SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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FRONT COVER: Enjoy reliving the past! The 2004 Special Edition is packed with achievements of a decade of challenges.

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freedom Day, 27 April 2004, will mark South Africa’s First Decade of Freedom. Therefore I would like to echo the words of Mr Joel Netshitenzhe, Chief Executive Officer: Government Communications (GCIS): “It will be a time to recall 27 April 1994 as the day South Africa left behind its history of oppression, conflict and neglect and moved towards reconstruction and development through the building of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist State”.

As part of SA SOLDIER’s contribution towards the celebrations the editorial staff of SA SOLDIER compiled a 2004 Special Edition. This edition promises to become a collectable. It reviews the past ten years of the Department of Defence.

The past ten years posed significant challenges to the DOD, among them transforming the Department and introducing new policies that are in line with the democratic Constitution and legislative framework.

Our Department has played an important role in the normalisation of South Africa’s diplomatic relations globally. Agreements have been entered into and bilateral structures serviced with numerous countries in Africa and abroad. Funding agreements were concluded with Belgium, the EU, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway to support South Africa’s peace support deployments in Burundi.

As part of the requirement for civil control of the DOD it was essential that the Finance Division had to be reconstituted. In 1998 the entire finance function was demilitarised, and since then the Finance Division reports exclusively to the Secretary for Defence. The Acquisition Policy has been produced to address the shortcomings that were identified by the Joint Investigating Committee into the Strategic Defence Packages process. This will ensure that the Capital Acquisition process is fair, transparent and allows for strict control in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. In October 2002 the Anti-fraud Directorate was established under the command of the Inspector General DOD.

To this end, together with our SADC partners, we have made huge strides in the last year towards establishing the Mutual Defence Pact to ensure that proper early warning systems and pre-emptive measures to avoid conflict situations are in place.

The SANDF has also played a major role in the development of the African Standby Force. This rapid response force is part of a long-term initiative to ensure lasting peace and stability in Africa.

Ministerial approval was granted for an exit mechanism, which will form the core enabling mechanism to make the new service system function effectively in future. Progress has been made in developing the second part of the new service system, the Core Service System, which will be implemented towards the end of the year.

In March 2003 the Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry, launched Operation VUSELELA, which is a project to eradicate alien vegetation from SANDF land. This project is an effort to assist some destitute military veterans by providing them with a basic income.

The 2004 Special Edition is packed with achievements of a decade of challenges.

SA SOLDIER decided to republish the new rank insignia (pull-out poster) for our South African National Defence Force. It brings to mind the occasion when Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, issued the first new rank insignia to the Service/Division Chiefs and Warrant Officers at a high-profile parade at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 2 September 2002. (Poster on pages 20, 22, 27 and 29).

Another added bonus for the Special Edition 2004 is a second pull-out poster on pages 24 and 25 depicting the transformation process which the top structure of the Department of Defence has undergone.

Enjoy reliving the past!

Nelda Pienaar
Acting Editor
Members of the Volunteer Reserves do not only contribute to providing affordable defence for South Africa, but gain new energies, skills and attitudes that enhance their functioning in the workplace.
The celebrations of South Africa’s ten years of freedom are currently underway across the country and as far away as far from our shores as Germany and the United Kingdom. Our tenth anniversary, a special milestone in our history, has captured the imagination of a very large international audience.

The struggle against apartheid in South Africa was fought on many different fronts, both at home and abroad, with the common purpose of restoring the dignity of humankind, and, ensuring that the spirit and principles of democracy prevail in every corner of the world.

Since the inception of democracy in 1994 South Africa has faced a massive responsibility and challenge to meet the expectations of our citizens and the international community as a whole. Almost overnight we have transformed from an isolated, pariah state, to assume the mantle of an international icon of freedom.

South Africa has risen from the depths of institutionalised terror and sabotage to the moral high ground of a giant partner and role player in the quest for economic prosperity. Through diplomacy backed up by peace support operations we have contributed significantly to stabilising the strife-torn areas of our region and continent.

South Africa has also emerged as a credible player in the global economy and in international security issues. To this end many countries and multilateral institutions have increasingly sort the participation of South Africa on issues of institutionalising democracy through consultation and broad national representation.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.

A key message to our fellow South Africans is that the economy and security of this country is directly linked to the situation outside our borders. It is very clear that we cannot be an “island of prosperity” in a “sea of poverty and despair”. Instability on and around our borders will affect us directly from both a security and economic perspective.

We have not abandoned our internal security role. The South African Police Service (SAPS) has the lead role in policing the country. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is always on hand to back-up the SAPS and other government departments when called upon to do so.

Core messages for 10 years of freedom

- Celebration of freedom attained and thanksgiving.
- Pride in our nation’s achievements since 1994.
- Forward looking to further progress, democracy and stability.
- Inclusivity of South Africans and international partners.
- Humility in acknowledging that the management of social change is a process of learning.
- Contributions to the “Four Big Ideas”.

The Department of Defence (DOD) has therefore been prominent in many of the achievements of this country over the last decade. The Deputy Minister, Secretary for Defence and Chief of the SANDF have elaborated on the performance and direction of the department and SANDF in their messages in this edition of SA SOLDIER.

The Government’s core message and dominant theme for the celebrations of the last decade is “People United for a Better South Africa and a Better World”. I sincerely hope that the bright lights of all our celebratory activities throughout this year do not blind us from the messages of renewal, humility, unity, efficiency, people-centredness and partnership.

Those of you who interact with other government departments and clusters will frequently hear reference to the Four Big Ideas. These are major issues as we progress to the next decade: social responsibility framework, performance of state, consequences of social transition and implementing Nepad.

As part of Government, in the next decade we want to continue to support the national agenda to push back frontiers of poverty, grow economic opportunities, provide for a safer South Africa, be a more efficient people-centred Government and support Africa’s renewal in a more peaceful world.

In this special edition of SA SOLDIER we continue the ten years of freedom campaign with a flashback to previous editions of the magazine over the last decade. As a flagship publication of the SANDF and the DOD it is important that the magazine constantly reviews how effective and dynamic it is in communicating relevant issues to our community.

“Four Big Ideas”

- A social compact.
- Improving performance of state.
- Addressing consequences of social transition.
- Improving the regional environment and implementing Nepad.

As we approach the second decade of freedom all of us representing the DOD need to ask ourselves how we can work in unity to help the department continue to improve its performance. We need to aim to be even more committed soldiers, more efficient administrators, exemplary leaders, accountable officials and even better human beings to help the DOD and the SANDF to be a Force for Good.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota
Minister of Defence
Message from the Deputy Minister of Defence

Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge

As the countdown towards 27 April 2004, the date of the 10 years of freedom celebrations gains momentum, the Department of Defence will also be gearing itself to celebrate our own 10th birthday in recognition of a decade of the existence of the SANDF.

The creation and transformation of the SANDF has been a major achievement. We have made great progress in fulfilling the constitutional requirements for optimum capability in defending the sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa, and by reflecting the philosophy of "Defence in a Democracy", which means a defence force for the people.

This year, however, should not just be about celebrations of our birthday or on account of the high-profile support of national events. It is important that we can reflect a change in the way we think about key issues to do with professionalism, racial tolerance, gender sensitivity, and the Batho Pele principle.

In May last year the Speaker of Parliament presented the "United Nations Report on Human Security - Human Security Now", to President Thabo Mbeki in his capacity as president of South Africa and president of the African Union. The United Nations has gradually broadened its understanding of threats to global peace and security to include massive refugee movements, HIV/AIDS and serious human rights violations. That understanding has been expanded further to include an array of other human security issues and mechanisms to respond to them. That requires emphasising the security of people along with military security. Many of the changes in the SANDF and the peace support operations on the continent have anticipated this emphasis on human security.

The defence review recommended a smaller, highly skilled, high technology defence force in which equal opportunities and gender equity are key indicators of the transformation process. During the past ten years we have seen policies that discriminate against our personnel on the basis of their race or gender being removed and replaced by those that promote equality and equity in our working environment.

At present female members enjoy employment benefits equal to their male counterparts. We have also witnessed the promotion of a significant number of them to senior ranks where they are able to participate, at a strategic level, in matters affecting the Department. Women are now represented in all military musters, including ships, artillery (light and heavy), submarines, peace operations, pilots and engineering.

The health status of our members and the management of veterans' issues also impact on the assessment of our transformation agenda. We have aligned ourselves with government in our fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. Our HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, Masibambisane, has been broadly acknowledged as innovative and effective. This year we launched Project Phidisa, a unique project to do with clinical research of HIV and Aids interventions, including the use of anti-retroviral therapy for members of the Defence Force and their families. At present two of the six sites are operational, with the remainder becoming operational during the year.

The Operation Vuselela project, in co-operation with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, aims to alleviate poverty among destitute military veterans, especially those from the former Non-statutory Forces, in a number of provinces by providing temporary employment with a basic income. They are given preference in the recruitment of the Reserve Force. We aimed to ensure that they are fairly compensated for the years they have served in their respective armies through the passing of the Special Pensions Amendment Bill last year.

The African Women’s Peace Table, a meeting of women from the defence and civil sectors of society in Southern Africa, is making an impact on the perceptions and role of women in the peace and security agenda for Africa. Our peace support operations in support of the AU, SADC and Nepad will be increasingly influenced by the recognition of the role of women in the collective security of Africa.

Since 1994 we have made progress from a policy and transformation perspective. The next decade of freedom will be about establishing a broad consensus around the integration and balance between human security and military security. Perhaps the time will come when we will change our name to the Department of Peace to reflect our commitment to the abolition of war in Africa.

Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge
Deputy Minister of Defence
Message from the Secretary for Defence

Mr January Masilela

looking back ten years ago, it seems like yesterday, and yet so many things have happened. It has been a short decade judging by the extent of achievements we have attained, but also long in that a lot more could have been achieved and many challenges are ahead of us as we enter the next decade. What can one say about the date 27 April 1994? It is now 2004? The DOD has experienced and about the date 27 April 1994? It is now enter the next decade. What can one say

The story begins with the historic inauguration of former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in 1994, followed by the inauguration of the current President, Mr Thabo Mbeki, in 1999. It has now culminated in the 10 years of freedom celebrations of 2004.

Government departments will take this opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reflect on how to improve performance as we look ahead to the next ten years of freedom and democracy. As a state department, the DOD will also celebrate ten years of its establishment, there not having been a department before with a Defence Secretariat alongside the SANDF.

At the outset of this first decade of freedom our progressive agenda must have seemed to many a purely political and theoretical exercise, with little chance of success in the real world of defence. We have proved them otherwise! For us in the department we need first of all to acknowledge our successful initiatives and celebrate the critical milestones we have achieved in the consolidation of the principle of “Defence in a Democracy” and the transformation agenda.

