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CONTRIBUTIONS:
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Reproduction & Printing:
Government Printing Works
149 Bosman Street, Pretoria
Tel: (012) 334-4500

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FRONT COVER: Reaching out to a community in need 142 Squadron of the SA Air Force donated water tanks to the O.R. Tambo Clinic, a Diepsloot community clinic, and the Muzomuhle Primary School also in the same area. Read more on page 34. (Photo: F Sgt Tania Kettles)
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Military excellence was displayed when the team of the SA Army won the International Pace Stick competition which was held at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England.

Teams from countries all over the world competed against each other. Pace stick drill demands a high level of competence, and therefore a lot of practice and effort have to go into the preparation for such an event.

We are proud of these WOs and NCOs who have shown the world that the SANDF is capable of international standards. Congratulations and keep it up! (Read more about this event on page 22.)

The special qualities required by an individual to become an operator in the SA Special Forces Brigade make recruiting a challenge. Special Forces are looking for new talent. Those who want to undertake the ultimate challenge of qualifying as operators in the SA Special Forces Brigade can read on page 38 if they conform to the set criteria.

Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor

From the Editor’s desk

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Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor

Ezivela kwidesika yoMhleli

Singathanda ukukuthaza abafundi bethu ukuba bafundele kakhulu ngemibhi yoxolo eBurundi kwakunye nobomi nendala egqubayo eKindu (jonga iphepha 14-17).

Akukho mathabazuko ezubeni uMzantsi Afrika kufuneka udalele indima kukhuseleko lwemimandla, kodwa… - Elinye inqakwawana ekufuneka ekufuneka efundifundlwwe ephuthuka kwi Special Correspondent, Helmoed Romer Heitman, kwiphepha le-18, 19 nama-20.


Ukubalasela komkhosi kwabekwa elubala xa iqela le-SA Army liphumela laphumhlophe nabo 1we-International Pace Stick neyanbanjelwa eRoyal Military Academy eSandhurst, eNgilane.

Amagomelwele amakhe lela nte osebenza italente lento (operator) kwi-SA Special Forces Brigade bangafunda kwiphepha lama-22.

Ubuchule obubodwa obufunwa ngeumntu ngamnyele ukuze abe ngumntu osebenza into ethile (operator) kwi-SA Special Forces Brigade kwenza ubuswetha kubone ngeumcel`imageni. I-Special Forces ifuna italente entsha. Aba bafuna ukugaqalo lo mcel`imageni welungelo lokusebenza into ethile kwi-SA Special Forces Brigade bangafunda kwiphepha lama-38 ukuba bayavumelana nobume obusebikweyo.

Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli oBambeleyo
PROFESSIONALISM

lead by example

abstinence

be faithful to one partner

Six Moral Values

Moral Values empower you for life
Green soldiering
The green soldiering idea has brought with it many exciting developments in the environmental field. Environmental protection is the highest task of man. I believe that without performing this task diligently and failing to act decisively and in a responsible way, we will put great stress on the life-support system of planet earth. Our children will ultimately live in a bleak and impoverished world.

I also support the notion that the ultimate responsibility for the health of the earth rests with the individual. Every one of us can make a difference by the way we live our lives and the way we consume resources. Think for a moment about an act of disposing waste carelessly. This is likely to result in water pollution, which will harm the planetary oxygen factory - the oceans. The far-reaching effects of individual action also apply to the consumption of electricity. When one switches on an electric light bulb, the heat comes from a coal-fired power station. The process of burning million tons of coal for electricity will result in acid rain, which will cause severe environmental damage. Really, planet earth is at risk!

We need to support the DOD in environmental protection so as to achieve economic growth and development, particularly the core business of the DOD which it to produce operationally ready soldiers. We need to involve ourselves. We need the sort of commitment that is normally only awakened in nations threatened by war. Maybe we are at war, in a battle for the health of our planet. We need to mobilise all the forces of human knowledge and fight with every weapon in our arsenal. We need to use consumable resources wisely, reduce waste and save energy. After all Mother Earth deserves love, care and respect - Pte M.J. Kgoele, 2 SAI Bn, Mmabatho.

Bafana-Bafana visited Burundi
The committee that was appointed to make arrangements for the arrival of Bafana-Bafana in Burundi would like to extend special thanks to the Force Commander, Maj Gen Binda, and the former Contingent Commander, Col X. Mankaye, for giving the soldiers an opportunity to support and receive the SA National Team in such numbers. The players and SAFA delegation headed by their Chief Director, Mr Barney Kujana, and Head Coach, Mr Ephraim “Shakes” Mashaba, were impressed and expressed their sincere pride in the SANDF.

The players could not stop appreciating the immense support and safety that they were given. They acknowledged the fact that it was the first time in many games that they had played in Africa that they could express themselves freely and to the best of their ability. They also appreciated the assurance of their safety from day one of their arrival until the day of their departure.

The media, which comprised Super Sport and E-TV, headed by the SABC crew, were very positive and happy about the events. The committee believes that the SANDF has set higher standards back home in South Africa. The encouraging and positive announcements by Mr Mike “Sparo” Mangena and Mr Robert Marawa on the soccer zone show, which was watched by millions of viewers screened on SABC 2 on 7 July 2003 at 21:00, has put the SANDF a step higher on the map.

The soldiers were equally jubilant and excited about recent soccer games, which were sealed by a wonderful victory by Bafana-Bafana over Burundi. Despite the struggle and the deliberate delay in getting tickets from the relevant Burundian Football Association, the committee believes that the SANDF has accomplished its mission in the light of the immense support that it gave Bafana-Bafana. It is indeed true that a prize can never be won without an effort - Maj M.S. Ngeleza, Burundi.

Guns of life
Can’t you hear the saying? Can’t you see the events?
Don’t you know about the bad and the good?

Trust someone and never trust everybody
Believe in yourself and never let your life be ruined by anything.

Don’t you know about crying and madness?
Don’t you know happiness and sadness?
Mind them, they are part and parcel of our daily guns of life
So wake up, don’t let anyone cut your love life.

For AIDS will take you to pieces, six feet underground
Safe sex will provide you with a life lived long.
Stop the crying, stop the guns of life
Stop unsafe sex - F Sgt Mxolisi Botya, Hoedspruit AFB.

3 SA Infantry Battalion
Collision of bodies and minds
Bonds for eternity
Founded on common struggle
And mutual respect

Abilities stretched to the limit
Blood and sweat are orders of the day
Bodies moulded to perfection
Mindsets are altered

A place for heroes
It is where survivors gather
Never a place for failures
But always room for improvement

Who I was, I am no longer
Life as I know it, Ceases to exist
My reincarnation began at this place

An illusion it is not
For I have found such a place
And there is no-where
I would rather be than
3 SAI Battalion - Wendal Moodley, Lyttelton.
What must be done

The interpretation of the presence of international criminal syndicates in South Africa is alarming. Responsible citizens with vision and a sense of belonging feel very disturbed. It takes one who loves his country with his heart, and not only with his life, to have sleepless nights about what is taking place in our country. A general trend has developed that these invading aliens are here solely to destabilise our nation by, for example, robbing banks and drug trafficking. Recently a large consignment of drugs smuggled by people of Chinese origin was discovered by the Scorpions, which should serve as a warning to our Government. It would be better for all South Africans to take care of what is good for our society and our still growing children than to please the invading foreigners, which would lead to our own destruction. Let us be accused of xenophobia, but our country and our society should be of more importance to us than the international community. Operations of the SANDF and the SAPS should be encouraged throughout the Republic. Factories, restaurants, supermarkets, hotels and also SANDF properties should be investigated to uproot such syndicates. Based on having been to the world beyond South Africa many times it is possible to conclude that our country is heading for disaster - S Sgt M.I. Mashigo, Thaba Tshwane Military Police.

Why are you selling our uniform?

I am a member of a Reserve Force unit, Midland Commando in Grahamstown. As the Corporate Communication and Unit Military Security Staff Head, I deal with confiscated camouflage uniforms just about every second day. My gripe today is not with the police and State prosecutors who do not know the Act under which to charge people. I have sorted that out in our area. My gripe is with members of the SANDF, who sell our uniform or tender it for services rendered. You may not be proud of the SANDF uniform, but I am of mine.  I do not like to hear stories of so-called soldiers who steal or hijack someone, because it is also tarnishes my image. If you need money, do part-time work or whatever; I do not have a problem with what you do with your spare time. To those members who are entitled to wear the uniform, remember it is for wearing when on duty, not for hunting or fishing! If you are not proud of your uniform, what are you doing in the SANDF? I have been wondering if other numbers can be added to identify the original owner, or alternatively if some sort of identification can be attached to part of a uniform so that the original owner can be traced. If other countries do not care about their military uniform and sell it to any Tom, Dick and Harry, please let us stay loyal to ours and treasure it for what it is worth. Let us start a campaign to keep it neat and safe. Wear it with pride - Sgt Joan Marais, Grahamstown.

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.
A highlight for 2003 and my life calendar

It took me a while before finally deciding on writing this letter. Not that I am hesitant, but will a few words on paper will really portray what happened at the Intelligence Formation on 11 April 2003? Even so, when I had one look at the photos I smiled, sat down and took my pen and paper. It was our GOC, Brig Gen M.A. Kula, who came up with the idea of a "cultural day". We listened, gossiped and wondered about the strange suggestion. Then early in the year a date was determined and for all practical purposes the main groups were decided upon. At Fountains Valley in Pretoria poses the main groups were decided determined and for all practical purposes the main groups were decided upon. Then early in the year a date was wondered about the strange suggestion day". We listened, gossiped and wondered about the strange suggestion. Then early in the year a date was determined and for all practical purposes the main groups were decided upon. At Fountains Valley in Pretoria

HIV/AIDS is a major issue for all, but boring for most

I would like to express my appreciation to the SA SOLDIER Team for the role they are playing in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. My impression is that most soldiers are well informed about the issue. However, I am concerned that most young soldiers regard the subject as boring and, as such, their attitudes make them ignorant of the facts.

I am appealing to all young soldiers to open their eyes and read the material on HIV/AIDS, it might save their lives. We need to take this issue seriously because better awareness of the disease will put us in a better position to protect ourselves and to care for those already infected by this merciless disease. As soldiers we should not think that just because we are well we are therefore immune to this disease. If we are not careful, we may end up promoted, but unable to work because of this disease.

Act responsibly

I accept personal responsibility for my actions. Do we take personal responsibility for our actions or is it just another rule in our Code of Conduct?

Last night I saw on the news that people were blaming the Government for not doing enough about AIDS. Is it really the job of the Government to stop AIDS, to fight a losing battle? People are dying and there are no winners.

The people who are not infected also suffer because it is their friends and family who are dying. With this comes personal anger. Who are we going to blame, the foreign governments, our Government, doctors or the partners that gave us this virus. No, the only persons we can blame are ourselves. Every man knows that he cannot stand alone. And that is where faith comes in.

As a Christian, God gave me a code of conduct to obey, namely to have one partner, no sex before marriage and to live a pure life. Are we obeying God's law? Sex shops, pornographic magazines, TV programmes with nudity scenes. I do not think so.

If we can make it our responsibility to live a pure life, and to obey the law of God and in this manner stop AIDS, we can put all those millions of Rand's going into AIDS research back into the economy. A stronger economy means a better life for all - and so we will win the battle - Cpl P. Jacobsz, Hoedspruit.

Take up arms and liberate yourself

I would like to speak words of encouragement to my colleagues and SANDF members. The future of individuals is in your hands. Do not delay, procrastination is the thief of time. Equip yourselves now. Fight against the war of illiteracy and be a winner. A winner is always part of the answer and always has a programme. A winner sees the greens near every sandtrap. Although it may be difficult, it is possible! We are running about carrying our submarine guns - bachelor of technology. We are carrying anti-air missiles - education!

- Rfn Antony Muntu Msomi, 21 SAI Bn, Chiawelo.

Avoiding HIV/AIDS articles will not make the harsh reality vanish, in fact it will spread even more because of such ignorance.

I would like to express my appreciation for all the hard work that the SA Soldier Development Service (SASDS) does in the fight against AIDS. We all need to do something and by contributing this article, I feel I have done just that - Charles Huma, 118 SAI Bn, Ellisras.

SA SOLDIER • OCTOBER 2003
Did the Code of Conduct become a meaningless song?

It has been some time since members of the DOD pledged their commitment to uphold the Code of Conduct and its underlying values. The Code of Conduct is read at parades and formal dinners, but has it lost its value and become a meaningless song?

Let us again consider the following in order to grasp once more what we as members of the DOD signed and committed ourselves to:

The SANDF committed itself on our behalf (the members) to the following values: professionalism, leadership, patriotism, human dignity, loyalty, integrity and accountability.

- How professional are we if we allow ill-discipline?
- What type of leader neglects his or her subordinates’ needs?
- How patriotic are you after-hours when you discuss the DOD with friends or family?
- Do you respect the human dignity of others even when someone did wrong?
- Are you loyal enough to your country and comrades-in-arms to risk your own life?
- Did you know that integrity really comes into play when you do the right thing correctly every time, especially when you are alone and not supervised?
- Did you know that accountability comes with lots of responsibility, obedience, courage and self-discipline?

