Africa Day
South Africans celebrate with the rest of Africa
Letters: Feedback from our readers

Emergency relief effort to Algeria

Land converted from military to tourism usage

Rest in peace

Celebrating 40 years of solidarity

Armscor leads the drive for quality

Commandant appointed as Professor Extraordinary

The French and our soldiers learn from each other

Human resources form the cornerstone

New decorations and medals for the SANDF

Poster: New honours

Managing the deadly virus

Coping with environmental management

Clarify the uncertainty on termination of service

Warriors never say goodbye

Moscow theatre siege

Poster: New logo - CJ Ops

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FRONT COVER: United we stand, divided we fall! Viva Africa! This was the theme at the 40th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU), which took place at the Johannesburg Stadium on 25 May 2003 when the rebirth and renewal of the African continent was celebrated. Read more on pages 14 and 15.

(Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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

United we stand, divided we fall! Viva Africa! This was the theme at the 40th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU), which took place at the Johannesburg Stadium on 25 May 2003 when the rebirth and renewal of the African continent was celebrated. The AU represents an equal partnership of the 53 African States or Governments that make up the organisation.

Carrying all 53 flags of the AU member countries the National Ceremonial Guard paraded in detailed precision around the open field to the rhythm of the bands of the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SAHMS, maddening the crowd with excitement.

In order for Africans to face the future with renewed vigour in a world that is increasingly changing technologically and otherwise, President Thabo Mbeki announced: "We have transformed the Organisation of African Union to the African Union", in a stadium filled to capacity. (Please read more on the celebrations on pages 14 and 15.)

At President Mbeki’s request a moment’s silence was observed in remembrance of the two thousand people killed in the recent earthquake in Algeria. The Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF then made mention of the fact that the SANDF will deploy to Algeria in an endeavour to assist. (Read more on the emergency relief effort to Algeria on page 11.)

An added bonus this month is our pull-out poster on pages 24 and 25 revealing the new honours of the SANDF. Also read the most informative article about our new medals and decorations on pages 22, 23, 26 and 27.

We are sure that you will enjoy this issue, packed as always with interesting topics and useful articles, giving you food for thought.

Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor

SA SOLDIER | JULY 2003

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A bvaho kha Mudzudzanyi

Huthihi, phandekanyo ai bvolelizi! viva Africa. Itsi tsho vha tshipikwa tsha vhutambo ha dzangano la (OAU) line zwino la divhiwa nga u pfi (AU) African Union, li pembelelaho u fhedza minwaha ya mahumi mana (40th), zwo farelwa tshitadium tsha Johannesburg, nga la 25 Shundunthule 2003 musi hu tshi khou bebiwa na u vusuludza dzhangano la Africa. Dzangano la AU li imelela mashango a futhanuraru (53) ane a vhumba ili dzangano.

Musi fulaga dza mashango a futhanu-raru (53) dza ili dzangano la AU dizi tshi khou thekhinolodzhi nga vha mbmi ya vhupili vha (NCG) National Ceremonial Guard musi vha tshi khou matsha na vha bennde kana vha vhu mvumvusi vha Mbmi ya Vhupileli ya Afurika Tshipembe (SA Army), vha Mbmi ya Vhupileleli ya Muyani (SA Air Force), vha Mbmi ya Vhupileli ya Madini (SA Navy) na vha Mbmi ya Zwamutakalo (SAHMS), zwo vha zwi tshi khou mvumvusa na u nyanyula vhateleli.

Muphuresidennde Vho-Thabo Mbeki vho divhadza uri; "uri Maafurika vha vhe na vhu matshelo kha lino lifhasi lo dalaho tshanduko ya thekhinolodzhi, ro shandukisa dzangano la Organisation of African Unity (OAU), ra li ita dzangano la African Union". (Zwinzhi zwa zhu tshumamo uvhu kha siatari 14 na 15)

Muphuresidennde Vho-Thabo Mbeki vho humbela gogo la vhathu afho tshitadium uri hu vhe na tshihiinga tsha u humbula avho vho ri siah o vha zwigidi zwiwhili nga wone mudzinginyo negi Algeria, vhari sa izwi vhe mulanga Mbmii ya Lushaka lwa Afurika Tshipembe vho divhadza uri Mbmii ya Lushaka i do rumelwa negi Algeria uri vha ye u thusa. (Zwinzhi nga ha tshumelo yashishi negi Algeria kha siatari 11)


Ri fulufhela uri vha do di dzulela u vhala mafhungo a ino gurannda sa izwi i tshi do vha yo vha farela mafhungo a ndeme kana vhuthogwa.

Nelda Pienaar
Muthusa-Mudzudzanyi
be fair FAIR live and let live

abstinence be faithful to one partner

Six Moral Values
Moral Values empower you for life
Five years in the eye of HIV storm

I have seen the worst and best humanity has to offer. HIV entered my life five years ago. It was not easy when I found out that I was HIV positive. More especially if you are a citizen of KwaZulu-Natal where things really happen.

By that time there were a lot of myths and false statements about the virus. To reveal your status was a difficult thing to do. For that reason I decided to make a disclosure to people of Middelburg in Mpumalanga where I was working at 4 SAI Bn.

Rumours such as, if you are HIV positive you will die sooner or you will not live long. These rumours made me scared to reveal my status. After I spoke to some members at work, I experienced at first hand the stigma, discrimination and ignorance that usually accompany such disclosure. Although some members were supportive, the fear was there.

Early last year I decided to join members who were appointed for an HIV peer educators course. After that I felt a little bit better. I did little for my former unit, 4 SAI Bn, now I am prepared to work hard and spread the message about HIV and AIDS in my current unit, DOD 101 Air Supply Unit (ASU), the SANDF as a whole, countrywide and worldwide.

Now I am at DOD 101 ASU where everybody knows about my status. I am very much concerned about members who are infected by this virus, but who are ignorant and not willing to talk about it. The sooner they do it the better.

I have seen people struggle with their HIV status, and watched their liberation as they, some privately and some publicly, disclosed their infection, freeing themselves and clearing the path for others to do the same. I have seen people, including myself, cross cultural, religious, political and ethnic boundaries despite our superficial differences.

For me HIV is a symptom, not a curse. HIV is not the enemy. It only enters when a door has been opened for it. Ignorance, fear, poverty, inequity, social injustice, isolation, discrimination and greed are the guilty culprits, not the virus. I wonder if we will ever learn the lessons HIV is here to teach us.

What have I learned on my journey? I have learned that dreams are essential because they make the impossible possible. I have also learned that dreams are essential because they make the impossible possible. I have also learned that without faith in God, others and myself the lessons of HIV are wasted.

The most important lesson is about love, for without it we are nothing. To know and love one another irrespective of who we are is the only thing to do for support and encouragement.

As I look forward to my future, despite HIV, I am excited about all the possibilities, opportunities and lessons. The next five years and more will bring good results. If HIV is a race between fear and me, with life as a price, I can honestly say that I have won by the grace of God. It is over now, let us hold hands and break the silence. Together we can do it.

For any information I can be contacted at cell no: 082 471 0767 or tel no: (012) 672 5180 (w) - Pte Andries Nhlengethwa, Motivational Speaker, Pretoria.

Some things are worth tears, while others are not. Death is worth tears, when someone whom we love dies. We weep because we feel the loss. Wrongdoing is worth tears. Evil is worth tears. When we are truly sorry, when we wish we had acted differently.

Deep sorrow is worth tears too, when our hearts are touched with grief, we cry for a while, alone. Death is the natural end of life, Wrongdoing is set right by our regret.

And our reparation, Sorrow must be put away if we are to get on with the business of living. Most things can be mended! We do not waste tears on a broken pot. Patience will mend it, or we can save up and buy a new one. Most things can be mended! Hard words can be healed by silence and forgiveness. Sickness by the remedies we know, or by rest. Unkindness can be repented, things forgotten can be remembered again.

Everyday comes to night at last. Let us look forward, not back. Let us make the best of things. Let us hope and not waste tears - A.M. Rakoma, Tzaneen.

The content of the article “Soldiers and musketry” published in the May 2003 edition was provided by WO1 J.I.N. de Wet from Chief Directorate Force Preparation at the Army Office - Ed.
God alone can take care

I want to thank God for who I am because it is as a result of His mercy. It is never easy when your partner is far away for significant lengths of time. With soldiers already deployed internationally many military spouses may be very worried about what will happen to their significant others. To them I say keep on trusting God, He is good.

May God Almighty open the windows of heaven and pour upon us all His blessings of the Holy Spirit as individuals and as proud soldiers in Burundi and the SANDF at large. May you kindly allow me to share with you what I shared with the people of Kemenge in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 20 April 2003 in the Rhema Church.

As we read from the book of Deut 32:10-12 - God spoke this message that He is able to take care of us, He alone without any help of other gods took care of Israel, so who is the son of man that He cannot take care of him.

As we are able to take care of our eyes, He too on that same note that we take care of our eyes is able to take care of us. Remember Israel was in the desert and God alone helped and cared for them, so what is your desert this year, month, day, hour, minute or even second. Just take all to God and He will take care of you, whether your desert is: your studies (you cannot concentrate, but you try hard), your marriage (lots of misunderstanding), your job (your boss or a promotion), your fiancée (unfaithfulness), your parents (common faith) or your in-laws (do not accept you). According to Matthew 19:26 all things are possible with God. So if people fail you, try God to help you build yourself an Ark, you will definitely succeed.

In conclusion, as we read from Isaiah 40:29-31 - I want to encourage you that God gives strength to the weary. Through faith you can be strengthened, even if you are tired of being a Christian either because of other Christians or for other reasons. He is there to give you strength. If you do not have any power left, even to pray, just talk to Him as if He is standing before you, He will provide you with power and you will start praying and the Holy Spirit will help you, just call Him.

Youth may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and fall. If you are part of this scene, do not cry, stand up and do something, repent and God will forgive you. Only those who put their hope in the Lord will be renewed, their strength daily restored and they will fly high. When they fall God will lift them up. They will run the race and will not grow weary. They will walk the Christian way and will not faint even if their way may become very hot...they will reach their destination very easily. Will you reach yours? Let us follow the way, the truth and the life. May God bless you because you have read this portion - Cpl J.L. Boase, Group 20 HQ/African Mission (Ops Clerk).

Heaven’s gates

Heaven accept me, I am knocking on your gates For the creepy doctor has diagnosed me with AIDS Prepare a place for me, I am counting my days I have lost all hope, it’s too late to mend my ways. All these talks about AIDS I took them for a joke But look, today I am the one who is carrying the yoke. Come all you boys and girls and list while I relate Concerning a heartbreaking story of my ultimate fate Concerning a young lover boy and a story he loves to hate As I am standing with trembling feet before the heaven’s gate. All these talks about the use of a condom For me, truly, were just words lacking in wisdom. “Why rubbers when we can enjoy a bare sexual pleasure?” Is what we reasoned when we match up with peer pressure, Now I am alone, bedridden, wondering about my fate Standing with trembling feet before the heaven’s gate - Lehodi Pitso, Lohatla

Excelled in their nursing duties

After having had spinal surgery on 17 April at 1 Military Hospital, I am presently recuperating at home and doing fine! The operation was a great success and I would like to thank Ward 14 personnel for looking after me so well that I feel like a new man! (Old soldiers never die!) 1 Military Hospital has had severe criticism levelled at it of late, but I can only say in all honesty that the treatment I received was of the highest quality and the staff excelled in their nursing duties! My heartfelt thanks to all who attended to my needs. The following personnel must be commended: The four surgeons, namely Drs Theron, De Klerk, Bingle and Banda who performed a sterling operation. The day and night staff of Ward 14 during the period 15 to 22 April and in particular the following nursing personnel: Capt R.A. Nthite, Lt P. Rautenbach, M.R. (Rose) Mahlo and S Sgt D. Lebese. Many, many thanks and God bless you all - Brig Gen (Ret) J.C. Bosch, Pretoria.

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

The programme of developing Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) started at the Command and Control School. Both PSAP and uniformed members started with typing lessons. The members were given certificates for passing the Introduction, Intermediate and Advanced levels of the typing courses. During 1999/2000 eight PSAP members successfully completed typing lessons. During 2001 the School trained twelve members (both PSAP and uniformed members), which helped some PSAP to get better jobs.

The placement and misuse of PSAP were the reasons for implementing this development programme. PSAP members complained that they were misplaced and being paid for work that they were not doing. This contributed to the issue of PSAP not being given any merit awards or even recognition for the work of the over-and-above tasks they perform.

In correcting this the office of Dr Herman Kasselman, PSAP Director Career Development, was called in to intervene. Mrs Anita Hlabela, now Assistant Director Disability Section at Directorate Equal Opportunities, evaluated the situation and highlighted the following points to be considered in rectifying the situation: Members should be given an opportunity to develop themselves; secondly, a training programme for PSAP should be established; and lastly people should do the jobs they were appointed for.

In conjunction with Dr Kasselman a programme was developed for cleaners in post training, who had obtained Std 8 (Grade 10). 68 Air School identified cleaners from different bases as a pilot group. The identified cleaners and clerks did well during their detachment. Presently these members are secretaries, administrative clerks and personnel officers at different units.

