

"A third key strategic issue is one that relates directly to our constitutional mandate, and that is the provision of a combat ready Air Force. As mentioned, the shifting of operating funds will directly benefit force preparation, and we foresee a continuous increase in the annual flying hours of all flying units between 2003 and 2010, within the bounds of the funds allocated in the budget," concluded Lt Gen Beukes.
2003 Budget Vote gives priority to reducing vulnerability

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Taking a stand the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, said the world cannot tolerate a situation where the few most powerful nations hold the majority of the world to ransom. In what has been described as a "hawkish speech" Mr Lekota in his Defence Budget Vote 2003 to Parliament on 13 June 2003 asked for more money for the safety of South Africa.

"The war on terror inevitably would spill into our continent," warned the Minister, basing his findings on the US and British invasion of Iraq. Mr Lekota candidly admitted that the integrity of the United Nations had been affected by actions resulting from the so-called war on terror. "The world situation in great measure has become increasingly more uncertain and threatening, this is true of Africa too," expressed Minister Lekota. To correct the damage that has been done to the global system of collective security the Minister of Defence suggested that in response African countries ought to singly, regionally and continentally equip themselves. "We therefore need to pool our resources," Mr Lekota re-affirmed.

Even though the SANDF is deploying twice as many members as was anticipated Defence is still allocated 1.62% of the GDP and 6.74% of Government expenditure. The Department has been allocated R20.05 billion for 2003/04 and while there has been a R1.1 billion increase from the last financial year the Minister feels it does not measure up. Mindful of the difficulties in aligning the Defence mandate and tasks budget with increased external deployment the Minister said, "This should be compared with countries such as Nigeria. This country also plays an important role in the peace mission and spends 4.5% of its GDP on Defence".

However, he welcomed the deci-

"We are on an even keel and out of the rough seas."
Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, and Maj Simphiwe Gwashu, former manager of the Deputy Minister of Defence’s Office.

The SANDF needs to effect further transformation, notably in areas such as the justice system Mr Lekota continued: the International Committee of the Red Cross is currently teaching humanitarian law at every level of the SANDF. Mr Lekota also thanked the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Hon Ms Thandi Modise, for her leadership role in the work done on the Reserve Force, saying the efforts had begun to bear fruit. Personnel received a nine percent pay increase, but the Minister urged that difficulties in rightsizing would be met in part by the Human Resource Strategy 2010.

In conclusion Mr Lekota emphasised that success in the SANDF depends directly on members and the Secretariat for Defence for their ability to plan and organise the future systematically. “We are on an even keel and out of the rough seas,” he said.

Alcohol abuse could spread HIV/AIDS

The undesirable and destructive state of affairs regarding substance abuse should be made visible to all PSAP and uniformed members.

The lingering effects of a substance, such as alcohol often last from the previous night’s party or unit function. This often leads to accidents and lack of insight, which prevents one from making reasonable decisions or to take reasonable care for the prevention of HIV/AIDS during casual sexual relationships.

Substance abuse often leads to recurring (chronic) chest infections and tuberculosis through excessive depressing of the immune system. This is disastrous for those members who are already HIV positive.

The effect of alcohol on vision (depth perception), blood pressure (high) and the stomach (gastritis) also causes dehydration that leads to problems, such as lowered physical performance and a high sensitivity to heat stress.

Other well-documented effects of substance abuse include dizziness, blackouts and enhanced fatigue with loss of libido. Emotional side depression, mood swings, irritability, nervousness, over sensitivity to criticism and paranoid tendencies often manifested in family violence and assaults.

The Surgeon General recognises that alcohol dependence is a treatable condition and arrangements are made to rehabilitate personnel as part of the process to prevent accidents, injuries, deaths and losses. Effects of intoxication and substance abuse can compromise one’s health forever.
The Vetting Fieldwork Course for Vetting Officers from Defence Intelligence (DI), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and Armscor was presented at the SA Defence Intelligence College (SADIC) over the period 10 February to 18 April 2003. The aim of this course was to qualify vetting personnel for the effective execution of the security vetting process in the SANDF. This ceremony marks one of the milestones that go beyond the aim of Directorate Vetting. Contribution in terms of training personnel for utilisation by the broader intelligence community and to some extent the private sector was never an intrinsic component of the aim of DI. The Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI) has, however, regarded it as imperative to broaden the scope of the DI aim through the formulation of a more comprehensive mission statement to benefit the country.

Security vetting is of the utmost importance to the security of the DOD and the State. Much of the security of the country depends on the integrity and reliability of its civil servants. Security vetting is meant to establish as far as is reasonably possible the security competency of the individual or employee concerned, which is his or her integrity and reliability regarding the handling of classified information.

**Contribution to Defence Intelligence mission**

Defence Intelligence is a member of the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (NICOC) and it plays a major role in writing intelligence estimates, early warning and threat assessments.

The training that DI, and more specifically Directorate Vetting, provides for the other State departments is designed to enhance the security of the country. DI prides itself on being able to report that Directorate Vetting has trained a total of 67 members from different vetting institutions since 1998. Continuous training and development are also provided for the National Intelligence Agency (NIA).

The minimum requirement for a potential Vetting Officer is a Bachelor’s Degree, preferably in Social Sciences, which contributes to the high standards that are maintained. Directorate Vetting believes that “Competencies beget Competency”.

Members of Directorate Vetting have to do Counter-intelligence, Intelligence and Vetting courses to be fully equipped, which makes them indispensable after they qualify as Vetting Officers. This, however, makes this Directorate vulnerable to recruitment by other vetting institutions. Since 2000 the Directorate has lost more than 23 top Vetting Officers to other vetting institutions.

The final solution adopted, though very costly, is to help other statutory vetting institutions with the training of Vetting Officers. It is believed that this will minimise the vulnerabilities for Defence Intelligence.
Prickly pears provided income

By Lt R.R. Bell, Communication Officer 6 SAI Bn

SA Infantry Battalion launched a project to uplift the community. One of the ideas that was implemented was Exercise PRICKLY PEAR introduced by WOI James Ocks, Occupational Health and Safety Officer. During this exercise members of the local community were invited to pick prickly pears inside the Training Area of 6 SAI Bn, which is known as Strelitzia Nature Reserve. The unit targeted members that are unemployed. On certain days more than fifty people participated. The exercise gave these members a small income for a few weeks over the period 17 February to 3 April 2003.

Committed to be transformed leaders

By Col Brian du Toit, SSO LCAMPS

A n extended Army Command Council meeting was held on 14 and 15 April 2003 at Kiepersol Officers’ Mess in Pretoria. The meeting was attended by all chief directors, directors, formation general officers commanding, group officers commanding and unit commanders. Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, presented his chief directors with a set of framed LCAMPS posters as a symbolic gesture of his commitment to the LCAMPS programme.

It was reiterated that LCAMPS is an imperative design principle essential for ongoing change currently being experienced in the DOD. Lt Gen Ramano also emphasised that today’s leaders in the SA Army had to move away from transactional styles of leadership to the more relevant and effective transformational style of leadership. Today’s challenges require transformational leadership approaches, however, a concern was also raised by Lt Gen Ramano that there were still some members within the organisation who neglected the fact that many changes had occurred over the last ten years and that change was an ongoing reality.

Lt Gen Ramano encouraged his commanders on all levels to take note of the advantages of transformational leadership and to apply the principles. He concluded by underlying the importance of the LCAMPS programme and for commanders to give their fullest support towards the positive benefits thereof. This symbolic gesture has once again underlined the commitment by the SA Army’s top management as an example towards institutionalising transformational leadership as a culture and way of life within the SA Army.

Scale modellers excel

Scale modelling and wargaming were launched during the Physical Training Sport and Recreation (PTSR) Indaba on 9 April 2003 and was received with enthusiasm by all the PTSR officers.

This paved the way for the first three members of the SANDF to attend the South African Scale Modelling National Championships.

Two members from the SA Army Armour Formation and one member from the SAMHS were selected to represent the SANDF at the championships.

The championships were hosted by the International Plastic Model Society of South Africa in Port Elizabeth from 18 to 20 April. This is the highest level of competition in South Africa for scale modellers. The following results were achieved: Lt Charl Ihlenfeldt of 1 Special Service Battalion, SA Armour Formation, achieved first place for the model entered - Best Powered Ship.

Sgt Charlie Deale of 1 Tank Regiment, SA Armour Formation, achieved first place for the model entered - Best SAAF Aircraft.

Col Bobby Keller from SAMHS Office was elected to the International Plastic Model Society National Committee as Public Relations Officer and the scale modelling representative for the SANDF.

The first SANDF Scale Modelling and Wargaming Championships are planned for 7 to 8 November 2003 at the SAAF Museum, Swartkop, and the next national championships will be held in Cape Town from 16 to 19 December 2004.

Any Regular and Reserve Force members who would like to get involved in this recreational activity can contact their PTSR officers in their regions or Col Bobby Keller at tel no: (012) 671 5493 or email: commshop@mweb.co.za
Address challenges head-on

By Capt (SAN) Willie van Niekerk, SSO Human Resource Strategic Planning

Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

"E 3 + R3"? This is the formula that will guide the management of the human resources of the DOD in the future. The formula forms the basis of the DOD Human Resource (HR) Strategy 2010, which aims to establish the most effective, efficient and economical (E3) human resource composition by having the right person in the right place at the right time (R3).

HR Strategy 2010 provides strategic direction for the management of the human resources of the DOD and forms the baseline for all HR planning activities. The strategy addresses the human resource challenges of the DOD head-on. It recognises that the DOD will only be able to achieve the objectives of the military strategy of the SANDF when the composition of its human resources is effective, efficient and economical.

Strategic Issues

The following are some of the critical human resource strategic issues which are identified in the strategy:

Affordability of Human Resources. Too much money is being spent on personnel, leaving too little for the proper running of the DOD (e.g., fuel, spare parts, training, exercises, accommodation and facilities).

One Force Model. The DOD is designed according to the so-called One Force Model. This means that all uniformed members of the SANDF (Regular Force and Reserve Force) and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) of the DOD are trained according to the same doctrine and the same standard. The lack of resources allocated to the Reserve Force in the past has, however, significantly reduced the capacity of this component of the One Force Model of the DOD.

Strategic Planning

SSO Human Resource

Having the right person in the right place at the right time.

Force Design, Force Structure and Post Establishment. The fact that the DOD has not yet assumed a final and stable size and shape constrains HR planning. It is therefore not yet clear for how many members of the SANDF the DOD has to plan over the medium to long term.

Flexible Service System (FSS). The way that the FSS (incorporating the Short, Medium and Long-term Service components) has been implemented has led to growing discrepancies in the rank-age profile of many members within certain mustergings. While due recognition is given to integration imperatives that led to the extraordinary translation of most former Non-statutory Force personnel to the Medium-term Service and Long-term Service, the expansion of this measure to include many former SADF and SANDF personnel as well has contributed to the ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the FSS. Unrealistic expectations of lifelong employment have also been created, which has led to stagnation and low morale. The current service system does not provide the SANDF with a cost-effective employment mechanism, nor with the ability to adjust force levels as required. Because of a lack of an appropriate mobility and exit mechanism, the current service system does not allow for a constant throughput of personnel that would ensure that the bulk of the deployable personnel of the SANDF remains young and fit. It does not provide a sufficient pool for the Reserve Force and does not adequately empower personnel for future careers in civil society.