Alongside the national government’s achievement of a successful transition to democracy since 1994, the department’s integration of seven disparate forces, statutory and non-statutory, once arch-enemies, has been lauded as one of the most successful integration efforts, even internationally. All forces committed themselves to work together in the establishment of a new SANDF for a single common goal. This has been an outstanding achievement! Parallel to this process but less visible, was the forging of a DOD, thereby establishing the Secretary for Defence as the head of department and accounting officer. This development gave the Chief of the SANDF the opportunity to focus and concentrate on having full command of the SANDF, while leaving the Secretary for Defence to focus on policy advice to the Minister of Defence, thus ensuring financial management and accountability, and appropriate mechanisms for the acquisition and procurement function on behalf of the Defence Force. Another important element was to act as the prime interface with Parliament and to engage with the external defence environment.

These arrangements made for enhanced civil oversight, the cornerstone of defence in a democracy through the fulfilment of constitutional requirements and other principal policy documents such as the White Paper on Defence, the Defence Review, and the recently promulgated Defence Act. Pursuant to these developments, transformation policies to govern and better position this organisation were also introduced and implemented. Yet a lot still needs to be done as we enter the next decade, to consolidate the gains of the first decade!

Most observers have posited that no defence force in the world, past or present, has achieved the level and extent of integration and transformation in such a relatively short period of time. We are now well positioned in the international community, as an instrument of government and foreign policy in particular, to be key role players in the promotion of peace and stability for democratic transition in many an African state.

Our forces have been successfully deployed in many different operations, both internally and externally. Our involvement has been in pure military functions of deployment in peace support operations, but also humanitarian relief in the national and international spheres. We can mention among the first such as Operation BOLEAS in Lesotho, humanitarian rescue missions as far afield as Mozambique and Algeria.

At present our forces are also on duty through the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) peace support operations in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Together with our regional partners in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, as well as through the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF) and various other political organs of the AU, we aim to contribute to the fulfilment of ensuring security and stability, our prerequisite for economic prosperity in Africa - we are guarantors of peace!

The 10 years of freedom celebrations are taking place across the length and breadth of our country. All members of the SANDF and employees of the DOD are urged to be part of these celebrations, which also mark ten years of the SANDF. Let us join other government departments, nationally, provincially and locally, non-government organisations and community based organisations, business communities, and all our people.

The year 2004 is also an opportunity to reflect on and review both achievements and challenges, and determine how we can improve in the decade to come. To further realise our long term organisational vision of transformation, there is much more work to be done. My expectation of leaders, commanders and managers within the department is that they will convey the spirit, message and purpose of this special year to all those who report to them.

Beyond celebration and thanksgiving we will review the challenges of the last decade by intensifying transformation. It is important that there is an understanding and harnessing of the principles of civil oversight and what “defence in a democracy” means. We must strive to understand and practise the principle of service delivery, Batho Pele. Let us take ownership and develop a sense of belonging regarding our organisation by being accountable for every action so as to fully take charge and secure our resources. Let us build and secure the beauty of our country and protect the good work that has been done so far. Let us be a Force for Good.

Mr January Masilela
Secretary for Defence
By no strange coincidence, the birth of our democracy ten years ago was also the birth of the South African National Defence Force.

Forged in the main out of the forces of the liberation movement and the former apartheid era Defence Force, the SANDF typifies the new order and the spirit of reconciliation and transformation in the South Africa of today.

The ten years that we celebrate as a new Defence Force are ten years of major milestones and achievements against great odds. They are as much a “miracle” as our new democracy, which has seen the country emerge from the brink of anarchy and despair to a flourishing democracy of hope and pride.

From tentative and even tumultuous beginnings as we grappled with the myriad problems of integration and transformation, such as ingrained mistrust, resistance to change, residual racism, unrealistic expectations, and faltering discipline, we have advanced to become a proud Defence Force with disciplined soldiers.

Today we stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world, and head and shoulders above many others.

Our Defence Force has pioneered a groundbreaking intervention in Burundi which many detractors and “experts” had doomed to failure. Burundi, which before the facilitation of the peace process by former President Nelson Mandela was teetering on the brink, now lives in hope, and stands as a testimony of how a determined professional force can reinforce the political will of a strong leadership for peace.

In the short space of ten years, South Africa deploys the largest contingent of peacekeepers in the region. We provide a task force for MONUC II, Phase III in the DRC, a Specialist Contingent, a Support Contingent, Staff Officers to the United Nations Military HQ in Liberia, Military Liaison Officers in Kampala (Uganda), Military Observers in Ethiopia and Eritrea respectively, and we lead the African Mission in Burundi.

Even the 1998 Lesotho intervention at the request of the Government to put down a mutiny, which was roundly criticised in the media following the destruction and looting in the streets of Maseru, achieved its objectives of putting an end to the incipient insurrection.

Lesotho is now a stable country, which has had successful elections and will hopefully never experience incessant army rebellions thanks to the SANDF and the Botswana Defence Force. The blood of those we lost in the brief encounter with the mutineers has not been in vain. We salute them and all those who have paid the ultimate price of duty as we celebrate these ten years.

The strides we have made would not have been possible if the SANDF was not a dedicated, committed and professional force with disciplined soldiers.

In the important corridors of decision-making in the world, such as the United Nations and the African Union, where considerations of deployments of soldiers in trouble spots are made, the SANDF features among the most preferred.

The main ingredients for the successes were a clear vision, determined leadership and a disciplined force well supported by a Government that believes in the worth of a defence force, and its role in supporting a new democracy and the African Renaissance. To this end Government has, in spite of pressing socio-economic priorities ensured a well-equipped and technologically advanced SANDF.

Another very important ingredient has been the strong civil oversight over defence provided by Parliamentary Defence Committees, a Defence Ministry ensuring political guidance and a Defence Secretariat that provides policy direction, and a judicious fiduciary function for the Department of Defence and the SANDF.

As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we reflect proudly on the milestones that we, together with these role players and the South African society have helped to achieve, such as the Constitution, the White Paper on Defence, the Defence Review, the Defence Act, the Code of Conduct and the White Paper on Peace Missions.

While we bask in the glory of our achievements and the warm embrace of our people and the continent, let us not forget the challenges that lie ahead. There are many more demands for us to reach out in peace missions. Let us prepare. Let us rejuvenate and strengthen the Reserve Force and recruit the right people in the right numbers. Let us train hard; let us be firm on discipline; let us take care of our physical well-being and our health.

I urge the entire body of the SANDF to continue to uphold the values of our new democratic dispensation, which underpin the new military ethos we adhere to. Let us mark the next ten years with more and greater advances for the SANDF.

Happy tenth anniversary!

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda
Chief of the SANDF

Message from the Chief of the SANDF
First for voluntary service

For the first time in the history of the South African Defence Force young men throughout the whole spectrum of the South African population reported for military service. This new voluntary military service intake marked the beginning of a new era in the Defence Force.

Previously, under the national service conscription system, only white men were called up for military service. This has now changed dramatically and the compulsory intake for whites has disappeared. Women were also selected in small numbers to undergo training in 1995. (For more information please read the article as published in Paratus, March 1994, p 4).

United to defend

The SANDF will be established as a balanced, modern and technologically advanced military force capable of executing its assigned functions. The SANDF consists of all members of MK and Apla, the defence forces of Bophuthatswana, Transkei, Venda and Ciskei, as well as the SA Defence Force and will comprise both a permanent force and a part-time component. Every member is to be trained to comply with international standards of competence and the force must sustain an apolitical culture. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, May 1994, p 30-40).

Facing the future

The Sub-council on Defence (SCD) was appointed to assist the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) in 1993. Its primary object was to promote the preparation for and transition to a democratic order in South Africa. The SCD held its first official meeting in Cape Town on 22 December 1993.

The SCD was advised and assisted by a Joint Military Co-ordinating Council (JMCC) on which all force commanders participating in the process served. The JMCC was charged to formulate a defence strategy based on an analysis of the RSA’s defence situation and perceived threats for the period 1994 to 2004.

Various working groups were established under the JMCC to research, discuss and analyse the defence situation, formulate defence and executive strategies, as well as plan defence programmes and draw up a budget. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, May 1994, p 20-21).

Rooivalk making headlines

"Making headlines" is certainly no exaggeration where the Denel/Atlas Aviation Rooivalk and the all composite ACE turboprop trainer are concerned.

At the Dubai 93 air show in the United Arab Emirates where the Rooivalk and the ACE were displayed abroad for the first time, the front page headline of Aviation International News was: "South Africa’s big Rooivalk makes a bold Dubai debut". In the face of international competition the media considered South Africa’s Rooivalk the highlight of the helicopter show. The SA Air Force took delivery of twelve Rooivalk helicopters at the rate of two a year, starting in 1998. (For more information please read the articles as published in Paratus, March 1994, p 36-38 and SALUT, April 1997, p 32).

The envy of many...
The British came to South Africa

The Commander of the British Military Advisory Training Team in South Africa (BMATT SA), Brig Dick Trigger, and a small team of staff officers, arrived in South Africa on 14 May 1994.

Brig Trigger headed the British team of 31 members who acted as monitors and as adjudicators when placement or appointments were made in all four Services of the new SANDF. The presence of BMATT in South Africa arose from the integration of various forces into the SANDF. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 1994, p 38-39).

Strict security measures applied during the handling of ballot material.

The need is great

The plight of homeless and starving people in Rwanda sparked spontaneous support from the people of South Africa. In an initiative endorsed by the then President Nelson Mandela, various religious groups, including Christians, Muslims and Jews coordinated a project known as Operation MERCY. The Operation began on 12 July 1994 when the first batch of 31 tons of food and medical supplies was flown to Mwanza, Tanzania, by two Hercules C 130 aircraft from Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria. The same Hercules C 130 that was used on 12 August 1993 for an emergency relief operation in Somalia was used for Rwanda. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, August 1994, p 10-11).

The Unitas Medal.

The Unitas Medal was issued with the new Unitas Medal commemorating the first non-racial elections in South Africa’s history (27 April), culminating in the inauguration of Mr Nelson Mandela as the country’s President on 10 May 1994. The medal was awarded to all the members who served within the nation’s armed forces from 27 April to 10 May 1994. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, December 1994, p 12-13).

South Africans answered the call for assistance. Tons of food and clothing streamed in countrywide for delivery to Rwanda.

Bring out the ballot

A potentially dangerous situation was averted when in the midst of the 1994 elections, the SANDF assisted the IEC with the printing and transport of more than six million additional ballot papers. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 1994, p 23-24).
The eagle has landed

The new SA Air Force Headquarters was officially opened on 16 September 1994. During the opening function a statue of an eagle was unveiled, which was presented by the Pilatus Company of Switzerland. This was the company responsible for the production of new training aircraft to be used by the SAAF. The eagle in flight symbolises strength and determination, qualities which epitomise the SAAF and its new headquarters. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, November 1994, p 42).