68 Air School linked up with the Sizanani Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Learning Central School at Voortrekkerhoogte High School, headed by Mrs Dolphine Machabela. Sizanani was under the Atteridgeville ABET Centre because of the small numbers of learners, but presently it is independent due to the large number of learners. Learners at this Centre were mostly from the surrounding military bases in Thaba Tshwane. 68 Air School contacted Lt Col H. Mole at Directorate Education Training and Development for financial assistance, and he rendered support unequivocally.

In February 2002 members from 68 Air School started to attend the programme. 68 Air School enrolled 57 members from Level 1 to Level 5.

68 Air School and Mrs Machabela contacted the regional offices of the Department of Education. They said that they were pleased with the Centre and that they were going to work on the matter of making it an independent Centre by 2003. The regional Department of Education also gave the School 200 chairs and tables.

The learners of Levels 1 to 5 had passed their examinations and very few did not make it. There are people who are very interested in under going skills education because at present they are serving in those mustering.

The development of both PSAP and uniformed members is a continuous process. Many people want to join the ABET programme this year. We only hope that skill development will be on the agenda for the year 2003 - Maj S.D. Masoleng, PSO 68 Air School.

SANDF anthem

SANDF that is our proud name,
Code of Conduct our conductor!
A DOD that is so strong
as strong can be.
We have Army pride as soldiers,
That will never fail.
Our burning lamp will be recognised from abroad.
Our DOD is of the best above the rest.

Our holy DOD, one Army extra strong!
When we were divided,
God integrated us!
When we were anxious,
God calmed all our fears!
When we were restless,
God listened and cared!
Lord, God filled us with life anew,
That we love what thou do love!
God of mercy and compassion,
Observe with pity upon your DOD.

All that we are, all that we do!
All that we dream, all that we pray,
We need Thee every hour and every day.
Loving Shepherd of thy rainbow soldiers.
We are the big Army family of God,
We are the promised divine Army,
God’s chosen desired Army.
Blessed be to our golden principles of “putting people first”
Consultation, service standards,
Openness and transparency,
Courtey, information, redress of wrongs,
And value for soldiers’ money.
Blessed be the SANDF Code of Conduct, Commander-in-Chief,
Channel of command and manpower on the ground.
Blessed be every DOD department for its total commitment,
effectiveness, communication,
everlasting care and protection rendered 24 hours daily -
Cpl (Pastor) T.D. Makiti, Lenz.

See and read more

It was a great pleasure for a change to read the SA SOLDIER of April 2003.
In the past every second article was about an occasion where two members of the SANDF leadership were photographed with not much of the rest of the members in sight. More members and SANDF units and their activities are, for a change, visible to the rest of the defence community.

Keep up the good work. We want to see and read more -
Maj F. Ricketts, Pretoria.
**Rectifications**

The wrong photo caption was printed in the April 2003 edition on page 28. The person on the photo is Col Addinall Fredericks, OC ASB PE, and not Col Clive van Schalkwyk.

The wrong photo and caption were published in the June 2003 edition on page 19. Here follows the correct photo and caption. We apologise for any confusion - Ed.

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**Thank you for caring**

My children and I would like to convey our sincerest gratitude for the immense support you gave us after the passing of Walter.

You so graciously gave of your time, energy and care to carry us through.

As we look back now on the past two weeks we marvel at how we made it to this point, but that is clearly because people like you carried us. You poured emotions and kindness in ways we can perhaps never be able to adequately describe or thank.

Please convey my deepest gratitude to members of the South African National Defence Force who through their professionalism gave the funeral such stature and dignity.

Please accept, however, inadequate our thanks from the bottom our hearts.

Ungadinwa nangomso!  
Ndím’ Unama Wakho - Mrs A.N. Sisulu, Linden, Johannesburg.

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**Sharing the power**

Power sharing is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold, but its value is far greater than a mountain of gold. Power sharing is a miracle that is not found by all.

Whenever two or more parties come to an agreement among each other remember the following: Power sharing is like the tender and fragrant flower, the smallest things can hurt it, so you must protect it. It is like the sun, when it shines and it makes you warm all over. The co-operation through the power sharing can last forever or for only a day, so treasure it and do not let it go. It takes lots of work and entails responsibilities. It can make you feel complete and comfortable. It can also make you feel weak and make you feel strong. It is a heavenly glory towards the everlasting democracy and "Uhuru", it is also a major pillar to nation building and freedom, so do not let it go away.

I refer this to our fellow compatriots of our African continent, especially the Congolese and Burundians. South Africa is just inside at your backyard, so take it as your role.

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**Promoting the disability equity**

It is high time for you to rise in fame from your good work pertaining to promoting the disability equity, raising awareness about disabled people, their rights, needs, potential and contribution to the DOD.

There are prospects for change in the DOD because of elements which manoeuvre the policies diplomatically at ground level. Action = reaction.

I have been helped by a clearly stipulated and transparent policy DS/EOCD 106/30 B page 15 (66). The other important issue is that, commanders on the ground should understand the broadness of the word “barrier-free-environment”, that it is not only toilets and ramps, but they need to link it to page 7(ii) Affirmation of disabled people. To be in a wheelchair is not the end of the world. Nothing could obliterate the image of the Olympic Games for Disabled Persons held in Pretoria from 2 to 3 December 2002. What an event!

I really did not think that there were people and soldiers who cared much about us and loved us. We were among high-profile people and the top leadership of the DOD.

As a responsible, disabled, non-staffed secretary of the Disabled Team of 1 SAI Bn I promise to lead my subordinates by example at work and in sport by following the correct channels.

I thank everybody who made our day a success. Keep it up EOCD! - Cpl M.N. Simka, 1 SAI Bn.
Pakistani students dropped in

A group of sixteen students and staff members (Major Generals to Colonels) from the Pakistani National Defence College visited the SANDF from 14 to 18 April 2003. The SA National Defence College conducts courses for selected senior officers of the Armed Forces/Civil Services of Pakistan and for military officers from friendly countries. The objective is to study essential factors which have a bearing on national security and military strategy with a view to preparing them for assignments at higher policy, planning, command and staff levels.

The group also visited the four Services and was briefed at the strategic level on the organisation and roles of the Services.

Visitors from the Pakistani National Defence College attending a briefing at the SA National Defence College. (Photo: Sgt Eddie Smith)

Courtesy calls

By Maj Carina Pyper, SO2 Visits Defence Foreign Relations, Photo: Sgt Eddie Smith

The Chief of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) General Staff, Gen Liang Guanglie, was invited by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, to visit the RSA as his personal guest over the period 4 to 9 May 2003.

The aim of the visit was to show goodwill and to strengthen the relations between the SANDF and the PLA. The official visiting programme included a welcoming parade, a courtesy call on the Vice-President, Mr Jacob Zuma, a courtesy call on the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and also to Gen Nyanda.

A briefing session on transformation in the SANDF co-ordinated by the office of V Adm Martyn Trainor, the Chief of Corporate Staff, was presented to the delegation on their request. They also had the opportunity to pay a visit to Simon’s Town Naval Base where R Adm (JG) A.G. Söderlund, Director Fleet Force Preparation, gave a briefing on the SA Navy Fleet at the Hugo Biermann Conference Room. They visited an SA Navy ship, a warrior class strike craft, SAS ISAAC DYOBHA. The visit to the naval base ended with a lunch at Admiralty House. This was an enjoyable experience for the guests who expressed their gratitude. The visit was a success and future co-operation will continue.

Fltr: His Excellency Liu Guijin (Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China), Brig Gen Abe Notshweleka (General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation - Accompanying Officer), Lt Gen Xu Qiliang (Deputy Commander Shenyang Military Region and Commander of the Air Force component of Shenyang Military Region), Gen Liang Guanglie (Member of the Central Military Commission and Chief of the PLA General Staff), Mr Jacob Zuma (Deputy President of South Africa), Gen Siphiwe Nyanda (Chief of the SANDF) and V Adm Zhao Guojun (Deputy Commander Nanjing Military Region and Commander of the PLA Navy East Sea Fleet) with the beautiful vase which was a gift to Mr Zuma.

Visitors from the Pakistani National Defence College attending a briefing at the SA National Defence College. (Photo: Sgt Eddie Smith)
Emergency relief effort to Algeria

By Lt Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Media Liaison Officer Naval Base Simon’s Town

Thabo Mbeki on 22 May 2003, expressing South Africa’s heartfelt condolences in the wake of the deaths of over 500 people, over 600 others injured and destruction to infrastructure.

The team, which comprises Rescue Africa and Global Relief (two non-governmental organisations) and members of the SA Police Service Dog Unit assisted the Algiers government to search for survivors of the recent earthquake. A reconnaissance team of the SANDF did an appraisal of how the SANDF could assist in the search and rescue mission.

Boeing 707 of the SA Air Force under the command of Col Walis Nkosi (SANDF) left Waterkloof Air Force Base on 24 May 2003 to assist with humanitarian relief operations in Algiers following the devastating earthquake that rocked Algiers and surrounding areas on 21 May 2003. This followed a message sent to President Bouteflika by President Thabo Mbeki on 22 May 2003, expressing South Africa’s heartfelt condolences in the wake of the deaths of over 500 people, over 600 others injured and destruction to infrastructure.

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French naval ship visits Cape Town

By Lt Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Media Liaison Officer Naval Base Simon’s Town

The French hydrographic ship, FNS BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE, visited Cape Town over the period 16 to 22 May 2003. The objective of the visit was to expand international contacts for the SA Navy through the French Navy and to enhance contact with French and local South African communities through a port visit to Cape Town. The FNS BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE is one of two BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE class vessels, which were commissioned in 1992 to replace the survey vessels, L’ESPERANCE and D’ENTRECASTEAUX. These types of class vessels are capable of both oceanographic survey and research. The ship is under command of Cdr Benoit Petit and has a crew of fifty, including nine officers. Her displacement is 3 292 tons fully loaded, the length is 14,9 m with a beam of 14,9 m. Her dimensions are 80,64 m x 14,90 m x 6,20 m. She is powered by four diesel alternator engine sets and can attain a maximum speed of 14 knots.

50th anniversary of the Korean War

By PO Dennis Ndaba

Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Air Force and the SA Air Force Association (SAAFA) held the annual SA Air Force Memorial Service at Bays Hill in Pretoria on 11 May 2003. The aim of the memorial service was to acknowledge those who paid the supreme price while in service of their country.

This year’s service coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, which was fought from 4 August 1950 to 20 November 1953. The SA Air Force participated in the Korean War as South Africa was a member of the United Nations. The ceremony also included a commemorative fly-past in honour of those that died during the war. V Adm Martyn Trainor, Chief of Corporate Staff, represented Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF.

Also honoured at the service were WO1 Piet Breytenbach, who died in the line of duty after an explosion at the Roodeuwal Bombing Range on 18 November 2002, and WO2 Jan Jerling, who died in the line of duty following an accident on 5 December 2002.

Brig Gen J.E. Lello, the President of the South African Korean War Veterans Association and the International President of the Korean War Veterans Association, also paid his respects. He is a survivor of the Korean War.
develop a relationship

By PO D.M. Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

A signing ceremony between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of Romania was held at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 7 May 2003. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning defence co-operation was signed by the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Minister of Defence of Romania, Mr Ioan Mircca Pascu.

South Africa and Romania established full diplomatic relations in November 1991. The Romanian President, Mr Ion Iliescu, visited South Africa in October 1993. Since then various high-level visits have taken place between the two countries, including the recent official visit by Minister Lekota and Minister Ben Ngubane, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. From 26 August to 4 September 2002 President Iliescu led a large Romanian delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa.

The MOU marks another milestone in the development of the relationship between the two countries. “As a developing nation we are looking to equal partnerships with friendly and developing countries in order to facilitate access to cutting-edge technology and new markets,” said Mr Lekota. The agreement also aims to promote the training of military personnel through a variety of exchange programmes; military medicine, logistics and procurement; peace support and humanitarian aid missions; research, production and trade of military equipment; and other areas of common interest in defence matters.

Land converted from military to tourism usage

By Maj Otto Lambrechts,
SO2 Corporate Communication
DOD Logistic Support Formation

A huge tract of SANDF land is to be converted from military to tourism usage. This will rectify a situation which arose in the 1970s sanctions era when South Africa developed a weapons capacity unequalled in the world for a nation of its size.

The 56 000 ha of sparsely populated area north of Lake St Lucia, about 14 km south of Sodwana, was chosen for the testing of these weapons, which included artillery, rockets, missiles and mortars. From the 1990s the Hell’s Gate Training Area was primarily used by 121 SA Infantry Battalion as a training area for the training of infantry soldiers. The local people under iNkossi Mabaso and Zikhale were relocated to other areas. The range sweeping exercise took place over the period 23 February to 1 March 2003. Members from the DOD Logistic Support Formation, the SA Air Force and Bravo Company of 121 SA Infantry Battalion were flown by helicopter from Hell’s Gate to the original target areas where unexploded high explosive ordnance was identified and cleared up.

Members of the local media, Brig Gen Clive Giles, Director Product Systems Support Munitions from the DOD Logistic Support Formation, Brig Gen Sipho Ndubula, Director Facilities at Chief Logistic, and members of the Land Claims Commission attended a media briefing at Hell’s Gate. Col Corrie Ferreira, SSO Munitions from the DOD Logistic Support Formation, explained that land claims were laid after 1994 and the DOD decided that the land should be returned to the claimants. This was followed by negotiations with the local people with a view to developing the land into a prime tourist area.

