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Equal opportunities for all

... A quest for the crown of glory

Play soccer while expanding friendships

Former enemies reconciled with rugby

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FRONT COVER: Our Minister, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, congratulates our first female fighter pilot, Capt Catherine Labuschagne, at the Africa Aerospace and Defence 2004 Expo held at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria. Please read more about this special event on page 16.

( Photo: WO2 Christo Crous)
From the Editor’s desk

he internationally acclaimed Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2004 exhibition was held at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria from 21 to 25 September 2004. The AAD has established itself as Africa’s indisputable and top aerospace and defence exposition, and indeed is one of the biggest and best in the Southern Hemisphere. Please read more about this spectacular event on pages 16 and 17.

Eighty-seven years after the tragedy of the SS MENDI, in honour of the brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the tragedy, the SA Navy has commemorated the event. The SAS MENDI was gearing up for her maiden voyage home. After passing tough sea trials the ship’s company, under the command of Capt (SAN) Kevin Packer, were faced with the challenge of sailing the ship safely to beautiful, sunny South Africa. Cdr Jaco Theunissen, Base Public Relations Officer at Naval Base Simon’s Town, PO Eddie Kgomo from Defence Television, and our own journalist, PO Dennis Ndaba, were very fortunate to be assigned the task of capturing the precious moments of SAS MENDI en route home. Read more about our journalist’s adventure aboard SAS MENDI on pages 18 to 20.

Almost half a century ago 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings and planted the seeds of democracy. It was therefore fitting that after 10 years of freedom South African women returned to that very place to complete the circle. 48 years ago women marched against injustice, and on 31 August 2004 a new generation of women marched to the same spot in celebration of a new South Africa.

Dozens of women filtered onto the grounds of the Union Buildings after marching from the Pretoria Art Museum in Arcadia. For many women this was the second time that they marched: they had marched in 1956 and, although their knees were no longer as strong, this was to them an anniversary not to be missed.

It was marvellous to see how so many women could converge on a chosen point at such short notice. The energy as the women marched was fantastic, it was really all about the spirit and the prevailing feeling of victory. Read more about the courageous spirit of our women on page 24 to 27.

Prevention is still the key message in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Project Phidisa is proactively addressing a critical problem for the benefit of this country and the region.

Project Phidisa entails ground breaking clinical research on the use of ARVs by SANDF HIV positive members and their dependants. This is the first time in this country’s history that researchers who are examining an issue understand the participants completely. It is already evident that the results of this research will influence policy decisions on the use of ARVs in the South African context.

The core message for SANDF personnel affected by HIV and AIDS is that the DOD is proactively involved in researching the best possible treatment regimes for HIV positive members and their dependants. Please read more about this critical topic on pages 32 and 33.

Congratulations to our South African Team winning the 2004 Exercise AIRBORNE AFRICA competition. Well done! This competition was co-ordinated with the Africa Aerospace and Defence 2004 exhibition regarding timings and resources, and was attended by sixteen different countries from Africa, Asia and Europe. Read more about this biannual exercise held at 44 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein on page 42.

The SANDF hosted the 7th CISM ESALO (Eastern Southern Africa Liaison Office) Soccer Championships in Pretoria. Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Botswana were invited to take part in this prestigious tournament. For the first time ever women’s soccer was also recognised in this tournament. The South African Women’s Team played in the finals against their neighbours, Swaziland, and beat the latter 4-0 on penalties. The Zimbabwe Men’s Team was crowned this year’s ESALO Champions when it beat Lesotho 2-1. Read more about this sport highlight on page 45.

The SANDF has made an enormous contribution to the development of rugby in Burundi. In the process former enemies have been reconciled and unified in the same team with a common goal and objective. Rugby has also played a major role in improving the acceptability of the South African contingent by the local community.

One of our soldiers, Lt Ngcelwane, who is a member of the SAMHS currently deployed in Burundi, and detached to the Special Forces deployed there, was recently appointed as rugby coach to the National Rugby Federation in Burundi. This is seen as a great honour for South Africa and we are glad to have a man of such stature among us. Congratulations! Please read more about how rugby has grown in Burundi on page 46.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
Page 5
Old Mutual Ad
(New Material)
It takes the best to be the best

Man alters his life by altering his attitudes. You can control the way you impress other people. Your appearance to others, your outward appearance, is more like a movie screen than a painting.

The screen reflects what goes on inside the projector. Your thoughts and attitudes are the roll of film. Your mind is the projector, which throws out strong, good, impressive pictures. Your actions are important because people know you by your actions. They form impressions of you by your actions. People are like gifts: they come all wrapped up inside them. Your actions are the ways you communicate your thoughts to others.

| Winning letter |

The purpose of change is not to become another person, but simply to emphasise all the good and wonderful in you. If you act discouraged, you act inferior, you feel inferior, you act lazy, you feel lazy. Good thoughts and good actions produce good feelings. Bad thoughts and bad actions produce bad feelings.

Life is a struggle to satisfy one’s ego. Sow your thoughts, your emotions, reap your habits, sow habits, reap your characters, sow your character, and reap your destiny. It takes the best to be the best! - A.M. Rakoma, Tzaneen.

A young writer in need

With great admiration and deep respect I am writing this letter to humbly request the donation of an old computer and multifunctional printer all in one - printer, scanner and copier.

To have a computer and multifunctional printer will be another way of empowering me, and my underprivileged and disadvantaged community will also benefit from such a donation. In one way or another I will be answering the people’s call for help, as we are in the remotest rural area. I want to stress how important such a donation will be to me. It will enable me to be of great help to the rest of the community and this indeed will be the mirror which will reflect the best of our Defence Force and will maintain social cohesion, help to strengthen trust, bonds of friendship and loyalty. This will be another way of lending a helping hand. As we celebrate a decade of Defence in a democracy, it will be another way of helping to heal the wounds of the past in many hearts.