Rank-age compared to mustering. Currently many members, especially in junior rank levels, are ineffective for operational deployment as they are too old for the physical demands of their ranks and mustergings, compared to members of the same rank in most other defence forces of Africa and the rest of the world. As they are older, most members also have families to look after. It would therefore be difficult to deploy such members for long periods away from home, for example on peace support missions outside the country.

Redeployment Mechanisms. The career management of the DOD process does not include appropriate mechanisms to prepare members for a second career and redeployment once they have completed their terms of service.

Health Status. The health status of many SANDF members who are unable to deploy outside the country, reduces the operational capability of the SANDF.

Representivity. Although the DOD has become broadly representative, there are certain levels and specialised combat, technical and professional mustergings which do not yet reflect the broad demographic composition of the RSA.

Loss of Expertise. The loss of expertise among all races constrains the operational capability of the DOD. This is mainly due to the “pull-effect” of the labour market. Higher salaries are offered by the private sector in many cases where specialised training, ability and experience are required.

Image of HR Management: HR service delivery must still improve further to render excellent customer service in line with the Batho Pele requirements of the Public Service. The support of the command line in adhering to prescripts is essential to prevent negative audit reports. Leave applications and roll-call discipline, assessment of
Desired end states

Given the above challenges, HR Strategy 2010 contains nine desired end states to be achieved through the attainment of no less than 84 high-level goals. The following desired end states should be achieved by 2010:

A Rejuvenated SANDF HR Composition. The HR composition of the SANDF will be mainly of young, fit and healthy personnel which will reduce the ageing and stagnation of the force.

A New Way in which Members Serve. The new service system of the SANDF, which is currently being phased in, should substantially reduce personnel expenditure. It should also ensure a larger throughput of personnel, which will reduce the ageing and stagnation of the force.

An Optimally Representative DOD. The DOD should be broadly representative of the demographic composition of the RSA at all levels and in all mustering and post classes.

Excellent HR Service Delivery. DOD personnel should experience HR service delivery to be comparable to the best to be found in other defence forces similar in size to the SANDF.

Harmony Between the Uniformed and Public Service Act Personnel Components. There should be a significant alignment between the uniformed and PSAP, without forgetting the unique identity and requirements of the two components.

Retained Operational and Functional Expertise. The DOD should be able to attract and retain scarce expertise.

Labour Peace. There should be sound labour relations at all management levels and all parties to the labour relationship should co-operate to ensure labour peace.

Execution

Edition 2 of the DOD HR Strategy 2010 was approved by the Plenary Defence Staff Council on 17 March 2003. The document is being distributed to all Services and Divisions and is also available on the DOD Intranet: http://www.policytest.mil.za:8080/dodd/DODI Pol & Plan No 52/2001. The strategy was also presented to Parliament’s Portfolio Committee and Joint Standing Committee on Defence and approved for implementation by Parliament. The DOD now has a sound strategy to direct HR planning and to bring about fundamental change in the HR composition of the DOD over the next few years. By 2010, the HR composition of the DOD should be effective, efficient and economical and South Africa should have an invigorated, youthful, empowered and properly representative defence force.
S A S O L D I E R  •  A U G U S T  2 0 0 3

The SANDF is on the march for peace

By Prof Theo Neethling, Faculty of Military Science (Military Academy) University of Stellenbosch - Abridged version of a paper delivered at the Biennial Conference of the South African Historical Society, University of the Free State in Bloemfontein on 30 June 2003.

Since the mid-1990s the South African government has embarked upon a process of planning for eventualities as regards peace missions. Against this background the White Paper on South African Participation in International Peace Missions (hereafter White Paper) was approved by Cabinet in October 1998 and tabled in Parliament in February 1999.

This document can be regarded as a crucial framework and guideline for South Africa’s participation in peace missions. Towards the end of 2002 the SANDF also clearly attached South Africa’s military-strategic objectives to “peacekeeping”.

While South Africa has clearly outlined its policy guidelines on participation in peace missions, the Government has practically moved to involve the SANDF in United Nations (UN) peace missions in two African states. Towards the end of 2000 an announcement was made that a number of South African officers would be deployed as military liaison officers to support the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Furthermore, in a significant announcement early in 2001, the South African government stated that South Africa would contribute elements of specialised units to the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC). Shortly after 96 members of the SANDF were deployed to the DRC as staff officers in various specialised roles.

It should be said that South Africa’s recent deployments could by no means be considered as big. Furthermore, at the time of writing no officers have been deployed in any combat or peace enforcement roles. Yet these deployments are of great interest from a South African foreign policy and security point of view. It also coincided with the deployment of between 600 and 700 South African troops in Burundi in October and November 2001 with a view to assisting in the peace process in that country. The aim of this paper is to analyse and reflect on South Africa’s evolving political-military profile in Africa with specific reference to the philosophical premises and political context that underpin and inform the involvement of the SANDF in international peace support.

Pursuing national interests and alleviating human suffering

The South African Government clearly links peace and stability in Africa and the region to the country’s national interest. The official South African stance - as outlined in the White Paper - is that South Africa “has an obvious interest in preserving regional peace and stability in order to promote trade and development, and to avoid the spillover effects of conflicts in the neighbourhood”.

Furthermore, in a public speech at the University of Pretoria on 27 February 2003, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, has pointed out that “the most obvious link with the national interest is the effect (of peacekeeping) on the economy of the sub-region and therefore of South Africa”.

The South African Defence Review - another important policy document - states that problems relating to political conflict in Africa are not confined within national borders. It is specifically mentioned that inter or intra-state conflicts may arise in Southern Africa and that such conflicts can pose a security threat to regional peace and stability, and thus to South Africa itself as an integral part of the Southern African community.

In a somewhat more altruistic tone, the White Paper also declares that it is in the South African national interest to assist peoples who suffer from famine, political repression, natural disasters and the scourge of violent conflict. In a similar vein, Gen Nyanda indicated that “[t]here is also the factor of altruism - the notion of doing something for the common good of mankind as a matter of principle. Typically, the situations which lead to peace missions involve great human distress, suffering and injustice”. Thus it seems that South Africa’s approach to participation in international peace missions not only links peace and stability in Africa and the region to the country’s national interests, but also indicates at a more altruistic level that the country should play a role in alleviating the suffering caused among Africans by the scourge of armed conflict.

South Africa and the African continent

The White Paper clearly makes the point that “although South Africa acknowledges its global responsibilities, the prioritisation afforded to Africa in South African foreign policy makes Africa the prime focus for future engagements”. This state of affairs is no coincidence since African...
South Africa has realised that its economic interest in Africa, South Africa is also strongly concerned with Africa’s well-being and future. South Africa’s current relations with the rest of the continent are especially concerned with the African Renaissance vision: Africa’s long-awaited upliftment - spiritual, technological, cultural, political, administrative and otherwise. It would seem that South Africa - with President Thabo Mbeki clearly at the helm - feels a strong responsibility for realising the “African dream”. To this end, one may argue that South Africa’s relations with the rest of Africa seem to rise from a genuine concern with the future of the continent and its people.

South Africa’s international role and profile

Some observers argued in the late-1990s that South Africa’s input in the African debate on peacekeeping had been fairly limited owing to the fact that the country was still relatively inexperienced in the field of peacekeeping, and because of a perceived reluctance to deploy troops in conflict situations. However, the South African government has officially declared its commitment to playing a meaningful role in Africa and the rest of the international community.

Against this background it is important to note that the White Paper (rightly) explicitly states that participation in peace missions is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for international respectability, and for a strong voice in supra-national organisations and in debates on multinational conflict management. With its contributions to UN peacekeeping between Eritrea and Ethiopia and in the DRC, as well as the peace support effort in Burundi, South Africa has clearly indicated its commitment to becoming involved in international peacekeeping endeavours. Therefore, it can be stated that South Africa has realised that participation in international peace support is important for playing a significant role in the international community, in Africa and in the regional environment.

Demands placed on South African leadership

After the political transformation of South Africa in 1994 there were growing expectations that South Africa would take up its responsibilities as a potential regional leader and to exert its influence in creating a stable region. It is interesting to note that the White Paper starts with an opening statement to the effect that since 1994 domestic and international expectations regarding South Africa’s role as a responsible and respected member of the international community has steadily grown.

It is evident from the White Paper that South Africa’s decision-makers became fully aware of international expectations that the country should play an increasingly significant political-military role in Africa, and that it was effectively compelled to enter the peace-support arena. Also, Gen Nyanda earlier asserted that “South Africa, has, relatively speaking, a wealth of resources and capabilities to contribute (to peace missions)... South Africa has involuntarily been thrust a leadership role into which ultimately serves South Africa’s national interest”.

Since the creation of the SANDF in 1994, the South African position on committing forces to peace missions may be described as “cautious”. Firstly, the practical difficulties of integrating seven formerly adversarial forces and of training them for peace missions seemingly elicited caution on the part of the DOD. The novelty of such operations is another important aspect upon which the DOD earlier urged caution because peace-support tasks were new to South Africa and the SANDF. This forms an important part of explanations concerning South Africa’s preference in the 1990s for a role of diplomatic peacemaker to that of military peacekeeper.

At the same time the Government has firmly declared, that as a member of the UN, South Africa must assist the world body in its peacekeeping task. Also, in the words of Gen Nyanda, “South Africa has just recently become widely involved in peace missions in Africa, and more deployments are on the horizon. After a healthy pause, post 1994, during which time the SANDF integrated and transformed, the SANDF is on the march - a march for peace, development and prosperity.”

Domestic concerns versus regional challenges

Since South Africa’s political transformation in 1994 much time, energy and resources have been directed towards the transformation of South African society in all its spheres. Likewise, domestic security issues - rather than regional security issues - normally topped the political agenda since the mid-1990s. Specifically, this concerns the personal security of the citizenry and unsatisfactorily high levels of crime. Furthermore, many ordinary citizens and politicians effectively argued for an emphasis on domestic priorities, such as socio-economic upliftment of the poor; promotion of economic growth; the need for improved education and health systems; disaster management; lack of foreign investment and so forth. However, it can be said that with South Africa’s entry into and involvement in international peace missions, the country is now casting its eyes beyond its northern borders.

It could be argued that South Africa’s involvement in peace missions in Africa implies that the country has effectively been moving away from an earlier "fortress mentality". This implies that South Africans have an interest in dealing with matters relating to the regional context. It could furthermore be said that South Africa sees itself as an integral part of the broader region, and that an isolationist approach on the part of South Africa would be to the country’s detriment.

As far as the SANDF is concerned, the intention now is seemingly to put more emphasis on external operations than on internal operations in support Continued on page 22
Continued from page 21

of the SA Police Service. Accordingly, Gen Nyanda stated that “[t]he commitment of forces to support the SAPS in crime prevention and borderline control has had to be reduced… This reduction will continue over the next few years.”