He further added that the DOD had appointed experts in land surveying, conservation and relocation to manage its extensive conservation programme. The total value of the infrastructure at Hell’s Gate is in excess of R40-million, which the DOD will leave intact, with the exception of certain prefabricated facilities and all military hardware that will be taken away.

This two-year project is being conducted in close conjunction with the Land Claims Commission, which represents the local communities and the Department of Public Works.

The exercise commander, Lt Col Bertie Cronje, said afterwards that the exercise was a great success as much unexploded high explosive ordnance, such as 120 mm mortar bombs and 40 mm grenade launcher ammunition were found and blown up. The members of DOD Logistic Support Formation, Bravo Company of 121 SA Infantry Battalion, 35 Squadron and Air Force Base Louis Trichardt must be commended for their dedication and the professional way in which they conducted the exercise.
The late Mr Walter Sisulu (90) received a full State funeral with all the honours on 17 May 2003. He died in the arms of his beloved wife and comrade, Albertina. A special official funeral is reserved for distinguished persons with extraordinary credentials as decided by the President, after consultation with the Cabinet. The funeral service was held at the Orlando Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg, followed by the burial at the Croesus Cemetery. Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, together with the Services and Divisional Chiefs were the pall-bearers, while WO1 J.J. Jacobs, the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, together with the Services and Division Warrant Officers, officiated as the bearers. The National Ceremonial Guard members entering Orlando Stadium during the funeral of the late Mr Walter Sisulu.

Ceremonial Guard and Band also did us proud with their immaculate drills and music. The SANDF also provided medical support for the President and the SANDF participants. Some of the logistics provided by the SANDF included four water tanks, a gun carriage and a gun tractor.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, keeping a close watch while the Chaplain General, Maj Gen (Rev) F.F.S. Gqiba, leads the bearers.
Celebrating 40 years of solidarity

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

United we stand, divided we fall! Viva Africa! The 40th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU), at the Johannesburg Stadium on 25 May 2003 was a celebration of rebirth and renewal of the African continent.

The AU represents an equal partnership of the 53 African States or Governments that make up the organisation.

In order for Africans to face the future with renewed vigour in a world that is increasingly changing technologically and otherwise, President Thabo Mbeki announced: “We have transformed the Organisation of African Union to the African Union”, in a stadium filled to capacity.

Through the AU the President has sworn that the slaughter of one African by another will be stopped. “We will do our best to end this senseless killing,” said President Mbeki. He continued, “Tutsi and Hutu are African, Hausa and Yoruba are African.”

As Chairman of the AU, President Mbeki further stated that the organisation would continue to assist war plagued countries, such as the Central African Republic and the Côte d’Ivoire to return to democracy. The President also touched on the Burundi Peace Agreement and Sudan, and applauded the ongoing talks between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM).

At President Mbeki’s request a moment’s silence was observed in remembrance of the two thousand people killed in the recent earthquake in Algeria.

The Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF then made mention of the fact that the SANDF will deploy to Algeria in an endeavour to assist.

The SANDF is second to none and how it just does us so proud! Not only does the Defence Force protect our borders and beyond, but it has also successfully adapted to the very versatile role of being a service provider and a show-stopper.

Members of the SANDF brought life to the stadium long before the public poured in. In the biting chill, so typical of a “Jo’burg” winter morning, members took to song to fend off the cold.

Carrying all 53 flags of the AU member countries the National Ceremonial Guard paraded in detailed precision around the open field to the rhythm of the bands of the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SAHMS, maddening the crowd with excitement.

Firstly, following the SANDF cue in the form of a thundering 21-gun salute, celebrations were declared open. Then of-course there was the SANDF grand finale: fireworks went off in the sky, officially marking the end of the day’s proceedings.

Nine flag bearing parachutists jumped from a helicopter into the stadium and saluted President Mbeki and visiting dignitaries before
Youngsters from Burundi do it the African way.

celebrations. The Defence Force also provided security in the military vehicle park at the back of the Johannesburg Stadium during rehearsals and celebrations.

Waterkloof Air Force Base received heads of state and ministers from the participating countries and also made an Oryx helicopter available for use.

Medical support was provided by members of SAMHS to all SANDF forces deployed. The show of support put on was awesome!

Local artists dazzled the 40 000 strong crowd with all-time favourites. Miriam Makeba “Mama Afrika”, Letta Mbuli, Caiphus Simenya and Hugh Masekela did what they are so famously known for, making music.

Throughout the entire week’s celebrations over the period 18 to 25 May the SANDF was there.
Armscor leads the drive for quality

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt Eddie Smith

Armscor was awarded the certificate of the International Safety Organisation (ISO) 9001:2000 on 20 May 2003 by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Armscor and quality have always been synonymous in South Africa, and throughout the world the defence and aeronautical institutions lead the drive for quality and reliability.

Armscor still plays an important role in South Africa where quality and excellence are concerned through its leadership in the SA Excellence Foundation, the SA Society for Quality, the SA Quality Institute and the SA Auditors, Training and Certification Association.

In 1995 Armscor decided to perform gap analysis against the ISO 9001 requirements and an external consultant was contracted. A general comment of the consultant was that in most instances Armscor documentation was far more extensive than was required by ISO. In 1997 Armscor decided to formally start the process for ISO certification.

First a group of people, representing all departments in Armscor, underwent training in “Process Mapping with ISO in Mind” and ISO 9001 in 1994. A working group was appointed to start the process by developing the Armscor enterprise model and deploying and mapping key business and support processes. The rest of Armscor was introduced to ISO by means of a booklet entitled “Introduction to the ISO Code of Practice in Armscor”, which was presented on World Quality Day.

The processes were developed from a client requirement perspective, which aimed to have a total, integrated system that incorporates safety and health as well as environmental, statutory and legal issues. The SABS was selected as the certification body, and after thorough research on certification bodies a preparatory discussion was conducted.

An internal audit was performed in 2002 and a pre-audit was conducted by the SABS in September 2002. The final audit was done on 26 and 27 November 2002, and the auditors recommended certification for Armscor. Certification was approved by the Certification Board in February this year.

Transform naval dockyard

By Bertus Celliers, Manager: Corporate Communications, Armscor

An Interim Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Armscor, the Secretary for Defence and the SA Navy was officially signed at the Armscor Building in Pretoria on 25 April 2003.

The MOA will facilitate the process of transforming the Simon’s Town Naval Dockyard. The first phase has been completed, which culminated in a Due Diligence Report. This will be utilised for the repositioning of the dockyard.

This MOA details the transitional phase until the establishment of a public-public-partnership, which would be coupled with a Service Delivery Agreement between Armscor, the Secretary for Defence and the SA Navy. The PFP and repositioning of the Dockyard has the objective of transforming the dockyard into a commercially viable entity, while retaining its strategic importance of the Dockyard for the SA Navy.
**Commandant appointed as Professor Extraordinary**

By Maj Arina Hanekom, Communication Officer
Military Academy

The University of Stellenbosch Business School has appointed the Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen L.S. Mollo, as Professor Extraordinary for the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006. The University of Stellenbosch created this category of appointments to give recognition to individuals for their proven specialised expertise, and/or their eminence in their profession and field of study, and to involve them in the academic programmes of the relevant Department or School. This appointment will also strengthen the relationship between the Military Academy and the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

**Survive the Parisian jungle**

By Shellee Geduld, staff reporter (article reprinted with permission of the Cape Argus)

Huddled under an umbrella on a cold, wet Parisian day, a much decorated South African colonel demonstrated his soldierly grit - and astonished his new neighbours - by having a family braai in his wintry garden.

It was a brave effort to make his family feel at home, and it was the first of many in the French capital for Col Johan W. van Zyl and his family during his three-year stint as Air and Defence Attaché at South Africa’s embassies in Paris, Brussels and The Hague.

The chilly, if restorative braai was recalled at a ceremony at the Langebaan-weg Air Force Base at which Col Van Zyl, now commanding officer of the base, received France’s second highest “order of chivalry” for his part in cementing ties between the two countries.

The Ordre National du Merite, with the rank of Knight, was awarded by R Adm Richard Wilmot-Roussel of the French Navy on behalf of French President Jacques Chirac.

Van Zyl spent three years in Europe from 1998. R Adm Wilmot-Roussel recalled that having spent only a week in Paris, Col Van Zyl and his family decided to have a “family braai under the wintry Parisian rain, which without a doubt must have surprised a number of the neighbours”.

R Adm Wilmot-Roussel described Col Van Zyl’s “adaptability, zest and humour” as the best way to “survive the Parisian jungle”. “During his stay, Col van Zyl undeniably contributed to establishing privileged ties between our two countries,” R Adm Wilmot-Roussel said.

Beyond his skills at the braai, Col Van Zyl is also a noted photographer, and Paris evidently offered ample opportunities to display his talent. R Adm Wilmot-Roussel recalled: “Indeed, he has a wide collection of pictures of monuments and other peculiarities of our capital, among which are… ‘the beautiful women of Paris’.” The Ordre National du Merite was created by General Charles de Gaulle in 1963. The National Order of Merit originated in the tradition of the old French chivalry orders established by Henry III in the sixteenth century.

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**You are winners**

**Congratulations to the four winners of the SA Air Force Fund Competition:**

- Arend Keulder won a week’s holiday out of season at any one of the SA Air Force Fund holiday flats.
- Raymond Moeketsi won a midweek holiday break (Monday to Friday) for four people self-catering.
- Ina Sage won a day in the life of an Air Force pilot.
- Edward Ralane won a cash prize of R500-00.

*The question was:* Which holiday and travel club is associated with the SAAF Fund?

*The answer is:* Linric Club.

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The French and our soldiers learn from each other

By Capt (SAN) Stan Slogrove, SSO Maritime Capabilities at Joint Operations Division
Photos: Courtesy 121 SAI Bn and SA War College

The early Saturday morning tranquility of the Naval Island at Richards Bay was shattered by the powerful roar of outboard engines, as two inflatable boats filled with French Marines raced up onto the beach. The soldiers quickly dispersed as they rapidly secured the beachhead and then the rest of the island. Soon the grey bulk of the French Batral-type landing ship, FNS La Grandière bore down on the beach, her bow doors opening like the mandibles of some giant mantis. Personnel, vehicles and cargo were discharged onto the beach, and so began the Field Training Exercise (FTX) phase of Exercise RAINBOW TREK.

Planning staffs of the SANDF and FASZOI (French forces in the Indian Ocean zone) under the command of the Task Force Commander, Col Johan Blaauw, and his French counterpart, Capitaine de Vaisseau (Navy Captain) Francois Cloup-Mandavialle, had met earlier in the week, as March became April, at the underground military facility on Durban’s Bluff, to conduct a Command Post Exercise (CPX). The aim of the theoretical phase of this Peace Support exercise was to validate and harmonise the doctrines and tactics that would be used in the practical phase. Language difficulties were overcome and the two force components sized each other up as they ran through the various activities of the scenario.

On completion of the CPX, the planning staffs moved up the coast to Richards Bay and occupied the tented camp that had been set up in advance. The cargo from the La Grandière soon became an evacuation control centre manned by French and
hostages were transported to Richards Bay and on to the evacuation control centre for processing and eventual repatriation. The two French C160 transport aircraft and a Panther helicopter, as well as the South African C130 and Oryx helicopters, became a familiar sight in the skies over Richards Bay as the exercise progressed.

The Combat Support Ship SAS OUTENIQUA and the Patrol Frigate FNS NIVOSE joined the force in due course. A naval evacuation centre (separate from the ECC) was set up on the beach of the nearby Pelican Island.

In the exercise the French and South African ships’ companies practised the evacuation of diplomatic staffs and other foreign nationals caught up in local hostilities, a very real and possible scenario in Africa today. French Naval Commandos and SA Pathfinders also conducted an exercise to release “diplomats being held hostage” from the local Commando Headquarters.

The exercise ended with a display of the capabilities of the forces before local dignitaries and visiting diplomats and senior officers, followed by a post-exercise debriefing. Both participating forces gained much from the exercise, learning from each other’s strengths. Exercise RAINBOW TREK was conducted as part of the French RECAMP series of exercises. This is France’s contribution to the development of Peace Support capabilities in armed forces throughout Africa.
Human resources form the cornerstone

By Brig Gen Dries de Wit,
Director Human Resource Planning
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Excellence in Human Resource Planning is the vision of Directorate Human Resource Planning and represents what the Directorate is aiming for. Directorate Human Resource Planning, situated at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria, is responsible for corporate human resource strategy and planning of the DOD, the co-ordinating of the human resource (Item 10) budget of the DOD and for the provisioning of human resource management information.

The Directorate constantly has to consider the effects of a rapidly changing and challenging environment on the human resource composition of the DOD. In the first place there are external factors, such as political decisions, legislation, socio-economic realities (eg high unemployment and financial constraints) and technological developments (eg the phasing in of the main equipment of the Strategic Defence Package) that influence the human resource planning decisions of the DOD. Secondly, internal factors such as the ideal size and shape of the DOD (the force design and force structure) determine a specific human resource composition in terms of quantity and quality. In terms of policy the DOD must have the right person in the right place at the right time. In addition, legislation requires of the DOD to have an effective, efficient and economical (affordable) human resource composition.

It is a challenging task to manage the effect of all the above factors as part of the joint human resource planning process of the DOD.

Since the establishment of the DOD, Directorate Human Resource Planning has been in the forefront to provide human resource strategic direction.