I always tell the civilian community about the Defence Force and I want them to have confidence and a clear understanding and a positive attitude towards our Defence Force. The civilian community has always associated the Defence Force with violence. I want people to change their attitudes towards the SANDF and see it as an essential service for the people by the people.

I humbly request that my request be forwarded to the SANDF leadership, should they wish to make any further contribution - Arnaus Maphalle Rakoma, Moetladimo.

* If anyone can assist Rfn Arnaus Maphalle Rakoma, please do so. His contact details are as follows: Cell No: 083 352 7770 or 073 421 9182 or write to him at: PO Box 257, Moetladimo, 0891 - Ed.

Empowerment of PSAP

I really want to give praise to the Directorate Inspectorate General (IG) DOD for giving me the opportunity to attend the core competency module course. It was a great course with lots of challenges. I learned a lot from the modules, eg the necessity of teamwork in our working environment, how to cope with different changes happening within the DOD and managing for results. What I liked most about the module entitled “How to respond to change” was the phrase, “The only constant these days is change”, meaning we must be able to face the changes that are really happening within the DOD and be willing to move away from our comfort zones. Change is an ongoing process.

Actually the most interesting topic was about “Time management and how to prioritise your work”. The DOD has employed us in order to reach its objectives, viz to serve our organisation with pride and loyalty and be willing to work in order to achieve its objectives. It will be a great honour if some of the PSAP members are given the opportunity to attend this course. It will mean a lot to them, especially in our working environment. Praise is due to the Directorate for equipping its members with quality knowledge enhancing managerial courses. This shows that even the underprivileged PSAP get the opportunity to acquire more knowledge for managerial positions. Lastly, the relationship between the PSAP and DAP is really tremendous within our Directorate as is shown by a great spirit of teamwork - Mr P.D. Mogale, Pretoria.

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

In the name of freedom and the tenth anniversary of our democracy I would like to salute our women in uniform for their sacrifices and contribution to our new Army (SANDF). Furthermore we must acknowledge that our Army and country are filled with women who are and will continue to be respected for their noble contributions towards the ten years of democracy, peace in Africa in general, as well as in Burundi and the DRC. Bravo, bravo to our sisters, mothers - those were the days when women belonged in the kitchen. Women have escaped the confines of the home and are now taking part in peace and security for our democracy.

We men must know that gender equality is not about disempowering ourselves, but rather the empowerment of women. Since 1994 our democratic Government has prioritised the empowerment of women. Women were at the heart of the struggle of our country. In this respect let us take a brief look at our history. In 1956 Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie Williams and many others led 20 000 women to a kitchen. Women have escaped the confines of the home and are now taking part in peace and security for our democracy.

Casual Day

I take this opportunity to thank you for organising, on behalf of Chief Directorate Equal Opportunities (DOD) and Curamus, the most enjoyable Casual Day on 3 September 2004. I thank you for recognising our KZN MR CFDF Forum at the DOD by Equal Opportunities. It is indeed a privilege for all of us in KZN. Please extend our appreciation to Col Dippenaar, WO2 Bezuidenhout and Mrs Kunene who have kept our forum running smoothly and really caring for those with disabilities. Col Dippenaar, we appreciate everything you do for us. Thank you, Equal Opportunities, for hosting such a great success on Casual Day. To be able to participate in events suitable for our disabilities, with no boring moments, and to be exhausted after a day of absolute fun will remain in my memories for a long time. A special thanks to Maj Gen P.R.F. Sedibe, Mr Kobus Swart and their staff. It is indeed comforting to know that there are many that care for those with disabilities within our community - Rfn G.R. Burger, Bluff.

In memory of a true soldier

I lost a true soldier who was dedicated and committed. The late Sgt A.H. (Abé) le Roux, Comm NCO RSA Battalion Burundi, was invaluable to the RSA Battalion. He acted as the Communication Officer and was an expert in this field. He wrote numerous stories for SA SOLDIER during our period of deployment. The last of his stories may be found in the November 2004 issue of SA SOLDIER magazine. He was obviously very close to me. He also wrote numerous letters to the family members of the deployed members, and there were a number of letters in the process of finalisation to the families of the deployed members.

The late Sgt Le Roux established a library in the communication tent at the Palace Base. He was supposed to finalise the recreational sports item scheduled for the RSA Battalion’s sports day on 29 September 2004. He was also in the process of arranging the formalities for the RSA Bn Commander’s communication period outside the Palace Base at a venue that was to be determined. He was in the process of arranging a communication activity for the RSA Battalion drivers and chefs as part of the RSA Battalion’s recognition of the base members for their contribution. He was also to finalise the monthly report for September 2004.

By losing him I virtually lost a part of my brain. I will miss him dearly as a soldier and as a friend. He motivated me tremendously and kept me on my toes. I will remember him as a disciplined and highly professional soldier. I had him on positive office orders on 13 September 2004 on which occasion I informed him of his qualities and his invaluable contribution.

I remember him as being extremely eager to deploy externally. As I comment on his order sheets “I will never regret the day I contracted to deploy him externally. He was ecstatic about the opportunity. He kept his promise that he would work hard when he linked up with me in Bloemfontein (De Brug).

He established very good relations with the United Nations’ civilian members. They were looking for him at the time when he did not turn up at the Officers Bar on the night of his death. The RSA Battalion had a braai on the night of 13 September 2004 when we hosted the ONUB HQ Force Sergeant Major, and he was full of jokes. He mentioned the day he tried to undergo a facelift. Everybody present laughed.