If one wants to really live the Code of Conduct - one must start to act and just do it. It is hard work, but worth while.

- Serve (That is why you joined.)
- Be loyal (You will be rewarded.)
- Have pride (Army Pride of Lions!)
- Respect (Earn it through your actions.)
- Accept (Authority and change.)
- Be responsible (We are all adults.)
- Obey (Because you are disciplined.)
- Carry out the mission (Yours is just as important as the DOD’s.)
- Treat all fairly (It is our democratic right.)
- Support subordinates (They look up to you.)
- Do not abuse authority (The DOD entrusted it to you.)
- Report crime or corruption (Be part of the solution.)
- Improve capabilities (You are going to need it.)
- Maintain discipline (The Achilles heel of any organisation.)
- Safeguard property (It saves your tax money.)
- Develop skills and knowledge (Stop nagging about low standards.)
- Perform duties (That is what you get paid for!)
- The Code of Conduct contains a lot of verbs, which means action. Do not just sing the song, start to act and make a difference in this DOD! - Col B.J. van den Berg, Bloemfontein.

Did the Code of Conduct become a meaningless song?

The Codes of Conduct certificates are on the walls, some of us have pledged our commitment to these Codes and some have signed certificates to this effect. But does this mean that we are now all morally inclined and ethically converted members of the Department of Defence intent on doing the right thing right? Maybe it is time we take a good look at ourselves and ask a few questions. Some of these questions may be: What does ethical conduct constitute? What does adherence to the Codes in fact imply? Are our leaders setting a proper example to their subordinates? Do subordinates understand their roles and responsibilities within the organisation? How are military members treating their civilian counterparts? Do mutual understanding and toleration of one another exist in our organisation? How can we weed out corruption in our organisation?

These are but a few of the many burning issues which affect our daily lives. In order to stimulate critical thinking in this regard, readers are invited to share their ideas and thoughts on this subject. The best contributions will be published in SA SOLDIER. A monthly prize of R100-00 will be awarded to the best letter received.

Short letters are encouraged. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and 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 e-mail to sasoldier@mil.za

Patriotism is not conditional

I have always believed that the character of a soldier is informed by patriotism. Our patriotism extends across the heart of the country and the continent, which explains our presence in Burundi and other sister countries in Africa.

The essence is to acknowledge the high morale and umfu that have always been maintained and mirrored by all the South African soldiers in the new political dispensation.

My comrades-in-arms, the motto in our Code of Conduct explains it all: who can question our patriotism and the service we deliver? - L Cpl S. Ndlovu, Durban.
Four maritime helicopters procured

By Maj Fundile Siyongwana
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, signed an agreement on behalf of the DOD for the supply of four Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopters, together with an initial product support package. Other signatories to the agreement on behalf of the Government of South Africa were the Chairperson of Armscor, Mr Fani Titi, and the Director General of the SA Department of Trade and Industry, Dr Alistair Ruiter. The Chairperson Westland Helicopter Ltd, Mr Richard Case, signed on behalf of Westland Helicopter Ltd. On 14 August 2003 this historic signing ceremony was held at Erasmuskasteel in Pretoria, known as “Die Spookhuis”, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year.

Minister Lekota commented that the purchase of the Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopter by South Africa would enhance the capability of the SANDF to operate in the demanding maritime environment of South Africa and will complement the capability of the new corvettes. He further affirmed that the signing ceremony would set in motion a process that will benefit both countries. A key factor in the selection of the Super Lynx 300 is the level of benefits accruing to South African Industry through National Industrial Participation (NIP) and Defence Industrial Participation (DIP) arrangements. To this end, a number of key systems to be fitted to the aircraft will be provided by South African companies. Mr Case promised to honour the agreement and to deliver the four Super Lynx 300 helicopters on time.

Flight sergeant couple helps to arrest culprits

By Sivuyiswe Matanga
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Two flight sergeants recently received Certificates of Merit from the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service (SAPS). The certificates were awarded to F Sgt Willie Gouws from Air Force Command and his wife, F Sgt Yvette Gouws from Waterkloof AFB, for nailing down five suspects on 16 April 2001, who had been involved in an armed robbery and murder. The two flight sergeants were on their way to the Pretoria suburb of Montana when they stopped at a robot. F Sgt Yvette Gouws heard two gun shots and informed her husband and then decided to call the SAPS. On the spot the police heard the murder report on the police radio. The F Sgt Gouws couple decided to follow the suspects so that they could inform the police about the fugitives’ whereabouts.

The brave couple somehow lost contact with the suspects, but managed to locate them again, informing the police all the way. The flying squad, dog unit and a helicopter were on the scene within twenty minutes. Later the same year the two flight sergeants had to form part of the witness programme in the Pretoria High Court. The Sinoville Community Police Forum also showed its appreciation by issuing a Gold Certificate of Merit to the couple.

The five culprits were convicted of murder, attempted murder, being illegal immigrants, robbery and the illegal possession of a firearm. They were sentenced to a total of 63 years in prison.
Cluster of security ministers meets with Agri SA

By Sivuyisiwe Matanga

A meeting between the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his counterpart, the Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula, was held in the conference room at the Ministry of Defence in Pretoria on 26 August 2003. The meeting was prompted by the desire of Agri South Africa to obtain clarity on issues raised by the President during the Opening of Parliament in early 2003 in Cape Town, eg that the commando system would have to be phased out. The President of Agri South Africa and four of his executive members represented the farming communities, the members of which are estimated to be 60,000 strong.

The Commissioner of the SAPS, Mr Jackie Selebi, and the MEC for Safety and Security in the Western Cape, Mr Leonard Ramatlakane, attended the deliberations.

During the press conference Mr Lekota explained that this meeting was necessitated by Agri SA seeking deeper understanding of issues involving the safety of rural communities. Agri SA wanted to gain insight into the report on farm killings and comprehend its findings. The organisation sees itself as working closely with the Government in its endeavour to quell farm attacks.

Minister Lekota said that the SA Government was committed to working together with Agri SA in finding a permanent solution to farm attacks. He further said that it was agreed that the farm attacks were not of a political nature, but of crime. "We are not saying that since the attacks are not political, therefore they are not of importance to be dealt with," stated Mr Lekota.

He further noted that in the near future it is the wish of the Government to involve all security clusters, ranging from the SA Correctional Services, the courts, the National Intelligence Agency, the Department of Safety and Security, the Defence Force and the organs of the criminal justice systems. Minister Lekota informed the press that the talks were frank and friendly and expressed optimism that future meetings would yield good results.

However, Minister Lekota said that the position of the Government was explained in relation to the dismantling of the commandos and that this complied with the requirements of the SA Constitution, which states that there will only be one policing agency in the Republic.

The meeting agreed that the Government would provide more effective crime fighting and combating capacity for the SAPS and work towards increasing the SAPS Budget with the aim of employing more police members, increasing skills and making use of the latest expertise to fight crime in the rural areas.

Minister Lekota said that the commandos will merge with new recruits from various communities and be armed with the latest modus operandi of the new democracy in South Africa to fight crime in rural areas. The meeting also agreed that farming communities have a greater responsibility to work side by side with the crime combating units in the fight against crime.

The Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula, gave an in-depth explanation concerning the report on farm killings that has to be tabled before the Cabinet for approval and funding. He promised that as soon as the preliminary farm killing report had been perused by all the interested parties it would be made available to Agri SA, and to all other relevant or interested stakeholders.

Salute our military attachés

By PO Dennis Ndaba

The event consisted of a short outdoor ceremony in which incoming and outgoing MAAC from Algeria, Canada, Egypt, Kenya and Malawi were greeted by means of a general salute given by the National Ceremonial Guard.

A foreign Military Attaché and Adviser Corps (MAAC) accreditation/de-accreditation ceremony took place at the South African National War College in Thaba Tshwane on 11 August 2003.

Front, fltr: Incoming MAAC - Col Hoseya Hiwa (Malawi), Mrs Cheryl and Col Steven Gilles (Canada), V Adm Martyn Trainor (Chief of Corporate Staff), Col Mehana and Mrs Fatiha Ferhah (Algeria) and Mrs Roseidah and Col Vincent Loonena (Kenya). Back, fltr: Col Clarence Smith (USA) and Col Hilda Minnaar (RSA).
The visit by Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, to the Jordanian Armed Forces was at the same time a visit to a country on the front line.

Bordering on Iraq and also sharing borders with Syria, Israel, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, the country is situated in the heart of the troubled Middle East.

Strong military and diplomatic links have been established between the armed forces of our two countries. Joint ventures involving our defence industries are serving the interests of both countries and are of great benefit for the development of technology within this market.

Visits, joint training projects and co-operation in other military fields are enhancing the existing excellent military diplomatic relations. The aim of this visit by Lt Gen Ramano was to strengthen these military relations and explore further opportunities for military co-operation with the emphasis on training.

The visit included meetings with the top structure of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visits to training institutions and a tour to factories of the Jordanian military-industrial complex.

Jordan’s Royal Military Academy is home to the Peace Operation Training Centre and a War Simulation Centre. Most countries in the region send their officers to attend courses at these institutions. The Armour and Artillery Corps Schools are similar to our own training schools in their output and are introducing digitised simulation systems.

Training on the newly acquired South African Ratel ICVs is already included in the training syllabus. The tour through the factories of the King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau clearly indicated Jordanian - South African co-operation in the field of armament technology. The Royal Jordanian Command and Staff Course College and the Royal War College are good examples of how a small country can achieve international standards. The selection of officers attending the courses and directing staff officers can be used as a benchmark for South African training institutions.

The Jordanian Armed Forces’ strong involvement in borderline protection led to useful discussions and an exchange of ideas between Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano and his Jordanian counterpart. The Jordanian Armed Forces are a very professional military organisation, well prepared to face any threat and challenge to the sovereignty of their country. The commitment to the creation of peace and security, within a multilateral international environment, is expressed in the participation of the Jordanian Armed Forces in a number of international peace support operations. This includes the provision of humanitarian aid in the form of field hospitals in a number of countries. For Lt Gen Ramano and the visiting group it was another interesting exercise in building bridges to the benefit of our countries.
By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer,
SO1 Public Liaison AMIB

On 12 August 2003 at 14:00 the handing and
taking over parade between Col X.
Mankaye, the previous
RSA National Contingent Commander, and
Col N.J.K. Mabilu took
place at the Palace Base
in Bujumbura. Soldiers
on parade were from 4
SAI Bn and the maritime element. The
parade commander was Lt Col Louis
Hoffman from the Mission Support
Unit. Col Mankaye said that it was
sometimes difficult to look back on a
path that has already been travelled.
Sometimes it becomes difficult to
convince oneself of the important
achievements and challenges that
still lie ahead.

"The establishment of AMIB (Africa
Mission in Burundi) took everybody
by surprise. Some were convinced that
it would never work. However, the
achievements registered so far testify
to the resolve of the African Union in
resolving African problems the African
way," Col Mankaye said.

He continued by saying that South
Africans have led by example and have
shown everybody that they were eager
to share their experience with the rest
of Africa or those in need of such expe-
rience. He said that it was important
that South Africa had to acknowledge
and appreciate the fact that it was the
lead nation and therefore it still had to
make sacrifices in fulfilling the mission.

Col Mankaye thanked the
Ethiopians and the Mozambicans for
sharing their experience and he
expressed the hope that this body
would never breakup. He said that
AMIB had proved beyond a doubt
that the time for African combined
operations was indeed a reality.

He wished Col Mabilu and the
new contingent good luck and he
expressed his confidence that they
would carry on with the tasks at
hand until peace was realised in
Burundi.

Col Mabilu

Col Mabilu was born on 3 June
1963 in the Northern Cape at the
present SA Army Combat Training
Centre (CTC) location in Lohatla,
and became one of the victims of the
forced removals in 1977. He matricu-
lated in 1981 at Batlharo-Tlhaping
High School in Kuruman.

He started his military career in
1983 in the former Bophuthatswana
Defence Force (BDF) and held several
command and staff positions. Col
Mabilu served on several committees,
such as the SANDF Integration
Committee, the Accreditation Board,
etc during the integration process as
a representative of the former BDF.

Col Mabilu successfully complet-
ed his Senior Command and Staff
Duties Course (SCSD) in 1999 at SA
Army College and his RSA Executive
National Strategic Programme (ENSP)
equivalent at the National Defence
College in Kenya in 2001. He is cur-
rently the SSO Conventional Ops at
J Ops OP HQ (Level 3). Col Mabilu
attended several peace support opera-
tions exercises under the auspices of
Partnership for Peace in Romania and
Kenya. He has also visited several
countries, such as Switzerland, Israel,
Dubai, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda,
Zambia, Namibia and Lesotho in his
official capacity as a representative of
the SANDF. Col Mabilu was also
involved in the planning of Exercise
BLUE ANGEL under the auspices of
the SADC (ISDSC) Standing Aviation
Work Group, which will take place in
Zambia from August 2003. Col
Mabilu is single and enjoys reading,
soccer and chess as hobbies.
ne could easily wonder what South Africa’s forces have to do in Burundi, close to the equator, far away from the Southern tip of Africa. Our former president, Mr Nelson Mandela, played a leading role in the negotiation process to establish fertile ground for the peace process in this relatively small country in the Great Lakes region. Although Mr Mandela is not part of the process anymore, South Africa still plays a role in it.