Some of the outstanding achievements of the Directorate include the drafting of the DOD Human Resource Strategy 2010, the drafting of the New Service System of the SANDF, the initiating of the DOD Youth Foundation Training Programme, the development of a Pensions Dispensation for former Non-statutory Force members, the management of human resource (Item 10) expenditure within the approved budget and the provisioning of an outstanding human resource management information service.

The Human Resource Planning environment of the DOD will continue to present huge challenges in the future as the DOD continues to transform. Human resources form the cornerstone and the most important asset of any organisation. It will therefore be required that the DOD should continuously develop, implement and monitor the effects of various strategies, sub-strategies and plans to ensure that the quality and quantity of the human resource composition of the DOD can meet future demands. This will be the primary task of Directorate Human Resource Planning.

Lieutenant colonels and commanders in the Personnel Corps who are interested in being part of the fast-paced team that designs the future human resource composition of the DOD through human resource strategies and plans are welcome to contact Brig Gen De Wit at tel no: (012) 355 5870. There are currently a few vacant SO1 posts in the Directorate.
First black Reserve Force military judge sworn in

By Capt (SAN) E. van der Walt (Ret)
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Victor Sibeko (50), an advocate from Brakpan on the East Rand, was one of the first legal practitioners to apply for appointment as a Reserve Force officer in the SANDF. Because of his seniority he was given the rank of colonel. After his appointment Col Sibeko had to undergo an induction programme to educate him on military culture. This had to be done in his spare time. He first completed a military orientation course after which he was schooled in military legal subjects, such as military law, the law of armed conflict, operational law, law of evidence and criminal law. He passed his examinations with flying colours. Before he could be sworn in as judge, he had to sit under instruction to familiarise himself with the military justice system.

On 6 May 2003 Col Sibeko was sworn in as military judge by Brig Gen Annemarie Myburgh, Director Military Judges, in one of the courtrooms at Thaba Tshwane. He was to begin his duties with immediate effect and he said he was ready and willing to play his role in the SANDF. Col Sibeko will preside as a senior military judge when and where required, especially in cases involving senior SANDF members from the rank of major upwards, but he could also handle disciplinary cases involving junior members.

The scope of Col Sibeko’s duties will include having to preside over cases involving SANDF members in other countries, such as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) whenever such need arises.

Col Sibeko is due to leave for the United States in July this year to attend a two-month course on military advocacy. In 1979 Col Sibeko obtained his BA Law degree and in 1981 his LLB degree at the National University of Lesotho. Thereafter he was admitted as advocate in Lesotho in 1981. During his career as a legal practitioner he inter alia worked as a negotiator for Mobil, the fuel company, and was an adjudicator for the Gauteng Housing Transfer Bureau where he later served on the appeal panel. In 1993 he opened his own legal consultancy. Col Sibeko is married and is a keen golfer who plans to get involved in SANDF golf.

Put a stop to theft

Article and photo by Maj Marinda Oberholzer, SO2 Communication SA Army Artillery Formation

The quick and willing response of artillery and armour members was of the utmost importance in arresting thieves who trespassed at the General Support Base Ministry of Defence (GSB MOD) logistical wing. On 21 March 2003 at about 17:00 Pte Madinetja Saopa, Pte Phenelo Dipale (both Reserve Force members at Transvaal State Artillery) and Pte Thabo Tsoai (a Reserve Force member at Pretoria Regiment) assisted in apprehending thieves in the stores at 91 Ammunition Depot.

Their heroic response showed that they were professional soldiers, always ready to make a difference wherever they were serving their country. The two Gunners, Pte Saopa and Pte Dipale, appeared on office bearing before the General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation, Brig Gen Abe Notshweleka, who congratulated them on their brave performance. Brig Gen Notshweleka said: “We are proud to have soldiers of such calibre as part of the Artillery Corps.”
New decorations and medals for the SANDF

By Brig Gen Deon Fourie, Reserve Force

Early in 2001 the Honours Advisory Panel, under Chief Director of Human Resources Policy and Planning, Maj Gen Joan van der Poel, met to consider advising the President on a new series of decorations and medals for award to deserving personnel of the SANDF.

There were various reasons for the step. An important need was for honours to reflect the transformation of the Defence Force. The existing honours were those that had been awarded to members of the Defence Force before 1994 and they had yet to express the ethos of all South Africans.

There was also the need to reduce the unnecessarily large number of decorations and medals available in South Africa. For some years there had been concern at the proliferation of honours in South Africa. Already before 1994 the orders, decorations and medals for the police, Correctional Services, intelligence, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Defence Force, and for civilians numbered 290 pieces. The addition of awards for MK and APLA veterans brought the total for the country to 320 insignia. The situation was so out of hand that a member of the Defence Force could wear far more medals merely for completing periods of passive service than for bravery or for merit. This had the effect of reducing medals from the status of Presidential honours to that of good conduct badges. After all, the reason for awarding decorations and medals is to honour the recipient, not simply to add a badge. The SANDF was determined to set an example of good taste and austerity.

Perhaps the most ideal guide to a better situation was that adopted in Zimbabwe in 1981. There the number of honours was reduced from the 38 honours available under Rhodesian rule to a simple, well-designed fourteen insignia. Apart from the five-class Order of Merit for meritorious conduct by the uniformed services and the general public, there were three decorations for bravery - the Gold, Silver and Bronze Crosses of Zimbabwe. Then there was a Long and Exemplary Service Medal for the regular uniformed services, an Efficiency Medal for the military and police reserves, and a Long Service Medal for the Public Service. There is also a medal for the best military and police shot each year, a Medal for Meritorious Service associated with the Order of Merit, and a Commendation Medal.

Each Zimbabwe decoration or medal has a suspender brooch to show whether the holder is a civilian, or is in the police (the scales of justice), the army (oak leaves), the air force (a fish eagle) or is a prisons' officer (a key). For the Commendation Medal, the Long Service and Exemplary Service Medal and the Efficiency Medal the ribbons vary from service to service. The Public Service Long Service Medal has its own design and its own ribbon. Otherwise, the designs and the names are identical for civilians and services.

As the SANDF was continuing with its process of renewal and transformation, entirely new decorations and medals rather than mere reductions in numbers was the obvious pathway to follow to achieve these aims and to give an image of a Defence Force representative of all cultures among the citizenry.

The role of the Honours Advisory Panel in this process was to provide a source of advice on the institution, design, regulation, organisation, precedence, and other arrangements relating to honours awarded for service rendered in the National Defence Force. The Panel supplements Regular Force expertise with advice from persons with an interest, expert knowledge, or experience in dealing with honours and their insignia. Some members from outside the Regular Force were part-time military personnel drawn from the Reserve Force. There were also the State Herald, the Chief Curator of the South African National Museum of Military History, staff officers whose work concerns the process of making awards, representatives of service interests, as well as representatives of the non-statutory forces.

This was not the first time that decorations and medals had been devised afresh for the Defence Force. There had been variations of British honours before 1954 when a distinct set of decorations and medals was devised for the first time. These were changed quite radically in the 1970s and from time to time additions and amendments were made, the last time in 1992 after a departmental committee of enquiry had sat to consider the matter. This, however, was...
the first time that a specialist panel, representing wide interests and expertise had tackled the problem.

The Panel began its work by determining the needs that should be met with regard to recognised principles. The first guiding principle, contained in section 84 (2) (k) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), and in the principles of Constitutional Law, was that the institution and award of honours are solely prerogatives of the President. It was thus essential that the honours instituted by the President for award to personnel of the SANDF should be greatly valued. The first recommendations were to combine in a limited number of decorations, without distinction between officers and other ranks, recognition of bravery, leadership, merit, and devotion to duty, together with a medal for participation in operations and, finally, a medal for long and faithful service.

An early step was that of devising provisional designs, while the Panel also considered possible names for the decorations and the medals. The primary recommendation was that the designations should be shared among the languages of South Africa. In this task the Language Bureau of the DOD gave valuable assistance in selecting names so that every South African language would be used. Interestingly, when the proposals were placed before the Minister of Defence, he discerned a linguistic error in a designation and insisted on an amendment.

It was quickly discovered that there was much more work involved in drafting the Presidential Warrants than was at first expected. Since 1952 numerous decorations and medals had been instituted and replaced and staff officers with differing experience and backgrounds had prepared the various warrants. It had also sometimes been forgotten that a Presidential Warrant is a form of executive legislation. Thus they needed to be drafted in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution, 1996, statute law and the common law of South Africa. Changes brought about in recent labour legislation were particularly important. Consequently the contents and the format of Presidential Warrants were carefully examined and recast to be uniform as far as the variations of the decorations and medals allowed. Legal opinion was obtained both from the Chief of Legal Affairs in the Department of Defence and the Legal Adviser in the Presidency.

Ribbons had to be carefully designed to have a distinct identity. With the vast number of ribbons previously used in South Africa, as well as elsewhere in the world, the State Herald at the time, Maj F.G. Brownell, was put under great pressure. Also, as the process evolved, a long drawn out process of revision had to be undertaken. Many adjustments had to be made to the designs of the decorations and medals to permit their manufacture within a variety of restrictions.

This process required liaison with metallurgists at the South African Bureau of Standards who prepared specifications for types of metal, weights, thicknesses and other features. This was all to ensure that the final product would meet with the standards the recipients themselves would have to achieve. It also required the manufacture of lead prototypes and discussions with the intended manufacturers and representatives of the Logistics Division. An historian and collector of medals, Capt Peter Digby, was also drawn into the process for his knowledge of the quality of foreign honours in order to help make comparisons of quality. The total process from standardisation to manufacture was estimated to require some eighteen months.

The Honours for bravery

The decorations for bravery are Nkwe ya Gauta, Nkwe ya Selefera and Nkwe ya Boronse (the Golden Leopard, the Silver Leopard and the Bronze Leopard). Bars may be awarded to represent subsequent additional awards of these decorations. The three decorations differ slightly from one another. The metals are gold, silver and bronze and each has its own surface design to give a three-dimensional effect. The basic colour of the ribbon is light blue to represent the blue crane whose feather was presented by Xhosa kings as a “decoration” to brave warriors. All

Continued on page 26
NEW HONOURS OF THE SOUTH AF

Nkwe ya Gauta (bravery).
Nkwe ya Selefera (bravery).
Nkwe ya Boronse (bravery).

Iphrothiya yegolide (merit).
Iphrothiya yesiliva (merit).
Iphrothiya yebhronzi (merit).
Tshumelo Ikatelaho (campaign award).

Medalje vir Trous Diens (long service award).

Medalje vir Trous Diens and bar 20 Years (long service award).

Medalje vir Trous Diens and bar 30 Years (long service award).

Medalje vir Trous Diens and bar 40 Years (long service award).

Medalje vir Trous Diens and bar 50 years (long service award).

RD and bar 20 Years (RD = decoration for Reserve Force emblem).

Okhankanyiweyo (as displayed on the ribbon of the Tshumelo Ikatelaho)(mention in despatches to the President).
Decorations

Continued from page 23

three decorations have the Coat of Arms of the Republic on the reverse. The post-nominal letters for the three decorations are NG, NS and NB respectively.

The Nkwe ya Gauta is a five-armed cross of nine-carat gold. The arms of the cross spread outwards from a central medallion forming chevron-like angles. The outer edges are curved. Between the arms are three short rays of gold. In the centre of the obverse on the light-blue enamel medallion is a golden leopard’s head cut off at the throat. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon for the Nkwe ya Gauta is light blue. 20 mm wide, with gold edges 6 mm in width.

The Nkwe ya Selefera is a five-armed cross of silver of the same shape as Nkwe ya Selefera but with borders along the edges. Between the arms of the cross are three short rays of silver. The leopard’s head in the centre of the light blue enamel medallion is silver. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon is light blue, 20 mm wide, with white edges - 6 mm in width.

The Nkwe ya Boronse is also a five-armed cross of silver of the same shape as Nkwe ya Selefera but with borders along the edges. Between the arms of the cross the rays are of bronze. There is a bronze leopard’s head in the centre of the light blue enamel medallion. The central medallion is one half the diameter of the decoration. The ribbon is light blue, 20 mm wide, with bronze edges - 6 mm in width.

The honours for bravery may be awarded to officers and other ranks of the SANDF, of any auxiliary service of the SANDF and of any armed forces serving with the SANDF, who have distinguished themselves by performing acts of conspicuous bravery during military operations.

To earn the Nkwe ya Selefera recipients must have distinguished themselves by performing acts of exceptional bravery during military operations.

The award of the decorations for service in active military operations shall be indicated by distinguishing Service insignia worn on the ribbon. The insignia is made of the same metal as the particular decoration. The insignia for recipients of the SA Army will be crossed swords, for recipients of the SA Air Force it is an eagle, for recipients of the SA Navy it is an anchor, while recipients of the SAMHS will wear the rod of Aesculapius.

Additional awards of any of the honours for bravery will be indicated by the award of bars of the same metal as the decoration, to be worn on the ribbon. Bars will be indicated on ribbon bars by miniature replica devices.