I have to carry on where he left off. As the RSA Battalion Commander I have to continue with what I am doing, my vision being: "A well disciplined and competent external deployed battalion", because I know he embraced this vision wholeheartedly.

I never doubted his ability and he proved his worth. Long will I remember this fallen hero and I stand to attention and salute him. The RSA Battalion’s condolences go to the family and friends of the late Sgt Abé le Roux.

He went to Kabezi (operational area of responsibility) of the RSA Battalion as part of the battalion’s visit scheduled for deployed members, accompanied by the RSA Battalion 2IC, Maj W.L. Madikoto, on the day of his death (14 September 2004) - Lt Col P. Davids, Officer Commanding 15 SAI Bn.

* SA SOLDIER also lost a true and valuable friend and contributor. We will miss him dearly. May he rest in peace.

Our sincere condolences go to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Sgt Abé le Roux - Ed.
Saluting Colet

Do you know, when we get so used to bad service we are truly amazed when we get good service? Well I had this experience. I dropped in at the SANDF College of Educational Technology (Colet) while on leave (unshaven and in jeans) to ask about training to become an assessor.

The receptionist, with the help of a very gracious Leading Seaman, phoned every person in the Implementation Centre to try to find someone to speak to me. However, everyone was out doing training, which is a good sign! The Leading Seaman then literally walked the building until he found someone to see me.

After I was asked to sit for a few minutes - during which time every person who walked through the foyer (including the cleaners) either greeted me or asked if I had been helped - Lt Col Conradie, from another department, invited me to her office to hear what I needed. She had nothing to do with training assessors. Nevertheless, she took the time to explain how Colet works, what courses were available, whom I can speak to, and so on.

She also told me of the possibility of obtaining recognition for prior learning (RPL). What a cool opportunity! By the time I left her office I had the application forms and a very positive feeling about being a learner at Colet. I returned the application forms the very next day (their enthusiasm for learning inspired me to perform), and was provided with a manual for two of the courses I was interested in, plus a CD (which unfortunately had to be returned).

Lt Col Conradie and her colleague, Warrant Officer Botha, were highly professional. They kept asking me to give them feedback on my experience of the RPL programme, and they kept inviting me to contact them if I ever got stuck or needed answers to questions. Clearly, these people have heard about Batho Pele - and not only the senior staff, but even the cleaners, the receptionist and the Leading Seaman who happened to walk into the foyer while I was there.

Brig Gen Bless - congratulations to you and your staff. Keep up the excellent service! - Lt Col Adrian van Breda, Military Psychological Institute.

Are women and children really free?

Some people may ask themselves why I am saying this, but it is a valid question. Women are no longer free to walk alone, as men are always there to attack them (their prey).

If you watch television and listen to the radio, you will understand what I am talking about. It is not even safe to go to town and leave your daughter in the care of your husband, as she may be taking her mother’s place. I do not know what is going on with our husbands. Maybe, as they read this letter, they will be able to give us answers, because we have nowhere to run. Soldiers are raping, policemen are doing the same - where else can we ask for protection? If they do not rape, they kill the whole family. I still think that they are being selfish and irresponsible and they are running away from the truth. Please do not kill us. Life is a gift from God and you do not have the right to take it away. I would like to give advice to those who are thinking of doing this evil thing. If you feel that you are tired of living, please do not make the mistake of taking the lives of people who cannot defend themselves. They still have a future ahead. God knows when their lives will end, and not you. Why do you think you have the right to take away the lives of your wife and children?

Some people think that they do not want their family to suffer when they are gone. Do the right thing and give your children an education so that they will not suffer. Stop this selfish behaviour. It is not funny to see women and children get killed every day by the so-called Mr Soldiers. Stop corrupting the name of our Defence Force. We are soldiers for peace, not for abusing. I would like to say, when you deploy, do your job, and do not abuse your power - Cpl L.B. Funyu-funyu, AFB Makhado.

The sky is the limit

When I volunteered to deploy internationally to the DRC and Burundi a few years ago I was speechless and could not believe my ears or recognise my SANDF. My essay was about the possibilities of life on the planet and I am very excited about that, and it is my military and social wish for the success of the previous and current peace missions. Although I came from a painful apartheid and disadvantaged military and social background, an illiterate and poor soldier, I strongly believe that no matter what the odds, staying positive, focused, having faith and believing in oneself, and prayer first, is all that matters. I believe that the road to success is not straight; there is a curve called failure and disadvantages and a loop called confusion and ignorance, and speed humps called Brothers and Sisters!

I never imagined that a poor and marginalised hero from an apartheid and disadvantaged background would at the end of the day make it. So it is not surprising that I never stop myself from taking chances and accepting challenges that come my way. But I also want to thank my family, friends and relatives, church and military for the support to unearth the hidden military talent in me revealed in my deployment periods. If I did not believe and trust in them I would not have made it at all; and I still cannot believe that I am part of this military historic adventure which comes once in a lifetime.