**Multilateral responses to security crises**

The complexity of the new global and regional distribution of power has resulted in a radically altered security paradigm. Recent global developments suggest that there is a growing need for multilateral political-military responses to crises. Thus within the dynamics of the post-Cold War global community, attitudes to strategic geography need to be viewed from a different perspective than before. Multinational operations are now the usual form of military activity: almost every major conflict of the past decades and all peacekeeping missions have involved combined forces. In fact, the unilateral use of force by any state today generally verges on the unthinkable.

Against this background, it is interesting to note that the White Paper states that the demise of the Cold War and the collapse of the ideological barriers that separated the world have vastly improved the potential of the international community to jointly address threats to common security. It is also mentioned that this situation has particularly resulted in the growing commitment to and co-operation with regard to conflict resolution that has emerged in various regional and international forums in recent years.

In this vein the South African Minister of Defence earlier contended that the promotion of international and regional security through participation in peace missions is among the contingencies for which we must be prepared and to which we are currently contributing. Thus it seems that South Africa today realises that it can not consider strategic and security issues purely by identifying (military) threats. Of even greater significance are global or regional responsibilities and common interests with other countries - and thus pursuing common security.

**Shortcomings and limitations of the UN**

Much was expected of the UN in the aftermath of the Cold War in the field of peacekeeping, but the world body proved unable to meet those expectations. Specifically, the UN has proved not to be in a position to deploy robust force postures that are able to conduct peace-enforcement operations in acute conflicts. In Africa, the UN’s experience in Somalia between 1992 and 1995 and in Rwanda between 1993 and 1996 were glaring examples of the UN’s limitations in terms of peacekeeping in ”complex emergencies”. Also, in Angola the UN terminated its involvement in the peace process in February 1999 after years of futile peacekeeping efforts by no less than four peace missions. The UN’s record in the DRC and Sierra Leone have been further proof that the UN is not in a position - actually quite unable - to respond swiftly and forcefully to ”complex emergencies” in Africa. In both cases the UN was practically impotent in averting escalating conflicts towards the end of the 1990s.

In view of this, an important development in the international community concerns the trend for regional role-players to accept co-responsibility and to share the burden of policing themselves. Basically, this trend concerns an approach to building global security on a strategy of co-option and devolution of responsibility from what remains a relatively weak international system of conflict prevention and management.

Against this background (sub)regional role-players in Africa are compelled to play a constructive role in security and peacekeeping. This is, of course, of special significance for South Africa as a sub-regional power. In fact, it is difficult to overstated South Africa’s position of strength in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Although there are certain practical limitations the ability of South Africa to impact upon the continent, it must be clear that the country is effectively compelled to play an active political-military role with a view to managing and resolving current and future conflicts.

**African contributions to international peacekeeping**

Considering Africa’s international position, it needs to be noted that the increase in troop contributions to the UN system has mainly been the result of developing countries contributing troops to peacekeeping operations. At the beginning of 1991, out of the top ten contributors to UN missions worldwide, only two were developing countries, namely Ghana and Nepal. Ten years later the overwhelming majority of the top ten contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide were developing countries - three of them were African states, namely Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana.

As far as South Africa’s involvement in peacekeeping is concerned, it has been publicly stated in February 2003 that about 900 SANDF members were deployed on African soil. The prospect of another 1 268 SANDF members to be deployed within the framework of an expanded MONUC was also announced, which has in the mean time materialised with South African deployments to war-torn Kindu in the DRC towards June 2003. In the words of Gen Nyanda, “Our goal is to have the capacity to deploy between four and six battalions by 2004” and that “South Africa could become one of the foremost contributors of forces for peace missions.” Shortly after this public statement, it has been reported that an AU peacekeeping force is destined for Burundi and that the SANDF would play a leading role in this respect and also increase the figures of if its troop contributions in that regard.

**Prudent entrance into peacekeeping**

It should be noted that South Africa has entered the peace-support domain at a time when “polite peacekeeping” is over. Specifically, this relates to UN deployments where peace settlements have been agreed upon but not implemented. The UN’s traumatic and dismal experience in.
Sierra Leone in 2001, for instance, is a case in point.

According to Gen Nyanda the SANDF realises that the environment for peace missions in Africa is particularly "complex and challenging". Considering the challenges to peacekeepers and given South Africa's earlier inexperience in the field of practical peacekeeping, the country has entered the peacekeeping arena only in a support role. However, it is important that in the case of MONUC (in the DRC), South Africa has contributed in certain fields where few African states are able to contribute, and which have been in demand in earlier peace missions in Africa.

At the same time, it may be argued that the real test will surely be the deployment of larger numbers of South African peacekeepers in conflict situations - especially in peace enforcement roles. In fact, it has been acknowledged on the part of the military that "the SANDF has not yet felt where its limit may lie". Thus the capabilities and preparedness of the South African military to engage in peace missions might be put to the test in the short to medium term under more challenging circumstances.

Conclusion

From what has been said it is clear that South Africa today regards itself as an integral part of Africa and that the government officially holds the view that instability and insecurity, especially in Southern Africa, is to the detriment of the country. From a political, economic and security perspective, South Africa maintains that an approach of isolationism would not be in South Africa's interest.

As parts of the international community continues to minimise its military involvement on the African continent, and as stability in the region remains an ongoing challenge, requests within the region and further afield for increased South African political-military involvement can be expected. Although the White Paper firmly makes the point that preventive diplomacy, peace building and peace making (in the diplomatic sense) are the essential pillars of conflict resolution, the SANDF is geared for and clearly does not shy away from the fact that it may become even more involved in peacekeeping. It is clearly envisaged that the SANDF could become one of the foremost contributors of forces for international peacekeeping.

It also seems that the South African government holds the view that it has no choice but to accept participation in peacekeeping as a foreign policy priority, and that the country should continue to systematically engage in challenges of a peacekeeping nature. Apart from its political and economic interest in Africa, South Africa is strongly concerned with Africa's well-being and future. To this end, South Africa's current relations with the rest of the continent would seem to be underpinned and informed by a combination of national interest and altruism. In addition, international and regional developments have also compelled South Africa to commit the SANDF to peace support. In view of this, the SANDF has become involved in peace missions and, in the words of its Chief, "more deployments are on the horizon".

Finally, it has been mentioned that South Africa's peacekeeping contributions in recent times have been fairly limited and that no officers have thus far been deployed in combat or peace enforcement roles. However, these contributions are certainly significant and have surely increased the country's peacekeeping profile in political and military terms. Moreover, the recent additional deployments to the DRC have considerably boosted the country's practical contributions to international peace support. In view of this Gen Nyanda has spelled out: "South Africa and the SANDF are unquestionable going to play an important role in peace missions in Africa over the next decade. The needs and expectations are great".
International Environmental Day celebrated on 5 June 2003 is about the environment, birds, bees and how human beings are part of the equation.

The SANDF Environmental Awards held on this day at the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane honours not only the recipients, but also the parents, teachers and community leaders who teach children not to litter or that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away". For it is such pieces of advice that make a child aspire to protect the world.

Every single South African is born with a direct link to the environment, a relationship so often undermined by some and scorned by many. Humanity is expected to take from the environment all that is required while at the same time conscientiously making the effort to maintain a balance that is sustainable so that provision is made for tomorrow.

The SANDF Environmental Awards acknowledge those units and individuals that go the extra mile to ensure that the environment is looked after as the people endeavour to live off it.

Concentrate on what we have.

Front, fltr: Sgt Tania Snyman (AFB Louis Trichardt), Col D.T. Delcarme (AFB Louis Trichardt), WO2 Chengan (ASB Durban), Cpl Dharma Thumbiran (ASB Durban), Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (Deputy Minister of Defence), Lt Col Frans Furstenburg (ASB Oudtshoorn), Capt Rod Jefferey (RFIM Cape Town), WO1 Piet Nortjé (121 SAI Bn) and Col Philip van Dyk (ASB Potchefstroom). Back, fltr: Maj Roy Bosman (ASB Durban), Capt Martin van Jaarsveld (AFB Louis Trichardt), Capt Marais (ASB Kimberley), Brig Gen Pierre du Plessis (AFB Hoedspruit), Brig Gen Rod Penhall (AFB Waterkloof), WO1 (Ret) D.C. Swart (SAS SALDANHA), Capt (SAN) Rob Shelley (SAS SALDANHA), Brig Gen Bobo Moerane (DOD Log Sup Fmn), Capt Hennie Davel (RFIM Polokwane) and Capt Deon van Tonder (ASB Potchefstroom).
Because water is one of Africa’s scarce resources the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. It is the view of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) that unless local wetlands are rehabilitated, South Africa will not have enough fresh water by the year 2020.

The Water Affairs and Environmental Departments together with the Mondi Wetlands Project (MWP) are currently involved in a programme designed to reverse the situation and rehabilitate the Ntsikeni Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape, according to a newspaper article. The Ntsikeni Wetland and its catchment area which is situated near Kokstad was declared a reserve because it is one of the few remaining high-altitude wetlands which has good water, the article further indicated.

Noted in the article is the fact that 50% of South Africa’s wetlands supply water to millions of poor people who do not have access to drinkable water, except for the water from the wetlands, and that so far the repair work has cost the government and the MWP R3.4 million. The article also praised the Government’s new Water Act as probably “one of the best water acts in the world” and that it could help alleviate the situation.

Presenting the DOD Annual Environmental Awards, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, announced that the trials for the Environment Management System would commence within the next month. She said, “This is a major achievement and a milestone in the history of the environment function in the DOD, which ushers in an entirely new frontier in the military integrated environment management.”

“Another milestone I wish to mention is that of the 2003 International Conference on Military Integrated Environmental Management which will be jointly hosted by the Defence Department of South Africa-United States Committee (DEFCOM),” continued the Deputy Minister of Defence.

The welcome event where environmental scientists, military training area managers and military planners from around the globe can share expertise will take place during the first week of August 2003. About 120 local and foreign military delegates from all over the world are expected to attend.

Ms Madlala-Routledge congratulated those military units, bases and individuals that “stand out” by their achievements in environment performance. She said that this furthermore served as a commitment to civil society and other state organs and that the SANDF takes seriously its role as the custodian of our national heritage.

The SA National Parks Floating Trophy was awarded to Army Support Base Oudtshoorn for the highest level of military integrated environmental management in the DOD.

Army Support Base Potchefstroom won the Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for ecological management, the Keep Durban Beautiful Award for integrated waste management, as well as the Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for environmental education and training categories. ASB Potchefstroom was also the runner-up for the Caltex Floating Trophy in the base environmental management category.

After an absence of two years 121 SA Infantry Battalion was awarded the Caltex Floating Trophy for base environmental management and was also joint winner in the integrated waste management category. The unit’s good performance also earned it the place of runner-up in the ecological management category.

The Conservamus Floating Trophy for environmental services was awarded to Cpl Dharma Thumbiran of Army Support Base Durban. The team of Col Phillip van Dyk and Capt Deon van Tonder of Army Support Base Potchefstroom were worthy runners-up. Another worthy runner-up in the Conservamus competition was Capt Hennie Davel of the Regional Facilities Interface Managers Office in Polokwane.