Honours for meritorious conduct

There are three levels of merit in respect of the honours for leadership, meritorious conduct or devotion to duty. Bars also represent subsequent additional awards of these decorations. In this category our new decorations will be the iPhrothiya yeGolide, iPhrothiya yeSiliva and iPhrothiya yeBhronzi (the Golden Protea, the Silver Protea and the Bronze Protea). All three decorations bear the Coat of Arms of the Republic on the reverse. The post-nominal letters for the three decorations are PG, PS and PB, respectively.

iPhrothiya yeGolide is a six-pointed, faceted star of silver gilt. In the centre is a flag blue enamel hexagon on which is a stylised gold protea flower as it appears on the national Coat of Arms. The ribbon for iPhrothiya yeGolide is 32 mm in width, national flag blue 13 mm in width, gold 2 mm, black 2 mm, gold 2 mm, and national flag blue 13 mm in width.

iPhrothiya yeSiliva is also a six-pointed faceted star, but of silver. In the centre is a flag blue enamel hexagon on which is a stylised silver protea flower. The ribbon is 32 mm in width, national flag blue 11 mm in width, white 2 mm, black 2 mm, gold 2 mm, black 2 mm, white 2 mm and national flag blue 13 mm in width.

iPhrothiya yeBhronzi is the same six-pointed faceted star but of bronze. In the centre is a flag blue enamel hexagon on which is a stylised bronze protea flower. The ribbon is 32 mm in width, national flag blue 9 mm in width, white 2 mm, black 2 mm, white 2 mm, black 2 mm, white 2 mm and national flag blue 9 mm in width.

The honours for meritorious conduct may be awarded to officers and other ranks of the SANDF, of any auxiliary service of the SANDF and of any armed forces serving with the SANDF, who have distinguished themselves by leadership or meritorious conduct and devotion to duty on a single occasion or over a period of
time in the following ways:

For the iPhrothiya yeSiliva recipients must have rendered outstanding leadership or outstandingly meritorious service and particular devotion to duty.

To receive the iPhrothiya yeSiliva recipients must have rendered outstanding leadership or outstandingly meritorious service and particular devotion to duty.

The award of the decorations for service in active military operations is to be indicated by wearing on the ribbon distinguishing insignia showing the Service in which they were serving at the time of the action for which the decoration was conferred, in the metal of the particular decoration.

The insignia are, for the SA Army miniature crossed swords, for the SA Air Force a miniature eagle, for the SA Navy a miniature anchor and a miniature rod of Aesculapius for the SAMHS.

Additional awards of any of the honours for bravery will be indicated by the award of bars of the same metal as the decoration, to be worn on the ribbon. Bars will be indicated on ribbon bars by miniature replica devices.

Okhankanyiwuyo - Mention in Despatches

For actions demanding not quite the exceptional levels of achievement required for the decorations, there is the practice of mentioning by name deserving members of the forces in the despatches sent by Force Commanders to the President during or after campaigns or other operations. Such people would be mentioned for brave or meritorious conduct, leadership, devotion to duty, praiseworthy service or other distinguished conduct not meriting decorations. Those mentioned will receive a miniature emblem of the national coat of arms to wear on the ribbon of the particular campaign medal or a general service medal.

ribbon bar covered with the material of which the service dress tunic is made when they have no campaign medal.

Tshumelo Ikatelaho - General Service Medal

The first of the campaign medals to be part of the new series is the Tshumelo Ikatelaho - which means "the general service medal". As with most general service medals, it is meant to indicate service in briefer or "minor" campaigns and other operations and it will be used for several years. In later years yet another may be instituted. Note that the pronunciation of the two Tshivenda words is "Tshumero Ikatelaho" with the letter "I" sounded as an "r".

The medal is an eight-sided medal of silver-nickel. On the obverse, inside a laurel wreath, is a faceted nine-pointed star. The medal shall be worn on the left breast from a ribbon national flag blue 5 mm, white 2 mm, national flag red 6 mm, gold 1.5 mm, black 3 mm, gold 1.5 mm, national flag red 6 mm, white 2 mm and national flag blue 5 mm. The reverse bears the Coat of Arms of the Republic.

Medalje vir Troue Diens - Medal for Loyal Service

The Medalje vir Troue Diens (Medal for Loyal Service) will be awarded for completion of ten years' service marked by good conduct in the SANDF. Only one medal is conferred. For each additional period of ten years' qualifying service, to a maximum of forty years, which may be interrupted service, during which the member's character and conduct have remained irreproachable, recognition may be accorded for the service by the award of a bar to represent an additional award.

Made of nickel-silver, the medal is circular with the edge evenly scalloped. The obverse of the medal shall bear the Coat of Arms of the Republic of South Africa. The reverse of the medal will bear, in relief, the words "Vir Troue Diens". The bars are 32 mm in length and 6 mm in width, with the Arabic numerals "20", "30", "40" or "50" respectively in relief in the centre. When only a ribbon bar is worn, a miniature silhouette replica of the medal, 8 mm in diameter, of the same metal as the bar, and with the Arabic numerals "20", "30", "40" or "50" in relief, is affixed to the ribbon. The bars are made of silver for twenty years' service, silver gilt for forty years' service and matt silver gilt for fifty years' service.

The medal is worn attached to a ribbon of the following design: 3 mm of national flag red, 3 mm of white, 20 mm of national flag green, followed by 3 mm of white and national flag blue 3 mm.

For Reserve Force service there is an additional decoration - a monogram of the letters 'RD' that is worn attached to the ribbon of the Troue Diens Medalje. The letters stand for Reserve Distinction. The purpose is to accord special recognition for part-time service to officers and other ranks of the Reserve Force of the SANDF. They are required to complete the prescribed period of twenty years loyal service to qualify for the award of the bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens. They must be considered worthy and deserving of recognition for Reserve Force service.

Recipients have to serve in the Reserve Force for no less than five years to qualify for the decoration. This may require service in excess of 20 years when the recipient has had long service in the Regular Force.

The entire series came into effect on 27 April 2003. The only current honours that will still be awarded are those still being processed and decorations and those that were earned until 26 April 2003 will continue to be awarded to members and former members of the SANDF. All the others will fall into abeyance.

While for the present the old honours would continue to be worn, in time, as the old soldiers retire, the changes will be seen more and more. Eventually, the new honours will be the only South African honours worn in the SANDF.
Tribute to a Gunner

An overwhelming silence prevailed at the SA Army Artillery Formation with the shocking news of the death of WO1 Faan Viviers, Warrant Officer ETD at SA Army Artillery Formation, who died in a motor accident in the United Arab Emirates on 9 May 2003. Col Perie Franken, Chief of Staff SA Army Artillery Formation, paid tribute to this remarkable Gunner at his funeral on 19 May 2003 at Potchefstroom East Congregation, by giving his last military command: ‘Gunner Viviers, it was a long and splendid engagement, good shooting, end of mission. Stand Down’. The late WO1 Viviers served in the SA Artillery Corps for almost thirteen years. He was not only a professional soldier and Gunner, but also a father and true friend. Everyone that knew him experienced him as a warm-hearted, hard-working and friendly person. He was always laughing, full of jokes and willing to help where he could. He served in various posts at 4 Artillery Regiment and was transferred to the School of Artillery in Potchefstroom as an instructor in February.

Our Air Force donates wheelchairs

The warrant officers of the SA Air Force presented 21 wheelchairs to identified recipients at 28 Squadron in Waterkloof, Pretoria, on 7 May 2003. This project was initiated by the then Warrant Officer of the SAAF, WO1 Paul Nel, to alleviate the plight faced by disabled persons. He was also involved with the warrant officers of other Services in collecting funds to aid disabled persons. This resulted in the SAAF warrant officers donating in excess of R6 000-00 to the representative of Curamus, Maj Arthur Piery, to be utilised for the needs of disabled members of the SANDF. The project has also escalated to include the International Non-commissioned Officer Association (INCOA). Altogether 21 applications for the wheelchairs were received, both internally and externally. WO1 Theuns Holtschauzen, a paraplegic from 28 Squadron, suggested wheelchairs as they are very costly and many people who need them cannot afford them. The INCOA, foreign embassies, such as Canada, Germany, France and the USA were approached for assistance with the project. Their enthusiasm to assist resulted in the first four wheelchairs being donated on behalf of the INCOA. WO1 Holtschauzen managed to persuade the Northcliff Rotary Club to donate a further four second-hand wheelchairs and Bosch and Siemens Household Appliances donated three new wheelchairs. A further ten second-hand wheelchairs were donated by private individuals. These were received and repaired by a group of dedicated SAAF warrant officers. People such as Rfn M. Motaung from Harrismith Commando, who was injured while on duty and paralysed from the neck down, benefited from this project.

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The late WO1 Faan Viviers, who died in a motor accident in the United Arab Emirates on 9 May 2003.

1998. On 1 March 2002 the late WO1 Viviers was appointed as Warrant Officer ETD at SA Army Artillery Formation HQ. The late WO1 Viviers will be remembered by his son, Stefan (4), family, colleagues and friends. (Article and photo by Maj Marinda Oberholzer, SO2 Communication SA Army Artillery Formation)

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Managing the deadly virus

Peer group training is vital.

Value Based Training Programme, which the Chaplaincy is currently presenting throughout the country. It helped the members to see how this programme complemented the total Masibambisane project.

The feedback given by Maj Adrienne van Breda, Head of Military Health Research Centre (MPI), on the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) Survey was rather alarming. When one thinks of the amount of information being distributed, the efforts made to inform people of this deadly virus and the prominence given to it in politics and the media, then the amount of disinformation and the number of people continuing in irresponsible relationships are too high. It may be mentioned that the three areas with the highest perceived risk of HIV are Kwazulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Free State. The people with the least knowledge of HIV seem to be living in Mpumalanga, Limpopo Province and Kwazulu-Natal.

It should be mentioned that all HIV/AIDS Nodal Points do this work over and above their regular daily work. It is truly admirable that they manage to arrange HIV/AIDS training courses, educational programmes, manage their administration and do other HIV projects in their regions. During 2002 alone 40 000 SANDF members were exposed to the Masibambisane HIV/AIDS project.

Of great value was the fact that two members from the United States Department of Defence HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme (US DHAP), which is the sole sponsor of Masibambisane also attended the workshop. And so did Ms Nomvula Marawa, who is the Advisor to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Defence. It was a great help to have them there - right on the floor, so to speak, as they were able to clarify certain relevant issues that were identified during discussions. That was one of the aspects that made this workshop very valuable.

The greatest, most appreciated surprise occurred on the second day, when Dr Dhezi Achery, SSO Medical Standards, was interrupted. A special guest was coming to visit and at the same time photos were to be taken made. The next moment the members were requested to stand, and in walked the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, on an impromptu visit.

She was presented with feedback on positive aspects, and burning issues were discussed after which members had the opportunity to ask questions. In her reply Ms Madlala-Routledge confirmed the importance of proper support of the brave members who came forward to be tested and who disclosed their status. The Defence Force should also create an environment where people feel safe and comfortable to disclose their status. Members should be able to talk to one another, that is why peer group training is so important. We must support our members to live a disease free life, because our bodies can fail under severe stress and become ill.

She emphasised the idea that Commanding Officers should be trained as Master Trainers so that they, as the leaders of a military community, should live the message of a healthy lifestyle, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

If every member in the SANDF took up the responsibility and commitment to prevent HIV/AIDS and to support those already affected, HIV/AIDS prevention will become an irresistible force that will overcome the disease and free itself from this disaster.
Develop a total health care programme

By Brig Gen F. Meyer, Director
Occupational Health Service

The components of a successful occupational health service consist of suitable safety control of the working environments, timely hazard identification, monitoring and control, as well as health assessments, treatment and health promotion.

A person’s health can definitely have an impact on safety and the ability to work. Physical or mental impairments, whether inherited or acquired through injury or illness, can affect a person’s ability to work safely and efficiently. Occupational health is mainly concerned with the prevention of illness and the promotion of health and encouraging the worker to maintain the optimum state of physical, mental and social well-being.

Several hazards and risks may be present at workplaces, for example:

Physical: for example noise, ventilation, dust, asbestos, illumination, vibration, ionising and non-ionising radiation, as well as heat and cold stress.

Chemical: this includes lead and all hazardous chemical substances (HCS) listed in the Hazardous Chemical Substances Regulations.

Biological: includes all pathogenic and non-pathogenic organisms (viruses, bacteria and fungi) as set out...
in the Regulations for Hazardous Biological Agents.

Ergonomical factors: for example confined workspaces and the identification and monitoring of all relevant information/considerations into systems development to improve the performance and health of individuals at workplaces.

**Role players**

Officers commanding and supervisors are playing major roles by means of their occupational health service (OHS) committee, OHS coordinators, as well as health and safety representatives. Their annual hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) report is vital for the occupational health team to be effective in their support to units. The occupational hygienist, medical officers, nurses and all other health care professionals form part of the supporting team to address health problems relating to HIRA reports.

Occupational hygiene. After units have submitted their HIRA reports to the Regional OHS centres they are utilised as the baseline reference for a report compiled by an occupational hygienist. The report consists of an occupational hygiene risk assessment and risk exposure profile of exposed employees based on the science, which is devoted to the recognition, evaluation and control of physical, chemical, biological and ergonomical risks in the workplace, which may cause sickness, impaired health or discomfort and inefficiency.

In the reports occupational hygienists apply information from various other sciences, such as chemistry, engineering, biology, mathematics, medicine, physics and toxicology to enable officers commanding to understand the risks. This analysis is also essential before occupational health practitioners can commence with the biological monitoring and/or medical surveillance programmes in units.