The new SANDF celebrated its newfound freedom with a spectacular parade held in Polokwane (previously Pietersburg) on 11 November 1994. Although elements of the SANDF took part in the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela on 10 May 1994, this was the first Defence Force parade since the SANDF came into being on 27 April 1994.

It was also the first occasion that the then President, Mr Nelson Mandela, who was Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, had the opportunity to review a parade incorporating all elements that comprise the SANDF.

President Mandela described the parade as a milestone, not only in the history of South Africa's military formation, but in the history of South Africa itself.

He said it was well known that the SANDF was presently integrating seven military forces into one national defence force. To ensure legitimacy of the SANDF on the national level, it was important that the integration process should be all inclusive and fair.

The SANDF must be truly representative - a defence force by the people for the people.

President Mandela also awarded a Honoris Crux Decoration to Cpl Simon Alexander during the parade. Cpl Alexander distinguished himself by performing a deed of bravery during a military operation.

The President further awarded eleven Unitas Medals, the first to be awarded since its inception on 4 November 1994. According to the President the Unitas Medal, a symbol of unity, will be awarded to all members who made a meaningful contribution to the establishment of a united defence force. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, December 1994, p 10-11).
Some 1,200 former political prisoners embarked on the SAS OUTENIQUA on 10 February 1995 en route to Robben Island as part of the first ever reunion since their release. The SAS OUTENIQUA, as the main transport vessel on this occasion, was assisted by three Lee-cat diving tenders, three Delta landing craft and three Namacurra harbour protection launches. It was the largest number of passengers ever transported by her since the SA Navy bought the ship in February 1993.

Four Oryx helicopters from 22 Squadron at AFB Ysterplaat were involved in this event. The SAMHS Medical Rescue Team on board was prepared for any medical situation and looked after the well-being of all the passengers. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, March 1995, p 28-29).

Civil control over the military

The Interim Constitution created a new order in South Africa in the form of a constitutional democracy. Civil control over the military is a hallmark of a democracy. To enhance this control, the TEC decided that a DOD be established of which the SANDF will form a component. The DOD will be managed and administered through a balance model Ministry of Defence of which a Defence Secretariat will be a component with the specific purpose of enhancing civil control over the SANDF. It was envisaged that by mid-May 1995 the Defence Secretariat structure should have been approved by the Public Service Commission and proposed statutory amendments should be in process at Parliament. (For more information please read the article as published in June 1995, p 46-47).

The late Minister Joe Modise talks to two volunteers of the Service Corps.
Bridging the gap

One of the principal factors governing the speed of integration is bridging training. The majority of the ex-Non-Statutory Force members have been trained for irregular warfare, and the agreed strategy for the SANDF calls for conventional training.

Preparing ex-NSF members for their new role in the SANDF is done by means of bridging training. All members of the SANDF must be given the opportunity to achieve the "international standards" called for in the Interim Constitution.

Before commencing with bridging training each ex-NSF member must be placed, eg be assigned to a service, to a corps (branch) to a mustering and receive a rank in the SANDF. This is done on grounds of education, military training, age, experience and evaluation reports from the NSF concerned and from a pre-screening interview. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 1995, p 35-48).

To streamline the integration process it has undergone several changes, specifically administrative.

Friendship through sport

Fifty years after the end of World War II and the ratification of the United Nations Charter, the first Military World Games took place from 6 to 15 September 1995 in Rome.

The Military World Games are CISM’s contribution to these commemorations and proof of the fact that, through its motto "Friendship through Sport", CISM is sending a message of peace around the world. The first Military World Games brought together servicemen from around the world, many of whom have been divided for decades because of ideological or political barriers. Zagreb, capital of Croatia, hosted the second Military World Games from 8 to 17 August 1999, while the third Military World Games was held in Catania, Sicily from 30 November to 14 December 2003. (For more information please read the articles as published in SALUT, November 1995, p 36 and July 1999 p 56).

8 September 1995 symbolised the dawning of a new era in the history of the SA Medical Service, as it was the official opening of the SA Medical Service Academy.

This establishment of the Academy has resulted in the accommodation of all the training in the SA Medical Service within one training institute where the full spectrum of military development training is provided currently. In particular the Academy is now in the position to provide a medical staff course to potential staff officers of the SA Medical Service (now known as the SA Medical Health Service).

Furthermore this also curbs the expenditure on training while supporting functions of all training units are consolidated. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, November 1995, p 24-25).

Members of participating countries gather at the Studio Deu Marni before entering the Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony of the first Military World Games.
Defence in a democracy

Following South Africa’s first democratic election in April 1994, the SANDF was established through the integration of former Statutory Forces and Non-statutory Forces. The integration of these forces, some of which were once enemies-in-arms, is a powerful symbol and practical demonstration of South Africa’s commitment to national reconciliation and unity.

The Government has prioritised the daunting task of addressing poverty and the socio-economic inequalities resulting from the system of apartheid. The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) stands at the pinnacle of national policy and, consequently, defence policy.

The Government is equally committed to national reconciliation and unity. One of the most dramatic illustrations of this commitment was the formation of a new Defence Policy for SA.

The Constitution provides the DOD with its mandate and determines political responsibility and accountability for the Defence of the Republic. The Defence Act elaborates on the provisions of the Constitution and provides the legal framework for the execution of the defence function of the RSA. The White Paper on Defence presents the policy of the Government on defence matters and how the RSA will pursue its national security objectives.

The White Paper on Defence provides the basis for a Defence Review, which elaborates on this framework in considerable detail. The Defence Review entails comprehensive long-range planning on such matters as doctrine, posture, force design, force levels, logistic support, armaments, equipment, human resources and funding. Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and civilian experts participated in conducting the Review.

The final product was to be presented in Parliament. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, January 1996, p 22).

On 8 May 1996 a White Paper on National Defence for the RSA was tabled in Parliament by the late Mr Joe Modise, the then Minister of Defence. It was approved by Parliament on 14 May 1996 and will reflect the Government's overall policy on defence. The aim of the White Paper was the formulation of a new defence policy and the transformation of the DOD. It is also a historic document, as for the first time in South Africa’s history defence policy has been shaped by substantial inputs from Parliament, members of the public, non-governmental organisations and, of course, the DOD. Its principal purpose is to inform citizens and other states, particularly those in Africa, of South Africa's new defence policy. The Paper looks at civil-military relations, with reference to the constitutional provinces on defence; transparency and freedom of information; defence intelligence; the structure of the DOD; military professionalism; civic education; the responsibilities of Government towards the SANDF; and the rights and duties of military personnel. The White Paper also focuses on certain topical issues regarding the SANDF, such as the creation of the post of a military Ombudsman, education and training, SANDF deployment in co-operation with the SAPS, and international peace support operations and land and environmental issues. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, July 1996, p 17-19).

Volunteer to service

During a press conference held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria, the late Mr Joe Modise, the then Minister of Defence, launched the new voluntary part-time service system. For the SANDF the system is an indispensable element for the protection of our country’s sovereignty, territory and people. In terms of the Constitution, the SANDF shall comprise both a permanent force and a part-time reserve component. These components form one Defence Force that will jointly defend the RSA. The Draft White paper on Defence, published for public comment in August 1995, states clearly that "for political, strategic and economic reasons", the SANDF will be an all-volunteer force. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, January 1996, p 22).
Introducing new camouflage

Soldier 2000 - an innovative personal dress and equipment system for the SA Army was unveiled at a press conference held at the SA Army College in August 1996.

Soldier 2000 was not a sudden decision. In July 1993 the then Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Georg Meiring, announced that the SA Army was exchanging its old Nutria field dress (“Browns”), for a new high-tech camouflage uniform.

On 29 January 1998 the then Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Reg Otto, presented the new camouflage uniform to the then Chief of the SANDF, Gen Georg Meiring, to enable the soldier to function optimally under all climatic and geographical environments in Southern Africa. (For more information please read the articles as published in SALUT, October 1996, p 32-34 and March 1998, p 64).

Some of the articles that are included in the Soldier 2000 system.

The combined non-quantifiable results achieved are difficult to express in monetary terms as they include, for example, operational preparedness, the preservation of human lives and the natural resources saved during humanitarian operations.

The combined quantifiable results of the productivity improvement and implemented projects during the three-year period were:

- tangible savings of R467 million,
- intangible savings of R1.6 million,
- cost avoidance of R165 million to R315 million.

These achievements were realised during environmental changes, such as the massive integration exercise of seven different armed forces and the deployment of personnel to assist the South African Police Service with crime prevention. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, October 1996, p 20-21).

SANDF wins gold for productivity

The SANDF won a gold award in the National Productivity Institute’s (NPI) productivity competition on 2 September 1996.

The NPI Productivity Competition is an annual event, which gives national recognition to the best productive use of resources in the country. This is a means of encouraging organisations to operate more productively in order "to ensure higher and sustainable economic growth" for South Africa "and therefore more job opportunities and a higher standard of living for all its citizens".

The SANDF has been involved in these competitions on tactical and operational levels for several years, but competed on a corporate level for the first time in 1996.

Productivity is an integrated part of the total Strategic Planning Process and the Strategic Management Process. Unlike private enterprise, productivity within the SANDF is non-profit service driven, although similar techniques and principles are applied to achieve it.

On the strategic level scarcities are managed. All planning projects and actions initiated on this level result in the comprehensive management information becoming timeously available to corporate management (the Defence Command Council) thus ensuring effective decision-making.

The productivity improvement programme of the SANDF, which involved everybody in the SANDF from the Chief of the National Defence Force, right down to the most junior soldier, was started during the middle eighties and gained momentum during the early nineties. Major achievements were recorded from 1993 to 1996.

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Major changes for the military

The former Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, announced a major reorganisation and restructuring of the DOD at its top administrative levels on 11 February 1997 in Parliament.

It had been decided, *inter alia*, that in order to give the civilian Secretary for Defence the necessary authority and responsibility, he needed to be both the Head of the Department and the Accounting Officer.

The Chief of the SANDF will henceforth be the commander of the military force. The Chief of the SANDF and the Secretary for Defence will thus function at the same hierarchical level, but with separate responsibilities.

The creation of a new integrated head office of the Ministry of Defence, with significant cost and efficiency implications, was also announced.

Where defence functions were previously carried out at Defence Headquarters level and duplicated in the respective Services, the separate administrations will now be amalgamated into one new top level administrative structure. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, April 1997, p 15).