Army Support Base Durban was awarded the Aquator Award for the efficient use of water, and was appointed a runner-up in the environmental education and training competition.

Ms Madlala-Routledge challenged all participants to increase the degree of environmental performance and involvement, especially in the areas of integrated waste management and energy and water efficiency.
Honoured for excellent service

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Chief of Joint Training Medal Parade was held at the Personnel Service School in Pretoria on 30 May 2003. This was the first medal parade for the Chief of Joint Training.

At the parade Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) were also honoured for their devotion and excellent service.

The Director Policy and Doctrine at the Joint Training Division, Brig Gen Adriaan Kleynhans, was the chief functionary.

During his address, Brig Gen Kleynhans said the recipients and employees of the DOD have distinguished themselves in one way or the other and share the same allegiance to the cause of defence in a democracy. He also added that they are indeed a splendid example of the values as set out in the SANDF and the Code of Conduct of the DOD.

“The true strength of a defence force is not its size or weapons, but the calibre of its human resources. We have proved that it is the combined richness of different backgrounds, experience and shared loyalty to South Africa which is the making of a vibrant, modern defence force geared to face any adversity. We at Joint Training have an immense sense of responsibility towards the training, education and development of all personnel in the DOD,” said Brig Gen Kleynhans.

According to Brig Gen Kleynhans training has to play a major role in building the SANDF and the DOD and that it will not only be the pride of all our people, but will also enjoy the trust and respect of other African countries and the rest of the world. It is expected of the SANDF to play a stabilising role in our democracy and also in the region. The role of education, training and development is becoming more and more important with each step towards closer co-operation between South Africa and the South African Development Community (SADC) and other African countries.

“There are also very good learning opportunities offered by other African defence forces and it was heartening to realise that the DOD does not have to rely solely on overseas training support any more. The transformation process of the DOD, and specifically the training environment, has not been completed yet. There are still some challenges ahead and everyone of us on parade has a role to play. The time required to reach a stable end state will depend on our ability and willingness to be part of the solution and not by criticising or sitting back and waiting for someone else to generate the solutions,” concluded Brig Gen Kleynhans.

Brig Gen Adriaan Kleynhans hands over the Operational Medal for Southern Africa to Lt Col Mongezi Qupe.

Brig Gen Adriaan Kleynhans hands over the Joint Training Formation Certificate to Dr (Ms) S. Breytenbach in appreciation of meritorious service and her excellent contribution towards the Joint Training Formation.
Music revives our hearts

A highly successful and well-attended choir festival took place in Fundundzi Hall at ASB Pietersburg on 21 May 2003. Fourteen choirs participated in the event and the large enthusiastic audience and three adjudicators were impressed by the high standard of choral performances.

The indigenous African songs were especially appreciated. Songs included numbers, such as "Samajoro" a humorous choral number describing a particular sergeant major with eyes resembling those of a tortoise (presented by the Technical Maintenance Service Centre choir).

In "Tsela di matlapa" (uneven road) the choir enthusiastically stamped their feet to prevent them from stepping into the road potholes (Group 14 HQ choir).

The PSAP Facility Maintenance choir sang about driving to heaven in the "Koloi ya Elia" in which they gave a descriptive visual rendering of steering wheels directing their cars to heaven.

A male vocal choir won the first prize, which was awarded to the Technical Maintenance Service Centre choir.

The Facility Maintenance choir won the second prize and the third place was awarded to the Group 14 HQ choir.

All choirs should take note that this ASB Pietersburg Choir Competition is in line with the recent Chief of the SA Army Instruction for regional and national band and choir competitions to take place throughout the SA Army in 2003.

Read and learn

it is my wish that all naval members, whether they be officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers or Public Service Act Personnel within the SA Navy avail themselves of the many opportunities to read and to consult on matters of maritime interest," said R Adm Roefilu Mudimu, Chief Naval Staff.

"The SA Navy has well-stocked reference library facilities in Simon’s Town and Pretoria for this purpose. Such reading is core to professionalism and to maintaining the necessary knowledge and skill required to remain unchallenged at sea.

Furthermore, acquiring such knowledge will allow the men and women of the SA Navy to enter into conversation with officers of flag rank and with each other. It will allow for professional naval dialogue to be entered into with credibility in the international naval community with confidence and self-assuredness. This is essential to establish and maintain a navy of which we may be proud and which the people of South Africa deserve.”

R Adm Roefilu Mudimu, Chief Naval Staff.
A silence that could kill.

By Dr I. Bux, A/So1 Med AMHU KZN, HIV Master Trainer

Across the road from the Durban Exhibition Centre and the International Convention Centre is a park, which many will have walked past if they visit Durban. There is a giant red ribbon in the park and you may have read the plaque commemorating the life of Gugu Dlamini.

Gugu Dlamini may not be known to many people, but she was stoned to death for disclosing her HIV status on World AIDS Day a couple of years ago. This park stands as a symbol of the discrimination that many people living with HIV/AIDS have to endure.

Nothing illustrates the global impact of discrimination and intolerance better than the global AIDS epidemic, which has become one of the greatest tragedies and challenges of our times.

This was the framework upon which Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal recently launched its Masibambisane "Breaking the Silence" campaign.

HIV/AIDS is the biggest threat that the SANDF and the country has ever faced, and is likely to face in the millennium. Yet people are still too scared to talk about this plague. In contrast to the screams of the hysterical media, raising the subject still causes embarrassed giggles followed by silence. If we do not make an effort to destigmatise the problem and discuss it openly, it is a silence that could kill. People diagnosed with HIV infection take on the added burden of moral judgement, shame and stigma. They often choose to hide their status for fear of negative repercussions. So they live with a carefully guarded secret that undoubtedly masks the face of AIDS.

Discrimination, isolation and rejection consequently instil fear of disclosing their HIV status. People fear to come forward for testing. The magnitude of the discrimination and stigma is both enormous and debilitating. The death of Gugu Dlamini provides a brutal testament of such hatred and ignorance. Even though its presence is felt, this disease is not usually mentioned by name. In some cases, the silence is tied up with superstition and ignorance. Mostly, however, it is linked to shame. The experience of Gugu Dlamini, coupled with ongoing prejudice, is driving the problem underground. A culture of silence is created where people suffer in loneliness without access to the support that is available to them.

The Masibambisane "Breaking the Silence" launch in KwaZulu-Natal set out to break the stubborn silence that pervades the epidemic. The event created a platform to encourage people to come forward for testing, embrace the treatment and support that SAMHS offers, and have the courage to disclose their status. The Officer Commanding of Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal implored guests at the colourful function to "encourage HIV positive members to disclose their status, share the reality of living with HIV, challenge
perceptions about who can and who cannot become infected, and to reduce the distance between those with and without the virus”.

The KwaZulu-Natal launch was part of the national Masibambisane campaign in the DOD. The phased approach of the Masibambisane campaign saw nine linked sub-themes, with each province having the pleasure of launching one sub-theme. The “Breaking the Silence” sub-theme is a component of a wider sub-theme comprising “Know Your Status, Breaking the Silence and Guard Your Status”. The campaign sets out to encourage voluntary testing and counselling, to encourage disclosure in a supportive environment and to illustrate the importance of shared confidentiality.

Most speakers echoed the fact that HIV and AIDS is shrouded in secrecy and silence in many countries. People do not talk about HIV. However, there are some strong HIV positive people who choose to respond to their life situation rather than become victims to it. They are people who, in the face of adversity, decide to step out and educate others.

Only a small percentage of people with HIV take this brave step. One such person, Sgt Philisiwe Ntshangase, broke her silence at the launch in a moving disclosure of her status. Sgt Ntshangase, the GIPA representative from SAMHS HQ, emphasised that the relief of lifting the burden of secrecy outweighs any negative consequences. She also stressed that people living with HIV do not expect a special attitude from others. They simply ask not to be judged! Her speech helped break the denial that envelops HIV. Everyone realised that AIDS is no longer an abstract intangible, but a friend, a colleague or a relative.

HIV has become an epidemic that is destroying more lives than all the armed conflicts raging today. It is a stark reality that unless we curtail its spread, HIV will impact on the ability of the SANDF to fulfil its political mandate. There is no easy answer. No quick fix. No magic bullet. While we wait in the hope of a vaccine or a cure, we have to form strategic alliances with all role players, in order ultimately to work together for a common purpose.

Everyone has a role to play and the entire DOD has to be mobilised against it. If HIV had been a human enemy on our border threatening to kill a quarter of the population, we could appeal to people’s patriotism to serve on the front and repel the enemy. In HIV’s case, the front is in everyone’s home.

However, HIV/AIDS is not a death sentence. Yes, it’s hard to live with it; but it is a challenge that you can face and overcome whether you are male or female, black or white, rich or poor, positive or negative. The ultimate challenge is to foster an openness about HIV and break all the silences that are immense barriers to effective responses to the epidemic.

One is reminded of the profound words of former President Nelson Mandela at the closing ceremony of the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban: “It is never my custom to use words lightly. If 27 years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of the solitude to make us understand how precious words are, and how real speech is in its impact upon the way people live or die”.

Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal trusts that the “Breaking the Silence” launch and the spirit of Masibambisane will spark a cascade of broken silences in the SANDF and across the country.

Sukuma! Stand up! Break the Silence! End the stigma! Stop the Spread!

Taking health seriously

By PO Dennis Ndaba

The Area Military Health Unit (AMHU) Gauteng held a workshop for regional unit commanders at the Leribisi Lodge in Pretoria on 13 and 15 May 2003. The aim of the workshop was to educate and empower all regional unit commanders on health management. Some of the topics discussed included the concept of health at AMHU level, the Military Community Development Committee (MCDC) Policy, legal implications with regard to health, concurrent health assessments at unit level, as well as health prevention and training at unit level, home based care. The commanders also had the opportunity for a panel discussion.

During the workshop, Maj (Dr) Sally Buckton, SO1 Med at AMHU Gauteng, stressed that it was important for commanders not to assume the medical classification of their subordinates. She also outlined the challenges facing AMHUs owing to the lack of co-operation from units and last minute requests or demands for personnel to be deployed.
Attention all Warrant Officers of the Army

By Maj Gen J. Jooste, Chief Director Army Force Structure

This letter is a well-meant input from a fellow soldier who happens to be an officer and a general. The message is clear and simple and applies to every different force in the world: "The warrant officers hold in their hands the soul of our Army." This then begs the question - are you aware of this unwritten, almost unqualified and staggering responsibility?

You will have to decide what attitude you will adopt when reading this letter and, ultimately, whether there will be any action forthcoming from it. The letter is also only the product of one soldier with a specific mindset, but it should appeal to all warrant officers to a greater or lesser extent. It is sincerely hoped that action will be taken rather than that the matter should be strategised or debated.

The Warrant Officer

In an era of management and many new techniques and methods to apply resources and to get results, the principles of war have remained the same. Armies the world over has changed dramatically and the SA Army is halfway through a transformation process, but some uniqueness remains. An example of this is the post of warrant officer. This unique post is at the upper end of the NCO rank scale where interaction with ordinary soldiers is as important as interaction with the officer cadre.