The SANDF started OPS FIBRE in Burundi in November 2000 with the main objective of safeguarding politicians returning to the country. Following the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in August 2000, deployment of the South African Protection and Support Detachment (SAPSD), and further regional initiatives, resulted in the signing of two ceasefire agreements on 7 October and 2 December 2002. The African Mission was established in Burundi.

The mission is to oversee the implementation and verification of the ceasefire agreements, and to assist in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes.

On 3 February 2003 South Africa was appointed by the African Union (AU) as Lead Nation to plan and implement the African Union in Burundi (AUMIB). Other countries contributing soldiers are Mozambique and Ethiopia. Elements from these countries are already deployed at the AMIB HQ, but the main forces are expected in due course.

AMIB has the mandate to:
- Establish and maintain liaison between parties;
- Monitor and verify implementation of the ceasefire agreements;
- Facilitate the activities of the Joint Ceasefire Commission (JCC) and Technical Committees for the establishment of new National Defence and Police Forces;
- Facilitate safe passage for the parties during planned movements to the designated cantonment areas;
- Secure identified assembly and disengagement areas;
- Facilitate and provide technical assistance to disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) processes;
- Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance;
- Co-ordinate mission activities with the UN presence in Burundi; and
- Provide VIP protection for designated returning leaders.

The Mission will be conducted in five phases, namely pre-deployment (planning and preparations), establishing the mission (HQ deployed and transition of SAPSD), (phased) deployment of main force elements and preparation of cantonment areas, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and subsequent operations which include the possibility of being relieved by a UN mission.

There are still negotiations between the various role players on how exactly the DDR process should be conducted. Currently there is one cantonment area, which is almost 30 km north-east of Bujumbura (the capital of Burundi) in the Province of Bubanza. Other areas for the establishment of cantonment areas are under investigation.

Current key posts are the AMIB Force Commander (Maj Gen S.Z. Binda - RSA), the AMIB Deputy Force Commander (Brig Gen Gebrat Ayelle - Ethiopia), the AMIB Chief of Staff (W. Very - RSA) and the RSA National Contingent Commander (Col N.J.K. Mabilu).
On the arrival of the command group on 22 April 2003 Kindu was a ghost town with a handful of people. This was because many villagers were living in the bushes nearby in fear of the rebel group, known as the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) - GOMA. The RCD rebels are mostly children ranging in age from ten upwards, who have been supported by the Rwandan Army during the four years of war in an attempt to overthrow former president Laurent Kabila.

After Kabila’s assassination in January 2001 his son Joseph took over and to date he is trying hard to push for peace and an interim government has been sworn in. It is amazing that in the midst of hunger and poverty, the Congolese are still very keen to utilise the remaining resources. They are very intelligent despite being disadvantaged as a result of attending school in the war conditions.

The village is war-torn and buildings are dilapidated. Unemployment is the order of the day, owing to a lack of good Government. Although mineral resources are abundant, the villagers see this as a curse rather than a blessing, because they believe that these resources, eg gold and diamonds, lead to lives being lost, and suffering and torture being inflicted by the rebel groups, who have a vested interest in these minerals.

Some of the handcrafted materials sold by the villagers.

Capt Mohau Modise, SO2 Info OPS (Monuc 3), at one of the schools during the (QUIPS) Project.
A remarkable number of developments have taken place since the arrival of the SANDF contingent in the DRC and Kindu in particular. The impact is felt beyond the borders of the DRC.

We are definitely doing well, and a lot is yet to be achieved. The mission is still unchanged; we are still determined to achieve the objectives as set by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations. The international community is very clear with regard to peace and stability in the world.

We are here in the DRC because we are citizens of a country that has been through a situation not very different from the one that we are witnessing here. We have triumphed and are on the way to place ourselves where we can make a meaningful contribution to mankind and the world at large. We are a good example of a negotiated peaceful settlement, unless we begin to doubt it.

As we grapple with adverse conditions we do not fail to see the underlying cause of the extreme poverty that we are witnessing here. These are the conditions that cannot be ignored. They need immediate attention because they can hinder development in Africa in future. The Republic of South Africa is at the receiving end given its resources. Sometimes this will remain so because as conflicts erupt those that can afford think of RSA as a safe haven. A certain number of people are displaced and the rest bear the brunt and sadly it is always the case that it is women, the elderly and children.

We will surely be myopic if we fail to realise that we are affected by the conflicts of the Great Lakes region and thus we have to act constructively. My observation thus far is that people are consumed with the love of money. Furthermore it becomes clear that people do not know how to use it. This is noticeable in the purchasing process. Prices are negotiated and you are sometimes forced to buy. It is as if you are obliged to buy. Everybody wants to get hold of money. Even the beggar becomes furious if you offer to buy food for him or her instead of giving money. This also goes for those who are given some other items; they do not forget to mention the Dollar.

South African soldiers are confronted with extremes and some of them for the very first time in their careers. It must be understood that as much as it is the duty of a soldier to be in combat whenever necessary, there are soldiers that die without being involved in combat, eg they die of natural causes in peacetime. This tends to hide the fact that we have decided to pay a high price to defend our country and fulfill the aspirations of our people. It is therefore imperative that as much as possible, we get involved in duties of this nature for purposes of exposure.

In the DRC, we are being taken for a ride by both the local authority and the management. This is our first peace mission. It will go down in the annals of our history. Locals charge us exorbitant prices and we are not keen to negotiate the prices because we are also not familiar with the Dollar. The safest course is to look at the item, the effort to arrive at the product and decide fairly on the price and perhaps advise the seller without prejudice.

The situation in the DRC is as a result of irresponsible adults and I think that the youth has taken over. God knows whether we are on the right path. People in the Congo are multi-talented and the handcraft is their specialty, more so in the rural areas. We are buying these items because we feel it is helping to revive the economy. In the process corruption is at its worst and this is unfortunately said to be acceptable in the business world. There is a terrible burden that is placed on the consumer. He or she is squeezed to the last drop by a number of people. The item has to go through middlemen. The unfortunate part is that everybody wants a share in the sale of this item.

Mourning takes three days, and relatives from far and near gather. On the third day everybody takes a bath and a new mood takes over. It is a celebration in a way, punctuated by items of amusement. There are alchoholic beverages, music, etc and people are seen to be gearing to go on with their lives. On the receipt of the news of the passing away of the family member, women will relate the cause of death through crying.

In order to revive morals in this country elementary education in all groups of the society needs to be revisited. We can play a pivotal role in that aspect. A rebel soldier would definitely ask for something from you because he is not receiving adequate supplies. Combat uniform is a nightmare and a pipe dream, not to mention salaries. The paradox is that
people at the helm, who are agitators in these conflicts, live a grandiose lifestyle at the expense of the suffering masses. We have combat boots and earn a salary that ensures that you are not rich and also not poor. These are result of good governance. Good government is not absolute though. We surely cannot as of now boast of good governance as we are also confronted with corruption, but this is countered by the "agility of the cat" as was said by the late Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Steve Tshwete. We are able honestly to resolve tendencies by evil forces that hinder the advancement of our interests. Our Commander in Chief has already said that we are better placed and, like any other people in the world, we have the capacity to determine what is in our best interests.

The Chief of the SA Army on our behalf proclaims us to be in support of NEPAD. The question that may arise should be: do soldiers know what NEPAD is? Having answered that, one would be able to determine the support required to achieve this goal and everything will be done to defeat the tendency within our Army which is hostile to our realisation of this objective. Education is fundamentally important and this would definitely produce a soldier with foresight and one who does not only rely on the gun to resolve problems. If the present commanders cannot do it, there remains a great need to institutionalise this process. Commanders should be sensitised to render meaningful support in an active way. We still have soldiers who vaguely and vehemently argue that the military cannot discuss socio-economic problems, as they are part of the much hated political system. They fail to reconcile the socio-economic impact we have here with that of the DRC.

The NEPAD as a socio-economic programme is an ultimate escape route for Africans from the demise of neo-colonialism. As Africans, our greatest hope is that NEPAD should not just be a pronouncement or indeed a toothless bulldog, but that our leaders should selflessly lay the emphasis on a comprehensive understanding and ownership by the people who will benefit from it. It goes without saying that the people who suffered under colonialism and other forms of discrimination should be in the forefront and others should give their maximum support as a gesture of reconciliation.

I want to conclude with an excerpt from His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st in his address to the United Nations on 6 October 1963 - "That until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned; that until there are no first class and second class citizens of any nation; that until the basic human rights are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race; until that day, the dream of lasting peace and world citizenship and the rule of international morality will remain but a fleeting illusion, to be pursued but never attained; until the bigotry and prejudice and malicious and inhuman self-interest have been replaced by understanding and tolerance and goodwill; until all Africans stand and speak as free beings, equal in the eyes of all men, as they are in the eyes of Heaven; until that day, the African continent will not know peace. We Africans will fight, if necessary, and we know we shall win, as we are confident in the victory of good over evil."
There is no doubt that South Africa must play a role in regional security, but...
The Air Force does not have enough airlift capacity for the rapid deployment of a credible force, to sustain it, and, should it become necessary, to briskly extract it. Pending the delivery of new Gripen fighter jets, it also lacks fighters suited to a distant deployment to support ground forces in a peace-enforcement mission or to interdict aerial smuggling of weapons.

The Navy does not have enough sealift capacity to deploy the equipment and vehicles of a credible force and, pending the delivery of the new patrol corvettes, does not have enough combat vessels to interdict seaborne weapons deliveries and to support operations in coastal areas.

The SANDF as such also lacks proper deployable headquarters, although that is being addressed at present.

The key issue in respect of the Army is the rotation of troops. One cannot simply deploy troops and forget about them. They have to come back for training and they have to have time to enjoy their private lives and spend time with their families. That is why armed forces generally try to limit deployments to six months in every 30 or 36 months.

An army lives and dies - literally - by its training. Soldiers, units and formations must train frequently, regularly and thoroughly if an Army is to be effective. Any slippage in the training programme will sooner or later result in body bags. Peacekeeping and even peace-enforcement operations bring valuable experience, but cannot replace that training.

The SANDF’s present rotation of six months in 24 or even 18 is not sustainable - it will destroy the Army’s training programme, and it will cause soldiers to leave the Army in order to have a family life. Other armies have been down this road, there is no need for the SANDF to experience it for itself.

Taking a different perspective, the current average deployment among countries that are active in peace support operations is 4% of the total strength of their armed forces at any one time.

At the SANDF’s present uniformed strength of about 55 000, that would be 2 200 troops. The present deployment of 2 752 personnel for the two main missions is already 25% over that international average, and the force in Burundi is still to be expanded, and the Liberian deployment is yet to come.

At present South Africa is letting its enthusiasm outrun its capacity. What then of South Africa’s future regional security role?

One "bottom line" fact is that South Africa will have to put troops on the ground and at risk in regional security operations if it is to be taken seriously in its leadership role. One cannot preach regional defence and security co-operation and leave the others to deploy all of the troops. Future Army deployments in Africa are, therefore, a given.

Taking a pragmatic view, South Africa should be able to sustain the deployment of at least a small brigade (about 4 000 troops) or two battalion groups (about 3 000 troops) for an extended period, and still have the ability to respond effectively to a sudden but short-term crisis.

Assuming a conservative one-in-six troop rotation programme, that translates into about 26 000 combat troops and, at the SANDF’s ratios, another 26 000 or so in supporting functions and in the individual training programme (basic training, promotion courses, etc). That means an army of about 50 000, not the present 34 000 and shrinking.

Looking beyond that requirement, South Africa should seek to “play to its strengths” and focus its efforts on those things it can do better than its African partners.

With Africa’s biggest and only real industrialised economy, South Africa’s strength will lie in providing capabilities that the poorer and less industrialised countries cannot afford or cannot support: airborne forces, inter-theatre airlift and sealift, combat helicopters, fighters capable of independent operation, patrol aircraft, and warships able to patrol for extended periods. South Africa is virtually the only country south of the Sahara that can sustain an effective capability in those categories.

What does that mean in more specific terms? It means that:

- The SANDF must accelerate the formation of deployable headquarters.
- The Army needs more infantry.
- The Army needs to recreate its airborne brigade and acquire some vehicles and other heavy

(Continued on page 20)
equipment that is air-portable in South African aircraft.