My military and social success means living my dreams, and money is just a bonus for me as a dedicated soldier! Finally, I love my God, my SANDF and our country so much that I can die for them, and I shall do anything that needs to be done to the best of my ability! - Sgt (Pastor) T.D. Matiti, Medical Task Group in Burundi.
Serious goal-setters are like missiles with targets because they have a specific destination, viz to reach their potential. Now the question is: How does a goal have the power to draw a person in its direction? You become what you think about. Whenever you make a serious commitment to reach a goal, it takes centre stage in your mind. A burning desire to be and to do is the starting point from which our dreams must take off. Desiring success with a state of mind that becomes an obsession, then planning definite ways and means of achieving one’s goals will bring them into being. Goal setting and planning the outcome is a necessary ingredient for success. It is important to map out a strategy so you know precisely where you want to go and realise that there are mechanisms that can help you get there. Once a person is motivated to reach a goal, he will naturally go in that direction, and when challenges arise he will find ways to overcome them. Even action has a logical reaction. It is a natural law. By choosing an action you concurrently choose the outcome and get what you intend. Serious goal setters know that there is immense power in setting and writing down goals. Writing helps to clarify and crystallise your ideas. Use positive wording when you set your goal. Focus on the goal you desire. Appreciate what each goal means to you, and why you want to reach it. When you have a powerful reason for achieving a goal, you will be motivated to persist until you have achieved it. Success is not an accident; we can all unleash the magical power within us. We all love big ideas. If an organisation lacks enthusiasm, if the people are bored, it is time for a big idea. The moment you set a new goal you create a gap between where you are and where you really want to be. The urge to close the gap generates tension, energy, enthusiasm, purpose and drive. Know that a man is influenced by his deeds, and his heart and all his thoughts continually pursue the deeds in which he is engaged. Dreams can often become challenging, but challenges are what we live for - Mr P.D. Modimoeng, 2 SAI Bn, Zeerust.
Row and grow

The certificate ceremony for the members of the 9th Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) was held at the SA Army College in Pretoria on 10 June 2004. Officiating on this occasion on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, was the Chief of Joint Training, Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga.

The ENSP has become a key instrument in the formulation of our policies and strategies to address national security and is undoubtedly the premier programme in the DOD, with special focus on national and regional security.

It is also the only programme concentrating on national security in South Africa.

The programmes are designed to empower members with a better understanding of national security in domestic, regional and even international arenas.

In his address Maj Gen Ntshinga alluded to the fact that the members had been on the programme at a most interesting time in the history of the modern world.

"While tonight I have the joy and privilege of celebrating with you the conclusion of a successful programme, I have the responsibility to point out the implications of the completion of your programme to your expected role in the field of national security. National security is no longer viewed as a predominantly military and police problem, but as an all-encompassing condition. It incorporates political, economic, social and environmental matters; central to which is the protection of the fundamental rights of all our citizens.

At the national level, this includes the consolidation of democracy, the achievement of social justice, the attainment of economic development and the guaranteeing of a safe environment," Maj Gen Ntshinga continued. "It is my belief that the 9th ENSP has sufficiently equipped you to be able to participate in the planning and execution of policy and strategy at a high level," he concluded.

(Article by PO Dennis Ndaba)

United States honoured our General

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Brig Gen R.T. Marutle was presented with a medal by the visiting Commander of the US Air Force, Gen R.H. Foglesong, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 11 August 2004. Brig Gen Marutle spent three years in a diplomatic post in Washington where he was accredited to the USA and Canada by the SANDF to liaise with the United Nations. Gen Foglesong said it was a special occasion for him to be in South Africa and to present the medal to Brig Gen Marutle. "It was a great honour for me to serve my country and this has been a best partnership between South Africa and USA," said Brig Gen Marutle, currently the Director Army Strategic Direction.
Adding to celebrating ten years of our democracy

The Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, officially opened the 10th Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) held at the SA National Defence College in Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 12 July 2004. This was the tenth ENSP to be presented and as such was a fitting tribute to add to the celebrations of ten years of freedom and democracy in South Africa.

Lt Gen Matanzima emphasised that it was vital for other government departments and private organisations to take note of the importance accorded the ENSP by the SANDF, to realise their obligation to become involved and support these programmes by ensuring that members from their departments and organisations attend as programme members.

Prior to 2000 the SA Defence College presented the Joint Staff Course. The Joint Staff Course was aimed primarily at educating senior SANDF officers at the military strategic level. Changes within our country after 1994 necessitated the need to prepare our officers at the national strategic level and to expose them to other government departments, foreign defence perspectives and the civilian sector; hence the introduction of the ENSP.

“This programme presents an opportunity of a lifetime. During the next nineteen weeks you will have the opportunity to develop yourselves at the highest level the SANDF has to offer. At the same time you can prepare yourselves for making a greater contribution and playing a more important role in the successful handling of national security matters,” Lt Gen Matanzima said.

(Article by PO Dennis Ndaba)

Bursaries awarded to two learners

Two girls from Voortrekker High School in Pretoria were each handed a cheque of R500,00 by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 27 September 2004. Sisipho Bolowana (16), a Grade 11 learner, and Sive Matowani (19), a Grade 12 learner, were this year’s lucky learners to benefit from the Defence Bursaries Trust Fund. “About five years ago we decided to donate R1 000,00 annually for bursaries to the members of the DOD and their families. Children who are still at high school receive R500,00, while those who are in a tertiary institution receive R1 000,00,” said Mr Johan Fourie, Secretary of the Trust Fund.

(Article by Lebohang Letaoana)
President Mbeki visits our chopper squadron

By Lt Col Frans Schoombee, SO1 Internal Comm, SAAF

Photo: Courtesy Hoedspruit AFB

19 Squadron, the chopper squadron at Hoedspruit AFB, is the ultimate gateway to any place in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo regions. If one is convinced that a 4x4 will never be able to get there, you should take note that 19 Squadron will go there. There is just no place too difficult for these men, women and machines. It is this ability of one of the most valuable and professional chopper squadrons in the world, that draws the interest and attention of many people, even our most important Government and defence figures.