Signing of the Constitution

On 10 December 1996 South Africans and the world community witnessed the historic signing of the Constitution of the RSA into law by the then President, Mr Nelson Mandela, in Sharpeville. The new Constitution, which was crafted by the Constitutional Assembly, under the Chairmanship of Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, and approved by the Constitutional Court, came into effect on 1 April 1997.

The new Constitution gives the SANDF a clear mandate. It spells out a legal and binding set of instructions in terms of which the SANDF is to conduct its activities.

The SA Air Force added colour to the momentous occasion with a flypast performed by three Alouette III helicopters, two Oryx helicopters and one Rooivalk helicopter, each trailing the National Flag. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, February 1997, p 10-11).

On duty at the stadium.

Blue Eagle is Africa’s hope

Our country has come under increasing pressure since the 1994 elections to play a leading role in peacekeeping missions in sub-Saharan trouble spots.

With this in mind, it can indeed be said that history was in the making in April 1997 when the SANDF, for the first time ever, participated in a fully-fledged, multinational peacekeeping exercise. Exercise BLUE HUNGWE, or BLUE EAGLE, took place at the Nyanga Training Area in neighbouring Zimbabwe from 1 to 20 April 1997.

The aim of the exercise was to enhance regional African liaison, cooperation, military skills and interoperability by means of a multinational joint field training exercise in the tactics and techniques of international peacekeeping. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, May 1997, p 40-41).

On duty at the stadium.
First "Big Bang" in Africa

Some 4 700 anti-personnel mines were blown up at the Alkantpan Testing Range at Copperton on 21 May 1997. Altogether 550 kg of explosives were used to destroy the mines. The then Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, emphasised South Africa’s commitment - "We want to give the world the assurance that, in this country, anti-personnel mines will never be manufactured again for war". Some mines were kept in stock for research and development purposes. A total of 5 000 high explosive anti-personnel mines will be used for research and deployment and 13 000 practice anti-personnel mines for demining training.

(For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, July 1997, p 12-13).

Co-operation for a greener military environment

The establishment and activities of the RSA-USA Environmental Security Working Group has been one of many success stories in the Logistics Division over the past decade.

The Environmental Security Working Group (ESWG) got down to work and at the outset identified several areas for co-operation. Right from the start it was agreed that we should work towards producing lasting products that would also be made available to other militaries in the world.

The two countries work on an equal footing and both contribute equally to the joint projects. This contributed largely to the success of the ESWG. The Americans do have bilateral relations for environmental security with scores of countries. However, they regard the South African ESWG as one of the most successful and productive. On 10 February 1999 the then South African Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, and the US Secretary for Defence, Mr Cohen, signed the Memorandum of Agreement regarding Co-operation on Military Environmental Matters during a ceremony in the Castle in Cape Town. An environmental management conference was held at the Kwalata Game Lodge, north of Pretoria, in August 2003. The conference was attended by 120 delegates from 26 countries from five continents, the first global conference on this subject. The conference was a huge success and the participants were impressed by the South African hospitality and the arrangements for the conference. The latter was largely due to the dedicated efforts of the RSA project officer, Lt Col Hannes Potgieter, and his large team of co-workers. The conference laid the foundation of a worldwide network of military environmental practitioners. It was fitting that this conference was co-hosted by the two oldest countries with formal military environmental management programmes, the USA and the RSA.
Body creates support for volunteer ethos

8 November 1997 marked the endorsement of the National Defence Liaison Council (NDLC) when Mr Warren Alexander Morten Clewlow, Executive Chairperson of Barlow Ltd, was appointed as Chairperson of the newly inaugurated NDLC. With 33 driven members, the NDLC became a high-powered body that has created significant support for the volunteer ethos. Resting on the shoulders of each member is the responsibility to create a climate favourable to voluntary part-time military service. The NDLC’s responsibilities are those of an independent voluntary, advisory and consultative body. On its activities depends the support and enthusiasm of employers, organised labour and the community at large. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, January 1998, p 16-18).

Fight against HIV/AIDS

The fight against HIV/AIDS gained momentum on 19 November 1997 with the launch of the South African Civil Military Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS. The event marked the formation of the first formal structure which will join the civil and military communities in the fight against the disease in Southern Africa. The formation of this body was a result of the resolution taken during the Third African Regional Workshop on HIV/AIDS Prevention on Military Populations held in Windhoek, Namibia, in March 1997. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, January 1998, p 28-29).

New ranks for some officers

On account of confusion with regard to the rank insignia and rank nomenclature of the SANDF Generals/Flag Officers and Brigadiers/Commodores, especially when they interacted with other defence forces, the Military Command Council decided on a new rank insignia and nomenclature for these officers in the SANDF.

In essence, the changes amount to the inclusion of the ranks Brigadier and Commodore in the General/Flag Officers’ and Brigadiers/Commodores’ rankings and changes to the rank insignia and forms of address to be implemented on 1 April 1998.

It also necessitated an amendment to the General Regulations of the SANDF in order to legalise the new rank structure. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, February 1998, p 19).

Air power is versatile

Air power is a versatile tool and while it cannot replace surface-based activities, it is an invaluable complement to such means. Air power is and will remain a vital component of a balanced military force both in defence and in security building,” said the late Mr Joe Modise, former Minister of Defence, in 1997.

The SA Air Force presented aviation wings to all newly qualified aviation personnel throughout the SAAF at the Central Flying School in Langebaanweg on 29 January 1997. The pupil pilots were the first group to train and qualify on the new Pilatus PC7 MKII Astra, which replaced the Harvard training aircraft.

The last flight of a Puma helicopter in the service of the SA Air Force was at 17 Squadron at Swartkop AFB on 15 July 1997. The Puma helicopters were sold and replaced by Oryx helicopters. After 21 years the sound of F1 AZ Mirages in the service of the SAAF was heard for the last time at Hoedspruit on 25 November 1997. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, February 1998, p 32-33).
RANK OF SA NATIONAL

South African Army
- General
- Lieutenant-General
- Major-General
- Brigadier-General
- Chaplains
- Senior Officers
- Colonel
- Lieutenant-Colonel
- Major

South African Air Force
- General
- Lieutenant-General
- Major-General
- Brigadier-General
- Chaplains
- Senior Officers
- Colonel
- Lieutenant-Colonel
- Major
Medicine in the forefront

In the November 1997 issue, SALUT published a comprehensive article on chemical warfare. Lt Gen Niel Knobel, the then Surgeon General, elaborated on South Africa’s defensive capability with regard to chemical weapons.

Peacetime support operations by the South African Military Service were given a boost with the development of the world’s first two portable x-ray machines that can be used safely by trained military medical personnel in battlefield conditions and in rural areas where minimum infrastructure exists. (For more information please read the articles as published in SALUT, November 1997, p 42-47 and February 1998, p 42).

English chosen as operational language

With the advent of a democratic constitution in South Africa, one which recognised language rights and considered the linguistic and cultural diversity of the nation, the DOD formulated a new language policy to fit the times.

The Directorate Language Service submitted a number of drafts to stakeholders. On 17 February 1998, Draft 4 of the policy proposals was discussed with the Joint Standing Committee for Parliament on Defence (JSCPD) and a number of inputs were obtained from this body. The majority of respondents within the DOD also accepted the proposal unreservedly.

The thread language for the DOD shall be English. A link language has been integrated into the general functioning of the Department in order to promote the efficient functioning of the DOD. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 1998, p 14).

Right-sizing the Public Service

In October 1995 the Cabinet directed that personnel numbers in the Public Service should be reduced. The Public Service was too large and needed to be rationalised. In order to give effect to the policy framework contained in the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service and other Government directives, an agreement was entered into with the recognised employee organisations in the Chamber of the Public Service Bargaining Council at central level.

The agreement, inter alia, provided for the right-sizing of the Public Service through the implementation of a voluntary severance package, which would apply until a sufficient response had been elicited, after which it should be withdrawn.

Therefore, in terms of sections 3(2)(a)(i) and 42 of the Public Service Act, 1994, the Department of Public Service and Administration recommended that with effect from 1 May 1996 serving members be afforded the option of requesting that their services be terminated on a voluntary basis and that a special severance package be paid to those officials whose applications were approved. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 1998, p 56-60).

Introducing the ombudsman

Introducing the ombudsman - a willing listener, vigorous investigator, master persuader and skillful mediator. Internationally, the concept of the ombudsman has proved to be of great value and it seems to be a laudable and an effective institution.

The general idea of an ombudsman is to provide a means of investigating and reporting on cases where the individual feels he or she has been badly treated by the administration of the DOD.

This ranges from cases of corruption, bias, unfair discrimination, harshness and the misleading of a member of the public as to his or her rights, to unreasonable delays in dealing with matters, as well as general high-handedness.

In response to a perceived need to deal with corruption in South Africa, the Office of the Advocate General was created by Act 118 of 1979 before Act 104 of 1991 rechristened it as the Office of the Ombudsman.

Both statutes have been repealed and replaced by the Public Protector Act No 23 of 1994 as a law subordinate to the South African Interim Constitution, the latter which gave it a very strong mandate. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, September 1998, p 40-43).
**Joint training is the sensible option**

Many a buzzword stems from the process which we have come to know as transformation. One of these is “jointness.”

The then Acting Chief of Joint Training, Brig Gen Ashwin Hurribunce, says that the call for maximum jointness in the DOD - in all its facets - originated from the Office of the Minister of Defence and coincided with the requirement of joint training.

Soldiers were called upon to accept the fact that they jointly contribute towards an outcome, and that they work together as a team to produce an outcome.

Thus jointness becomes a state of mind where soldiers feel part of a bigger team, that each soldier has a particular role to play and that their contributions come together in a harmonious fashion to ensure that the DOD wins the battle. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, February 1999, p 12-13).

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**Capacity building for PSAP**

During 1997 the British Defence Advisory Team (BDAT) representative, Dr Ian Hamil, offered assistance in the capacity building of Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) to the then Secretary for Defence, Mr Pierre Steyn. Two programmes were identified, namely the Higher Management Programme for Deputy Directors and the Senior Management Programme for Directors.

The UK Ministry of Defence out-sources this training for their selected civilian members to Ashridge Management College. The Ashridge Management College has a reputation as one of the world leaders in tailored executive development programmes (rated 25th in the world and 7th in Europe).

Project Clipper was established in January 1997 as an initiative to improve the training and development opportunities of the civilian component of the DOD.

High potential managers from the RSA DOD have been attending the UK MOD’s Management Development Programmes at Ashridge in the UK for the last five years. To date 109 senior and middle management staff members have successfully undergone these programmes. To extend the opportunity to many more managers as cost-effectively as possible, the UK and RSA DOD invited Ashridge to run similar programmes in South Africa.