Occupational health practitioners. The success and the integrity of the risk assessment - risk management process is heavily dependent on the extent to which occupational hygiene, occupational nursing and occupational medicine are integrated. The role of the occupational health nurse is mainly concerned with the prevention of illness and the promotion of health, with a lesser emphasis on the curative aspects of health care. The occupational medicine practitioner deals with diseases related to occupation, including treatment of personnel with chronic diseases, the rehabilitation of the sick or injured worker and primary health care services.

The goal is to assist personnel to maintain their optimal state of physical and psychosocial well-being. This is done in close co-operation with the occupational nurse by means of biological monitoring, biological effect monitoring on target organs of the body, as well as medical surveillance and clinical diagnosis of occupational disease.

**Functions and activities**

Functions and activities of the Occupational Health Services in the DOD can be summarised as follows:

- The surveillance of the work environment and working practices which may affect DOD employees.
- The identification of health hazards and assessment of risks in the workplace.
- The medical surveillance of DOD members’ health in relation to their work. This may include the initial health assessment, placement examination, periodical examinations, exit examination and post-employment examination.
- Advice on planning and organisation of work, including the design of workplaces.
- The choice, maintenance and condition of machinery weapon systems and other equipment used in the workplace. This also includes the evaluation of the health-related aspects of new equipment.
- Advice on occupational health, safety, occupational hygiene, ergonomics and safety equipment for individuals and groups.
- The adaptation of the workplace to disabled members or those with health restrictions.
- Collaboration in providing information, training and education in occupational health, as well as occupational hygiene and ergonomics.
- Organising first aid and emergency treatment facilities in conjunction with the relevant area military health unit.
- Participation in the analysis of occupational accidents and diseases.

Occupational health requires a multidisciplinary team effort to be effective in dealing with related disciplines such as occupational hygiene, nursing and medicine. Health care workers must liaise closely with OHS committees, officers commanding and supervisors to develop a total health care programme which best serves the needs of the DOD and its personnel (Defence Act/PSA).

All role players in the team contribute unique skills to the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of the total occupational health programme in the DOD.
Coping with environmental management

Compiled by Lt Col Etienne F. van Blerk and Cdr Adri Liebenberg, Chief Joint Support - Logistics Division
Graphic: Denvin Naidoo

Coping with environmental management across the scope of military activities we know today could assume the form of a multitudinous isolated endeavours faced independently by different force structure elements in a frantic reaction to any range of prevailing environmental issues. The Defence Force could, on the other hand, follow the proven path of an integrated, systematic approach that anticipates management intervention and strives toward continual improvement in the environmental management performance of the organisation as a whole.

The Defence Force in South Africa has a history of environmental care dating back as far as 1978 when the first internal policies on the environment were formally adopted. An early focus to this effect on nature conservation or ecological management had to make way for the more contemporary strategy of military integrated environmental management (MIEM).

This approach considers the entire scope of military activities and their associated impact on all spheres of the environment in a quest for sustainable military use of any area of land or sea, or the airspace entrusted to the DOD for use in conducting its mission. Such an ostensibly pervasive approach understandably presents the DOD with marked challenges in engaging and co-ordinating environmental management performance in the absence of any formal or integrated system. This situation is aggravated by a climate that demands compliance with the prescripts of proliferating environmental legislation.

The First Edition Environmental Implementation Plan for the Defence Force finally published as Government Notice No 249 in Government Gazette 22022 of 16 February 2001, publicly acknowledges the quest for continual improvement in environmental management performance throughout the DOD. The final chapter in this fundamental document lists various recommendations aimed at bridging inadequacies or deficiencies in both the environmental management performance and capacity. As a key recommendation, the DOD is urged to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) in accordance with the International Standards Organisation’s ISO14000 series, which is the international standard for environmental management. Through this mechanism it is envisaged ensuring that controls are in place for a universal understanding of the levels of required environmental management performance, measuring current performance, identifying improvement potential, implementing an improvement plan, and controlling and tracking critical military activities that affect the environment.

Although the concept of developing an integrated EMS for Defence in South Africa would indeed be a novel idea, the Committee for the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), has been doing this since 1996 through a Pilot Study Group on EMSs in the military sector. The final report of the CCMS Pilot Study Group was finally issued in March 2000, and to date the military in several European countries has adopted ISO14000 which has resulted in advanced progress in the implementation of this system in the military sector. This is most evident in the Eastern European nations. The acclaimed legacy of the environment in South Africa has become widely known even in the international arena. The SA DOD was therefore granted special permission in 1996 to participate in proceedings of the CCMS Pilot Study Group even though South Africa is not a member of NATO.

This privilege was granted on the grounds of the South African legacy of corporate military environmental responsibility together with the understanding that guidelines advocated in the final report of the Pilot Study Group could be adapted as well to apply locally in the development of an EMS for Defence to elevate MIEM to new levels of performance. Many of the fundamental findings in the March 2000 final report No 240 of the CCMS Pilot Study Group on EMSs in the Military Sector were indeed contained in a strategic proposal developed by the Strategic Environmental Working Group for Defence (SEWing Group).

This proposal effectively mapped the route toward establishing an ISO14000-series EMS for Defence in South Africa. By July 2000 as a result of this strategic proposal, the Environmental Review Forum for Defence (ERF) was instituted by the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) in succession to the SEWing Group. Its task as a working group of the PDSC was twofold; firstly to design and...
develop a contextual EMS for Defence following the guidelines of the ISO14000 archetype; secondly, once completed, to implement and maintain the functioning of an EMS within the DOD. The ERF was essentially constituted of representatives recruited from Level 2 structures of each corporate division and the Services. Together they have convened monthly since March 2001 to follow a structured process of building the EMS element by element until the first draft was completed by May 2003.

The assignment to the ERF was a daunting one that so far has overseen the development and promulgation of a Corporate Environmental Policy Statement for Defence in September 2001 in which the Defence Force High Command issues the scope and boundaries within which the DOD pledges henceforth to address environmental care within its unique domain of business. In order to fulfil such a commitment, the ERF conducted a review of all environmental legislation applicable to the DOD in order to determine the fundamental requirements for environmental compliance. This review spanned all of the 35 national acts and 72 scheduled processes that foster some kind of environmental compliance implication for the DOD. It included various regulations and provincial legislation of a similar nature.

The ERF then embarked on the protracted process of an initial environmental review. This process entailed a comprehensive survey of all military activities and determining the relationship of each with a series of nine environmental characteristics, in order to arrive at a shortlist of significant environmental issues. The scope of military activities was derived from the core objectives and outputs in the Level 2 plans of each of the corporate divisions and the Services. The nine environmental characteristics used in the initial review are consistent with sustainable development and to those applied extensively by industry in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), thus covering all of the physical, biological, social and economic components of the environment. The shortlist of environmental impacts was ultimately prioritised and condensed to precipitate the seven most significant environmental issues faced by the DOD. The seven most significant environmental issues within Defence, as prioritised by the ERF following the process of initial environmental review, comprise waste management, water and soil pollution, contamination of land by unexploded ordnance, EIA planning, cultural resources and veld-fire management. These issues are now being further analysed and assessed from various angles to arrive at a tailored action plan or corporate environmental management programme that will address each of the most significant environmental issues.

The ERF continued to add other elements, such as environmental education, training and development, environmental communication, environmental contingency planning, monitoring and measurement, auditing, reporting, environmental awards and incentive programmes. Each of these elements constitute the EMS and will manifest quite differently where it is administered at strategic level to where it is implemented either at executive or operational level within the organisation. For this reason the ERF has followed a line of thought in which three main products emerged from the development phase. The first product was an overarching departmental policy regulating process associated with the implementation of EMS at corporate level that issues specific instructions and delegations to appropriate corporate divisions and the Services. The second appears in the form of a manual with clear guidelines on the process of developing and implementing a more conventional site-specific EMS. The latter will apply and be made available to every primary element identified at operational level (general support bases or force structure elements) at which a functional EMS could be situated. The third and final product is an implementation plan that considers peripheral issues, actions and resources required to cost, systematically introduce and establish EMS within the DOD at a steady pace set by predetermined milestones.

From June 2003 the ERF entered the implementation phase of its task which entails the introduction and implementation of the EMS for Defence at base level, which increased gradually and judiciously, the first introductions being limited to trials on a selected sample of bases and installations in the course of 2003.
Clarify the uncertainty on termination of service

Numerous enquiries are received on a regular basis by the Pension Section at the Human Resource Support Centre (HR Sup Cen) from SANDF members and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) regarding certain termination of service aspects, ie uncertainty regarding the meaning of terminology in use, as well as the payment of departmental and pension benefits.

It is believed that this article, with specific reference to the terminology used in the termination of service processes, will clarify the uncertainty regarding termination of service aspects within the DOD.

Terminology and application

Service. The term “service” can have three different meanings, ie service in relation to medical benefits, service in relation to severance pay, service in relation to actual service, and service bought back (not necessarily relating to pensionable service). Service can thus be the employment date, the attestation date or the commencing date of your contract with the DOD. This date is not always the pension fund admission date and can be confusing. Reasons for this confusion are the different types of service systems, former National Service, former Non-statutory Forces (NSF) service and specific waiting periods before admission to the pension fund according to the rules of the pension fund.

Pensionable Service. This term refers to the number of years of service since your date of admission to the pension fund (pension fund contribution commencement date) and may also include service that you have bought back for pension purposes. The date from which pensionable service is calculated is not necessarily the same date as your attestation date or employment date in the DOD.

Pension Fund Contributions. If you are employed in the DOD, you are contributing to the Government Employee and Pension Fund (GEPF) at a rate of 7,5% of your pensionable emoluments (salary). Your employer, the DOD, contributes to this fund at a rate of 15% of your pensionable emoluments.

Pension Number. Your pension number, as reflected on your pay sheet, is not critical for the purpose of processing termination of service documentation. Rather ensure that your bar coded ID number is correct on the PERSOL system. Kindly request your local Human Resource Support Satellite (HR Sup Sat) to determine if your bar coded ID number is correct on the PERSOL system.

National Treasury (Pension Administration) is still busy with a Departmental Project to audit pension contribution commencement dates and pension numbers. Once this project is finalised your correct confirmed pension number will be reflected on your pay sheet.

Retirement Age. If you are a contributing member of the GEP, you have the right to retire on pension and must be so retired on reaching the age determined by the law governing your employment contract. The compulsory retirement age is the date on which you will reach the age of 60 (SANDF members), the age of 65 (PSAP), or such an age as stipulated in the terms of conditions of service of your individual employment contract. The actual retirement date is the last day of the month in which you will attain the retirement age. If you are serving in the SANDF with an appointment code of PR, your retirement date is the date directly prior to your 65th birthday.

Notice Periods. In terms of the General Regulations for the SANDF and the Reserve, all SANDF members must give three months notice in writing of their intended or compulsory last day of service. In terms of the Public Service Act, 1994, PSAP must give written notice of one month, unless specifically otherwise stipulated in terms of the conditions of service of an employment contract.

Estimated Pension Benefit Calculations. The HR Sup Cen (Pension Section) is the only section authorised to do estimated pension benefit calculations. A pro forma for this purpose is available at your local HR Sup Sat. Any estimated pension benefit calculation, not done by this section, will not be officially recognised in cases of dispute, legal action or interest claims against the DOD.

Approval Authority. The term “Approval Authority” refers to the person/post incumbent responsible for authorising a certain type of termination of service. The approval authority for types of termination of service where a discretion is not required (resignation, death, normal retirement, disciplinary discharge, contract expiry and departmental transfer), is the Chief Human

Payment of pension benefits.
Resource Support (Director Personnel Separation). The approval authority for types of termination of service where a discretion is required (medical discharge, administrative discharge, separation (Transformation and Restructuring Package - TRP) early retirement prior to retirement age and non-renewal of an employment/service contract), is the Minister of Defence or the Secretary for Defence as applicable in terms of law prescripts.

**Completion of the Termination of Service.** A booklet for each type of termination of service can be obtained from your local HR Sup Sat. It is important that this booklet be duly completed by you by following the instructions in the booklet, and must be submitted to your local HR Sup Sat for submission to the HR Sup Cen (Pension Section), at least ten weeks prior to your last day of service. Incomplete booklets, or booklets submitted late will result in delays in the payment of your departmental benefits and also your pension benefits.

**Bank Particulars.** As an integral part (most important) of the completion of the type of termination of service booklet, your bank particulars must be completed on the form Z894 which is included in the termination of service booklet. Only the original completed Z894 form with the signature of the banking official who has completed the form and the official stamp of the bank disclosed on the form is acceptable. You must sign the form in the space provided for "signature of member/pensioner/executor/organisation/other" and you must also attach your thumbprint on the form in the space provided. If your bank particulars form is incomplete, it will definitely result in delays in the payment of your pension benefit by National Treasury. The reason for the application of your signature and thumbprint on the Z894 is to prevent any possible fraud when your pension benefits have to be paid out.

**Certified Copy of Identity Document.** The second most important document to be attached to the termination of service booklet is a certified copy of your bar coded ID. National Treasury has implemented a system to scan bar coded IDs to ensure their validity, and to prevent possible fraud when your pension benefits have to be paid out. Only a certified true copy of your bar coded ID is acceptable. Copies of bar coded IDs that are faxed are not acceptable as they cannot be scanned.