The post of "supervisor" cannot really be equated with anything similar in the private sector. Some comparisons might put it into context:

- The Warrant Officer is the factory floor supervisor where all resources must be employed optimally to get results.
- He or she is a "shop steward" and a nodal point for positive and negative inputs from the work force.
- This person is a master facilitator who knows how to convey the intent of management down to the lowest level. Likewise the views and inputs from the lowest echelons can be conveyed to the top structure in a meaningful way.
- In more common sense military terms this person is a parental figure. A person old enough to be wise and young enough to be action orientated. He or she knows that "People do not care to listen until you show them you care". Only then will his or her appointment be ratified in the hearts of all subordinates so that real trust and respect will glue together NCOs and men into a team that will vigorously follow orders.

A Warrant Officer who is not first and foremost focussed on his or her subordinates is of little use. This position becomes meaningful, and even powerful, when the bulk of soldiers are united in their focus and efforts because of the parental role of a Warrant Officer who continuously ensures their best benefit and care and who communicates orders in understandable terms to ensure that they are carried out to best effect.

Warrant Officers are those people who ensure outputs in the face of adversity, limited resources and multiple challenges.

They are masters of improvisation and eternal optimists. Officers and men alike look up to them in difficult times.

They are the epitleme of "When the going gets tough gets going". They instill enthusiasm and confidence and often achieve success because the example they set inspires the soldiers to give of their best at all times.

Sincere, repetitive or simple enough. This calls for an explanation:

Sincerity is the key to the soldier’s heart and mind. It cannot be fabricat-ed and Warrant Officers would be wise to remember that it is sometimes easier to mislead the officer than the soldier. Soldiers have a "nose" for sincerity. They will endure hardship and make sacrifices if they believe that they are respected as human beings and that somebody really listens to them and looks after their welfare. The "acid test" for sincerity will be concrete reaction to their inputs and complaints. It will manifest in simple things like good meals, cooldrinks after the route march, acknowledge ment and praise, and ultimately guaranteed support if problems are sorted out when they are in trouble. The Warrant Officer is the main actor in this drama. From where he sits, he has a view of this "stage of life" (if he appreciates the drama of soldiering) and can act appropriately.

Repetitiveness is almost a virtue. Who in this world has heard something once and has then acted accordingly and made the order or instruction a way of life. Not even in ordinary households can parents tell their children once what to do and what not. It needs to be repeated and Warrant Officers must be masters of "Repetition without boredom" - that art of catching the attention, of dramatising the message and of taking a new angle every time. This is then done until the message has really been conveyed and the required behaviour or drill has been institutionalised. Of course this approach requires involvement and time spent with the NCOs and soldiers. It
necessitates good communication, excellent instruction and follow-up. It also requires good listening skills to determine how the message has been received rather than judgement from a senior perspective and the infamous "but I told them" syndrome.

Simplicity is the key to successful military outcomes, that fine art of distinguishing between cardinal and unimportant aspects in any situation, ie the habit of refining and simplifying officers' orders and instructions into "soldiers' language". Warrant Officers who avoid the trap of technical jargon and what is perceived to be "strategic talk" are the ones who are understood and the ones who spend more time on getting action and output than on eloquent speeches and documents that have little bearing on achieving the aim.

Profile and characteristics

It is not argued that the Warrant Officer must not exercise and develop his or her cognitive and intellectual capacity or that he or she cannot contribute in this regard. A strong case is, however, made out that Warrant Officers get things done - "They walk the talk and don't talk the walk".

A useful concept that is very applicable to the world of the Warrant Officer is the so-called ODA loop - to observe, to decide and to act.

This Army badly needs Warrant Officers who are "situational aware", ie experienced soldiers who have a keen eye for the symptoms of good or bad discipline, but also a smart sense of what the commander's intent is. Warrant Officers must be observant and they must interpret what they see, hear or sense. They must never tolerate bad performance, but they must observe to assess and understand the quality of the meal, the maintenance of a vehicle, the standard of marksmanship, the correct filling in of documents, the correct radio procedures and plain and simple good discipline. This requires energy, presence and involvement and not occasional inspections and, heaven forbid, briefing. Warrant Officers "manage by walking around" rather than working through endless reports, faxes and emails.

Decisiveness is the next step in the ODA loop. Even though Warrant Officers are mandated to decide by virtue of their appointments, this is no substitute for the energy, passion and will to do something and to ensure that the right soldier is in the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment ready for the task. Once again, it is dangerous if the Warrant Officers start writing reports and holding meetings instead of making on the spot decisions about what is right or wrong or at least acceptable or unacceptable.

Needless to say, this decision is the door to action. Warrant Officers should be wary of "paralysis through analysis". Act now and act decisively to root out bad discipline, but also reward and reinforce positive behaviour. In the day-to-day running of the Army, the good Warrant Officer intuitively knows what is right or wrong. The danger is the habit of accepting many wrong things so that the lines become blurred and standards watered down. Decisive but sober and mature action under all conditions is the greatest contribution of professional Warrant Officers.

If the Warrant Officers discharge their duties in the above-mentioned fashion, they stand a good chance of becoming role models for NCOs and soldiers. This powerful position and influence stem from the fact that the learning experience of an Army military practitioner is divided as follows:

1. 20% learning takes place during formal learning opportunities, such as courses.
2. 40% is learnt through experience in the workplace.
3. 40% more is learnt from role models. These are models that subordinates respect - even admire, and they strive to emulate their example. Example is the best general "order" and must be one of the mottoes of Warrant Officers, and this of course should urge and encourage all to increase and maintain the required knowledge, skills and attitude to be able to lead by example. This can be elaborated as follows:

Warrant Officers must be knowledgeable as military practitioners and, in general, they must keep up to date. To be contemporary and up to date with technological, social, political and economical tendencies will enable them to relate to the officers' corps and to ensure the right context for what they must do at their level. Crucially important though is a basic military knowledge and to be on top of the day-to-day situation in units, formations and offices. There is no substitute for "hands on" knowledge of people and circumstances.

It would be a sad day if Warrant Officers lose skills such as drilling, weapon handling, radio communication, and logistic support. People in this group must be able to advise, surprise, demonstrate and set the example when it comes to basic soldiering and military skills. The role model of NCOs and soldiers requires that they continually strive for high standards in all respects. The emphasis on "basics" is a personal view, but it is realised that in today's world Warrant Officers need also to master contemporary skills such as negotiation, labour relations and computer literacy.

Above all, Warrant Officers must have a positive attitude, not only when the going is even and easy, but also more specifically when the realities must be accepted as they are of an Army in transformation. Attitude is determined by character and the inherent will to succeed despite adverse conditions. Crucial for a positive attitude at the Warrant Officer level is the self-discipline to act vigorously when the situation requires it, to advise in a meaningful way, but also to accept those aspects over which they have no influence. To focus on the area of influence, to be aware of interaction in the area of interest and to accept the area of concern is an emotional choice that Warrant Officers must make. Because they continuously interact with senior management they are often lured into spending emotional energy and time on aspects that they can do nothing about. Warrant Officers should be occupied with the practical side of Army life and how to make things work, within given parameters, and with the resources allocated.
The Sixth Armoured Car Regiment of the South African Tank Corps had been fighting in Libya and Egypt as part of the Eighth Army for about a year when the crew of one on patrol outside El Alamein, the bleak little Karoo-like railway siding in the desert 96 km west of Alexandria, brought their armoured car skidding to a halt, unable to believe their eyes.

It was 16 November 1942 and they had come across two bedraggled black men staggering through the arid terrain of the Western (or Libyan) Desert.

The two, L Cpl Job Masego and Pte Samuel Masiya, said they were stretcher-bearers in the Native Military Corps and, after blowing up an enemy cargo ship, had escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp at Tobruk on the Libyan coast after the charismatic Gen Erwin Rommel had captured that Allied fortress.

Masego told him that, while the white men were doing the fighting, there were all kinds of other jobs in the army: driving trucks, cooking, working in field hospitals, and becoming stretcher-bearers in the Medical Corps.

Masego enlisted and, after basic training, was sent to East Africa and then to Egypt with the Second South African Division.

In Egypt this division was set to work digging trenches at El Alamein, a job they hated: after all, they had come to fight Rommel, the legendary German general who was running rings around the Allied generals.

The digging done, elements of the Second Division were sent to Tobruk, a key fortress on the coast after the charismatic Gen Erwin Rommel had captured that Allied fortress.

The answer came when he was sent with other prisoners to offload supplies of food from a ship anchored in the harbour. He could blow up this ship and put a spoke in the wheel of the Germans.

The question was how to do it? Before breaking for lunch, the men were told that they would be carrying cases of ammunition and drums of petrol aboard.

Masego decided that this would give the best chance of blowing up
the ship. Masego rallied some of his fellow prisoners, including Samuel Masiya, to distract the attention of the guards just before knocking-off time while he set about placing the bomb.

The others played their part, engaging the three bored guards in conversation while Masego slipped back through the loading hatch into the hold, took the bomb from his haversack, placed it in position and laid the home-made fuse from a hole in the condensed milk tin to within a short distance from the hatch above his head.

He covered the tin with straw and poured petrol over the bomb and nearby petrol drums.

Masego lit a cigarette and climbed back on to the deck, where he bent down to close the hatch, at the same time touching the fuse with the burning tip of his cigarette. Unnoticed, Masego rejoined his mates and they were taken back to their camp.

By now it was dark and Masego waited impatiently with his eyes on the harbour. Suddenly there was a

sheet of flame from the direction of the harbour and a series of explosions.

A guard marched up and ordered the prisoners into their tent, where they spent the rest of the night on tenterhooks lest the guards suspect them of complicity in the explosion.

Next morning, when the prisoners were marched to the docks to resume their loading operations, there was no sign of the ship, but the tops of its masts stuck out of the water and there were drums floating about.

In a little while a trio of German officers interrogated the men, wanting to know such details as whether any of them had smoked while on board, or had seen a mine, which they described as a large red ball, floating in the harbour.

The men said they possessed no cigarettes, since this was not allowed by their captors, and that they had not seen a red ball in the water.

A couple of nights later, L Cpl Masego and Pte Masiya escaped from Tobruk and, hiding by day and walking by night, headed into the desert in a direction they hoped would lead them to friendly lines. They walked for 23 days, their only food a few scraps saved from their pitiful daily rations.

They had walked almost as far as El Alamein, later to be the focus of a spectacular artillery bombardment by Gen Bernard Montgomery, when a patrolling armoured car of the Second South African Division came across them and took them to a transit camp at Mersa Mattru, where they told their amazing story to army intelligence officers.

The date was 16 November 1942 and Rommel’s Afrika Korps had already been defeated. On the morning of 13 November South African armoured cars re-entered Tobruk and it was not long before Royal Navy divers investigated the spot indicated by Masego where, single-handed, he had sunk the German supply ship.