Last year was the second year that the programme has been run in South Africa, but for the first time as a joint programme - a welcome initiative with key managers attending from the Department of Foreign Affairs. Altogether 38 participants attended the programme, 24 from the RSA DOD and 14 from the Department of Foreign Affairs. Following the success of the inaugural programme, Ashridge ran a second two-day Clipper Alumni Programme in South Africa for members of the RSA DOD who have attended Ashridge in either the UK or RSA over the last five years. This was a genuine alumni event to revitalise rather than merely follow up the main programme, and was aimed at refreshing the thinking about leadership, and to share experience in applying their knowledge and building a network of key managers.

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**British soldiers honoured**

During his visit to South Africa, the British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, attended a medal parade held in honour of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT SA) at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town.

The then Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Ronnie Kasrils, awarded twelve members of the BMATT SA Team the Unitas Medal.

The medals were in recognition of their invaluable contribution towards the formation and building of South Africa’s new SA National Defence Force. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, March 1999, p 7).

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**Review of Decade of Defence**
The late Mr Joe Modise, the first Minister of Defence in the new SANDF.

Mr Ronnie Kasrils, the first Deputy Minister of Defence in the new SANDF.

Mr Pierre Steyn, the first Secretary for Defence in the new SANDF.

Gen Georg Meiring, the first Chief of the new SANDF.

Lt Gen Hattingh Pretorius, the first Chief of the SA Army in the new SANDF.

Lt Gen James Kriel, the first Chief of the SA Air Force in the new SANDF.

V Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson, the first Chief of the SA Navy in the new SANDF.

Lt Gen Niel Knobel, the first Surgeon General of the new SANDF.
TOP STRUCTURE OF THE DOD

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the current Minister of Defence.

Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, the current Deputy Minister of Defence.

Mr January Masilela, the current Secretary for Defence.

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the current Chief of the SANDF.

Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the current Chief of the SA Army.

Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, the current Chief of the SA Air Force.

V Adm Johan Retief, the current Chief of the SA Navy.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the current Surgeon General.
**Destruction of small arms**

Since World War II the Part-time Component, as it was previously referred to, has been known by a succession of names, namely Active Citizen Force, Citizen Force and Part-time Force. Various terminologies are used in existing legislation and policy documents. A considerable amount of research has been done on international nomenclature and it was found that the term “Reserves/Reserve Force” was the most commonly used and understood term as opposed to “Part-time Component” which is not used internationally. On 2 February 1999 the Minister gave his approval to change, *inter alia*, “Part-time Component” to “Reserve Force”. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, April 1999, p 32-33).

**Ensuring tomorrow’s peace today**

Exercise BLUE CRANE started on 7 April 1999 at the then SA Army Battle School in Lohatla. The aim was to develop and maintain Africa’s own peace operation organ, the duty of which would be to carry out military intervention to stop bloodshed and human suffering where reason and diplomacy have failed. It was stressed that the main aim of the exercise was to enhance the capacity of the SADC forces to participate in peace support operations. Some 3 949 soldiers from SADC countries, such as Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Swaziland, Malawi, Lesotho, Mauritius and South Africa shared expertise and experience in the quest for peace and prosperity. The first concrete steps towards this goal were taken in 1997 when SADC member states sent their soldiers to Zimbabwe for a historic peacekeeping training exercise, Exercise BLUE HUNGWE. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, April 1999, p 18-21).
Navy Office opens

The new structure of the SA Navy, viz the Navy Office, which reflects the SANDF’s transformation process came into effect on 1 April 1999 in Pretoria. In the new structure there will no longer be a Chief of Naval Operations and a Chief of Naval Support commanding units at the coast from Pretoria.

“Henceforth we here in Pretoria will spend most of our efforts and time on strategic direction, policy-making, budgeting and control,” said V Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson, the then Chief of the SA Navy, during the inauguration of the Navy Office.

A big change is that the Navy Office will house a dedicated Chief of Staff (Rear Admiral), who will be responsible for running the Navy Office. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, May 1999, p 39).

V Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson, the then Chief of the SA Navy, declared the new Navy Office open.

Peace restored in Lesotho

On 15 May 1999 the last remaining SADC forces in Lesotho crossed the border into South Africa, marking the end of Operation BOLEAS. To commemorate this auspicious occasion a demobilisation parade was held at the DOD Mobilisation Centre outside Bloemfontein.

During this event Mr Alfred Nzo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, said that Operation BOLEAS was the first peace support operation under the auspices of the SADC in which South African and Botswana forces were deployed jointly.

Mr Nzo pointed out that peace and calm had been restored to Lesotho and that the legitimate government of Lesotho was back in control. Operation BOLEAS was the first time, apart from training exercises, that the SANDF had acted in concert with another regional force. "This concept of joint operations is likely to be the pattern for the future and will be a key part of SANDF training from now on," Mr Nzo said. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, July 1999, p 20-28).
INSIGNIA
THE
DEFENCE FORCE

South African Navy

Flag Officers

Admiral

Vice-Admiral

Rear-Admiral

Rear-Admiral (Senior Grade)

Chaplains

Senior Officers

Captain

Commander

Lieutenant-Commander

South African Military Health Service

General Officers

General

Lieutenant-General

Major-General

Brigadier-General

Chaplains

Senior Officers

Colonel

Lieutenant-Colonel

Major
Opt for a fair staffing process

The staffing process kicked off when the Defence Staff Council took the decision to opt for a totally open, transparent, and participative approach to staffing new structures.

With a few exceptions, all SANDF personnel will sooner or later find their fate in the hands of staffing boards as the transformation process pushes ahead. The staffing process therefore emphasises the belief in people's rights to decide for themselves where they wish to serve the organisation.

Brig Gen Deon van Onselen, the then Director Military Personnel, utilised, emphasised that it is possible to move from an old structure to a new structure under very specific circumstances. "Circumstances that justify the principles of transparency, openness and not having detrimentally affected others in the process," he said. It must be remembered that the staffing process was not solely designed to serve the transformation process. It is designed to be an ongoing process for the future in a stable end state.

"The DOD commits itself to fair, equitable, transparent and accountable decision-making in considering candidates for appointments," said Brig Gen Van Onselen and added that staffing boards are constituted in order to achieve this.

In order to be fair, all applications must be considered, and decisions made must be objective and equitable. The proceedings of the staffing board have to be recorded. These recorded minutes are retained to enable the DOD to deal with every form of enquiry.

Any candidate who wishes to enquire about the proceedings of a staffing board can do so through the formal channels of command. Staffing will continue as long as it is necessary. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, July 1999, p 12-13).

Contributing to a free election and inauguration

The former Chief of Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Chris Pepani, released a media statement on 22 June 1999 to thank all the Permanent Force and Reserve Force members who were involved during the 1999 elections and inauguration of President Thabo Mbeki.

In keeping with the DOD's vision and mission, the SANDF over the period 26 May to 17 June 1999 successfully safeguarded South Africa with affordable and effective defence, which earned the gratitude and respect of the nation.

The members of the SANDF were working around the clock to ensure everything would be in place and dry runs were done for various contingencies which included all possible scenarios from worst case to best case scenarios.

Co-ordination included deployment of men and women on the ground to the fly pasts which were so greatly appreciated. It also included the training and preparation of all the accompanying officers for visiting foreign dignitaries.

The nerve centre of all the planning was the National Operation Co-ordination Centre (NOCOC) in Pretoria. There, the SAPS, NIA and the SANDF worked hand in hand to ensure smooth and efficient deployments and operations.

The total deployment for the election and the inauguration from the SANDF was sixty aircraft of which 35 were helicopters and 21 Volunteer Air Squadron aircraft. The inauguration deployment consisted of fourteen aircraft, including the standby aircraft for search and rescue purposes and the reaction force.

The personnel with regard to soldier deployments was made up of 17 000 Full-time and Reserve Force soldiers. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, August 1999, p 12-13).
Affirmative action is a process that has promoted change and is levelling the playing field for all to compete. Equal opportunities without affirmative action equals no action. Discrimination in Government can be eliminated only if the message comes from political leaders and executive managers in all institutions that discrimination will not be tolerated, and that those who wish to act out their biases and prejudices and deny equal opportunity will have no place in the Public Service said Col C.P. van Schalkwyk, SSO Affirmative Action in 2000. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, January 2000, p 13-15).

Lift the veil on rationalisation

Rationalisation was one of those buzzwords that provoked strong emotions among defence force members. Since 1994 the DOD has embarked upon a process of integrating seven former forces, including the Kwa-Zulu Self-protection Force into the SANDF. It became quiet clear that to establish a restructured, new and effective DOD, a process of transformation and downsizing/right-sizing would be necessary.

Personnel structures therefore had to be made affordable: the 57% spent on personnel became unacceptable and untenable. The plan was to realign the total Defence budget to a ratio of 40% for personnel, 30% for capital expenditure and 30% for operating costs. This implied that the personnel strength of the DOD had been reduced as part of the transformation process. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, March 2000, p 12-15).

Abide by the Codes

The Codes of Conduct for uniformed and Public Service Act Personnel in the DOD were launched at a military parade on 15 February 2000. The Code serves as a guide in the process of laying a firm foundation for the building of discipline and morale in the SANDF. It contributes to the culture of the Constitution, which guides the building and strengthening of our democracy. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, April 2000, p 35).
Develop leaders to make a difference

The Leadership, Command and Management Practices, Policies, Principles and Philosophies (LCAMPS) programme is a self-development programme to develop leaders who can make a difference. It is designed to make leaders more effective in their individual leadership approaches. Leaders are made aware of the different leadership styles and behaviour and how to get maximum effectiveness out of these styles and behaviours. The LCAMPS philosophy states that a person can fulfil all three roles of leading, commanding and managing simultaneously, while adhering to the prospective guidelines from the upper echelon. (For more information please read the article as published in SALUT, June 2000, p 32-33).

Raging floods swamp Mozambique

During February 2000, 14 391 people were rescued when massive flood waters devastated much of Mozambique again. The brave men and women of the SANDF, spearheaded by the SA Air Force, went to their rescue. The operation was known as Operation LICHI.

Throughout the operation the SANDF worked in conjunction with the Institute for National Disaster Management of Mozambique and other military forces and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Operation LICHI was conducted under the auspices of the Chief of Joint Operations. It was a joint operation with the SA Air Force, which was the main role player, and the SA Military Health Service which provided military support.