- The Air Force needs to acquire additional medium-heavy transport aircraft.
- The Air Force needs to cancel plans to dispose of some of its Oryx helicopters.
- The Air Force needs to accelerate the process of bringing the Rooivalk into service, and should acquire additional aircraft.
- The Air Force needs to acquire maritime patrol aircraft and, ideally, also some surveillance aircraft for overland surveillance missions.
- The Navy needs to accelerate the process of bringing the Rooivalk into service, and should acquire additional aircraft.
- The Navy needs to acquire at least two helicopter-capable landing ships, to be able to deploy, support and sustain a force during a crisis response operation.

Is this at all feasible? It is, but not with a defence budget of only 1.5% of GDP. There is a general international view that a developing country at peace can reasonably spend some 2% of GDP on defence.

South Africa is a developing country and is at peace. But Africa is not at peace and South Africa cannot afford to stand by and watch it deteriorate. 2% of GDP would be a small price to pay for investing in long-term stability and the economic growth that only stability can make possible. It is less than many people pay for their car and household insurance.

The average for sub-Saharan Africa in 2001 was 3.4%. Dropping all of the countries that were at war at the time, the average is 2.08%. North of the Sahara, the average was 3.56%, not counting Algeria which is at war.

Once South Africa demonstrates the willingness to develop the muscle to go with the words, it is likely that there will also be a willingness by the major powers to assist it in acquiring the necessary equipment in an affordable way.

Alternatively, of course, South Africa can look away and pretend that it is not part of Africa and that all of this unseemly brawling is really not its concern. But that would be the end of South Africa’s ability to influence events and its ability to influence the international view of Africa.

Our soldiers happy to be home from Burundi

By Maj Fundile Siyongwana

Photo: WO1 André Henning

 Altogether 168 SANDF VIP protectors landed at 18:00 at Bloemspruit Air Force Base in Bloemfontein on 25 July 2003. They had been deployed in the DRC in early March this year. The members were drawn from 15 SAI Bn, 4 Recce, 44 Para Bn and engineer units respectively.

The principle of four months’ deployment was revised to be a period of six months. These deployment revisions make the rotation system easier to handle at the DOD Mobilisation and Demobilisation Headquarters.

SA SOLDIER visited the DOD Mobilisation and Demobilisation Centre situated on the outskirts of Bloemfontein. The outgoing units were busy with their demobilisation exercises, while the incoming units’ preparations for deployment were close to conclusion.

The Officer Commanding of the DOD Demobilisation and Mobilisation Headquarters, Col Leon Venter, explained that the 22 staff members at the Centre handle all the administration, concurrent health assessments, counter-intelligence debriefings, personnel administration verifications and financial administration verifications. They also handle the withdrawal of equipment and organise transportation for the members to return to their home units. Lectures are conducted for the deploying soldiers, including personnel aspects, allowances, media, the postal system, hygiene, diseases in the mission area, the Code of Conduct, religion, population study, and the language issue in the mission area is also addressed.

The SANDF VIP protectors smiling to be back home.
Air defence in the African environment

By Maj Fundile Siyongwana
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The fourth South African Joint Air Defence Symposium will be held at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria from 29 to 31 October 2003. This prestigious two-yearly event, the only of its kind on the African continent, is organised by the SANDF in co-operation with Armscor. Lt Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, SANDF Chief of Joint Operations, is the patron of the symposium, which this year is co-ordinated by the SA Air Force.

The theme of the symposium is "Air Defence in the African Environment" - African solutions for African requirements in the African environment. The main theme is supported by three sub-themes, namely "Air Defence Requirements in the African Context", "Air Defence Technology and Solutions" and "Regional Air Defence in Africa".

The symposium organisers are delighted to have received many abstracts in the first category, indicating a keen interest in the subject of African requirements for the African environment. In the technology and solutions category a number of major international and local defence companies will present the latest concepts, technology and weapon systems.

The symposium has drawn prominent local and international speakers. Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, Chief of the SA Air Force, will open the symposium, while the keynote address will be delivered by Maj Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief Director Operational Development. Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, Chief Director Air Policy and Plans, is scheduled to present the closing address.

Brig Gen Les Lombard, Director Command and Control Systems of the SA Air Force, announced during a press conference held in the Erasmus Castle ("Spookhuis") in Pretoria on 31 July 2003 that the Chief of the Swedish Defence Force has been invited, together with other Chiefs of various African countries, to participate in the deliberations on joint air defence systems on 29 October 2003.

Brig Gen Lombard revealed that the symposium should raise awareness of the region of Africa and canvass consensus so that the next symposium will be held in 2005 to workshop for the African continental joint air defence systems.

Air defence aims to protect the sovereignty of a country’s air space, and therefore is an important capability of any defence force. It is a defensive capability that is not only used in times of war or aggression, but is also employed in peacetime in order to protect a country against aggression from the air. Thus very close co-operation and co-ordination between air defence and civil aviation authorities are vital in order to guarantee the safety of own aircraft in times of war or peace. Therefore, joint air defence should be high on the agendas of southern African initiatives, such as the African Union.

Anyone wishing to attend the South African Joint Air Defence Symposium 2003 may obtain registration forms on the website of the South African Joint Air Defence Symposium at: http://www.sajads.co.za. Contact persons at Armscor are Ms Petra Dixon at tel no: +27 12 428 2165 and Mr Hanlo Pretorius at tel no: +27 12 428 2011.
Military excellence was displayed when the team of the SA Army won the International Pace Stick competition which was held on 27 June 2003 at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England. Teams from countries all over the world were competing against each other. Pace stick drill demands a high level of competence, and therefore a lot of practice and effort have to go into the preparation for such an event. The participating team, which was composed of NCOs and WOs from the SA Army Gymnasium, was also the winning team of the 2002 WO/NCO competition presented by the SA Army. The team consisted of the following members:

WO1 Thokozani Emmanuelle Ntuli, WO2 Donovan Hutson Claassen, WO2 Xolani Eleck Mtumtum and Sgt Bernot Wayne Claasen. The SA Army is proud of these WOs and NCOs who have shown the world that we are capable of international standards. Congratulations and keep it up!

Empower commanders according to resource management

Budget Management, procurement procedures and supply-support services procedures are the cornerstones of successful resource management within units of the SA Army. To ensure that all unit commanders at Level 4 are fully aware of and proficient in the elements of the management process in the units the Army Council has decided to create a course for resource management in the Army. Experienced officers, such as Col Neville January, Col E. Müller and Col P.J. van Dyk compiled the course curriculum and the SA Army Support Formation organised the course.

The course which lasted three days, was conducted in Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Cape Town and Potchefstroom, thus allowing all commanders to attend. Col January acted as the Chief Co-ordinator for the course. The course consisted of the following five modules: procurement at DOD level, service agreements, budget management and control, procurement at unit level and supply-support services procedures. The system of general support bases only works if commanders who depend on the services of the structures are fully proficient in the relevant procedures. The course will be another step in achieving this aim. It also enhances the instruction of Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, not to complain about the general support base system, but to make it work!
Meet the first black commander of our warship

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

On 30 July 2003 the first black naval combat officer assumed command of a CITY CLASS vessel, SAS KAPA, (ex German 351 Class Minesweeper) during a combined change of command parade ceremony involving SAS KAPA and SAS UMHLOTI, which was held at SA Naval Dockyard, Simon’s Town. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, was the guest of honour.

While his appointment constitutes the first appointment of a black Officer Commanding of an SA Navy warship, it is nevertheless one of many more steps in the progression of the transformation process which the SA Navy has successfully carried out for quite some time now.

Other officers of colour who had the privilege of commanding a warship were the late Commander Yegan Moodley who commanded the strike craft, SAS JAN SMUTS, and Capt (SAN) Solomon Francis Peterson, who was in command of the mine countermeasure vessel, SAS UMZIMKULU.

It takes approximately eight to ten years of intense training and experience for a naval combat officer to be considered for an appointment as commander of a naval warship and, even so, not every Combat Officer is afforded the opportunity to command a warship.

Not only is Lt Cdr Mhlana, a former Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) underground operative, the first black commander of an SA Navy warship, but he also holds the record of completing all required courses to achieve command of a warship in the shortest time.

Lt Cdr Mhlana completed his training from Midshipman to Officer Commanding in the record time of three and a half years. Although his training was accelerated, Lt Cdr Mhlana had to successfully complete all the training and meet all the criteria set, just as for any other combat officer in the SA Navy in order to qualify to become the commander of a naval warship.

Lt Cdr Mhlana was born on 2 September 1972 in Ngangelizwe location, Umtata, in the Eastern Cape. He matriculated at Ngangelizwe High School in 1991. He was integrated into the SA Navy in 1994. After completion of his military basic training at Saldanha, he chose to follow a career as a mine countermeasures (MCM) operator at the MCM branch.

In 1995 he was assigned to serve on the MCM vessels first on board SAS WALVISBAAL and later on SAS UMZIMKULU until 1999.

The same year he was selected for the Naval Officer’s Course at the SA Naval College, where he proved his leadership qualities by being awarded the SA Legion Trophy for Leadership and overall Best Student of the Course.

Following the Naval Officer’s Course he was appointed to SAS UMHLOTI in a training post and three months later he obtained his Harbour Watchkeeping Certificate. In 2000 Lt Cdr Mhlana attended the Combat Officers Qualifying Course (Part I) and, on completion of the course, he rotated between various ships for the completion of the Combat Officer’s Task Book Training. Towards the end of 2000 he was appointed as a Navigation Officer on board SAS UMHLOTI.

Early in 2001 Lt Cdr Mhlana obtained his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate on the first attempt, which earned him the prestigious Bridge Watchkeeping Proficiency Award for 2001.

In 2002 Lt Cdr Mhlana completed the Junior Staff and Command Warfare Course and the Principal Warfare Officer Training (General Operations Phase). On completion he was appointed Officer Commanding Designate SAS KAPA and obtained a Type and Command Endorsement for the CITY CLASS vessels.

Lt Cdr Mhlana is not only an outstanding academic, but also a keen sportsman. A former professional boxer in the Eastern Cape, “Bravo”, as his fans affectionately called him, was well known for knocking out opponents with his lethal left hook. His excellent boxing record speaks for itself. In two hundred amateur fights he was only defeated six times before turning professional. Lt Cdr Mhlana is married to “Happy” and they have two children.
In the name of Women

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: F Sgt Tania Kettles

It is through national holidays, such as National Women's Day, which was celebrated on 9 August 2003 that I, like many South African women, am reminded of who I really am. In the spirit of celebrating the "girl child" and who she has become, that members of the SANDF came together on 7 August 2003 at the Thaba Tshwane Sports Stadium to give women within the defence environment recognition for remaining true to themselves.

I belong to the female sex. We are people who never forget our goals once they are set. Women are very persistent people with clear ambitions that are not readily displayed. They are solid yet soft, hot and cold depending on the button pressed. They are diplomats of the universe, irrespective of the duty at hand, and are cunning as a fox that will not exit a chicken-run empty handed.

I chuckle to myself as I try to imagine what it must have been like for "husband dearest" in the days of old when this self-awareness thing took off. I picture how dutiful wives and mothers would conjure up all sorts of convincing tales to successfully evade the ever watchful partner. All they wanted to do was to be part of those earlier women meetings. I am bewildered at how these well concealed women only gatherings became phenomenal to a point of changing how the world is run. They were secret meetings that influenced drastically how the world is shaped today.

As an old saying goes, "ndlovu iyabulawa yimbhovane", a statement which casually suggests that an ant can bring down an elephant. The men obviously become the elephant and the women the ant, though this time around the intention is not to harm. My good mother in one of our woman to woman bonding sessions explained that ladies got a foot in the doorway while men slept, a "fact" I am expected to pass on to my daughter, irrespective of what generation she belongs to. Well, lately the lion is fully awake! There is a whole new excitement to the challenge as women continue to assert themselves and fight for their place in the sun. Doing business and bargaining with men who have become only too aware of women's capabilities make the struggle even more worthy.

All women special flag hoisting parade.

"Splendid girls!"

Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, the Deputy Minister of Defence, at the Women's Day celebrations.
Celebrating this year’s event together with our male counterparts was refreshing. As the SAHMS Surgeon General Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, put it, “Splendid girls, well done!” following a spectacular parachute jump put on by our ladies in uniform with the help of the gentlemen from 7 Medical Battalion Group.

An all-women special flag hoisting parade presented by uniformed members from the four different Services was a moment of pride for the DOD and our nation. As the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, expressed it, “We honour and salute all our women in the Defence Force.”

Ms Madlala-Routledge also acknowledged that the struggle to end gender inequality in the SANDF has not been recognised. She said, “Challenges are different yet just as daunting.”

The Deputy Minister of Defence then called on all women in the DOD to unite, and maintained that a lesson to be learnt from the women of long ago is that through unity women can rise above all barriers.

The occasion was well attended by senior members of the DOD and civil society, as well as DOD membership from the Gauteng area. With the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, the Hon Ms Thandi Modise as the guest speaker, and poetry by Lt Col Maartens and Lt Col Zuma, both of the SAHMS, the morning soared.