Masego died in a train accident in 1952 at the age of 37. He was given a pauper’s funeral in the Payneville township cemetery in Springs.
Manage the environment with care

Environmentalists, members of civil society, stakeholders in environmental policies and issues were guests of Chief of Joint Support, Lt Gen Themba Matanzima, at a facilities and environment seminar held at the Bluff Military Base, KwaZulu-Natal on 22 May 2003.

The seminar drew speakers from the SANDF and private sector to speak on environmental issues. The aim of the seminar was threefold, namely to promote open communication on military related environmental issues to all interested and affected parties; to demonstrate how the SANDF environmental services ensure the environmentally sustainable management of military land and facilities and to outline the SANDF Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) for Defence.

Col Seakle Godschalk, SSO Environmental Services of the SANDF, welcomed the guests at the seminar. Brig Gen Sipho Ndabula, Director Facilities, made a presentation on the structure of the DOD. The guests were surprised at the well-organised and protocol procedures of the DOD structure.

The mission of the DOD is to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of South Africa. To perform this task it requires a variety of resources including personnel, funds, equipment, land and buildings. The SANDF requires land to accommodate its infrastructure to test weaponry and to train personnel.

Col Seakle Godschalk stated to the guests that when it comes to green soldiering, we can hold our heads up high. The DOD has been waging a “green war” since 1978 and is one of the leading defence forces in conserving the environment it utilises. Col Godschalk, with 23 years environmental experience, is probably the longest serving military environmental officer in the world.

Ms Annie van de Venter, Head of Archaeology of AMAFA KZN, did a presentation on Culture Resource Management. Ms Van de Venter
highlighted the cultural resource management programme, which included the KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act 10 of 1997. She went on to explain that legally, national monuments no longer existed and KZN was at present the only province with such an Act. "The basis of the Act was to protect heritage resources." In keeping with this policy the DOD has adopted numerous policies and programmes that serve to conserve and care for certain historical sites under its control. It was highlighted that landowners have a legal responsibility to practice cultural resource management. Buildings older than sixty years and places with cultural significance and historical settlements, being classified as heritage resources, must be preserved.

In August 2003 South Africa will play host to a global conference on military integrated environmental management that will be attended by representatives from about thirty countries from all continents.

Brig Gen Ndabula will co-chair the conference along with American expert, Curtis Bowling. South Africa has been working with the US Department of Defense and NATO on environmental issues since 1997.

Ms Mari van der Merwe, Minimisation of Waste Co-Ordinator for Keep Durban Beautiful Association, said: "From this seminar it is clearly evident that the SANDF has shown transparency, management plans and its commitment to the environment and historical sites. The SANDF with no doubt leads the way in facilities and environmental management."

The guests also had the opportunity to watch a video "We manage with care", which documents the role the SANDF plays in managing the environment.

Mr Nardus van Heerden, Town Planner for eThekwini Municipality, made a very interesting presentation of the historic Bluff Headland. He explained that the plans were nearing completion and the main focus would be on positioning the Bluff Crest View Site as "a gateway to the city. We understand that this is a very sensitive environment and appreciate input from the public", he stated.

"We have also been approached by an organisation to construct a peace centre that would focus on conflict resolution," said Mr Van Heerden. "This is something we will definitely look into." The guests were taken on a tour of the Bluff area where they were shown the World War nine-inch guns sites, historical buildings and tunnelling system.

At the conclusion of the seminar guests had the opportunity to watch a play presented by members of Army Support Base Durban on "The Strawberry Family's Water Saving Syndrome". Lt Col Chris Craig-Mackie, Officer Commanding Army Support Base Durban stated that the play was presented during National Water Week. The performance combined with music and humour was used to convey the message of water conservation.

Ms Nokuthula Mcinga, Environmental Officer of the National Ports Authority of South Africa, said: "The seminar has taken the SANDF a mile further in showing us that the SANDF is not only about guns and battle plans. The Environmental Implementation Plan clearly demonstrates the bigger picture of how military people take care of facilities and the environment. There is clearly a direction of where they are going. My sincere thanks to the organisers of this seminar for their efficiency and professionalism.

"We that serve in the SANDF commit ourselves to the environmental obligation placed upon us by the Corporate Environmental Policy Statement for Defence: Accepting responsibility for sustainable use of the environment entrusted to us. We will always manage with care."
Contribute to the African Renaissance

By Lt Ditebogo Nare, SO3 Sust, Maint and Comm, LCAMPS Section

Some might question the important role that the Defence has to play in this grand vision of an African Renaissance, since a Renaissance brings to mind the burgeoning of new ideas and values, the flowering of art and culture, the progress of science, and the growth of technology, as well as productivity and prosperity. "The Defence Force reinforces this Renaissance by guaranteeing peace and security and always has acted as a driver in developing technology," said the late Mr Joe Modise, the former Minister of Defence in 1997, "SA Navy and African Renaissance".

Recently more has been heard about the African Renaissance from the African community, especially politicians. Soldiers may wonder what they have to do with the concept. It is, however, of the utmost importance for us as soldiers to know where we fit in with the concept rather than to assume that it is just another political issue. Our role in the armed forces is necessary to secure a country and its citizens. Economic development cannot be sustained in an environment that is characterised by large-scale violence and general instability, although the existence of political stability, peace and security can provide an investor-friendly environment, thus contributing towards the economic prosperity of citizens. The armed forces are responsible for ensuring that the environment remains safe.

What is the African Renaissance?

According to the concise Oxford dictionary a renaissance is a rebirth or renewal. This concept then creates a new paradigm of development in Africa. It integrates various central objectives, such as ending poverty and underdevelopment, deepening democracy, as well as enhancing the capacity of governments and defining a new relationship with the developed world.

Why an African Renaissance?

The reason for an African renaissance is, according to President Mbeki, a call to African people to fight against poverty, ignorance and crime so that they can contribute to the development of their own country. It is known that the majority of Africans still remain chained in poverty, ignorance and backwardness, are poorly educated and live in squalor, mostly because they "lack the skills and capital necessary to prosper". Africans are not capable, in the foreseeable future, of running their countries' economies, nor of mastering modern technology and management (Louw. DOD Strategic Summit, 2001).

It is foreseen that most Africans will be developed enough to deal with their economic underdevelopment and decline. People will gain skills and unleash their potential to manage the threats of natural disasters such as drought and famine. They may also be able to minimise the terrors of deadly diseases, internal conflicts and regional wars. In order to achieve this they will have to deal with small arms and drug trafficking, human rights violations, the high rate of crime and unemployment. (Maj Gen James Aruasa, Kenyan Defence Force Soldier, November 2001, page 16.) This may lead towards accomplishing the mission of the concept.

The late Steve Biko, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement, once encouraged Africans to become aware of their collective power, both economically and politically. He said: "Africans must create their own value system where they can be self defined." (Tribute to Steve Biko, Black Consciousness Movement, at: www.fallenmartyrs.com/southafrica.htm. P.1).

How do the armed forces develop themselves towards realising the African Renaissance?

Concepts such as mission command, leadership, total quality management, military professionalism, human dignity, integrity, loyalty, as well as accountability and patriotism contribute to the soldier's development towards Africa's renewal. The armed forces contribute towards the renaissance mainly in the execution of their core functions. Carrying out daily tasks in the forces requires extensive military training and civic education. Professionalism should be the order of the day and soldiers are encouraged to use their own initiative. Since the concepts of mission command, total quality management and leadership are guidelines in
performing daily activities, these three points influence a soldier’s preparedness to contribute to the African Renaissance.

**Mission Command and the African Renaissance**

Mission command is the ability to define clearly what end results are desired, coupled with providing the best possible mix of resources to achieve such results. Mission command steers clear of defining how results might be achieved and devolves this aspect to the people tasked with the responsibility.

The roles of mission command

Mission command enables people to assume total ownership of the way in which a result is to be achieved. To design or formulate solutions demands adequate and appropriate competency levels of the people responsible for the task. It engenders trust in people’s abilities.

Mission command creates a climate that will inspire and encourage creativity. (Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, Chief of the SANDF, Strategic Leadership Summit, 2001).

Mission command requires that one should think independently and become able to make decisions and to carry out commands to the best of one’s ability.

Brig Gen Stephan Kretschmer of the Zentrum Innere Führung in Germany addressed the issue of mission command. He called it “Auftragstaktik” (mission command) and said that it afforded the subordinate commander freedom of action in accomplishing the mission. He also mentioned that dealing with freedom is always more difficult than to obey orders. The ability to assess the situation correctly and act consistently and decisively in terms of the objectives given requires education and professionalism.

**The African Renaissance and total quality management**

Quality means that each person realises the important contribution that he or she can make towards the overall effectiveness of the organisation. An individual is part of a team in an organisation that in turn forms part of a society, community, the nation of a country and, eventually, the continent. Creating the total quality management culture requires that leaders and subordinates at all levels must be involved in the process of continuous improvement. In that regard, leadership and total quality efforts must be developed together to maximise individual, team and organisational effectiveness (Karl W. Kunhext, Department of Psychology, University of Georgia, Bruce J. Avolio, Center for Leadership Studies, School of Management). Soldiers are also responsible for quality in their work. In protecting the country and its citizens as well as its economy, soldiers cannot afford to render work of low quality, as it will only result in endangering people’s lives and be a waste of money.

**Leadership and the African Renaissance**

In military terms we address a leader as a commander because of the legal powers invested in him or her. Such leadership results in the completion of tasks and the command of soldiers. The term “leader” may sound as if it only belongs to the corporate world, but the Army also needs leaders to lead the people. Thus we all believe that a good and effective leader is the one who walks in front of his or her fighting troops during war. In peacetime the military leader is also responsible for encouraging his or her subordinates to work with the minimum resources available and always to keep morale high when the military is faced with severe budget cuts.

It is during these times that soldiers sustain peace and ensure that the environment is safe. During these times they must be motivated to contribute to peace support operations and render humanitarian assistance where needed, as has been experienced in the operations in Burundi and Mozambique respectively. Military assistance in ensuring order during general elections and helping other government departments as per government order are also part of ensuring that Africa can become a safe continent, thus contributing to the renaissance.

**Conclusion**

Soldiers can contribute to the African Renaissance by being self-disciplined and dedicated to their work. Developed soldiers who study to improve their knowledge and skills can contribute to their continent’s economic growth. Integrity and patriotism can restore our dignity as a force and a continent. The stigma of Africans being backward, ignorant and unable to manage their own finances or to develop technologically can be eliminated. The African Renaissance starts within oneself. As soldiers we are role models in our country. We are perceived as strong, determined and fearless, and so we can set an example of a true African renaissance society by becoming committed to our daily work.
Qualified to render first aid on board ships

By Maj Ezra Petersen, Officer in Charge Maritime Emergency Care Training Satellite Cape Town

The Maritime Emergency Care Training Satellite (MECTS) Cape Town opened its doors on 1 November 2001, and is situated on the Red Hill Mountain in Simon’s Town. The MECTS Cape Town is affiliated to the School for Military Health Training in Pretoria and is functionally under the command of Col Theo Ligthelm, the Officer Commanding of the School for Military Health Training.