The SA Air Force, however, is no stranger when it comes to assisting flood victims in Mozambique. In February 1996 SAAF helicopter crews came to the rescue of Mozambicans after severe flooding had ravaged the country. Three Oryx helicopters were used to rescue some 1 351 people, who were totally cut off from civilisation by the flooding Limpompo, Save and Olifants rivers. The SAAF distributed some 59 tons of food and medicine to the people in the regions affected by the 1996 floods. (For more information please read the articles as published in SALUT, April 1996, p 46-47, May 1999, p 22-24, May 2000, p 15-17 and July 2000, p 14-16).
Go and make peace

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, announced at a press conference on 23 March 2001 that the SANDF was to deploy specialised units to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under the auspices of the United Nations Mission to the DRC. According to the Minister this is in compliance with the international obligations of the RSA towards the United Nations as stipulated by the RSA Constitution and Section 90 of the Defence Act, 1957 (Act No 44 of 1957). Minister Lekota concluded that the situation in the DRC is regarded by the UN as conducive to the implementation of the UN Mission to the DRC (MONUC II).

The first contingent of SANDF members departed for the DRC from Waterkloof AFB on 5 April 2001. The second contingent of our soldiers bound for the DRC departed from Waterkloof AFB on 21 April 2001. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, June 2001, p 12-14).

Your new publication

It is with both pleasure and pride that I present to you the new flagship corporate communication vehicle for the DOD, known as SA SOLDIER.

We have incorporated, where applicable, the suggestions you put forward to improve the quality and content of the publication and concerning its rightful place in the communication network.

The magazine will serve as a vehicle for critical thought and debate, but it must be a credible vehicle for communication of Departmental views and those of its readers. With this in mind, welcome to the first edition of SA SOLDIER: an edition which holds a special significance as it marks the beginning of a new and fresh approach. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, May 2001, p 4).

Understanding peacekeeping operations

Higher Commanders Peace Support Operations Course, the first of its kind in the Southern African region, was presented in Benoni, Johannesburg, over the period 5 to 16 February 2001.

The aim of the course was to promote a broader understanding of peacekeeping operations, relating particularly to operations in Africa.

“While we agree that we have to expose some of our personnel to the large military academies of the world, there is absolutely no reason why we cannot promote joint operability by training SADC Forces together in African countries. This promotes regional stability and our common security,” said Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Deputy Minister of Defence, who officially opened the course. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, May 2001, p 12).
Airborne combat-readiness tested to the full

An international airborne combat-readiness competition - Airborne Africa - was held from 22 March to 3 April 2001 for the first time on South African soil. Preparation was done in Bloemfontein, while the actual competition took place at the Madimbo Training Area in the Northern Province. Combat readiness was tested to the full with regard to marching, shooting and observation.

Access to the Information Act

The Promotion of Access to Information Act came into operation on 9 March 2001. In keeping with the spirit of transparent democracy, the Constitution of the RSA, 1996, makes provision in the Bill of Rights for the right of access to any information held by the State and any information held by another person which is required for the exercise or protection of any rights.

The objectives of the Act are to give effect to the constitutional right of access to any information held by the State and any information that is held by another person which is required for the exercise or protection of any rights, and to provide for matters connected therewith.

The Act is applicable to the records of all public and private bodies, with the exception of the Cabinet and its committees, certain judicial functions and Members of Parliament or provincial legislatures. A record is defined as any recorded information in the possession or under the control of a body. Since the definition of a public body includes any department of State, the Act therefore applies to any recorded information held by the DOD.

The DOD has instituted procedures necessary for compliance with the Act, including the appointment of deputy information officers, the creation of an Information Centre and procedures to deal with requests and appeals.

In terms of the Act the Secretary for Defence is the information officer for the DOD and he is required to appoint such deputy information officers as are necessary to render the department accessible to requesters of its records. The heads of the Services and divisional heads have been appointed information officers. An Information Centre has been established under Chief Defence Corporate Communication to co-ordinate DOD procedures and to act as a nodal point for liaison with requesters. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, July 2001, p 28-29).

Taking aviation to the youth

On 4 June 1965 a very young pupil pilot by the name of Roelf Beukes flew Harvard 7675 on only his fourth flight while being trained as a pilot in the SA Air Force. Thirty-six years later Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, now Chief of the SAAF, had the privilege to hand over the same aircraft to Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, Project Director of a very worthy cause, namely Siyandiza.

"In our quest to become a centre of air power excellence, the SAAF embarked on the strategic path of transforming our organisation and our human resource component through dynamic leadership.

"In order to be prepared to receive the new main equipment into the SAAF, the SAAF Board decided that the training of our Air Force members will receive the highest priority. At the same time, in order to make the Air Force representative in our core business, we embarked on a recruitment programme, of which the promotion of aviation awareness is a vital component. "That is what Siyandiza is all about: exposure to the world of aviation and motivation of youngsters to join the SAAF." These were the words of Lt Gen Beukes on the occasion of the official launch and handing over of a Siyandiza Harvard and Puma to a project team which is to take Siyandiza further.

The function was held at Swartkop AFB on 25 May 2001. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, July 2001, p 42).
United in the fight against HIV/AIDS

History offers plenty of examples of how ill health can lead to a nation’s downfall. HIV/AIDS is a disease threatening not only the peace and security of our nation, but that of the continent as a whole. In the military environment HIV/AIDS can cause loss of continuity at command level and within the ranks, increased costs with regard to recruitment and training for replacements, a reduction in military preparedness, increased costs with regard to health care, loss of productivity and a reduction of internal stability. To summarise, it can effectively cripple any military. Seen against this background, the DOD’s HIV Beyond Awareness Campaign, Masibambisane, was launched in Pretoria on 1 August 2001. The campaign was motivated by the recognition that the military community is unique and that uniformed members of the SANDF find themselves within a high-risk environment with a specific vulnerability and susceptibility profile.

Within the military community, Masibambisane aims to inform members and employees of the DOD of the management of HIV/AIDS, including current policy and strategy.

Externally, Masibambisane aims to inform the public on the management of HIV/AIDS in the military, and to gain mutual understanding and support of its HIV/AIDS programme. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2001, p 12).

The new SA Army emblem

Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, with the new emblem.

Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, launched the new SA Army emblem, a symbol marking the beginning of a brighter future on 6 June 2001.

The new emblem, which signifies “a pride of lions”, will bring about unity within the Force and has replaced the Springbok. “All for one and one for all” is the type of commitment the SA Army is striving to inculcate among its soldiers.

Speaking on this historical occasion, Lt Gen Ramano, quoting the new vision of the SA Army created in 1998, said: “The SA Army, our people one in spirit, has the commanding presence and power of a pride of lions”. The symbol of lions is therefore a manifestation of transformation in the SA Army. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, August 2001, p 22).

Introducing new training programme

The opening of the first Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) took place in January 2000. The course content varies from the earlier Joint Staff Course (JSC) and is now the premier programme in the SANDF with a focus on national and regional security.

Another truly momentous occasion was the official opening in July 2001 of the very first Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme to be presented at the SA Army College, Thaba Tshwane.

By launching this programme, the SANDF ensured that it was aligning itself with internationally acceptable norms with regard to joint training at the operational level. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2001, p 29).
Transforming public service delivery

What is Batho Pele? It is the name given to the Government's initiative to improve the delivery of public services. Batho Pele means, in Sesotho: "People First". The name was chosen to emphasise that it is first and foremost the duty of the Public Service to serve all the citizens of South Africa. Implementing the basic values and principles governing public administration as set out in the Constitution, 1996, requires, among other things, that the Public Service be transformed. The White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service sets out a number of transformation priorities. Transforming service delivery is the key because the transformation of the Public Service will be judged, above all, on whether it can meet the basic needs of all South African citizens. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2001, p 24-25).

African Women's Peace Table

On 3 and 4 August 2000 a groundbreaking conference was held in Pretoria, entitled "Women Making Peace in Africa: Peace Through a Gender Lens". The conference was the initiative of the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge. The conference brought together for the first time women and men from the DOD, together with women and men from civil society, to chart the way to peace on the continent of Africa.

An outcome of the conference was that the participants resolved to work together to discuss common issues, to strive for the eradication of all forms of violence and conflict in South Africa and on the African continent, and to join hands together with others in our country and elsewhere in Africa, with a view to moving towards the creation of a culture of sustainable peace.

To this end, an African Women's Peace Table was set up to continue discussion and to plan joint action for women and peace. The rationale behind the concept of a "peace table" is that women traditionally have the function of placing food on the table, and this symbolises their role in maintaining households, families and communities throughout Africa. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, November 2001, p 19).

Youth Foundation Training Programme launched

On 20 July 2001 Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, launched the DOD Youth Foundation Training Programme at Denel Training Academy in Kempton Park. Speaking at the launch, Minister Lekota said that the Programme underscored the Government’s commitment to uplifting the lives of the youth by creating and providing work opportunities, and thus actively contributing to social delivery and advancing the goals of the African Renaissance. The project is co-managed by the Joint Training Formation on behalf of the DOD and Denel Personnel Solutions. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2001, p 18-19).
Integration of gays and lesbians

According to the Equality Clause of the Constitution, [section 9 (3)]: “The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.”

In order to give substance to the Equality Clause, the Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (EOCD) is mandated to institutionalise equal opportunities for all members and employees in the DOD.

Gays and lesbians were definitely discriminated against in the past and the Constitution and other legal precepts on human rights issued since 1994 have prompted the EOCD to analyse the working environment to determine attitudes and perceptions regarding gays and lesbians in the DOD. The data obtained from this study guided the EOCD in respect of awareness interventions and also in the drafting of the Code of Good Employment Practice regarding Sexual Orientation in the Workplace. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, January 2002, p 24-25).

Military institution of learning opens

Before a distinguished audience of both national and international officers, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, Chief of the SANDF, formally opened the SA National War College at Thaba Tshwane on 28 January 2002.

The premier course of the newly formed War College, the SANDF’s flagship military institution of learning, is the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP).

This programme is central to the intellectual development of future senior military leaders in South Africa, and hence the success of future transformation programmes. It is also an important catalyst for promoting a joint and combined approach to conducting future operations at the operational level of war.

Based on first-principle design and using the latest Education, Training and Development (ETD) methods, the programme develops the competencies required of both the operational level commander and staff officer to an international standard so that SANDF officers can confidently take their place in future combined or joint operations.

The JSCSP is a truly international programme. Officers from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and the United Kingdom have already joined the College Directing Staff and the learner body has welcomed officers from Botswana, India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, March 2002, p 28).

Empowering the neglected

Project LOYAL, consisting of Warrant Officers from the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and SAMHS, together with their respective counterparts from the United States Marine Corps Mobile Training Team, are engaged in strategic work to develop a completely new curriculum for the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and Warrant Officers (WOs) capstone learning opportunity at the operation level. The curriculum seeks to address the educational, training and development predicament in which the WOs and NCOs of the SANDF find themselves. Project LOYAL was subsequently established with the aim of empowering WOs and NCOs through appropriately developing ETD opportunities in compliance with DOD client requirements and international benchmarks.