Also addressing the gathering the Chief Director of the Equal Opportunities Directorate, Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe, said that changes introduced in the DOD after 1994 placed women in a better position in terms of service conditions, utilisation and exposure.

Listing policies that have been formulated to prevent discrimination against women Maj Gen Sedibe said, “The DOD Equal Opportunities and Affirmative Action Policy and the DOD Policy on the Prevention and Elimination of Sexual Harassment have been introduced. The draft Policy on the Prevention and Elimination of Gender Based Violence, spearheaded by the SAHMS Social Welfare is about to be promulgated. There is an implementation plan for the affirmation of women and an empowerment programme to prevent sexual harassment. The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate has, in co-operation with the Military Police Agency (MPA), established a ‘Hotline’ for the reporting of sexual harassment.

Members of the MPA will receive training in the handling of sexual harassment to empower them to deal with and assist the victims appropriately. Sexual harassment will also be part of the syllabus for all military police training courses.”

She continued by saying, “Serious attention is given on an ongoing basis to existing policy and practices in the DOD to remove any prescripts that hinder the advancement of women in the Department. Today unmarried pregnant soldiers are not discharged, but even qualify for maternity leave. Women soldiers are now welcome at the Military Academy and we are now receiving equal pension benefits.”

According to Maj Gen Sedibe 21% of the total population of the DOD are women of whom 15,5% are in uniform, 26,6% of all officers are women and 14% of women are in senior management. The first woman submariner is now being trained. There are 326 women in the Infantry Corps and twelve qualified women pilots. The Officers Commanding 14 SA Infantry Battalion and the School of Signals are woman, as is the first Regional Provost Marshall of the Northern Military Provost Region.

“Times have changed, we have realised our potential and this cannot be reversed,” reaffirmed Maj Gen Sedibe who could not have said it better.
Behind every successful man stands a woman

By Matshidiso Pila
Photos: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

There is nothing that beats the feeling of being remembered, special and important. It is a great feeling and everybody would love to have such a feeling. Well, at least this was the feeling that the spouses of the soldiers deployed to African countries as peacekeepers felt. A function was held at 43 South African Brigade on 15 August 2003 at Wallmannsthal, which was a continuation of the celebrations of National Women’s Day. The Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, attended the celebrations and the General Officer Commanding 43 South African Brigade, Brig Gen Duma Mdutyana, did the presentation.

The aim was to acknowledge and appreciate the support, courage and love that these spouses are giving their loved ones and also to give some idea of what is actually happening in the DRC. In fact, Brig Gen Mdutyana took everybody in that room to the DRC during the presentation of their plans and duties, even the Deputy Minister of Defence admitted this before she could deliver her speech.

Brig Gen Mdutyana told the spouses how important it was for them to support their partners because without this support their mission cannot be achieved. He then reminded them of the saying: “Behind every successful man stands a woman”. According to Brig Gen Mdutyana these women are the ones that are doing most of the work by allowing their partners to go to countries as peacekeepers and, if it was up to him, the medals should be given to these women and not to their partners.

It has become the culture in most of the communities to be together on special days to share the history and celebrations of such days. It therefore becomes a need for those who are not with their loved ones to want to go to them. But this is not the case with some people who have a passion for their jobs, those who want so much to protect the people and maintain peace in unstable countries. This year on Women’s Day some women in the DOD could not be with their families as they were on duty in Burundi, the DRC and other countries. The Deputy Minister of Defence said that this should not be seen as a burden to women, but rather be regarded as an achievement and a step forward in the struggle for gender emancipation. Before 1994 women in the SANDF were never deployed in any combat capacity, they could only be utilised in basic auxiliary roles or as support staff in the military, she said.

Women have struggled a great deal to be what they are today and every golden opportunity they get should be used properly. In 1956 when women fought for their rights with the slogan: “wa thinta’bafazi wa thinta imbokondo…”, which means if you strike a woman you strike a rock, they demonstrated their good intentions, which were to obtain freedom and be recognised as the equals of the opposite sex.

Unfortunately, some never got to have the chance to feel the taste of freedom, therefore every right and success achieved by women should be celebrated and such heroes should be commemorated. Ms Madlala-Routledge said that SANDF women should realise the huge strides that they have made since those days and be proud. She also said that this was not a call on women to compete with men or to try to emulate what men were doing, but rather it was a call for them to perform at their full potential and to demonstrate to themselves what they are capable of.

Before 1994 South Africa was not allowed to interact with other countries because of sanctions. After the 1994 elections South Africa identified herself with Africa and decided to dedicate herself to a foreign policy that would result in Africa not being forgotten or ignored by the world. South Africa decided to be involved in the upliftment of African countries in terms of security, economy, politics and cultural aspects. What the SANDF is doing is exactly part of this policy.

Liberia was aflame, until its President Charles Taylor took a stepped down on 11 August this year. In honouring this moment of freedom President Thabo Mbeki witnessed the resignation of Mr Taylor. Ms Madlala-Routledge called this a golden moment as it brought to an end the senseless and brutal civil war that had claimed the lives of thousands of people in that country.

It is important for the people of South Africa to understand that in order for this country to secure its
resources from the depredations of refugees, there has to be stability in the other African countries. Therefore the deployment should not be seen as a waste of money, but as taking action to avoid the higher cost that will be caused by the refugees. It is necessary to deploy to prevent and avoid expenses. Unfortunately, it is our people who are being deployed - the very people who have families and friends. On the other hand it is fortunate for them to have their partners to support them in what they are doing, and who also understand their jobs because without these partners peace cannot be made in unstable countries.

Speaking as a woman, the Deputy Minister of Defence told the spouses that she understood the emotions they were going through, such as being lonely, worrying about the safety of their loved ones, not being able to cope with some situations on their own, and other feelings. She then told them to be proud because the sacrifice was for the good not only for their compatriots, but also for people of the continent.

She added: "Next time when you are watching news and you see smiling faces, celebrations of women and children on the streets of Kinshasa, Monrovia or Bujumbura you will know that those smiles were made possible by your sacrifice and that of your husbands and partners. Your sacrifice also saves women from being gang raped by rebel groups and it again contributes to Africa being free of poverty, diseases, violence, narrow nationalism and tribalism."

Being in the military is hard because one has to live two lives, one of having a family and the other of protecting a country. To have these two lives in balance for one who has been deployed, communication has to be maintained, as a relationship without communication does not last.

Soldiers approached the Deputy Minister of Defence about their communication problems, to which she replied by saying that it was expensive, but this was understandable. Brig Gen Mdutyana told everybody that the problem had been addressed and soldiers in the DRC now had access to cellphones. This had brought more happiness to the families concerned. Mrs Alice Sekgololo, one of the spouses, added to this by saying that her husband calls her every day and it feels good even though she does not see him, but it helps her not to miss him too much.

In conclusion Ms Madlala-Routledge told the spouses about the Peace Table for Women which was formed to hear from women and their problems and on how they wanted things to be run. Ms Madlala-Routledge said that it was not fair for them to just sit and take command, rather they should be involved in making decisions. She assured them that they would be invited to the next meeting of the Peace Table for Women. Ms Madlala-Routledge encouraged the women of the SANDF to strive and compete for top positions, such as the Chiefs of Services, or even the post of the Chief of the SANDF.
Women's Day celebrated in Bujumbura

By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, SO1 Public Liaison AMIB

After only two weeks’ deployment the almost sixty women of the second contingent of AMIB decided that they had to celebrate National Women’s Day with traditional South African flair. (The men supported the day and without their support the day would not have been possible.)

The palace building at the Palace Base was changed into a five-star quality reception area. One could almost believe that one was at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

The newly appointed RSA National Contingent Commander, Col N.J.K. Mabilu, was invited to address the women. He said that a woman is a symbol of life and a symbol of hope.

The land itself that we live off, which is the basis of life on earth, is depicted and symbolised by a "she" in all its functionality - the land is a woman.

"Women have and will at all times form the integral part of society in that no nation can be evolved or developed without their expertise and leadership. Leadership in women is inherent and inborn as they are always faced with challenges requiring leadership in their daily lives as they raise their infants or their fellow siblings," Col Mabilu said.

"I say to you today, you are all leaders in your own right, so take up the leadership challenges. Since the beginning of time you had to be behind the doings of men, but in the new dispensation you stand together with us and take part in decision-making affecting the nation."

He continued by saying: "Today we celebrate a special day in the history of South Africa, a day which forms part of the nucleus of the struggle that brought about a new nation, a new Defence Force and a new hope for the future of the African continent. It is very much symbolic and indeed a sign of hope for the people of Burundi that we celebrate this day in this country. It is commendable of you and for all women back in South Africa that you have, once again, decided to stand up and be part of the struggle to bring peace to this part of Africa. Your contributions do not go unnoticed."

After a lucky draw the psychologist, Capt Sanrie Blom, gave a motivational speech to the women. She said that as women "we had to never underestimate our strength when it comes to challenging situations. We
had sacrificed a lot to be part of the peacekeeping mission in Burundi. We have given up comfort - our comfortable beds and colourful decorated homes, our hot showers and clean toilets and our own kitchens with our favourite recipe books. We have given up our privacy and the freedom to choose our own routine. We have abandoned our hair stylists and our beauty therapists.”

“We might ask ourselves if these sacrifices are worth it. Do we really fit in here among the men? What is our role and function as part of this mission? We might simply say that we are here to do a job and to do it to the best of our ability. Some of our male colleagues are delighted that we are here, some feel that we do not belong here because we put our safety at risk as they have to take care of us. But this is not about a battle of the sexes. We are not here to prove anything or to impress anyone. (Except maybe our ten year old sons when we send home photographs of ourselves in Casspirs or Oryx helicopters.) We are simply here because each and every one of us has got special skills or knowledge or expertise that are needed here,” she continued saying.

“There is one very good reason why men take women to a place of war. Let me surprise you, it has got nothing to do with sex. The reason why men take women with them to a place of war is because women have something men do not have and even if they did, they do not use it. Women have instinct. Call it their sixth sense or their inner voice or their emotional guide, but women have a natural ability to sense danger or smell a rat. They have had to learn to trust their instincts and use them as a guide or an inner advisor,” Capt Blom elaborated.

“During our deployment here we are going to encounter troublesome people who annoy, hassle, harass, manipulate, intimidate or seduce us. No matter how much we think we have our life together, sometimes people and situations outside our control make us angry, anxious and frustrated. The only thing you really have control over is your thoughts. You have a choice how you would like to interpret situations that happen to you. Especially during time of deployment it is important to remember your ability to direct and change your thoughts. Think of your thoughts as the rounds you load in your magazine. If you load rounds that say: This is hopeless, I will never be able to make six months in this place’ the shots you are going to fire will be despair, hopelessness and negativity. If you load rounds that say: This is not ideal, I do not really like it here, but nevertheless I am going to make the best of it’ you will fire realistic, encouraging emotions,” she said.

Capt Blom said she wished “that the deployed women’s experiences in Burundi should be the best, so that every passing day could become second best as the best is yet to come!”

Refreshments prepared by the personnel of the mess were enjoyed by all. Thereafter celebrations continued at the swimming pool, which was especially prepared by the engineers for the special celebrations. The divers from the SA Navy acted as life-savers to much appreciation by all the women.

Unfortunately, the women from 4 SAI Bn and the sickbay deployed in the cantonment area 30 km north-east of Bujumbura could not attend the celebrations owing to operational obligations and circumstances. All the women attending the function donated towards making up special parcels, which were sent to them later the next week.

Celebrating Women’s Day in the Congo

By Capt Mohau Modise, SO3 Visits to CDCC

The SA National Women’s Day changed into an International Women’s Day in the DRC at a village known as Kindu. It was not celebrated by South African women only as all women in uniform, including those from the Swedish, Chinese and Uruguayan contingents were invited by the South African women contingent to enjoy this memorable day. The guests did not only honour the day with their presence, but graced it by wearing beautiful traditional attire, and by each contingent bringing different dishes according to its traditional way of preparing food.

During the first part of the day General Mdutuana, the guest speaker, joined all the women on a boat trip to the middle of the Congo River and back to the harbour of the Riverine Naval Base manned by the Uruguan contingent. All the men who were invited, were served as chiefs as a gesture of appreciation. They also realised that it was fitting to prepare the food and serve the women, as they were thus able to make it clear that they not only appreciated women as their counterparts, but also as mothers, sisters and equals. After lunch all the women lit a candle, while a cake was cut to enhance friendship between the members of the different contingents.
First ever woman admiral in our Navy

By CPO John Sverdloff, Navy News

S Makhosi Gondwe was the first female member to qualify for the Auxiliary Watchkeeper’s Ticket. LS Gondwe described her job in the engine room of SAS OUTENIQUA as follows: “A mechanical career is very challenging and it makes me feel different from other females. I have always wanted to do things from a different perspective, even if it meant raising a few eyebrows.”

“When I joined SAS OUTENIQUA I sought someone to share my aspirations, which I found in my fellow colleagues. I was accepted with open arms and treated no differently,” added LS Gondwe. “This and the possibility of promotion motivated me to complete my Auxiliary Watchkeeper’s Ticket.”