**Departmental Benefits.** These benefits are the monies that are due to you upon termination of service and are calculated and paid by the Chief Financial Officer, Director Personnel Payments (CFO DPP) into your bank account or designated account (estate late account). Your departmental benefits may consist of the payment of leave gratuity upon normal retirement, death and contract expiry (only partially payable upon resignation or discharge), a pro rata service bonus (as applicable), six months homeowners allowance (as applicable) and arrears salary earnings as result of a salary adjustment. If your termination of service booklet has been duly completed, your departmental benefits should be paid into your bank account directly after your last day of service of at least within thirty of your last day of service. The payment of your departmental benefits is not an HR Sup Cen (Pension Section) responsibility. Once you have left the service of the DOD, enquiries regarding your departmental benefits can be directed to the Chief Financial Officer, Directorate Personnel Payments.

(Continued on page 36)
Departmental benefits are the sole responsibility of the National Treasury (Chief Directorate Pension Administration). According to section 26(1) of the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996, National Treasury has sixty days after the last day of service of a member/employee or after receipt of the duly completed pension documents to calculate and pay such pension benefits. Pension benefits are not paid by the HR Sup Cen (Pension Section), or the DOD as your employer. Once the sixty days since your last day of duty have lapsed, and you have not received your pension benefits in your bank account, you can contact National Treasury, Pension Administration at the toll-free number: 0800 117 669. It is also very important to note that if your pension benefits amount exceeds R700 000-00, the payment of such benefits amount might be delayed as such payment must first be cleared by the Reserve Bank.

**Taxation on Departmental Benefits.** Departmental benefits are fully taxable and tax implications for departmental benefits are determined by the SA Revenue Services (SARS) by means of the issuing of a tax directive, an IRP3 form, to the CFO (DPP). To enable the CFO (DPP) to obtain your IRP3 from SARS in time, it is important that your duly completed termination of service booklet reaches the HR Sup Cen (Pension Section) at least ten weeks prior to your last day of service, so that certain documents may be submitted to the CFO (DPP).

**Departmental Debt.** Departmental debt can result from aspects or circumstances such as salary overpayment, late institution of salary deductions, outstanding contractual or study obligations or liabilities, a state guarantee on a house loan not settled prior to termination of your service or the loss of personal or issued equipment. Recovery of such debt is the responsibility of the CFO (DPP) and must be recovered from either your departmental benefits payable to you or from your pension benefit, should the amount of your departmental benefits not allow for full recovery of the departmental debt.

**Different Pension Benefits Payable.** Depending on your type of termination of service, your pension benefits could consist of a gratuity (one-off amount "lump sum") and an annuity (monthly pension) if you have more than ten years' pensionable service or only a gratuity (one-off amount "lump sum") if you have less than ten years' pensionable service.

**Calculation and Payment of Pension Benefit.** The final calculation and payment of your pension benefits is the sole responsibility of National Treasury (Chief Directorate Pension Administration). According to section 26(1) of the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996, National Treasury has sixty days after the last day of service of a member/employee or after receipt of the termination of service process. This physical action must take place before or on your last day of service at your unit or office (place of work). Clearing out consists of the handing back of your issued equipment and personal issue, the payment of your telephone and mess accounts, the payment of purchase money on resignation (other ranks) and the vacating of your State quarters or living-in quarters. If you have not duly cleared out on your last day of service, the resultant PERSOL phase 3 transaction cannot be finalised and will result in a delay in the payment of your departmental benefits and your pension benefits.
Celebrating science, engineering and technology

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

National Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Week 2003 was held over the period 5 to 10 May 2003 at the SA Air Force Museum in Pretoria. This was an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology. National SET Week has become the premier celebration of science, engineering and technology in South Africa. It features exhibitions and seminars, and demonstrates the principles of science, engineering and technology, while also informing learners of possible careers in this field.

The aims and objectives of the National SET Week were the following:
- To generate an interest in science, engineering and technology, particularly among learners and the general public.
- To offer organisations and individuals the opportunity of exposing the public to the impact of science, engineering and technology on their daily lives.
- To provide a wide range of stimulating and interactive experiences of SET.
- To develop a culture of SET in South Africa.

A total of nearly 30 000 learners who took part in the National SET Week 2003 visited the SA Air Force Museum where they experienced first hand the principles of flight and the operation of aircraft and learned about the heritage of the Air Force.

Boasting as world leader in artillery

Members of various formations had the opportunity to join the Gunners of SA Army Artillery Formation for the 2003 Training Seminar on SA Artillery Employment held at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom over the period 14 to 17 April 2003.

Col Carel Laubscher, SSO Force Preparation SA Army Artillery Formation, said: “It is ironical that South Africa is currently acknowledged as a world leader in artillery systems and competence in the operational employment of artillery, but that a decline in the focus on artillery and the competence in the employment of such world class artillery is observed in the SA Army.”

Over the past number of years a decline has been observed in knowledge and general competence in the operational planning, employment and command and control of artillery among supported unit commanders during practical exercises in the SA Army. This decline is attributed to a lack of operational experience involving artillery, as well as a lack of practical training opportunities for integrated forces in the SA Army.

Based on these observations, the SA Army Artillery Formation and specifically SSO Force Preparation have taken the initiative and responsibility of providing a tailored training seminar in an attempt to rectify this situation.

The purpose of the training seminar was therefore to improve the knowledge and competence of SA Army instructors at common training institutions, as well as infantry and armour unit commanders and brigade staff, who are the current supported commanders and staff who will be responsible for the employment of artillery.

During the opening address of the seminar Brig Gen Abe Notshweleka, General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation, stated: “We, as the senior artillery officers of the SA Army, have therefore taken the responsibility on ourselves to contribute to the development of future commanders and staff in the SA Army to be proud and competent force employers of our modern world class SA Artillery”.

The training seminar did not only include the theory of artillery employment, but a static display of new equipment as well as a live firing demonstration that was included in the programme. The training seminar was closed with an evaluation phase on 17 April to ensure that the attendees were sufficiently competent in employing artillery.

The SA Army Artillery Formation would like to extend our most grateful thanks to everyone for the hard work put in to make this seminar a huge success. A special word of thanks to Denel (LIW) for its contribution, as without its assistance this seminar would not have been the success it was. (Article by Maj Marinda Oberholzer, SO2 Communication SA Army Artillery Formation)
Warriors never say goodbye

Article and photos by WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban

The ship’s company of Naval Station Durban, friends, families and former naval members who have served on the SAS ADAM KOK gathered on the main quay at Salisbury Island to bid farewell to a warrior.

Such was the nature of this solemn occasion that the sun did not even shine and mother nature gave this occasion the kind of weather to delay her departure.

The warrior class strike craft of the SA Navy, SAS ADAM KOK, was home ported to Simon’s Town under the command of Cdr Jasper van der Westhuizen. She was the last strike craft out of nine which formed the strike craft flotilla in Durban to be home ported to Simon’s Town. It was the end of a magnificent era.

She was given a grand send-off from Salisbury Island, which included the pulsating beat of Zulu warriors, the SA Army Band Durban’s rendition of “I am sailing” and the cheering of the people who came to say goodbye.

An inshore patrol vessel (IPV) and two harbour protection boats (HPBs) accompanied her out of the harbour entrance. A national ports authority helicopter hovered above her at the entrance.

Since the official announcement of the downsizing of Naval Base Durban to a naval station, the SAS ADAM KOK was the last strike craft to be home ported to Simon’s Town. The SAS RENE SETHREN was home ported and finally decommissioned in 2002 and the SAS ISAAC DYOBHA was also home ported in June 2002.

Many seasoned sailors who are now serving on the SAS ADAM KOK and who have spent their entire careers in Durban have to face quite a challenge in making the move to the Cape. There were embraces, hugs and handshakes as the ship’s company made their way on board. There was a feeling of sadness that strike craft will not be a permanent sight at Salisbury Island.

WO2 Babes Naicker, the coxswain, said that he viewed the move as an adventure. “I am always up to a new challenge. I have been with the Navy for 23 years, so I am...they just relocate.”

V Adm Johan Retief, Chief of the SA Navy, arrived a day earlier in Durban to visit the ship’s company of SAS ADAM KOK. V Adm Retief wished Cdr Jasper van der Westhuizen, Officer Commanding SAS ADAM KOK, a safe passage to Simon’s Town.
quite used to being moving around. Fortunately I am single, but will miss my parents,” he said.

LS Clive Mthethwa, who lives with his family in Umlazi, said the move was part of a sailor’s life. “We have to take it as it comes. I have been expecting to be relocated since the Base was downsized to a station last year. I will be relocating my wife and child as soon as I can,” he said.

The SA Navy has seven strike craft in Simon’s Town. The SAS JAN SMUTS is on a synchro-lift in Durban, which will be disposed of as deemed necessary by the Navy.

The SAS ADAM KOK was the third of a class of nine strike craft to be commissioned for the SA Navy. She was the last of a batch of three to be built in the Israel Shipyards in Haifa.

Launched in January 1978 she was commissioned in April that year following extensive trials and sailed for South Africa under the command of Cdr M.A. Rennie. She arrived in South Africa in May 1978.

The introduction of strike craft heralded a new era in the SA Navy in terms of technology, seamanship and with strategy playing a smaller role, but they were considerably more potent than the anti-submarine frigates they replaced as South Africa’s primary surface deterrent.

The 450-ton vessel is armed with up to eight Skerpioen surface-to-surface missiles, two 76 mm general-purpose guns and a secondary armament, which includes 20 mm and smaller calibre machine guns. They can reach speeds of up to 30 knots.

Assistance operations

One of the most important peace-time roles of the SA Navy is that of assistance operations. Such operations in which SAS ADAM KOK has been involved include the search for the wreckage of the SA Air Force Buccaneer maritime aircraft, which crashed off the RSA coast in 1979, as well as the rescue of a seriously injured Polish seaman off the West Coast later that year.

Peacekeeping

In February 2002 the SAS ADAM KOK sailed with the combat support vessel, SAS OUTENIQUA, from Durban to Dar-es-Salaam to take part in a multinational peacekeeping exercise, Exercise TANZANITE, with sixteen SADC countries, including Kenya. The exercise was conducted in accordance with a United Nations mandate and in compliance with the Organisation of African Unity.

Maritime assistance

In August 2001 the SAS ADAM KOK was responsible for transporting two sub-Antarctic fur seals aptly named BLESSINGS and CAMY to Cape Recife at the request of Sea World, Durban. The seal pups had been beached off the KwaZulu-Natal coast and were cared for until they were fit to go home.

Finale

“This marks the end of a glorious era. Although you are smaller now (Naval Station Durban), keep that familiar flame of dedication, commitment and professionalism burning bright as ever. It is these qualities that we have inherited from you that will not make us forget Durban. There will always be a part of Durban in every strike craft. Many thanks for the support and the magnificent farewell. We are looking forward to our second visit,” - signal sent by Cdr Jasper van der Westhuizen, Officer Commanding SAS ADAM KOK, on arrival in Simon’s Town. Warriors never say goodbye, they just relocate.
Moscow theatre siege

By Col B.P. Steyn, Chemical and Biological Defence Advisor to the Surgeon General
Photos: Courtesy BBC News World Europe

On 23 October 2002 just after 21:00, as theatregoers in the Theatre Centre on Dubrovka headed back to their seats, fifty Chechen rebels burst into the building and took more than eight hundred people hostage. They were armed with AK47 assault rifles and pistols and had sufficient explosives to bring down the whole building.

Approximately one third of the group consisted of females who all carried plastic explosives in bags on their belts with electric detonators in their hands, ready to detonate the explosives immediately. Plastic explosives were also attached to pillars, walls and seats in the building with the intention to collapse the building if Russian troops were to storm it.

The rebels demanded that Russia withdraw its troops from Chechnya and were not prepared to conduct any negotiations. They freed 54 hostages the following day, but were prepared to kill themselves with the remaining hostages if attacked and threatened to start killing hostages if their demands were not met by 06:00 on 26 October.

At 05:30 on Saturday 26 October hostages became aware of a strange odour and saw gas seeping through the air conditioning vents and the auditorium floor. The gas was pumped through the ventilation system and through holes bored in the floor by soldiers who had been tunnelling beneath the building since day one. As terrorists and hostages alike fell unconscious, several of the female terrorists made a dash for the balcony but passed out before they reached the stairs.

At 06:30, an hour after the gas was released, Spetsnaz soldiers burst into the auditorium and, in a firefight gunned down those terrorists still awake. Those who had succumbed to the gas, including most of the women with explosives strapped to their waists were killed in their sleep. Battles continued in other parts of the building for more than half an hour. Shortly after 07:00 the three remaining rebels surrendered.

A few hostages were able to stumble out on their own, but most had to be carried. They were bundled into ambulances and buses that ferried them to hospitals across Moscow. Most hostages received no treatment at the scene, but only upon arrival at the hospitals. At this stage the identity of the gas was still unknown to health-care workers and sufficient amounts of antidote were not available. Some 450 people were treated and 118 died, of whom only two died as a result of bullet wounds, while no soldiers were killed or injured.

To date the Russian authorities have refused to reveal the identity or composition of the gas used in the attack. Information on this issue is only available from the media and other unofficial sources. The symptoms and effects on the hostages (including those described by the hostages) and health-care workers also provided some clues. Therefore, any analysis of the incident must be based on deductions derived from the available information.