Hoedspruit AFB was very fortunate in 2004 to have had the opportunity to meet our President, Mr Thabo Mbeki, and all his personal staff in person - “What a privilege”. It is not often that someone like the President of South Africa lands on your doorstep, where you can have a closer look at the man who is ruling our country. Although we could gather that his programme was very busy he still made the time to greet the entire welcoming party and even stood for a photo with the Officer Commanding of Hoedspruit AFB, Brig Gen Pierre du Plessis, and the flying crew of 19 Squadron. On his first visit on 18 May 2004 President Thabo Mbeki landed at Hoedspruit AFB on his way to Giyani Sikunyani Sports Ground, where he launched the Expanded Public Works Programme. On 4 June the privilege was repeated when the President visited again. This time 19 Squadron flew him to Mozambique where he landed at Vilanculos to attend the inauguration of the new Sasol gas plant venture. During the visit of the Chief of the SANDF, the Squadron was also involved with a small capability demonstration that was professionally conducted.

Hoedspruit AFB and 19 Squadron were very privileged to have had the opportunity to contribute to the successful realisation of the objectives and initiatives of Government.
Our Deputy Minister visits Navy Office

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mululeki George, visited Navy Office in Pretoria on 3 August 2004 as part of his orientation in the defence environment.

Accompanied by the Ministerial Legal Advisor, Ms Lizzie Kubushi, and his Personal Assistant, Ms Nomsa Hani, the Deputy Minister and his team were received by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief.

The visit to Navy Office was yet another of the many visits Mr George makes to all the Services and Divisions.

At Navy Office he wanted to be briefed by higher management on issues pertaining to transformation, representivity and the progress of recruitment.

He was also briefed on the challenges that the Service was up against.

Mr Mululeki George, the Deputy Minister of Defence, is welcomed at Navy Office.

Part of his job and mandate as Deputy Minister of Defence is to speed up the process of transformation in the SANDF.

Two harbour patrol boats donated to Mozambique

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, handed over two harbour patrol boats (HPBs) to a Mozambican delegation in Simon’s Town on 3 September 2004.

Witnessing this symbolic handing over ceremony was the Consul of the Republic of Mozambique, Mrs B. Mate, the French Ambassador, Mr Jean Felix Peganon, the Consul of the Republic of France, Mr B. Clerc, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, the Chief of the French Naval Forces in the Indian Ocean, Adm Xavier Rolin, and a representative of the Republic of Mozambique, Capt Antonio Manuel.

South Africa, as a major role-player within the SADC region, has identified the need to boost Mozambique with a maritime capability so that it can effectively patrol its waters and in so doing curb the ongoing poaching of marine resources, which not only affects South Africa, but the whole Southern African region.

Two HPBs from the SA Navy were identified as surplus requirement and could thus be donated to the Mozambican Navy. The French Government generously refurbished the two boats with new navigational equipment and propulsion systems. The French ship, FNS LA MARNE, assisted with the transportation of the two HPBs to Mozambique on 7 September.

When he signed a formal agreement at the Admiralty House in Simon’s Town Gen Nyanda said: “The importance of the maritime area off Mozambique is well known to both France and South Africa, therefore this is an excellent opportunity for the two major maritime powers in the area to assist Mozambique in establishing its fledgling Navy. The two boats are excellent for patrolling harbour approaches, training and humanitarian assistance to the people of Mozambique. The SA Navy also provided training to the Mozambican crews who are going to man the boats. In 2002 South Africa donated two HPBs to Namibia as part of its regional assistance to the SADC countries”.

Southern regional countries are economically dependent upon world commerce and it is also necessary for them to have free use of the gateway between the South Atlantic and South Indian Oceans. South Africa and Mozambique are members of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee with its subcommittee, the Standing Maritime Committee on Defence. (Issued by the Ministerial Directorate of Communications, Cape Town)
The DOD members at the Poyntons Building in Pretoria were greeted on 5 August 2004 with big smiles at the main entrance. These were not smiles to wish members a good day as expected, it was the HIV/AIDS' peer group of the Poyntons Building who went the extra mile to welcome members from as early as 06:30. Red candles lined the foyer, complemented by soft music, as members were greeted and reminded about the HIV/AIDS programme that was to take place later that day.

At 09:00 the hall started to fill up for the event. People kept on entering the already crowded hall. Some had to stand for the entire five hours, while others took turns to sit. The group kept Maj Moledi from Gauteng Command busy with all their concerned questions about the pandemic. Lt Dlamini, the dietitian from Wonderboom Military Base, had a most interesting talk on “eating the correct food” for people living with HIV and in general.

The blood transfusion team from Pretoria presented their topic on the importance of donating blood, as blood banks are running dry. Arrangements will be made for members working in the Poyntons Building to donate blood at a later stage, as no fewer than fifty people must be available for the blood transfusion team to put their equipment to work.

Pte Andries Nhlengethwa from DOD 101 ASU, who is living with the virus and has been living with it for twelve years, gave an active motivational talk. All the women wanted to be hugged or picked up when he decided to display his strength and muscles by picking up a lady.

The desire to know more about the epidemic and to get involved and help make a difference was evident that morning.

Other activities for the year included a working visit to the DOD hospice and Kalafong hospice and World AIDS Day on 1 December. The HIV/AIDS peer group of the Poyntons Building hopes to make a difference in fighting the pandemic in the DOD and the community by getting involved in awareness programmes for its members. (Article by Maj F. Ricketts, JTRG CECE)

Red candles lined the foyer

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Peacekeeping efforts of our Air Force inBurundi

By Sgt J. van Schalkwyk, Dir Corp Staff Service, SAAF

The SA Air Force has been actively involved in Burundi since 2001. It started out as a VIP Protection service which eventually evolved into a joint United Nations (UN) peace support mission. To prove its willingness to support the UN in its mission the SA Air Force made two Oryx helicopters available, which were serviced and prepared for active involvement in Burundi.