LS Gondwe is currently doing a Mechanical Fitter (Machinery) Ships apprenticeship at SAS WINGFIELD and says the practical experience gained aboard ship has been invaluable. This young lady knows where she is going and, with the support of the SA Navy, she is well on her way!

Women empowered in the SA Navy

By Graham Harman, Navy News

O Jayaspery (Janet) Marimutho, a chef at Admiralty House, hails from Tongaat in Kwa-Zulu Natal. She was accepted into the 1995 intake at SAS SALDANHA as the first Indian female to enter the Catering Branch after her Part One Chef’s Course at Maritime Warfare School’s Catering School in 1996. She served briefly at Waterfall Barracks, Naval Base Simon’s Town’s Wardroom and two months at Alexander Bay. She served on SAS OUTENIQUA from 1997 until March 2003, loving every minute of life at sea. The sense of family on board is most noticeable on deployment to foreign ports. One of her career highlights was the trip to the SANAE IV Antarctic Base in 1997. Her greatest challenge has been making a success of every meal - no matter what the circumstances! She hopes the new patrol corvettes will provide her with the opportunity to return to the open sea she loves. Women are experiencing increasing empowerment in a Navy where the sailor is a sailor irrespective of gender, and everyone is serving as the equal of everyone else. The opportunities are identical, and with the advent of the new Type 209 submarines, this will include service under, as well as on the sea. (The old Daphne class submarines posed a problem in respect of privacy owing to the restricted facilities - the bigger 209 class does not pose this problem, however.) The transition to a Navy of equal opportunity and gender equality has been gradual and thus never problematic. Women serve in engine and operations rooms, on radar, guns and in galleys (“navalese” for kitchens). With a 30% female target to be reached by 2010 (requiring a positive growth of 10% per annum), the future has fairer things in store for the SA Navy!
Cape girls flourish in the Navy

Three young Capetonians in their early twenties have been part of the SA Navy for a relatively short period and eagerly shared their take on the Navy. "The uniform, definitely the uniform," said Felecia Brown from Belhar. "No! No! The adventure - that's what attracted me," said Natalie Nieuwenhuyzen of Grassy Park. "Oh!" said Valencia Holmes, who is from Strandfontein. "I just wanted a job, but what a job I got! I never imagined that being in the SA Navy would be so exciting."

These three form half the team of communications specialists serving on board SAS PROTEA. Their job is to maintain communications with the naval authorities ashore once the ship sails. They use many different forms of communication, including high frequency radios and satellites. During tactical manoeuvring and radio silence they make use of flashing lights, semaphores and flag hoists when in the company of other warships.

What makes their job so special? "The ship cannot sail without us," boasts Natalie, "We know about the ship’s movements long before anyone else, sometimes even the Captain," adds Felecia, "I work on the bridge and send and receive all the tactical signals, which I decode for the Captain. When asked about career highlights so far, their response was unanimous "Promotion to the rank of Leading Seaman - we are now part of the lower management structure and have a really important role to play in the smooth running and safety of the ship."

They see no impediments to their careers in the naval environment and feel that they can do anything the male members do and serve on any ship, except the Daphne class submarines. In 2005 when the first 209 Class submarine arrives from Germany, that final barrier will fall away. As far as their aspirations to the future go Natalie would like to be the senior communications rating on board one of the new patrol corvettes. Natalie has already had the opportunity to visit St Helena Island and Namibia during Operation WIREBIRD.

What would they like to tell the young SA women about a possible career in the SA Navy? "Do not expect any special treatment if you join the SA Navy," says Valencia. Felecia’s advice? "Choose your specialist field wisely and work hard because you cannot just sit back expecting everything to drop into your lap." Natalie responded with: "You have to create your own future. Even though your career follows a set pattern in the SA Navy, you have to ensure that you don’t get forgotten along the way."

Although, at present, there are no female officers commanding SA Naval ships, how would they feel serving at sea under a female captain? "Very proud and safe," they reply, in unison. "Fortunately, the design of our ship gives us plenty of privacy and does not impact on our femininity. We are ladies first and sailors second, so we can maintain our femininity at all times," concludes Valencia.

Women played a vital role during World War II and were accepted without question alongside the men, but not at sea. When peace came the situation reverted abruptly to the former men-only status.

Women entered the SA Navy in uniform in the 1970s and in the 1980s the first women were afforded the opportunity to follow the required courses and undergo training for life at sea in warships.
Knowing the invisible enemy

By Dr I. Bux, Medical Officer, HIV Master Trainer, AMHU KZN

Twenty years have passed since the world first became aware of HIV. The level of death and dislocation is undoubtedly worse than that of any war or natural disaster. Some people even compare the HIV epidemic with a war of national liberation. This prompted former President Nelson Mandela to make a call for "a new struggle," as he put it. At the World Economic Forum on AIDS in 1997, he said that: "The vision which fuelled our struggle for freedom, the deployment of energies and resources, the unity and commitment to common goals - all these are needed if we are to bring AIDS under control. Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our response."

The regional Unit Commanders Workshop on Health Management, hosted by Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal on 14 August 2003, was the very thing that former President Mandela had called for. The main aim of the workshop was to enhance partnership and co-responsibility between military health personnel and commanders in health management. In the famous book, Art of War, Sun Tzu says: "Know yourself. Know your enemy. Your victory will be certain." The workshop’s various themes highlighted the complexities of knowing the enemy (HIV) and understanding its impact on the SANDF. HIV, however, is an invisible enemy. Unlike colonialism or apartheid, there are no moral or other certainties in tackling the disease. The challenges are huge, complex and difficult. HIV does not only pose enormous medical or psychosocial problems; it also poses extraordinary leadership challenges.
The various sub-themes discussed at the workshop made the unit commanders realise that it requires exceptional leadership skills to confront these complex and intimate issues. The challenges presented by HIV often leave unit commanders feeling helpless and disempowered. However, the themes discussed at the workshop served to clarify several important issues and made the commanders more comfortable in dealing with the challenges. These themes included the concept of health, management of HIV/AIDS in the unit, comprehensive health assessments, health status and follow-up interventions, peer training and gender equity programmes.

Leadership usually involves a position of power and authority, but with that power and authority comes a corresponding responsibility. Military leadership is no different. The military is probably the most hierarchical and obedience-oriented institution. The one important asset that military commanders have is that their commands must be obeyed. However, military leaders do not usually address issues like the sexual behaviour of their troops. These taboo subjects are usually brushed under the carpet of silence, fear, denial and ignorance that envelops HIV.

The unit commanders in KwaZulu-Natal signed a historic Declaration of Commitment in which they pledged to harness their leadership and lead through example in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal acknowledges its commitment to taking co-responsibility for the health of its members. The impact of leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS can never be overestimated. Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal looks forward to a positive and sustained response from all unit commanders and leaders in tackling HIV head-on and overcoming its various challenges.

After all, “leadership is practised not so much in words, as in attitudes and actions.”

The Lohatlha play day – a definite must for years to come!

Jacques Kriel, Clinton Mouers, Brandon de Koker and Ruan Schultz

By Capt B.A. Roos, SO2
Performance Manager AMHU NC

It was a cold, sunny winter morning in the Northern Cape when a few buses filled with children drove into the military base... The reason: 4 July 2003 was play day at Lohatlha! The day was organised in conjunction with Child Protection Month’s focus on the younger generation. Altogether 250 children, most of whose parents are members of the SANDF, were picked up from various surrounding towns, such as Kathu, Deben, Dingleton, Glosam, Postmasburg and Olifantshoek, and brought to their parents’ workplace for a day of fun and games.

There was something to make the day worthwhile for every child. Their ages ranged from four to eighteen. The multi-professional Lohatlha team (Area Military Health Unit Northern Cape), consisting of three social workers, two chaplains and a psychologist, set the scene so that the children rotated at three “stations” within their various age groups. In the social work exercise the children had the opportunity of learning about their own protection through discussion groups and a talking puppet. A teamwork exercise was facilitated at the psychology “station”.

Children of all sizes climbed onto and crawled under tables, ran, jumped and cheered each other. “Human knots” were tied and untangled by means of successful communication, patience with and mutual respect for team members.

With the help of a few sports organisers the chaplains set up games such as cricket, soccer and netball. Even if the bat was a bit heavy or the netball nearly as big as a child, the little ones enjoyed these activities thoroughly. The presence of the fire brigade and a few ratels contributed to further excitement.

When one is so active food is an essential! With the support of a few sponsors, the GSB, the personnel of the mess and a handful of enthusiastic braaiers, the children were provided with a delicious midday meal. The next logical step was resting...

On the way back home the buses were filled with tired, quiet and happy faces of children who had spent an active, social day outside in the sun.

Lohatlha play day - a definite must for years to come!
142 Squadron donates water tanks

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: F Sgt Tania Kettles

Reaching out to a community in need 142 Squadron of the SA Air Force donated water tanks to the O.R. Tambo Clinic, a Diepsloot community clinic, and the Muzomuhle Primary School also in the same area. The Officer Commanding 142 Squadron, Lt Col Octavia Mcetywa, handed over the tanks on 1 August 2003 in Diepsloot. The water supply in Diepsloot is unreliable and at times both the clinic and the school go without water for long periods. Once it was aware of the serious water supply problem, 142 Squadron together with the help of two companies, Choice Technologies and Aerospace Monitoring and Systems, designed a water supply system to help alleviate the water shortage.

Two 5 000-litre water tanks donated by Choice Technologies and Aerospace Monitoring and Systems were fitted into the main water supply line. Should the main supply be cut off, the reservoirs are to be maintained at full capacity at all times, and the two tanks will then provide water for up to three days. The water supply system has brought great relief to the children who were forced sometimes to leave school early when there was no water and the elderly of the area who could not be helped when there was no water at the clinic. Unveiling the tanks, Lt Col Mcetywa said that the initiative was directly in line with the intention of the Chief of the SA Air Force to cement the relationship between the community of Diepsloot and themselves. “Members of the Air Force reach out to help in uplifting communities,” Lt Col Mcetywa said.

Mr John Ramarumo, Principal of the Muzomuhle Primary School, Lt Col Octavia Mcetywa, Officer Commanding 142 Squadron, and learners.

Little 4-year-old Mohlodi Bopape has a drink while waiting to see a nurse at the O.R. Tambo Clinic.
The Schools Aerospace Challenge was held in the United Kingdom over the period 14 to 28 August 2003. This was a joint venture by the Cranfield University (a world-renowned aerospace teaching facility), the Royal Air Force and aviation industry partners in the UK. It is an annual event in the UK that aims to attract top achievers to further education and, ultimately, a career in aerospace.

This was the third year that various schools and Air Training Corps (ATC) squadrons in the UK competed for the coveted top prize of £5000.00. To top it all the SA Air Force via the Air Adviser in London was invited to enter a team consisting of five members. The SA team was the first team outside the UK ever to participate in this event, which turned it into an international event and the team was selected from the Aviation Academy at the Waterkloof High School and it was fully representative. The Aviation Academy paid the expenses of the team. The South African team did not participate directly in the competition this year as their entry was not processed in time. This meant that the SA team was automatically shortlisted without prior evaluation of their competition paper.

This competitive mechanism was used to stimulate the youth in the field of aerospace sciences in order to secure our own aeronautical/aviation future. The venture holds mutual benefits for our country, defence industries, the education fraternity and the SA Air Force, not to mention the impact on the youth in South Africa.

The visit was also used to kickstart a process of broad-based South African participation in future, with a view to create awareness among the youth and to encourage pursuit of a career in the SA Air Force in aeronautical engineering. It will also add much value to the plan to ensure future engineers in the SA Air Force.
Affirmative action can succeed

By Lt Col B.L. Tlou,
SO1 EO Research, Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (EOCD) has been monitoring the equal opportunities (EO) climate annually since 1997 by means of a structured questionnaire. The aim of the research, which is conducted by the Inspector General’s Centre for Effect Analysis at the request of the EOCD, is to identify trends occurring in the perceptions of DOD members on issues pertaining to equal opportunities, *inter alia* affirmative action (AA) and racism. The Chief Directorate takes the results of these studies into account in the planning and development of equal opportunity interventions.

In addition to the quantitative data that is gathered by means of the annual EO climate survey, the EOCD also conducts focus group research. The data that is gathered during focus group research is of a more qualitative nature and enables the EOCD to determine specific fears, opinions and perceptions on issues pertaining to equal opportunities.

**Aim**

The aim of this article is to give feedback on the tendencies regarding the EO climate in the DOD as determined by the structured questionnaire.

**Climate survey**

The population for the study consists of the Regular Force component of the DOD and the sample characteristics indicated that the sample was fairly representative of the DOD population. For the 2002 study 2 058 completed questionnaires were received. Five independent variables (service or division, gender, population group, rank group and former force) were examined to determine the effect of these variables on the dependent variables (the eight themes indicated below). Changes in the perceptions of the respondents within each sub-group of the independent variables over time (eg from 1999 to 2002) were also examined.