The members of MECTS Cape Town train the naval crews in maritime first aid to be competent in rendering first aid on board ships in an emergency and to serve as first-aid parties to assist medical personnel on board.

Maritime Emergency Care

Maritime emergency care refers to the care of sick and injured patients on a variety of seafaring vessels in remote areas of the world. The scope of this field of emergency care is broad and includes patients of all ages with every conceivable form of illness or traumatic injury. The unique aspects of maritime emergency care are a result of the characteristic challenges encountered by those at sea, the logistical difficulties of assessing and treating these patients on the vessel, and the difficulty in arranging and monitoring definitive care. Through maritime emergency care ships and boat crews are assured through competent emergency care providers of their survival at sea.

Learning opportunities

All maritime and industrial first-aid learning opportunities are outcomes based and accredited by the South African Maritime Safety Association and the Department of Labour. The following courses are presented by the MECTS Cape Town:

- Maritime First Aid Level I (one week) (seagoing personnel)
- Maritime First Aid Level II (one week)
- Maritime Orientation learning opportunity for medical personnel (three weeks)
- Industrial First Aid Level I (one week)
- Industrial First Aid Level II (two weeks)

Uniformed members and PSAP who are interested in doing these courses can contact Maj Ezra Petersen at tel no: (021) 787 5456 x 182. The MECTS Cape Town presents these courses to members of the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy, the SAMHS and other government departments.
Our athletes captured the imagination of our nation

Compiled by Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for the SANDF Comrades Marathon, and Maj Madeleine Harmse, SO2 Visit Co-ordination
Photo: Lt Col Juan Blignaut

The best positions ever achieved by SANDF runners during the last fifteen years and probably in the history of the Comrades Marathon were this year by two soldiers from the North West Province.

On 16 June, Youth Day, Cpl Kebonemodisa alias "White" Modisenyane from Group 20 was the first SANDF athlete to complete the Comrades Marathon in a time of 05:47:17 - the 13th overall position! His fellow training partner, Pte Motseotsile Koagile from 10 SAI Bn, was the second SANDF athlete to finish in a time of 05:54:49 and an overall 21st position.

These are excellent achievements if our athletes captured the imagination of our nation hours, honouring Vic Clapham, the initiator of the Comrades Marathon. In 1928 the time limit was set to eleven hours. During the 75th Comrades Marathon in 2000 the time limit was again extended to twelve hours. Due to popular pressure it is now permanently set to twelve hours.

There are now altogether five different medals athletes can strive for: A Gold Medal for the first ten men and women, a Silver Medal for athletes finishing under a time of 07:30, the Bill Rowan Medal (honouring the winner of the first Comrades Marathon) to athletes who finish the race between a time of 09:00 and 10:59, the Bronze Medal to runners finishing in a time of 09:00 and 10:59 and the Vic Clapham Medal to athletes finishing between a time of 11:00 and 11:59.

Did you know?
The new Vic Clapham Medal was for the first time awarded to runners finishing between eleven and twelve hours, honouring Vic Clapham, the initiator of the Comrades Marathon. In 1928 the time limit was set to eleven hours. During the 75th Comrades Marathon in 2000 the time limit was again extended to twelve hours. Due to popular pressure it is now permanently set to twelve hours.

There are now altogether five different medals athletes can strive for: A Gold Medal for the first ten men and women, a Silver Medal for athletes finishing under a time of 07:30, the Bill Rowan Medal (honouring the winner of the first Comrades Marathon) to athletes who finish the race between a time of 09:00 and 10:59, the Bronze Medal to runners finishing in a time of 09:00 and 10:59 and the Vic Clapham Medal to athletes finishing between a time of 11:00 and 11:59.

Vic Clapman initiated the Comrades Marathon in 1921 as a living memorial to the "comrades" who died in World War I. This idea of a living memorial grew to become "the greatest ultra-marathon in the world".

While the name "Comrades Marathon" was acquired some eighty years ago, it is considered appropriate today as the race epitomises attributes of courage, commitment and camaraderie among its participants transcending cultural, gender, socio-economic and age barriers. The Comrades Marathon has become one of South Africa’s premier sporting events and captures the imagination and fascination of the entire nation.

Cpl Kebonemodisa alias "White" Modisenyane from Group 20 was the first SANDF athlete to complete the Comrades Marathon in a time of 05:47:17 - the 13th overall position!
Be a sport on Casual Day

Compiled by Mr M.J. Swart, Acting Deputy Director Disability Equity and Mr R.S.E. Erasmus, CEO Curamus Association

The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate and Curamus Association want to express their gratitude and appreciation to everybody who participated in the 2002 Casual Day fund-raising campaign. We were delighted by the response we had. You are all stars and we congratulate you on your performance!

Thank you very much. We salute you! Your contribution will help many persons with disabilities, not only in the DOD but also outside the DOD.

Thanks to you an amount of R76 605,00 was raised through the participation of the DOD in the Casual Day campaign. This enabled the organisers of Casual Day to help more disability welfare organisations than ever before.

Casual Day is a fund-raising project managed by the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa (NCPPDSA).

The beneficiaries of this project are the following national organisations: the NCPPDSA, the SA Federation for Mental Health, Disabled People South Africa (DPSA), the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA), Epilepsy SA and the SA National Council for the Blind.

The above-mentioned organisations all provide a service at national level and represent over 400 different homes, schools and workshops within the field of disability.

What makes it even more exciting is that the Curamus Association, which caters for disabled DOD members or employees, was allocated R30 642,00 from the participation of the DOD in the Casual Day campaign for 2002.

Impact on the Curamus Association

The Casual Day project made the following impact on the Curamus Association:

- The Curamus Association would definitely have had to scale down were it not for Casual Day.
- It could increase the amounts spent on aid and buying better devices to assist persons with disabilities.
- It could plan for future growth and expansion of its services because it became aware of resources that were not available previously.
- It became stronger as an organisation because it could add value to its services.
- It could continue to keep personnel which otherwise would have had to resign.
- It was able to create awareness in the Department, especially at management level.
- It was more visible.
- It was able to give people with disabilities better self-esteem.
- It opened vast possibilities, and persons with disabilities started to dream new dreams.
- It gave persons with disabilities hope and encouragement, it lifted their spirits.

Fund-raising campaign

The 2002 National Casual Day fund-raising project broke all previous records by raising R5,8 million. Casual Day 2003 will take place on Friday, 5 September 2003. Remember to buy your official Casual Day sticker for only R5,00 through the Curamus Association in order to help them to benefit directly from the participation of the DOD.

This year’s Casual Day theme is to get sporty. All DOD institutions are requested to host a disability sports function or event on this day to show that we as the DOD care for persons with disabilities. Both the Chief of the SANDF and the Secretary for Defence have authorised our involvement and participation in this year’s Casual Day fund-raising campaign.

The Curamus Association will reward the best performing unit by presenting it with a trophy. We cannot, however, through our commitment and involvement change the world, but we can make the world and the DOD a better place for a few persons. Help us to do this by wearing your sticker on Friday, 5 September 2003.
Netball players showed off our new emblem

By WO2 Beulah Vermaak, Head of the SANDF netball delegation

The SANDF Netball team participated in the 3rd CISM ESALO Netball Championship in Maseru, Lesotho, over the period 3 to 9 May 2003. The delegation was the first to leave the country with the new SANDF emblem. They saw it as an honour to be the first to show off the emblem to the other ESALO countries.

The team tried their best and achieved a second place in this championship. Lesotho Defence Force beat them by one point: 36 (Lesotho) and 35 (South Africa). The game was, as everybody thought, very tough. The spectators were on the edge of their seats during the match. During the match against Swaziland CO B. Mutungutungu (SANDF) received the medal for the best player of the match. She received her medal from Lesotho’s Minister of Sport and Recreation.

During the opening and closing ceremony the SANDF team stood out as a team with good discipline (and the military guests mentioned this), not only in their appearance, but also in their action. They were always on time, behaved themselves and looked good in their “new” tracksuits.

The SANDF team was honoured to meet Lesotho’s Minister of Sport and Recreation and the President of the Lesotho Netball Association. Good friends were made during this tour and the SANDF delegation was received and treated as royalty.

Congratulations to the team and thank you for being ambassadors for our country, especially for our SANDF.

Enjoy your squash

By Lt Col Gary Platte

The SANDF Squash Championships were held in splendid autumn weather at the new state-of-the-art Western Province Cricket Club Sports Centre in Rondebosch, Cape Town, from 19 to 23 May 2003. A record number of eighty players competed in the Championships. The Chairperson, Col Brian du Toit, said in his opening speech: ‘It, however, still remains a privilege and not a right to participate in sport and therefore let us always keep that in mind and enjoy every moment.’ The players enjoyed an injury-free tournament. During the closing address R Adm (JG) Jan Rabe, Director of Fleet Human Resources, reiterated that if SANDF squash is to proceed with its growth it must represent the demographics of the organisation. Squash players are to pledge to assist development players in this regard. Highlights of the Championships included the Peninsula Tour, the South beating the North, and the prize-giving function.

The winners

Men’s Open: LS Randall Alard, SAS SIMONSBERG
Ladies’ Open: CPO Liezel Esterhuizen, Naval Base Simon’s Town
Sub-veterans: WO2 Graham Terblanche, Service Corps in PE
Veterans: WO1 Andy Pendlebury, TFDC in Bredasdorp
Development: F Sgt John Brown, TFDC in Bredasdorp
Administrator: Lt Col Cheryl Steyn, SA Army Training Formation
Pretoria Military Tug of War Club excels

The Pretoria Military Tug of War Club excelled during the SA National Tug of War Club Championship held at Rawsonville near Worcester on 13 and 14 June 2003. The team won a silver medal in the 640 kg division and took third place in the 680 kg plate competition. Three members of the Northern Gauteng Development Team achieved third place in the developmental division. A direct result of this performance is that WO2 Kobus Miller from the DOD Technical Services Unit has been included in the National Training Squad from which the National Team will be selected. The rest of the team has been selected to join practice sessions of Gauteng North for possible inclusion in the Gauteng North Team. This performance is very remarkable if taking into consideration that the Club only exits since October 2002. The Club members convey their special gratitude to WALOG Training Development for its sponsorship and to 44 Squadron and the SA Defence Intelligence College (SADIC) for their support during this occasion.

Anyone staying in the vicinity of Pretoria and who is interested in joining the Pretoria Military Tug of War Club please phone Lt Col J.S. Marais at tel no: (012) 315 0967.

Roadrunner leaves other athletes in his dust

By Lt R.R. Bell, Communication Officer 6 SAI Bn

The annual SANDF 21,1 km Championship took place in Potchefstroom in May 2003. Sgt Sakhumzi Peter of 6 SAI Bn took 16th position overall in a time of 74 minutes, 29 seconds.

This year during the Two Oceans Marathon, which was held in Cape Town, Sgt Peter came 85th out of 14 224 athletes. He was the first person from Grahamstown to finish the Marathon. He ended third out of 286 SANDF participants. Sgt Peter also completed the recent Comrades Marathon in 6 hours, 59 minutes, 12 seconds (246th position) and received a silver medal. The Technikon Port Elizabeth Half Marathon 21,1 km took place in Port Elizabeth in May 2003. Sgt Peter achieved 30th overall position and was also the runner-up in the veteran section. In the same Marathon Cpl Patrick Peters came 150th and Rfn “Doctor” Mbhele 437th. Both these members of 6 SAI Bn received a bronze medal.