These two helicopters were re-sprayed white to conform with specified UN markings. The South African National Flag was also spray-painted on the two helicopters.

Four crews were made available by the SA Air Force. Each crew consisted of three members. These members worked tirelessly and made the SA Air Force proud when they produced well-serviced and transformed Oryx helicopters. The crew members involved were: Capt H. Holtzhauzen, Capt W. Zaayman, Capt T.M. Livingston, Lt S.S. King, Lt W.G. du Toit, Lt C. Frylinck, WO2 Engelbrecht, F Sgt J.A. Badenhorst, F Sgt S. Beukes, Sgt S.J. Ntaleng, Cpl G.P. van Zyl, Cpl R.N. Combrinck and Cpl M. Jansen van Vuuren.

The SA Air Force will continue to form part of a bigger UN peacekeeping force in Burundi.
More than pyramids and sphinxes

By Lt Ronald Maseko,
Directorate Defence Corporate Communication

The Chief Defence Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, went on an official staff visit to Egypt over the period 11 to 17 September 2004. The military ties between South Africa and Egypt can be attributed to the fact that both are African countries that pride themselves on striving for efficient, well-trained and informed militaries.

The visit, which was focused on benchmarking with the Egyptian Department of Defence, sought to compare and analyse methods used by both countries to formulate a system or communication structure that will best promote good communication within the department and also empower communication functionaries in the process of achieving a favourable end product. No department can afford not to communicate and that communication has to be of a level acceptable to the sender and the user. When the two countries combine experiences and lessons learned in the communication environment, the departments stand to gain a lot from each other and this cannot but fail to ensure that the Department of Defence will deliver a tried, tested and successful communication service as is required by the Government. Service delivery is the winner when visits like this one are encouraged - thus the saying: "Two heads are better than one". Maj Gen Mofokeng said after the visit that Directorate Corporate Communication was on a par with other military forces.

Celebrating Arbor Week in Bloemspruit

By Lt Nico van der Walt,
Environmental Services Officer
Bloemspruit AFB

Every year Bloemspruit AFB celebrates Arbor Week in an effort to promote environmental awareness among its members. This year’s celebration was a special occasion with the opening of the Garden of Democracy to celebrate ten years of freedom on 3 September 2004.

An area was selected on the base where the Officer Commanding, Col R.C. Jonsson, along with the Officers Commanding of 16 Squadron, 87 Helicopter Flying School, 6 ASU and 506 Squadron unveiled a monument and planted ten trees in a circle to commemorate the ten years of democracy. Tree adoption certificates were handed out to these officers for custodianship.

The trees were obtained from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Hiccupnut and White Seringa do not grow in Bloemfontein, hence only trees indigenous to the Free State, namely the Wild Olive, White Karee, Common Karee and the River Bush Willow were planted.

Mr J. Joubert, Acting Director Human Resources Department of Education, was invited to AFB Bloemspruit Pre-Primary School, Bloempieland, to plant a tree to create environmental awareness among the children. The children were actively involved in planting four trees in commemoration of Arbor Day and tree adoption certificates were handed out to the children.
AFRICA AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE 2004

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The internationally acclaimed Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition was held at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria from 21 to 25 September 2004. The central focus of the AAD was to support the objectives of NEPAD and the African Union (AU).

The first three days of the show were aimed at trade visitors and the last two days were open to the public to enjoy a world-class flying display. The show had both indoor and outdoor exhibitions of civilian and military aerospace and defence equipment, services, technologies and major systems.

The AAD is a partnership between the Department of Defence (SA Air Force), the Commercial Association of South Africa (CAASA), Armscor and the Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD).

Maj Gen “Lappies” Labuschagne, the Chairperson of the AAD Exhibition Executive Committee, said the vision of the SA Air Force for this and future AAD exhibitions is to create an exhibition that will be a national asset, and the intention is to achieve this by showcasing our industrial and technological capabilities, by offering superior products and services on a highly competitive basis, encouraging trade to mutual advantage, and by using the exhibition to cement our relationship with many friendly countries at the political, commercial and defence levels.

Speaking at the Opening of the AAD Trade Show, which was attended by delegates from different countries comprising ministers, chiefs of defence forces, secretaries of defence and other military dignitaries, Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa from the Department of Trade and Industry said through their strategy of developing industry, growing our economy and attracting investment into the country the department (DTI) has recognised the importance of the Aerospace industry.

“This industry falls squarely into our approach to economic development and we have seen that it has potential for export growth, value addition and, through international subcontracting arrangements, stimulates industrial innovation, competitiveness and growth further down the supply chain,” said Minister Mpahlwa.

A big draw-card, especially for the public was the daily commercial and military air show. There were also the live demonstrations of the equipment and systems. Based on the success of the AAD 2002 Youth Programme, it was decided to expand the youth programme participation during 2004 by including various organisations promoting aerospace and defence awareness among the previously disadvantaged youth.
Programmes such as the *Siyandiza* Programme of the SA Air Force and the National Youth Development Trust were also presented at the event through interactive activities, competitions and exhibitions. The primary focus of the programme was to expose the youth to the career and study opportunities in the defence and aviation industries.

In his speech the Minister of Transport, Mr Jeff Radebe, said South Africa will host a meeting of African Aviation and Transport Ministers early next year to assess the aviation situation in Africa, to identify the shortcomings in the implementation of old decisions, and to map the way forward for increased investment in the aviation sector, the development of sustainable African expertise in the sector and the industry itself, and to encourage partnerships and co-operation between African countries at government and industrial levels. Our aim is to speed up the implementation of the Yamassoukro Declaration, which is meant to open Africa’s skies.