**Themes**

- **Theme 1:** Perceptions of the potential success and value of affirmative action within the DOD.
- **Theme 2:** Perceptions about the potential threats of affirmative action in the DOD.
- **Theme 3:** Perceptions of the lack of representation among leaders in top positions within the DOD.
- **Theme 4:** Perceptions of the existence of equal benefits to all members within the DOD.
- **Theme 5:** Perceptions of the availability of fair and equal career opportunities within the DOD.
- **Theme 6:** Perceptions of the existence of discrimination based on differences among members within the DOD.
- **Theme 7:** Perceptions of the existence of racial tension or racism within the DOD.

A greater percentage of respondents believe that fair and equal career opportunities do not exist within the DOD.

**Theme 1:** Perceptions of the potential success and value of affirmative action within the DOD.
Theme 8: Perceptions of the availability and an understanding of affirmative action within the DOD.

Results
The results may be summarised as follows, with graphics depicting the "agree", "neutral" and "disagree" responses for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002:

- **Theme 1:** In the 2002 study 58.7 percent of the entire sample agreed on the potential success and value of affirmative action within the DOD (21.8% disagreed).
- **Theme 2:** In the 2002 study 30.2 percent of the entire sample agreed that affirmative action poses a potential threat within the DOD (42.8% disagreed).
- **Theme 3:** In the 2002 study 55.8 percent of the entire sample agreed that there was a lack of representation among leaders in top positions within the DOD (27.6% disagreed).
- **Theme 4:** In the 2002 study 40.3 percent of the entire sample agreed that equal benefits for all members are available within the DOD (31.1% disagreed).
- **Theme 5:** In the 2002 study 46.9 percent of the entire sample did not have the perception that fair and equal career opportunities were available within the DOD; only 29.9 percent agreed with this theme.
- **Theme 6:** 44.9 percent of the entire 2002 sample agreed that DOD members are discriminated against because of racial, gender and other differences (27.3% disagreed).
- **Theme 7:** In the 2002 study 56.5 percent agreed that racial tension/racism exists within the DOD (20.4% disagreed).
- **Theme 8:** 57.0% of the entire 2002 sample agreed that information was available and that there was an understanding of affirmative action within the DOD (22.4% disagreed).

Trends
Based on the average responses for entire samples in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, the following trends were identified:

Positive Trends
An increasing percentage of respondents agree that AA could succeed and has potential value within the DOD (44.4% in 1999 and 58.7% in 2002).

A decreasing percentage of respondents perceive AA as a threat (38.7% in 1999 and 30.2% in 2002).

A greater percentage of respondents believe that leaders in top positions are adequately representative (45.7% in 1999 and 55.8% in 2002).

A greater percentage of respondents believe that equal benefits exist within the DOD (30.9% in 1999 and 40.3% in 2002).

An increasing percentage of respondents agree that information is available and that there is an understanding of AA within the DOD (33.2% in 1999 and 57.0% in 2002).

Although the "agree" responses to the existence of racial tension had declined by 1.9% in 2002, participants still have a high awareness of the existence of racial tension and racism within the DOD (56.5% agreed and only 20.4% disagreed).

Negative Trends
A greater percentage of respondents believe that fair and equal career opportunities do not exist within the DOD (33.6% in 1999 and 46.9% in 2002). Only 29.9% of respondents believe that fair and equal career opportunities do not exist within the DOD (33.6% in 1999 and 46.9% in 2002).
equal career opportunities are available in the DOD. An increasing percentage of respondents agree that discrimination based on individual differences occurs within the DOD (31.3% in 1999 and 44.9% in 2002).

It is too complicated to give reasons for the above-mentioned changes. It is not clear whether they can be ascribed to real changes in the composition or structure of the DOD, better awareness of EO matters or perhaps to other factors.

**Conclusions**

Stability rather than change characterises the perceptions of the respondents. Although there is a decrease in percentage with regard to the question of the existence of racial tension or racism within the DOD, this theme is still one of major concern.

This theme is gradually decreasing in terms of the agreement percentages for the entire sample, with 56.5% in the latest study (1.9% down since 2001).

The former MK/APLA, African, Col/Capt (SAN) and higher ranking individuals are the most positively inclined towards the issue of AA. These groups are, however, dissatisfied with representative leadership in the DOD.

SAMHS members, males, Coloureds, lower ranking members and MK/APLA members are highly aware of racial tension and the existence of discriminatory practices within the DOD.

Former SADF and TBVC members, SAAF members, Whites, females and Warrant Officers are negatively inclined towards the potential benefits of AA and feel threatened by it. These groups see leadership as adequately representative and expressed the least awareness of discrimination and racism within the DOD.

Civilian members in the DOD are also least aware of racial tension in the organisation.

Lower ranking members do not perceive the DOD as offering equal benefits or career opportunities and believe that discrimination based on individual differences occurs. This sub-group seems to have least access to information and a poor understanding of AA and EO.

It would seem that interventions related to the availability of information on AA had positive spin-offs over the 1999 to 2001 period. The understanding of AA has increased by more than 20% (33.2% in 1999, 48.1% in 2000 and 57.0% in 2002).

**Recommendations**

In the light of the above, the following is recommended:

- Awareness training regarding EO/AA issues should be continued and intensified.
- The fears and perceptions regarding AA should be addressed as follows:
  - Services and divisions are to inform their members with regard to their AA plans and the implementation plan thereof.
  - Members and employees are to be informed of targets and time frames to achieve representivity in the DOD.
  - Awareness training in respect of AA is to be conducted, especially in the concerned variable group.
- Focus group interviews are to be conducted to determine the perceptions in respect of issues of concern as raised in the EO climate survey. The following should be emphasised:
  - Discrimination based on individual differences.
  - Availability of equal benefits to all members.
  - Availability of fair and equal career opportunities in the DOD.
  - The existence of racial tension or racism in the DOD.
- Roadshows are to be undertaken to enlighten members, especially the lower ranking members on issues pertaining to EO/AA in the DOD.
Train the trainers

By Lt R.P. Makopo, SO3
Communication: SANDF COLET

The Implementation Centre of SANDF COLET presented for the first time a workshop entitled “Train the Trainers” to Defence Force members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries over the period 14 to 18 July 2003 at SANDF COLET in Pretoria.

Altogether 22 high-ranking members from the defence forces of the SADC countries, viz Botswana, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise the members regarding outcomes-based education in general and, in particular, how the SANDF COLET presents Education Training and Development Practitioner (ETDP) programmes using the outcomes-based approach.

The workshop was based on a peacekeeping theme and everything revolved around this theme. Certain activities were incorporated, which led the students to acquire the knowledge needed to be a facilitator. A team referred to as "Academy Possible", consisting of WO1 E. Salisbury-Stegmann and Maj W.B. Oelofse, presented the workshop.

The students’ first task at the training session was required to set up the learning environment. They were given guidelines and left alone. This forced them to work as a team in solving a problem. The learning content consisted of the consolidation of three National Qualifications Framework level 4 ETDP modules, namely "prepare learning aids", "plan learning events" and "facilitate targeted skills development".

According to the feedback received from the participants, the workshop was a valuable exercise. The feedback further indicates that the participants, who gained experience as trainers, have acquired new skills regarding training by using the outcomes-based approach.
Equal opportunities contribute to unity

By Col Phage Mosianedi, SSO Operational and Advice, Directorate Labour and Service Relations

Throughout its modern history (post-apartheid era) the SANDF has served as the nation’s leader by ensuring that positive labour, human and service relations form the cornerstone for building and maintaining a sound and cohesive organisation.

The effective labour, human and service relations and equal opportunities are all moral and operational imperatives for our armed forces. Just as a poor safety programme would threaten a unit’s readiness, so too would real or perceived acts of unequal treatment and poor labour and service relations. The different attitudes and values acquired before the integration of the Non-statutory Forces into the SANDF did not evaporate or change because one donned the SANDF uniform. It is these differences that can actually lead to the misunderstandings, frustrations and suspicions of others and create serious leadership problems in organisations such as the SANDF.

The Equal Opportunities programme of the DOD, labour and service relations in the DOD began with the establishment of Equal Opportunities and Labour and Service Relations Directorates in 1994-96. However, the years that followed saw no significant, deliberate, well-conceived plan to check systemic discrimination, unfair labour practices and other forms of unequal treatment. Notwithstanding this the SANDF has since 1994 been engaged in a long-range programme designed to ensure and improve combat-readiness through an effective labour and service relations and equal opportunities policy.

Important to note is that the measures, formulated, directs and sustains a comprehensive effort to maximise human potential and ensure fair treatment of all employees and military personnel of the DOD based solely on merits, fitness and capability which supports mission readiness. Specifically, these measures are designed to provide equal opportunities and fair labour and service relations practice for military personnel and civilian employees and contribute to unity and mission readiness.

Today many of our military leaders believe that these measures have had a far-reaching impact on the SANDF culture, a culture that serves as a role model for the rest of the nation and the region. The situation in the SANDF today is considerably different from what existed in the past eight years. Many changes have occurred, and the DOD equal opportunities and labour and service relations’ directorates have moved from
Create awareness of aviation

By Sivuyisiwe Matanga

The South African Air Force Museum commemorated its 30th birthday with an elaborate air show on 16 August 2003 at Swartkop Air Force Base in Valhalla, Pretoria. This event formed part of the centenary celebrations of powered flight, which honoured the men and women who made the dream of flight come true.

The flying attractions for the day included displays by the Rooivalk attack helicopter, the Cheetah and F18Z fighter aircraft, the Harvard, the Vampire, the Shurlok Aerobatics Team and various military and civilian aircraft.

Various media representatives were invited to promote the air show along with various sponsors, such as Cell C and Coca Cola. SASOL was the fuel sponsor for the L-29 Tiger Jet Team and also supplied the fuel for the SASOL speed challenge. Dr Johan Botha, General Manager Technology for SASOL, said: “By sponsoring the privately owned jet aerobatic team in the Southern Hemisphere, which is also only one of two such teams worldwide in private ownership, SASOL is again reaching new frontiers.”

One of the initiatives of the SA Air Force is to create awareness of aviation among the youth to encourage them to consider careers in aviation and to pursue appropriate studies at school. The Siyandiza programme is committed to an aviation awareness initiative targeted at disadvantaged communities to promote aviation related careers both. This is to assist schools and parents to attract suitable candidates for future employment in the aviation environment.

The Metro Police and private security firms kept everything in order during the day. Motor cars on display, including the ever-popular Dunlop land record car complemented the event.

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The challenge facing the chain of command

The chain of command is to provide effective leadership to promote a command climate that fosters equal opportunities and fair labour and service relations in order to enhance unit cohesion, combat-readiness and mission accomplishment. At the same time it has to be ensured that professional training courses adequately emphasise the need to deal with the perceptions and root causes of discrimination.

People who work in an atmosphere free of dissension, unnecessary harassment, discrimination and one containing a strong sense of equal opportunities, fair labour and service relations are more productive and team oriented.

They understand better their individual tasks and remain focussed on mission accomplishment and their moral and team efforts are positively affected, resulting in strong unit cohesion and esprit de corps. The challenge for the chain of command is, therefore, to acknowledge that readiness begins with soldiers and that the SANDF’s advanced technology and modernisation efforts would fail if military leadership would lose the sincere and dynamic commitment to the final well-being of the soldiers.

The chain of command, whether military or civilian, has the responsibility for developing and sustaining a healthy equal opportunity climate and fair labour and service relations’ practices. This responsibility entails, but is not limited to promoting positive plans that enhance unit cohesion, esprit de corps and morale, communicating matters with unit personnel and higher Headquarters, correcting discriminatory and unfair labour and service relations practices by conducting rapid, objective and impartial enquiries to resolve complaints of discrimination and unfair labour practices, encouraging the surfacing of problems and preventing reprisals for those who complain and taking appropriate action against those who perpetrate discriminatory actions.

The DOD equal opportunities and labour and service relations measures must not only address problems of discrimination and unfair labour and service relations, but also attempt to clarify and provide guidance to commanders on other issues related to tolerance, diversity, accommodation, restructuring and transformation programmes.

After all, these issues are an integral command structure of the SANDF leadership and are nurtured and developed through a professional military education system. The DOD has had a great deal of success over the years, but much still remain to be done. Ultimately, what commanders and subordinate leaders do today will determine the SANDF’s continued success in promoting stability in the region and in the continent for years to come.
Ensure that military activities do not harm the environment

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The DOD hosted an International Conference on Military Integrated Environmental Management at Kwalata Game Lodge and Conference Centre near Hammanskraal in Pretoria from 4 to 8 August 2003.

The conference was jointly presented by the RSA DOD and the USA DOD under the auspices of the RSA-USA Environmental Security Working Group (ESWG), which is one of the working groups operating under the bilateral SA-USA Defence Committee (DEFCOM). The international conference was aimed at facilitating the exchange of information on best practice models in military integrated environmental management among participants.