For the first time in the history of the SANDF the course(s) developed by Project LOYAL will be accredited to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, May 2002, p 22).
Towards making peace in Africa

Thirteen SADC countries, including South Africa, and two non-SADC countries, Kenya and Madagascar, participated in a peacekeeping exercise, namely Exercise TANZANITE, which was held in the Tanga region of Tanzania in February 2002.

The exercise was jointly organised by France and Tanzania, which was the host nation.

The exercise was the continuation of the French government’s contribution towards reinforcing African peacekeeping capabilities, which started with Exercise RECAMP 1 in partnership with Senegal. The exercise was named “GUIDIMAKHA” and it took place from 1996 to 1998.

Four contributing countries from the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) and four donor countries took part in Exercise RECAMP 1. Exercise RECAMP 2 took place in Gabon from 1998 to 2000.

It involved the eight contributing countries from the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) and eight donor countries. Exercise TANZANITE, also known as Exercise RECAMP 3, shows the commitment of the French government towards a lasting peace in Africa and in equipping African countries so that they are able to conduct peacekeeping operations. The exercise was designed to give African countries the ability to play a significant part under the aegis of the United Nations and the African Union in peacekeeping operations in Africa, and also to participate in global peacekeeping operations. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, May 2002, p 8).

The birth of the African Union

The SANDF inter alia provided support to the SA Police Service in safeguarding the launch of the African Union (AU), which took place in the ABSA Stadium in Durban on 9 July 2002. Its involvement in this historic launch made the SANDF a significant player in this historical event.

Apart from mounting a colourful military parade and its involvement in a spectrum of other activities in honour of the AU, the SANDF supplied some 75 military liaison officers and other military-related services in support of the launch of the AU, formerly the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The birth of the AU on South African soil was a proud occasion, not only for DOD members, but for every South African. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, August 2002, p 12).
Ensuring the smooth running of the WSSD

From 26 August to 4 September 2002 South Africa played host to more than 40 000 delegates from around the world, all of them participants in the World Summit on Sustainable Development. More than 105 Heads of State took part in the discussions, which in years to come could improve the lives of millions of people around the globe. The SANDF played an integral part in the whole process. All in all the SANDF deployed 1 500 people in various roles to ensure the smooth running of the World Summit. From all over South Africa liaison officers were appointed to the various delegations to ensure that the chief delegates were well looked after. This meant that they had to be available day and night for the duration of the Summit. The SA Air Force and medical personnel played just as vital a role. Two Oryx helicopters assisted with the trooping of SANDF and SAPS members to set up roadblocks in the Gauteng area, and were also on standby to assist with any emergency tasks. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, October 2002, p 12).

Brig Gen Petra Mari, Director Military Health Human Resources, and Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, Chief of the SANDF, visiting the Ubuntu Village, Johannesburg World Summit 2002.

International Congress on Military Medicine

On 16 September 2002 the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, officially opened the XXXIVth International Congress on Military Medicine (ICMM). The 2002 ICMM attracted a total of 344 foreign delegates and 82 accompanying persons, representing 71 countries, as well as the World Health Organisation and UN AIDS. In addition to serving as a liaison forum, the organisation presents a biennial scientific congress, an annual course on Humanitarian Law, an annual scientific course for young military medical practitioners and, at varying intervals, a scientific course for veterinary and paraveterinary personnel.

Altogether 303 scientific abstracts were delivered during the congress, covering topical issues such as HIV/AIDS, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping and disaster relief, deployment and patient evacuation and chemical and biological defence. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, November 2002, p 14-15).

New rank insignia for our Defence Force

It was indeed a historic moment when Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, issued the first new rank insignia to the Service/Division Chiefs and Warrant Officers. This took place at a high-profile parade at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 2 September 2002.

Before 1998 there were twenty-seven different rank colours and shapes for Warrant Officers (WOs) in the SANDF, and WOs used the old Coat of Arms as a corporate identity on their rank insignia. In 1998 WO1 J.J. Jacobs, Warrant Officer of the SANDF (WO SANDF), initiated an SA Navy rank system for Warrant Officers. A level 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4, WO1 and WO2 system was approved for all WOs by the Military Council. On 27 April 2000 the President of South Africa officially introduced South Africa’s new Coat of Arms at an SANDF parade in Bloemfontein.

The acceptance of the new Coat of Arms clearly implied that the corporate identity then used by all ranks in the SANDF. The rank insignia committee had to take costs into consideration, to maintain the One Force Concept, and to use the new Coat of Arms as the corporate identity for all SANDF ranks. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, August 2002, p 21-28).
Levelling the playing fields

The Equality Clause Section 9 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution mandates the implementation of Affirmative Action in the DOD. The fast tracking policy was promulgated in October 2002, and by implication the Services have to implement it.

Fast tracking is an intervention aimed at levelling the playing fields for the achievement of representivity within the designated groups who were disadvantaged by unfair discrimination in the past.

Fast tracking is also a career development programme designed to create opportunities and to offer personnel with exceptional abilities the possibility of rapid advancement in varied, responsible and fulfilling careers. It is also meant to accelerate the development of people with potential. The implication is of course that some members’ careers will be developed ahead of others as a remedial process.

The aim of the Fast Tracking Policy is to guide the Services and Divisions in the implementation of fast tracking in the DOD. The policy is also aimed at empowering members and employees from designated groups - in terms of the White Paper on Defence, the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service and the White Paper on Affirmative Action. The achievement of representivity in the public service is a constitutional imperative. The Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (EOCD) has been mandated to oversee the effective implementation of this policy. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, May 2003, p 20-21).

Celebrating 40 years of solidarity

United we stand, divided we fall! Viva Africa! The 40th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Union (OAU), now known as the African Union (AU), at the Johannesburg Stadium on 25 May 2003 (Africa Day) was a celebration of rebirth and renewal of the African continent. The AU represents an equal partnership of the 53 African States or Governments that make up the organisation.

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

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

Members of the SANDF brought life to the stadium. Carrying all 53 flags of the AU member countries the National Ceremonial Guard paraded in detailed precision around the open field to the rhythm of the bands of the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SAHMS.

(For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, July 2003, p 14-15).

A major break with the past

The old SANDF flag was lowered at the SA Air Force Gymnasium in Pretoria and the respective Chiefs of the Services handed back the old flags of the Services to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, at a retreat ceremony held on 25 April 2003. Another milestone in the transformation process took place on 29 April 2003 at the SA Air Force Gymnasium when the new flags of the SANDF, depicting the new SANDF logo, were launched. A complete new medal series was also introduced. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, June 2003, p 14-15).
Contribute to the African Renaissance

The word Renaissance brings to mind the burgeoning of new ideas and values, the flowering of art and culture, the progress of science and the growth of technology, as well as productivity and prosperity. The SANDF reinforces this Renaissance by guaranteeing peace and security and has always acted as a driver in developing technology. The armed forces reinforce the African Renaissance through ensuring stability. Economic development cannot be sustained in a country plagued by large-scale violence and general instability.

The reason for an African Renaissance is, according to President Thabo Mbeki, a call to African people to fight against poverty, ignorance and crime so that South Africans can contribute to the development of the country. In essence the African Renaissance should start within ourselves. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, August 2003, p 36-37).

Enhance peace support

The SANDF and the United States European Command (USEC) conducted bilateral training, called Exercise FLINTLOCK, in Bloemfontein from 7 to 25 July 2003. The exercise included a broad spectrum of military activities, such as combat life-saving procedures, live firing of weapons, day and night-time low-level flying and airdrops of personnel and equipment.

The principle purpose of Exercise FLINTLOCK was for the South African and the United States military units to engage in an open exchange of ideas and to enhance military relationships between our two countries.

The exercise was conducted in the spirit of learning from each other, which was achieved by observing, combined exercise planning and execution of plans. The South African training objectives for the exercise were to enhance peace support and humanitarian relief capabilities, and the United States objectives were to enhance military relationships with the SANDF and to train in a new and diverse environment. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2003, p 18-19).

A birthday gift for Madiba on SAMHS Day

8 July was SAMHS Day. Many formations, units and sections have gone to a lot of trouble to celebrate this day with each other and to promote and share it within the community.

SAMHS Day also fell on the 85th birthday of former President Nelson Mandela (and former Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF).

To honour and pay tribute to this great man and leader, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, expressed the wish that the SAMHS would present him with a special gift.

On the morning of SAMHS Day, the Surgeon General, accompanied by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, presented Mr Mandela with a “March for Madiba”, which had been composed by Maj Ephraim Katz, Senior Director of the SAMHS Band. Maj Katz and the SAMHS Band had the privilege to perform this special march in honour of Mr Mandela at his home that morning. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2003, p 11).
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. 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. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, October 2003, p 22).

The SAMHS played host to 22 visiting veterinary officers and paraveterinary personnel from twelve countries during the Second International Course for Veterinary Officers and Paraveterinary Personnel from 23 July to 1 August 2003. This course followed on the very successful first course that was presented by South Africa in 1998, and was held under the auspices of the International Committee for Military Medicine (ICMM). The military veterinary world is a relatively small and close-knit community, and the course presented an ideal opportunity to build new ties and to renew old acquaintances. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, November 2003, p 35-36).

Every aircraft meant relief aid

The realisation of the African Renaissance received another boost when nine SADC member states embarked on a joint relief operation in Zambia. Operation BLUE ANGEL, which was based at Mfuwe International Airport, was in operation over from 14 to 24 August 2003.

This operation, which was aimed at distributing humanitarian relief aid in the form of bags of maize to poverty-stricken villages in and around Zambia, was not only a joint operation with the stamp of approval from the SADC states, but was also used as an exercise to test Africa’s readiness to provide much needed relief aid should the need arise, as it has before.

After a period of nine days 3 300 bags of maize were flown to the different points of distribution. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, November 2003, p 16).

The top brass of the SA Army, headed by Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the Chief of the SA Army, witnessed the pride of lions in action at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla on 8 and 9 October 2003.

It was only this year that the SA Army Council succeeded in changing the name of Exercise IRON EAGLE to Exercise SEBOKA, meaning “coming together”, thus putting more emphasis on the jointness of services.

Without doubt, Exercise SEBOKA demonstrated the high standard of combat readiness of the SA Army and its preparedness and readiness to meet its constitutional obligations.

This was an exercise that demonstrated the firepower of the attacking force against an invading opposing force. It was an exercise depicting a real situation in defence of our motherland. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, December 2003, p 28-29).
Revamping our audit reports

The DOD Inspectorate Directorate hosted the Association for Defence Auditors Conference in Cape Town from 28 September to 3 October 2003. The SA DOD signed the Charter of the Association for Defence Auditors and is also a founder member with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Norway. Members from Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast were invited as observers. After welcoming the delegates, SA DOD Inspector General (IG), Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, said that the deliberations went a long way towards establishing the Defence Internal Audit on the world stage, and to encourage and support changes to the Association’s modus operandi to allow for more countries to participate and benefit from this venture.