**Deals and purchases**

- In August 2003 the SANDF concluded a deal with Agusta Westland to purchase four Super Lynx 300 maritime helicopters to operate from the new A200 corvettes of the SA Navy. The super Lynx will enter production at Agusta Westland’s Yeovil plant in the UK next year, with first deliveries to South Africa scheduled for 2006.

- The SAPS, operator of the biggest Eurocopter Fleet in Southern Africa, signed a contract for an additional AS350 B3 helicopter with EADS Company.

- Denel Aerospace Systems will start flight trials on the new UMBANI (lighting) modular guide bomb kit in 2005. The designers concentrated on simplicity of design and operation to reduce cost in each stage of the life cycle of the kit. It is suited for use on almost any aircraft, from very old ones, right up to the most modern fighters. The programme is currently in the technology demonstration phase for the SA Air Force in view of the possible integration of a bomb kit on the Gripen fighter aircraft currently being produced for it.

The AAD has established itself as Africa’s indisputable and top aerospace and defence exposition, and indeed is one of the biggest and best in the Southern Hemisphere.
There was a need for fighting ships with high endurance mobility that could accommodate naval personnel for sustained surface operations and ships for effective monitoring and protection of the RSA’s marine resources and environment in our huge Exclusive Economic Zone. This gave rise to PROJECT SITRON, which aimed to restore the frigate capabilities of the SA Navy that we lost in the 1980s, to provide us with capable ships for our waters and for the operational task of the Navy today and in the future.

The primary responsibility of the ships is to protect and defend the sovereignty of South Africa, and the secondary role will certainly include peacetime operations as our nation does not have a coastguard. Instead the Navy carries the responsibilities of patrolling the coastline, peacetime surveillance and humanitarian aid. The last of the four MEKO A SAN-Class Corvettes, SAS MENDI, was built in Kiel in Germany.

According to R Adm (JG) Jonathan Kamerman, Director PROJECT SITRON, they are elated about their achievement, which has meant a lot of hard work, as the teams in Germany and South Africa have successfully delivered four ships since June 2000. “I am vindicated as we are blessed in the SA Navy to have a very competent, dedicated and hard working team of superb people both in Germany and South Africa. We have two motions, one of elation as we have achieved our aim, and one of exhaustion, including Armscor personnel, who were part of the team. We have run the race and the first part has been completed and, within a year, the first corvette will be fully operational,” R Adm Kamerman said.

The ship was named after the tragedy of the SS MENDI. On 16 January 1917 a troopship, the SS MENDI, sailed from Cape Town to Le Havre, carrying the last contingent of the Native Labour Corps for duty in France. In the late afternoon of 20 February the SS MENDI steamed into the English Channel, carrying a total of 802 black privates, five white officers and seventeen white NCOs.

During that night the weather worsened. The SS MENDI and her destroyer escort, HMS BRISK, reduced speed and sounded their sirens through the fog. A few minutes before 05:00 on 21 February 1917 another
ship, the SS DARO, travelling at full speed in the opposite direction and emitting no warning signal, rammed the SS MENDI, which sank within twenty minutes.

Eighty-seven years later, in honour of the brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the tragedy, SAS MENDI is gearing up for her maiden voyage home. After passing tough sea trials the ship's company, under the command of Capt (SAN) Kevin Packer, were faced with the challenge of sailing the ship safely to beautiful, sunny South Africa. Cdr Jaco Theunissen, Base Public Relations Officer at Naval Base Simon's Town, PO Eddie Kgomo from Defence Television, and myself, were very fortunate to be assigned the task of capturing the precious moments of SAS MENDI en route home.

We arrived in Germany on 16 August 2004. The first four days were spent learning the ship's routine, orientation and in preparing her for the journey. After this, there was still enough time to explore Kiel. On 18 August 2004 Capt (SAN) Packer hosted a function on board the ship to thank all the stakeholders for their support during their stay in Kiel. Since August South Africans had commemorated Women's Month and the arrival of R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, Director Fleet Human Resources. These were significant events of support to the ship's company. The day that all the ship's company were waiting for, 20 August 2004, duly arrived and they were united in the quest to accomplish their final mission: to sail the SAS MENDI home safely. According to the Executive Officer (second in command) of the ship, Cdr Jimmy Schutte, the ship’s company is competent and can manage the new vessel as all had received an intensive training in Germany since 8 May 2004.

Tears were shed as the community of Kiel saw the last corvette leaving. They had by now become accustomed to her and had also made friends with her crew. After that, we were on course for the Kiel Canal, which is an artificial waterway in north-western Germany, linking the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The canal extends in a northeasterly direction across the state of Schleswig-Holstein from Brunsbüttelkoog, near the mouth of the Elbe River, to Kiel on the Baltic. The canal is very level, and has locks only at its ends to accommodate the tides of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. Constructed between 1887 and 1895 and subsequently enlarged, the canal is 98 km long, 103 m wide and 11 m deep.

On leaving Germany through the Kiel Canal, the ship changed course and sailed in a southerly direction through the North Sea. The weather was moderate, which resulted in a large number of the crew turning a bit green around the edges, but they managed to "find" their sea legs after a day or two. The ship's company took part in damage control exercises to keep them sharp.

France

We arrived in Brest, France, on 24 August 2004. Brest is a small fishing and naval port in the extreme western part of France, with a very old history, which is evident from the old castle, forts and buildings that make up the surrounds of the port. We immediately uplifted equipment.

The ship's company of SAS MENDI heeded the call and seized the opportunity when they were challenged to restore the pride of their beloved country against the French Navy, and strengthen ties in an international soccer match. This match proved that language as a barrier could be overridden by sport in uniting people. The SAS MENDI team had a trump card in Able Seaman Seipati Tshabalala, who was a thorn in the side of the French team. She juggled the ball around like a true maestro, to the delight of the spectators, but unfortunately for the French team, it was at sixes and sevens.