Initially there was much speculation as to the identity of the chemical agent(s) used in the rescue operation. Agents that were considered included nerve agents and the incapacitating agent BZ, which causes central nervous system (CNS) depression and has hallucinating and other atropine-type effects. Although there is still uncertainty about the identity of the agent, the general view among experts now is that the opiate analgesic (painkilling) drug, Fentanyl (or one of its derivatives), was used in combination with the volatile inhalational anaesthetic agent Halothane.

Fentanyl
Fentanyl is an Opiate analgesic (painkilling) agent similar to morphine. Some of its derivatives (Alfentanyl, Sufentanyl) are used on a daily basis by anaesthetists in surgical theatres for their analgesic effects. Fentanyl and its derivatives exert their analgesic effects on the CNS. In addition to the analgesic effects they also cause depression of consciousness (for which effect it would have been used here) and respiratory...
Halothane

Halothane is a volatile inhalation anaesthetic agent used in operating theatres. It acts on the brain and causes unconsciousness. It has depressing effects on the heart and respiration that are increased in the presence of other drugs such as opiates. These effects are not dangerous in clinical concentrations, but may be deadly in large doses. Halothane also has effects that are toxic to the liver, which is insignificant in small doses, but may be very relevant in large doses. The duration of the unconsciousness caused by Halothane is short and a person will wake up fairly quickly after the supply of Halothane has been terminated. Although the duration of its effects will be lengthened by very high doses, it should not last for hours, as was the case with some of the hostages. There is no antidote for halothane, the effects must wear off over time. The concentrations used by the Russians to achieve the required effect would cause most people to stop breathing fairly shortly after exposure. The use of these drugs in this manner was clearly very dangerous and risky and it is surprising that the death toll was not higher.

Analysis

In the analysis of this incident some questions need to be discussed.

Why were chemical agents (or drugs) used at all?

The terrorists made it clear from the beginning of the siege that they were prepared to kill the hostages and themselves by detonating the explosives set in the building, if attacked. Therefore the Russian forces had to find a means of preventing the terrorists from detonating the explosives or allowing them sufficient time to kill hostages or fight back effectively. Considering the number of hostages, the terrorists and the size and complexity of the building, the Spetsnaz would obtain the quickest and widest effects with chemical agents.

Were the agents used the best option?

There are several factors influencing a decision on what agent(s) to use:

- The required effect. The effect the Russians required was to incapacitate most of the terrorists as quickly as possible after the release of the agents and to keep them incapacitated long enough to ensure the least resistance. CNS depressing agents that are fast acting in very high doses would be the best means to achieve these effects. Virtually all CNS depressing agents require a period, which is dose dependent, to reach their full effect. The agents used also require a few minutes to reach their full effect in normal doses: the shorter the required time to reach maximum effect the higher would be the dose needed.

- The size of the area to be covered. As the agent disperses after discharge, its concentration decreases. The reduction is dependent on the size of the area in which it disperses. The bigger the area the greater the reduction in concentration. A sufficiently high concentration of agent must be present in the area to achieve the required dose. Adequate volumes of agent must be released into the area from as many sources as possible to reach the required concentration as quickly as possible. As stated before, massive doses of the agents used were required to achieve the desired effect.

- The people exposed. There usually is a wide individual variance in the effects of CNS depressant drugs and the reaction by individuals to similar doses may vary significantly. Other factors such as age, general health status, fatigue and hydration status will also cause individual variance. The larger the number of people exposed the larger the variance in response will be. A sufficiently high dose to cover all possibilities would be the only option to ensure the required effect on the persons targeted. Unfortunately that would imply that hostages would also be exposed to very high doses (overdoses).

(Continued on page 42)
It is clear that massive concentrations of agents would have had to be used to get the effects achieved by the Russians. At such high doses the safety limits of any drug or agent are exceeded, with resultant unpredictability in terms of side effects and complications.

Are there other agents that would provide similar effects, but be safer?

Other incapacitating agents that could be considered would be agents such as 3-quinolclidinyl benzilate (BZ), an incapacitating agent developed by the USA, or LSD. Both these agents provide CNS depression and unconsciousness, but both have dangerous and undesirable side effects. The natural variance in response and the size of the area and group would also require very high doses and concentrations.

What else could be done to reduce the number of casualties?

The Russian health-care system that supported the attack was not informed about the type of agent that would be used. It is quite clear that the health-care system was not involved in the planning and preparation for the operation at the level that it should have been. It was not warned beforehand about the agent that would be used. Because the health-care workers did not know the identity of the agents they were not prepared to manage the casualties in terms of antidotes to Fentanyl and emergency respiratory support equipment. Their emergency treatment was also incorrect because they did not know what they were dealing with. If the Moscow health authorities had been involved in the planning for the operation at the correct level they would have been much better prepared to manage the casualties and the number of victims might have been lower.

Was the use of the agents legal in terms of international law?

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which is the international agreement that controls these types of agents and their use, allows the use of “riot control agents” for law enforcement purposes. However, there are still many debates about whether incapacitating agents (eg BZ) can be classified as “riot control agents”.

Fentanyl and halothane are anaesthetic agents and their everyday use is quite legal. They or similar drugs are also not described or referred to in the Convention. Therefore, the legality of their use would be unclear in terms of the Convention and open for interpretation and a cause for further debate.

Were the Russian tactics to end the siege justified?

There may be disagreement on this question. Some would argue that the price in human lives was too high. The counter-argument would be: “Would the outcome be any better if any other action was taken?”

The one aspect that is clear is that the number of casualties could have been much lower if the health authorities were correctly involved in the planning and had known how to prepare for it.
Field gun goes to its origins

Article and photo courtesy Capt (Ret) Charles Aikenhead of the Irish Guards

Swarthkop reverberated to the crunch of iron wheels and the straining efforts of men raising the 1 300 kg guns up the rocky hillside on 8 February 2003. The inaugural re-enactment of the feat of arms from the South African War of 1900 had plenty of excitement and sweat in the summer heat of KwaZulu-Natal as the Porstmouth Field Gun Association and the Natal Field Artillery hauled naval 12-pounder field guns up the 1:1 slope to fire them on the summit.

Teams of twenty used a system of blocks and cables to raise the guns in a similar way to their forbears. Starting at the base of the slide, blocks, cables and drag ropes were carried up to the first strong point, fixed and led downhill so that the gun was raised up by pulling down. On reaching the first strong point the gun was secured and the same equipment then carried to the strong point at the top for the pull to the summit. The pullers had to climb the hill twice for the pull to the summit. The slide was only a part of the preparations since there was no route to its base; this had to be cleared through virgin overgrown scrub from the foot of the hill. Support from the KwaZulu-Natal Tourist Board and the Municipality of Ladysmith enabled bulldozers to carve a hairpin track from the base of the hill which was accessible to four-wheel drive vehicles and allowed walking spectators to line the slide for the competition.

The Swartkop Challenge Event had been created from the hauling of naval guns to the summit of the kopje for the battle of Vaalkranz (5-7 February 1900) which was one of the series of battles fought under General Redvers Buller to relieve the siege of Ladysmith. A contemporary diarist recorded that “when the Engineers arrived to build the track to the top of the hill for the Artillery, they found the Navy already up there”. This inter-service rivalry, together with the crucial role of the naval guns in preventing the fall of Ladysmith, was a foundation of the Field Gun Runs that thrilled crowds at the Royal Tournament until its last performance in 1999.

Archive photos showed the gun slide up the impossibly steep slope that saw the raising of six naval and two artillery pieces which went into action for the battle, as well as the battery of six mountain guns that went up on mule-back via the game trails. Historian Steve Watt came to identify the boulders in the old photos with the position in the overgrown bush of today, before clearance of the slide was carried out by local rancher Mike Bentley and his willing team. Four puff-adders and a swarm of African bees were evicted and one labourer, “Weely”, was able to protrate himself to allow a falling boulder to pass over him on its way to destruction at the foot of the hill.

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During the construction one bulldozer ran out of control down the hill with the driver hanging on to the controls with his knuckles matching the whites of his eyes.

Accommodation under canvas was arranged for the teams by the Natal Field Artillery and the event was extended to include other extreme sports - downhill cycling and white water canoeing - which all created a carnival atmosphere. Here again road access was marginal and the development of the track to take saloon cars was a long-term enhancement to the infrastructure of the area. The Portsmouth Team was supported by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Elaine Baker and her entourage, who were entertained at a civic function by the Mayor of Ladysmith Councillor Stanley Dladler.

The battle of Vaalkranz required the use of pontoon bridges over the Tugela River and the organisers were supported by the South African Defence Force Engineers from Bethlehem who built a pontoon bridge at Skiet Drift to allow vehicular access from the main N3 trunk road to the east, avoiding a lengthy route through Winterton. The first vehicle to cross was the mayoral party; the first to cross dry-shod in 103 years.

The Swartkop Challenge will become an annual event as a celebration of the feat carried out all those years ago and it is planned that other overseas teams from countries that fought in the South African War will come and test the same hillside. Increasing numbers of associated events will bring real recognition to this remote valley through which the Tugela River winds its convoluted course, to make the event a real focus for visitors interested in the history of the area - or just wanting a thrill similar to a Formula One race meeting. Perhaps Hill Gun Hauling will be a new extreme sport - a challenge for the world’s strong men.

The next challenge will be over the weekend of 21 to 22 February 2004.

JULY 2003 | SA SOLDIER
Develop tennis players

The veteran tennis champion, Col King Marshall Nonco of Chief Directorate Army Force Preparation, has dedicated his spare time to the tennis development of previously disadvantaged children in Thaba Tshwane.

He started a coaching project on 25 June 2002 with a view to imparting tennis skills to the previously disadvantaged community. He strongly believes that the involvement of the parents and school teachers in sports development will minimise criminal activities in both schools and the wider community, taking into consideration the old saying that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop". On 12 April 2003 Col Nonco held a successful tennis tournament for juniors at the Pretoria Military Tennis Club in Thaba Tshwane. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the children in the different age groups. The tournament was sponsored by SAFI Spar in partnership with Mega-Sport Shop, both in Thaba Tshwane.

"People with knowledge and expertise must share these with others wherever they are, especially in our military organisation, because no man is an island. People develop and prosper because of what the community invests in them," said Col Nonco. "The most selfish people in life are those who take to their graves their knowledge, skills and expertise. They need to know that the more you share knowledge with others, the more God multiplies your talents and skills. The future strength of any nation depends on how much it invests in its youth."

He endorses the saying that: "A child in sport is a child out of court". He urges parents to encourage their children to be involved in sport at an early age, as sport is a very good thing for keeping everyone involved healthy, strong and well-disciplined.

"I want to make an appeal to all the members of the SANDF to take sport seriously. They must remember that you do not stop exercising because you grow old, but you grow old because you stop exercising," said Col Nonco.

"I sincerely thank the management of SAFI SPAR Thaba Tshwane, Gauteng North Tennis Association Development, Mega-Sport Shop Thaba Tshwane and Pretoria Military Tennis Club for their co-operation and support."
Wishes do come true

S Victor Ramakuela, who was serving on board SAS ADAM KOK, wished that his former school, Dzondo Primary in Lwanmondo, Limpopo Province, would visit SAS ADAM KOK based on Salisbury Island. It became a reality for LS Ramakuela when he received a call from his former Principal, Mr N.A. Tshikovhi, in which the latter stated that the learners of Dzondo Primary would visit Durban during the school holidays.

The request for a tour was approved. LS Ramakuela and the Public Relations Section of Naval Station Durban planned a programme. Mr Tshikovhi, twelve teachers and 120 learners arrived on Salisbury Island in February 2003. There was great joy as hands were shaken and more serving members from Dzondo Primary came forward to see if they could still recognise their former teachers. LS Ramakuela prepared a presentation on the Navy way of life, which was a far cry from the time when he was a schoolboy. He addressed the educators and learners in the Jalsena Cinema Hall and spoke of his experiences in the Navy, especially soccer, as he used to coach the successful Naval Base Durban side to many victories.

Lt Derrick Mboyisa gave a presentation on the role of a diver in the SA Navy. A practical demonstration was given in the dive tank and the decompression chamber. It drew a lot of questions from the learners. The amazement on seeing LS Mboyisa diving into the tank was greeted with tumultuous applause. With great eagerness LS Ramakuela elaborated on the SAS ADAM KOK. Lt Popo Mathabathe welcomed the Principal and although the ship was in the process of being cleaned those present wanted to wait and experience the feel of going on board a warship.

On conclusion of the tour Mr Tshikovhi said: “It was a great pleasure to come from so far to experience a naval tour. To see such things for the first time was an eye-opener. To see my former learners in the Navy makes me feel proud. To receive their respect, and not forgetting their roots, has made my day. May God bless this Station to become bigger and stronger in the future.”

With sadness and a sense of fulfilment they departed, having made LS Ramakuela’s wish comes true. (Article and photo by WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban)

Bridging the cultural divide

By Nomonde Vuthela

divided into four tribal groups, members of the SA Army Intelligence Formation set off to enjoy an afternoon filled with cultural diversity at Fountains Valley in Pretoria on 13 April 2003.

It was a day set aside for the Tswanas, Swazis, Xhosas and Boere to come together and share in each other’s culture. The fact that “experience is the best teacher” could not have been more applicable this day.

Following orders from Brig Gen