In closing the conference, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, said the attainment of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001:2001 Certification was an important milestone for the division and his office as people took them seriously and more reliance was placed on their reports.

(For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, December 2003, p 18-19).

Develop military skills

Due to the rapid succession in the arrival of the acquisitions, the SA Navy is now faced with a challenge and is hard at work preparing facilities and training personnel to effectively integrate these corvettes and submarines into the future Navy. Related to this is the requirement to rejuvenate the SA Navy by means of the Military Skills Development system,” said R Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of Naval Staff, during a media visit to the naval training base, SAS SALDANHA, in April 2003. Capt Robert Shelley, Officer Commanding of SAS SALDANHA, added, “The approach of SAS SALDANHA to training is to create an environment that is conducive to learning. Instructors are less intimidating and more approachable and encourage learners to participate in classes. The spirit in which the unit conducts MSD training enables a group of young and fit men and women who have been selected to either follow a career in the SA Navy or who have skills (additional to those offered via secondary education) to be more competitive in the private sector.”

Training at SAS SALDANHA has been restructured to encompass the MSD programme, which in essence will allow learners, if they are not required in the SANDF at the end of their two-year contract, to have nine recognised civilian accreditations and six military certificates upon entering the private sector. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, September 2003, p 36-38).

Maintain international peace

The 24th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) was held at the Sandton Convention Centre from 30 November to 5 December 2003.

The WVF is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO), which brings together associations of those who have experienced the sufferings of war, fighting side by side or facing each in combat, and who want to contribute to the establishment of a more peaceful, just and free world based on the principles of the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights.

War veterans, resistance fighters, former deportees and prisoners of war from six countries founded the organisation in Paris on 29 November 1950. The President of South Africa, Mr Thabo Mbeki, formally opened the General Assembly.
SAS AMATOLA comes home

To the SAS AMATOLA, the biggest warship in our land - Welcome home! The arrival of the SAS AMATOLA in the waters off the Cape of Good Hope on 4 November 2003 marks the birth of a new SA Navy whose latest acquisition reflects just that. The SAS AMATOLA is a reward for a Navy with vision and foresight.

Born in Germany and officially christened the SAS AMATOLA by the First Lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, in the Blohm & Voss shipyards in Hamburg on 7 June 2002, this ship becomes the first of four corvettes to be acquired by the SANDF. The other three are to follow in due course.

With the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, the emphasis was placed on Reconstruction and Development Programmes (RDP) and the need to address the country’s socio-economic priorities. This led to political debates on the need for the SA Navy to have new ships. With democracy the armaments industries of the world opened their doors to South Africa. An opportunity was taken to acquire new ships and submarines. Our Daphne Class sub-
maries were purchased from France and the President Class frigates from the United Kingdom.

Having determined the size and shape of the new SANDF, the acquisition process for new ships and submarines commenced and culminated in the signing of contracts for four patrol corvettes and three submarines on 3 December 1999 between the Government of South Africa and a consortium consisting of Blohm & Voss GmbH, Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AAG, Thyssen Rheinstahl Technik GmbH, Thales Naval France and African Defence Systems. Project SITRON covered the acquisition of corvettes and Project WILLS the acquisition of submarines. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, January 2004, p 14-19).

Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD

Beginning on 6 November last year 461 British and 318 South African soldiers, sailors and airmen took part in Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD at the SA Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing in Snake Valley, Pretoria. The exercise was completed on 30 November 2003.

Exercise AFRICAN SHIELD was a combined joint peace support exercise between the United Kingdom Armed Forces and the SANDF and was held at a command post level (without soldiers). The exercise involved the planning and conduct of a peace support operation at the operational level. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, January 2004, p 32-33).
The first Hawk aircraft has arrived

A001 is the first Hawk Mk 120 Lead-in Fighter Trainer aircraft specifically manufactured for the SA Air Force. It made its first twenty minute flight at Warton in England on 2 October 2003. Extensive flight, ground and other tests required in terms of the contract and operational specification will be conducted at the Test Flight and Development Centre and other centres in South Africa over the next eighteen months. The delivery of the first production Hawk aircraft to the SA Air Force is scheduled for mid 2005. Hawk SA001 was officially welcomed in South Africa on 4 February 2004. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, January 2004, p 21).

Improving and prolonging lives

The SANDF commemorated World Aids Day on 1 December 2003 with the launch of the clinical research project called Project Phidisa that will benefit HIV positive SANDF members and their dependants.

Project Phidisa is a collaborative effort between the DOD, the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) and the US National Institute of Health to undertake research on treatment options for HIV positive SANDF members.

One of the aims of Project Phidisa is to provide treatment for HIV positive SANDF members and their dependants. It also answers research questions relevant to South Africa on the use of anti-retroviral (ARV) therapy to build capacity within the SAMHS in order to conduct state-of-the-art clinical research on HIV and other diseases of critical importance to Defence Force preparedness.

Project Phidisa is complementary to the Masibambisane Programme. Masibambisane is the HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness programme, while Project Phidisa focuses on the management and treatment of HIV infection among SANDF members.

20 January 2004 marked a new phase when one of the six sites selected to conduct the research was officially opened. The official opening of the Phidisa Clinic at 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria brought light and hope to the lives of some SANDF members.

“This clinic can achieve its set objectives only if those members and their families voluntarily enrol and participate fully in Project Phidisa,” said the Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge. She encouraged members of the SANDF to go for testing and to know their status so as to get support.

"Improving and prolonging lives" is what is happening at the Phidisa Clinic at 1 Military Hospital. Social workers, physicians and councillors are ready to make a huge difference in people’s lives. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, January 2004, p 20).
**A unique overview of military history**

"The Oxford Companion to Military History" is edited by Richard Holmes, CBE, TD, a Professor of Military and Security Studies at Cranfield University and the Royal Military College of Science in the UK. He is known to millions as the presenter of the immensely popular BBC television series "War Talks", "The Western Front", and "Battlefields".

The Oxford Companion to Military History ranges across centuries and continents to provide comprehensive and authoritative coverage of war and warfare. The Companion's 1,300 entries cover military leaders, theorists, inventors, weapons, equipment, wars, campaigns, battles, strategy and tactics, logistics, fortifications, military life, institutions, literature, art and music.

The Companion also provides in-depth coverage of the social, political, technological and economic background to major conflicts. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how the world has been shaped and continues to be shaped by conflict. The book is arranged in an accessible A-Z sequence - from the Battle of Actium to the Zulu war. A list of over 150 specialist contributors from Britain, Europe and North America contributed to the Companion. It also features entries on key topics, such as intelligence, propaganda, tactics, women in the military and peacekeeping. Illustrations include over seventy detailed maps showing the course of famous battles and campaigns. In his foreword the author writes, "It is almost obligatory for authors to declare that their works fill gaps in the existing literature, but in this case I do so with unusual confidence. There are dictionaries of battles, of military leaders and even of military history. This is none of those things, although, in its way, it subsumes them all."

"The Oxford Companion to Military History" is said to 'bring an extraordinary range of expertise together in an accessible form' according to Tim Garden of the Times Higher Educational Supplement.

According to The Times - "A most agreeable companion: faithful, authoritative and never dull."

"Will provide hours of happy browsing", Max Hastings, Evening Standard.

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**The future of the commandos**

The question about the future of Army Territorial Reserves (ATR) has been asked a number of times. Therefore Director Army Reserve Force prepared the following answer to similar future questions - Editor.

The following info about the future of the commandos was published in the BUA newsletter on 15 May 2003 and has highlighted the following important aspects:

President Thabo Mbeki announced a phased enhancement of the rural security system in his State of the Nation Address in February 2003.

The primary role of the SANDF is the protection of the country’s territorial integrity and it is assuming more regional functions. The commando system is currently concentrated on ensuring the safety and security of all communities, including rural communities that are actually the responsibility of the SAPS.

A new system of rural security, with a broader composition and modern ethos, will increase capacity to secure all communities. The commando system will be replaced over time by the SAPS sector policing system, including reservists.

The SANDF and the SAPS are working together in terms of a rural safety plan to ensure that the latter has sufficient capacity to take over functions without leaving any gap as a result of the transition process.

Briefings will be provided by the joint SAPS and SANDF team as progress is made to ensure that the public is kept informed of what is being done.

What are the service benefits for a volunteer Reserve Force member?

The current Reserve Force policy addresses the following aspects which are of cardinal importance and must be taken note of:

- **The Reserve Force Service System.** Reserve Force Military Service is designed to be attractive to volunteers, with a realistic, flexible period of service which must be mutually agreed upon by the volunteer and the Reserve Force unit concerned. To give fair remuneration to Reserve Force volunteers, which reflects their equal status with Regular Force members, new improved service benefits have been implemented.

- **Medical Benefits.** Reserve Force volunteers are entitled to medical benefits during periods of official service (including emergency), excluding normal dental and optometry treatment. This medical treatment includes treatment of any disability or injury sustained or illness contracted during service or as a result of service. (For more information please read the article as published in SA SOLDIER, November 2003, p 8).
WE KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
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- In an unstable labour market, you or your spouse may get caught in a dispute with your employer. We pay your costs for the action in labour court.
- You or your spouse may be sued in a civil action. Lawyers may be appointed to represent you and defend the action.
- A member of your family could get hurt when falling into an unsecured hole dug during public works. We pay lawyers to claim from the negligent contractor.
- You may sustain injuries in an accident. We provide legal advice for MVA and estate matters.
- You can be sure of your rights 24 hours. Our team of security legal advisors is on standby to provide advise and assistance.
- You may receive affordable funeral cover for yourself and family.
- As security law experts we know your rights and will go the extra-mile to protect your interests.

SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

LEGAL COVER BENEFITS

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<th>COVER LIMIT</th>
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<th>PER ANNUM</th>
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<td>Civil Matters</td>
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FUNERAL COVER BENEFITS

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<td>(26 weeks)</td>
<td>R 500</td>
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Id Number: 

Force no. / Service no.: 
Bank Name: 

Type of Account: 
Account no.: 
Branch: 

Home Address: 
Postal Address: 

Tel (w): 
Cell: 

LEGAL COVER

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<td>JAG Legal Service only</td>
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<td>Family Funeral cover only</td>
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<td>Single funeral cover only</td>
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I hereby authorise Santam Legal Soldier to arrange with the DOD (SANDF), SAPS/CS to deduct from my salary and to pay to Legal Soldier an amount stipulated by me. Should it for whatever reason, be impossible for Legal Soldier to obtain a stop-order facility from my employer, I authorise Legal Soldier to effect a debit-order deduction from my bank.

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