Military Integrated Environmental Management (MIEM) provides internationally accepted tools that defence forces can use to ensure that military activities do not affect the environment adversely. It includes among others, aspects such as:

- Adherence to relevant laws;
- Management of natural areas;
- Management of built-up areas;
- Management of cultural resources;
- Education and training on the correct use of the environment; and
- Development of environmentally friendly technologies.

In December 1999 a jointly hosted International Workshop on Integrated Range Management was held in Savannah, Georgia, USA. During the workshop, which was attended by military delegates from ten nations, the need was expressed for a succeeding conference on military integrated environmental management. The RSA DOD indicated its willingness to host such a conference, an undertaking subsequently supported by DEFCOM.

International Conference on Military Integrated Environmental Management

The Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Themba Ntsibande, opened the ceremony on behalf of the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. During his address he said the DOD in South Africa had a history of environmental care reaching back as far as 1978 when the first internal policies on the environment were formally adopted. This situation is intensified by a climate that requires compliance with the prescripts of proliferating environmental legislation. It also includes minimising costs concealed in managing the environmental footprint brought about by all manner of military activities, expansion of military integrated environmental expertise and instituting the ethic of environmental stewardship amongst the broadest possible base of soldiers.

"As for our counterparts and co-hosts of the United States DOD, my gratitude and appreciation is extended also to you for your co-sponsorship of the event and support to the South African project team. You too, should be no less satisfied with what...
you behold here today. The General Assembly of the United Nations at its Millennium Summit in September of 2000, adopted values and principles as part of the Millennium Declaration that include, among others, those on peace, security and disarmament as well as meeting the special needs of Africa,” said Maj Gen Ntsibande.

He added that the New Partnership on African Development (NEPAD) is at the same time a pledge by African leaders which is founded on a common vision that encompasses the eradication of poverty and on piloting their respective nations toward sustainable growth and development. It is directed also at heading African countries towards active participation in the world economy.

Maj Gen Ntsibande continued: “There is growing awareness of the importance of environmental issues for sustainable development. This is supposed in the Millennium Declaration and captured in NEPAD, to be destined to project this continent into the African Renaissance and beyond. Defence organisations have a distinct contribution to make toward enhancing peace, stability and security for sustainable development. African military forces in particular must support the social, economic and environmental agenda of sustainable development through both their peacetime activities and operations by working closely with their allies in the regional denominations to achieve this.”

“This conference should be used as the first platform and point of reference to develop that network among African security forces to advance the concept of military integrated environmental management. Through such co-operation it must be endeavoured to lend yet another dimension to interoperability among African security forces by giving thrust to their important role in supporting peace, stability and security in the quest to build the African continent. A military force as an instrument of government policy on security cannot discharge its obligations in terms of the environment in isolation. There are lead agents in government that set the pace and who are by virtue of their respective mandates responsible for directing the achievement of specific national environmental objectives,” he concluded.

Sappers deserve recognition

By Lt Seani Neluheni,
S03 Communication SA Engineer Formation

The GOC SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen David Masters, and the Chief of Staff, Col William Endley, visited 35 Engineer Support Regiment at Dunottar on 11 June 2003. The Unit is responsible for providing and maintaining engineer equipment.

The Officer Commanding of the Unit, Lt Col Cornelius Grundling, and his staff, led the delegation on a visit through the Unit, which included a demonstration of newly designed mobile workshops.

“The best Sapper in his environment.” These were the words of Brig Gen Masters when he addressed Sappers working in “Store 1” at 35 Engineer Support Regiment. The GOC walked through the stores with a glow of pride. He congratulated Lt Col Grundling and his staff on work well done. The GOC said that three months before, when Lt Col Grundling took over the command of the Unit, the stores had been a big mess. Now, however, the GOC was impressed with the manner in which Lt Col Grundling and his staff had arranged the store. All the equipment was in place and the store was spotless.

Standing at the airfield guard tower one could easily identify and count the various types of vehicles, which were parked in an orderly manner, in spite of the massive area. The serviceability of the vehicles is checked regularly for combat readiness. The Unit now has a fixed plan to report the state of each vehicle to the Formation on a monthly basis.

The GOC referred to the engineers’ equipment as the table where the engineers feed. He said that if the body could not be looked after, it will wear off. He urged that the members should look after their equipment.

“People who do well, deserve recognition,” stressed Brig Gen Masters. In his address he said good leaders could be seen. He emphasised the importance of showing recognition, eg by issuing commendation certificates, to those who are doing good work.

Front row: Sgt Tembinkosi Maqungo. Middle, fltr: S Sgt Lazarus Mahlati and S Sgt Thabo Matshego. Back, fltr: Sgt Kenneth Slimelane, Cpl Lucky Malatji, L Cpl Joseph Legodi, L Cpl Okie Mlotya, Spr William Mosenogi and Spr Ronnie Baloyi. (S Sgt W. Strydom, Sgt M.O. Maputla and Cpl C. McDonald are not present) - All Sappers will remember their dedication and loyalty as their photo will be placed in the Engineer Formation.
Running like the wind

By Sivuyiswe Matanga
Photo: F Sgt Tania Kettles

Teams from the nine Area Sport Councils (ASC) competed in the SANDF Cross-country Championships held at the Air Force Gymnasium in Pretoria on 1 August 2003.

Lt Col Ansie Hennoo, Chairperson Athletics Gauteng, spoke a word of sincere appreciation to all technical officials and to the athletes as she opened the event. Since the SANDF was established many members have excelled in athletics as SA champions, SA record holders, SA managers, national selectors, coaches and referees. The SANDF was also the first in organising a multiracial provincial championships.

Athletics in the SANDF is affiliated to the national body, Athletics South Africa (ASA), and as such all competitions are held in accordance with the rules of ASA and the IAAF.

Athletics as a sport is made up of three disciplines, namely track and field, road running and cross-country.

Cross-country is a discipline that is used by most athletes as a builder of the strength and stamina needed in track and field short road races. These are also considered a natural part of soldiering, especially during deployment activities.

The event was well represented with thirteen athletes from the ASC North Cape, eighteen from the ASC Free State, nine athletes from the ASC South Eastern Cape, seventeen athletes from the ASC Northern Province, sixteen athletes from the ASC North West, eighteen from the ASC Western Cape and seventeen from the ASC Gauteng Province. The competition was based on the age and gender categories prescribed by ASA, and according to the approved numbers, by Directorate Physical Training Sport and Recreation.

In 2002 a team was selected to compete in the ASA Inter-provincial Championships. CPO J. Esau won the gold medal in the race for veteran men and S Sgt K. Aphiwe the silver medal in the junior veteran men’s race. Both members were from ASC Gauteng. The junior veteran men’s team won the silver medal in the team competition. This year Tpr C.J. Smith of ASC Free State won the category short cross (4 km) for senior women, and the runner-up was Sgt E. May of ASC Western Cape.

The winner of the category veteran men (8 km) was Cpl T. Mokoena of ASC Gauteng with Spr C.S. Senatla of ASC Free State in the second place. Cpl P.I. Mokhobo from ASC Free State won the category junior veteran men (10 km) and S Sgt K. Aphiwe of ASC Gauteng was the runner-up.

The winner of the category senior men (12 km) was Cpl T. Mokoena of ASC Gauteng and Rfn A. Hendricks of ASC Free State came second.

A centenary of flight

The Test Flight and Development Centre (TFDC) will be hosting their fourth biannual TFDC Public Relations Officer, at tel no: (028) 425 4005, or Lt Col Chris Meiring, Chief Co-ordinator, at tel no: (028) 425 4049, or send your email to: tfdc@dorea.co.za.

TFDC ATC tower at tel no: (028) 425 4049 to obtain arrival procedures and prevailing weather details. The Overberg Base (FAOB) is fully equipped with VOR/ILS, DME and NDB facilities. The relevant approach plates for FAOB RWY 35/17 can be downloaded from the website: www.tfdc.co.za.

Visiting pilots are welcome to camp on the grass behind the parked aircraft as before. Please note that visiting pilots are responsible for their own transport arrangement from the airfield to their places of accommodation.

TFDC are keen to hear from interested pilots, general aviation organisations and vendors requiring more information.

Please phone Lt Paul Arendse, TFDC Public Relations Officer, at tel no: (028) 425 4005, or Lt Col Chris Meiring, Chief Co-ordinator, at tel no: (028) 425 4049, or send your email to: tfdc@dorea.co.za.

Cpl T. Mokoena of ASC Gauteng was the winner of the category senior men (12 km).
The SANDF Tug-of-War Championship was held from 23 to 26 July 2003 at Toutrekpark in Gezina, Pretoria. This was the first championship in six years. Altogether 130 athletes from various regional sport councils participated in this successful event. Part of the championships were a referee course, a coaching course and pointers to the finer details of the sport, such as boot building and glue making.

Compliments were received from Directorate Physical Training Sport and Recreation, Pretoria Military Sport Club, the South African Tug-of-War Federation and Gauteng North Tug-of-War Association on the level of development, the standards of the competition, representivity and the motivation shown by the athletes (more than one hundred of the participants were black and twenty participants were women).

Gauteng Regional Sport Council took all the honours, except for the team from Limpopo Regional Sport Council which managed a second place in the 720 kg and a third in the 640 kg division. Gauteng was appointed as the winning team, while CO R. Oosthuizen from the SA Army Gymnasium was selected as the tugger of the competition.

SANDF Tug-of-War also presented a plan to the SA Tug-of-War Federation on development of tug-of-war countrywide. SANDF Tug-of-War will be given an opportunity to take part in the development of the sport as a result of this presentation. Next year’s championship will be a much larger competition and regional sport councils are encouraged to start planning immediately to send their strongest teams to try and end the dominance of Gauteng.

Tug-of-war is a sport where two teams of eight persons each compete by pulling on a rope to determine which is the stronger team.

It definitely improves fitness, as it is a sport that involves a combination of power and stamina. Participants compete in various weight divisions (like boxing and wrestling) and anybody of any shape or size can compete.

There is no age restriction, as some teams in South Africa have participants over the age of fifty. Women also excel in this sport as the South African 560 kg ladies’ team recently won a silver medal at the World Championships in which 28 countries participated.

People interested in competing will be introduced to the sport on a social basis, with inter-GSB or unit competitions on Wednesdays. Experienced coaches will train them in the techniques of the sport and teach them the rules.

For more information contact Lt Col Johann Marais at tel no: (012) 315 0937.
Invest in the future generation

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Sgt Eddie Smith

A younger and more professional Defence Force by the year 2010 is what the Directorate Personnel Acquisition (DPACQ) is working so hard to achieve. This Directorate has been tasked with selling the SANDF as the best employer possible to the future generation. The DPACQ works on an annual plan that co-ordinates places spread across the country, venues and times to teach and preach the message “serve your country and be proud”.

The four Services communicate their needs to the Directorate Policy and Planning and, in response, with the sole intention of harnessing raw talent the DPACQ begins to headhunt school leavers. The criteria are not too stiff, it is just a search for youngsters who took their school-going years to heart and made good grades.

On the drive to making a success of the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme, SO1 Marketing and Recruitment sub-Directorate, Lt Col Macdonald Letsholo from DPACQ, explained to SA SOLDIER that the programme is a means by which the SANDF exposes young people, particularly from underprivileged backgrounds, to the military environment. Lt Col Letsholo said that the idea is to have the capacity by the year 2010 to recruit about 10 000 young people.

"This is following the Human Resource Strategy of the National Defence Force to rejuvenate," said Lt Col Letsholo and went on to elaborate that this process is primarily to make provision for the defense of the country and a means of supporting other government departments. And it will also enable the Government to meet its commitments in the execution of its duties relating to foreign relations, notably foreign missions concerning issues such as peacekeeping support operations. He emphasised that in actual fact this positions the SANDF strategically for utilisation by the Government.

"We give the young ones exposure to the careers that are available in the SANDF and the advantages thereof," said Lt Col Letsholo. The Department also conducts school visits country-wide, especially in remote areas.

So far the response has been tremendous admits Lt Col Letsholo, but, as he went on to mention, the standard is high and not everybody is accepted. The DPACQ is inundated with mail from potential applicants, but only a few will make it.

Two years after its implementation the MSD Programme already boasts of a rare achievement: 2 Lt Lance Mathebula who became the first black South African trainee pilot in the back seat of a Hawk lead fighter trainer during a 45-minute introductory flight last October. When he was first discovered Lt Mathebula was idling at home with good grades and no funds to pursue his dream. In Lt Col Letsholo’s view: “He is one of the promising pilots.”

Also in existence is the Youth Foundation Training Programme through which matriculants, having gained acceptance into the SANDF, are given a second chance at upgrading what may not have been particularly good results. However, Lt Col Letsholo maintains that even in this instance, the learner must exhibit potential. Some candidates have improved their symbols by two or three levels.

The SANDF is compelled, like all government institutions, to contribute towards youth development. As Lt Col Letsholo put it, “We are giving the young ones an opportunity to excel by providing an environment conducive to growth.” This means investing in the future generation for the future of the SANDF.

Serve your country and make your mark.