Sgt Sakhumzi Peter.

War cry could be heard

By Lt R.R. Bell, Communication Officer 6 SAI Bn

SA Infantry Battalion was approached by the Rhodes Economic Department to organise a team-building exercise for forty students who are busy doing their Honours degrees. These students did not know what to expect of the day. All that they were told was that they were going for an outing. On the morning of 14 February 2003 two Samil 50s stopped at Rhodes Economic Department. The students looked confused. They were driven to Burntkaal Farm House where Lt Col Andries du Preez, the Officer Commanding of 6 SAI Bn, welcomed everybody. After a short orientation lesson on how to use a compass, the students were issued with overalls, battle jackets and a ration pack for the day. It was explained to the students that the overalls only come in two sizes. They are either too big or too small. They then did a short route march. The students had to navigate themselves to the three located points. When reaching a point they first had to complete a team-building exercise, namely the spider web/traffic jam. They also had the opportunity to fire a R4 rifle at one of the points. During the navigational exercise the teams had to prepare a team battle cry. This exercise took 2 ½ hours to complete. After the groups each presented their war cry everyone enjoyed a braai. The day was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all members who participated.
Socialise with soccer

By Sgt Jana van der Westhuizen, Group 33

On 7 June 2003 Group 33 presented a soccer day for its members in Belfast. The aim of the day was to motivate members and build esprit de corps and to enable them to enjoy a social day away from the normal working routine.

Group 33 Headquarters, Nelspruit Commando, Belfast Commando and Loskop Commando took part in the soccer matches.

The results were as follows: First match: Belfast Commando vs Nelspruit Commando (10-0). Second match: Loskop Commando vs Group 33 (4-2). Third match: Belfast Commando vs Loskop Commando 2-3 (after an initial draw game 1-1, a penalty shoot-out settled the score in favour of Loskop Commando).

Pirates got the first bite

By Lt R.R. Bell, Communication Officer 6 SAI Bn

SA Infantry Battalion held its annual Bass Fishing Competition in May 2003. All sections were requested to enter a team for the competition.

Only three rules apply for the day. Each team had to provide their own fishing rods or lines and have a theme, and last but not least everyone had to enjoy themselves. The competition took place at Concord Dam, which is situated in the training area of the unit. All teams arrived dressed-up in various themes. The Battalion Headquarters Team was dressed as pirates.

The morale was high among all participators. Lt Col Andries du Preez, the Officer Commanding of 6 SAI Bn, welcomed everyone and then the fishing started. The Pirates threw in their lines on the west side of Concord Dam. Lt Col Du Preez got the first bite for the Pirates’ team. His enthusiasm got the better of him and after thirty minutes he was standing inside the dam trying to pull out the fish. After another 25 minutes he came out victoriously. The competition was, however, won by the LWT Team. This team was well organised and even used a boat for fishing. They caught five bass. S Sgt Frans Botha from winning team caught the largest bass weighing 1.2 kg.

Firefighters show their steel

By PO Dennis Ndaba


The SANDF Extrication Team was selected on merit during the 2002 SANDF Fire Drill Competition held at Waterkloof Air Force Base.

It was the first time that the SANDF entered a combined team in the competition and competed internationally. The team consisted of fire and rescue members of the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Navy. To be selected for this team is a great achievement for a firefighter in the SANDF.
By Lt R.R. Bell, Communication Officer 6 SAI Bn

The Communication Section of 6 SAI Bn was tasked to arrange a five-day camp for 72 Grade 9 schoolboys of St Andrews College. The idea was to give the learners an Army experience.

On the morning of 15 April 2003 the learners walked to the Base from their College. When they arrived they were briskly introduced into the world of a soldier. During the first five minutes they were already running around, doing push-ups and many other activities. The learners were then divided into six teams and each person was issued with a kit consisting of a R4 rifle (only used for the practical phase), an overall, a bush hat, a water bottle, a ground sheet and a cleaning kit.

Thereafter the members were driven to Burntkraal Farm House, which is situated in the training area of the base. Each team erected their 16 x 16 tent with the support of their group leader. Erecting the tent with precision would ensure that they stay dry at night should it rain.

The rest of the day they did weapon training, including safety precautions, stripping and assembly, as well as loading and unloading of the R4 rifle. This training was needed before the learners could fire the R4 rifles at a later stage. Before the Army team left the learners they were given various tasks to complete.

On the second morning the learners were woken at first light. As was expected it had rained during the night. There were mixed feelings among the learners because the teams that were well prepared were dry and the unorganised teams experienced a long, cold, wet evening. They and their kit were wet. They were given until 07:00 to eat breakfast, clean their area of responsibility and to get ready for the training of the day.

When my team arrived at about 07:00 the boys were laughing and really messing around (doing things that a “normal” Grade 9 boy would do). During this rowdiness a thunder flash was thrown. A thunder flash is a pyrotechnic used by the SANDF. This, however, makes a loud bang. Instant silence followed. (Reality check. Yes, they are at an army base). Members fell into a squad at double-rapid time. Inspection took place. The tasks of the previous evening had not been completed and paper was lying around the base. The morning was started with a prayer and then the corrective training started. Members were given about twenty minutes of “PT” owing to their lack of discipline. At this stage the members realised that they would be treated like adults in all senses.

The training of the day started with “Buddy Aid”. The learners received briefings on fractures, snake bites, burns and resuscitation. All the first aid aspects that could be needed during the days that would follow. Thereafter map reading commenced. They were taught how to read a grid bearing, determine their position on a map, use a compass and navigate with a compass.

Thereafter they were told that they will be doing a navigational exercise and that they would not sleep in the base that evening. They went to their tents and prepared their kit accordingly. (They had to decide what they should take with and how to carry it.) Each team was given a compass, a map, a mills protractor and a navigational table. The teams worked out their own bearings and started with the 8 km route march, which ended at a central point in the training area, known as “crossroads”. Some of the teams really walked well and reach “crossroads” within two hours. On the other hand some teams got lost. Throughout the walk a qualified soldier accompanied each team. There were some interesting moments during the walk, when one member ate a prickly pear without peeling it. He ended up with thorns in his mouth. After the march all groups had to walk a further 4 km to their sleeping area, Springs Farm House. By this time it was already dark and the route was booby trapped with trip flares. As the learners approached the farmhouse illumination bombs were shot and smoke grenades were thrown and trip flares were set off. This was clearly enjoyed by the boys.

On the third day they walked from Springs Farm House to the obstacle course outside the east gate of the unit (approximately 8 km). There they were given a demonstration on each obstacle. After the demonstration each group had to complete the obstacle course. Then a competition among the groups was held by means of a time trial. The members really gave their best and showed that when working as a team anyone can win. I saw members with asthma giving their best. When a member failed an obstacle, he redid it until he succeeded. This showed me determination and pure guts. Owing to the enthusiasm and positiveness of the group they were all driven back to the base.

The learners washed themselves in Luiperds Dam. They were then given a demonstration on pyro techniques and platoon weapons. A few individuals also participated in firing some of the weapons.

On the fourth day each learner was given a chance to fire a R4 rifle on the shooting range. The instructors were impressed with the boys’ standard of shooting.

On the fifth day the boys had to break down their temporarily base. All equipment was handed back and the boys returned to their College.

The instructors and students alike enjoyed the camp. The learners were taught a few basic life skills and given a taste of the real world. A special well done to my team and the St Andrews College Grade 9 learners.

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Six Moral Values
Moral Values empower you for life
Nine units on display at the West Coast Show

By Maj Lea Fraser, SO2 Service Conditions HRSS Langebaanweg
Photo: WO2 Patrick Vermaak

The West Coast Agricultural and Industrial Show is an annual event and was held at Vredenburg from 1 to 3 May 2003. The show is one of the highlights in the West Coast diary and the DOD played a major role on this occasion.

This was the first time that the different units of the West Coast took part in a combined effort. Altogether nine units formed part of the static display, while some of them had the courage to demonstrate some kind of activity.

Lt Col Selwyn van Noordwyk of Langebaanweg Air Force Base co-ordinated the total DOD display.

The aim in participating was to market the SANDF and to promote a positive image, and thus to create awareness, co-ownership and support for the SANDF and to influence external opinion formers on the West Coast.

The theme of the exhibition was: "SANDF, Future Excellence" and the message was communicated strongly and effectively that the SANDF is a national asset.

A five ship Pilatus Astra fly-past was carried out by the well-known Silver Falcons of Central Flying School at Langebaanweg. Maj Jaco Steynberg made sure of a breathtaking show.

Capt Raymond du Plessis of 526 Squadron arranged for a dog exhibition and, together with private security firms, took care of security at the show.

Lt Paul de Beer of 4 Special Forces Regiment had a static display of diving equipment and camouflage techniques and used this opportunity to do recruitment for the Special Forces.

WO2 Graham Willows of

SAS SALDANHA had an interesting display of the harbour patrol boat, the Namacurra. Also to be seen was an exhibition of what a typical bedroom would look like when it was ready for inspection. Needless to say some senior officers took pleasure in stripping the bed, just to have it made again!

From Langebaanweg Air Force Base came five exhibitions. One was by Mr Charlie Boucher of the Avionics Section, who showed exactly what equipment is used in aircraft. The Survival Section under WO2 Hennie Coetzee demonstrated the use of the ejection chair and the contents of a survival pack, which should sustain one for at least two days while exposed to the elements. Yet another section, the radar experts under Capt Andrew Potgieter gave an on-line radar display in which all military and civilian aircraft in flight could be monitored.

The Fire Department under WO2 Herman van Rhyon showed that the fire engine of the DOD on the West Coast is still going strong and is excellently equipped. The engine has Vetter bags, which can be inflated to lift up a total weight of 45 tons! This specific fire engine costs approximately R5 million.

The Nature Conservationist, F Sgt Werner van der Walt, assisted by F Sgt Bertie van der Merwe, concentrated on the protection of fynbos and water conservation. The West Coast has had water restrictions for almost two years now and the Saldanha Regional Council has awarded a prize to Langebaanweg Air Force Base for having saved the most water.

The West Coast Territorial Force under Lt Col Millstein gave a photo display of activities and services rendered by them. The Military Academy under Lt Col Gizelle Strydom exhibited photos, brochures and the latest curriculum of fields of study that can be followed. She was also helpful in supplying special information required for school projects.

The Health Centre Western Cape under Maj Jane Ntombela advertised the different services available to sensitise people about AIDS and taught people how to stabilise an injured person. She demonstrated a practical exercise where a patient injured in a quad bike accident had to be immobilised and casevaced.

The DOD obtained the award for the best educational exhibition and also for the best exhibition overall. Lt Col Van Noordwyk was impressed that the objectives were attained and with the excellent co-operation experienced across the entire military spectrum. It is an indication that barriers can be overcome and good relations maintained between forces.