It did not come as a surprise that the half-time score was 2-0 in favour of the visitors. The French team fought back in the second half by taking the game to the visitors. This (Continued on page 20)
(Continued from page 19) paid off as they pulled one back. Their happiness was short-lived as S Lt Siphiwe Ngidi made it 3-1. The French team finally succumbed to a 7-4 defeat.

Spain

We left Brest on 27 August and arrived at Naval Base Rota, Spain, on 30 August 2004. Naval Base Rota is a Spanish joint utilisation base, which is administered under bilateral agreement between the Kingdom of Spain and the United States of America. It is located in Cadiz Bay between the town of Rota and EL Puerto de Santa Maria. It occupies an area of 2 300 hectares, with a perimeter of 26 km and a coastline 6 km long.

The ship took on fuel and supplies to ensure that the ship and her crew were looked after during the final leg of the return voyage. 2 September was the last day that the ship was in a European port, before she left Spain for South Africa. The trip back home took approximately fifteen days. The ship sailed round the western bulge of Africa, across the Atlantic, and straight into Table Bay, past Cape Town and towards False Bay.

To keep the morale of the ship’s company high, various competitions were held aboard. There was an inter-mess quiz, cooking and beard growing competitions. His Gracious Majesty, King Neptune, the ruler of the seven seas, six oceans and all underwater realms, also visited the ship’s company. He punished all members who had not paid homage to his Majesty, in a ceremony named ‘crossing the line’.

Experiences of the crew

Chaplain (Cpln) Mncedisi Diniso mentioned that he was impressed with the attendance at church services on board as it was voluntary, but people fitted it into their busy schedules. He added that it was also encouraging to have a person of the calibre of R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala in their midst to share the Word of God with them. He urged the ship’s company to continue with their hard work as he was privileged to witness it and that they were to know that he was proud of them and would continue praying for them.

The coxswain of SAS MENDI, WO1 Ronny Chetty, was tasked with maintaining discipline and the welfare of both the Senior Rates and Junior Rates. He said that there were no serious problems as the ship’s company was new and worked together as “Team MENDI”. He mentioned that experience had taught him to be patient, especially on long deployments. The coxswain felt that Germany, France and Spain were the same, but did not have a lot of time to explore because of workloads. He emphasised that the staffing of the crew of SAS MENDI went smoothly, and took representivity in terms of race and gender into consideration.

Leading Seaman Linky Boshielo is a steward, and since it was her first time on board the ship she took the challenge head-on. She said she would like to encourage other young women to come and work at sea as it was one of the greatest experiences. Life aboard the ship has its ups and down, and they have to work twice as hard as their male counterparts.

Home sweet home

The proud crew accomplished their mission on 17 September 2004. To commemorate this event the SA Navy held a Fleet Review in False Bay during which all four corvettes were seen at sea simultaneously for the first time. The officiating officer at the Fleet Review was the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda.

Personally, the voyage was an eye-opener. To experience what the men and women went through was both enriching and educational. A big thank-you to the whole ship’s company for integrating me into the real Navy, you are the best. It was not easy, but it was worth it.
By Maj Gen Edward Fursdon (Ret), UK

Her excellency Dr Lindiwe Mabuza, South Africa’s High Commissioner in London, made the very welcome but unprecedented decision to spend three days at Farnborough International 2004 in company with the official visiting delegation from South Africa. In view of the prime importance to South Africa of its three current major aircraft projects - the Hawk, the Gripen and the Super Lynx 300 - her keen personal interest in being directly involved, and in discussing and being updated on these three very different programmes by their manufacturers, was both timely and appropriate. Her presence in bright colourful national dress drew much admiration from the huge crowds. It is understood that the delegation itself was very impressed and satisfied with its visit - and rated it a complete success.

This year’s South African delegation was led by Mr Sipho Thomo, Chief Executive Officer of Armscor. With him were Maj Gen Carlo Gagiano, the SA Air Force’s Director Air Policy and Plans, Mr Masizakhe Zimela, Director Non-Defence Portfolio, Industrial Participation Secretariat, South African Department of Trade and Industries, Brig Gen Linda Selepe, Director Operational Support and Intelligence, SA Air Force, and Capt Gys van der Walt, a fighter Pilot from the SA Air Force’s No 2 Squadron. It was accompanied throughout by Col J. du Plessis, the South African High Commission’s Air Adviser, and by DESOS’s representative in the British High Commission in Pretoria, Mr Nigel Fisher and Mr Paul Williams.

Farnborough International 2004 - whose weekend activities were opened and closed by the RAF’s Red Arrows - was visited by 243 000 visitors of whom 133 000 came on the (Continued on page 22)
(Continued from page 21)
Trade Days and 110 000 on the weekend Public Days. It hosted 42 visiting official military delegations; and its number of exhibitors rose to 1 360. 20 billion dollars worth of business was done on its Trade Days; and deals worth 100 million dollars were announced from its new Business Aircraft Park.

But several trends were noticeable as compared to previous Farnborouhgs. There were fewer aircraft on show in the aprons’ Static Display. The Civil Air Traffic rules which now apply to Farnborough Aerodrome have somewhat curtailed the scope and freedom of action of many of the traditional flying displays. Company pavilions and stands revealed a striking increase in offerings of the hi-tech developments in installed aircraft battlefield management systems - specialising particularly in surveillance, intelligence gathering, targeting and associated functions. There was also great interest in opportunities for major developments in in-flight refuelling - even for civil aircraft.

As one would have expected, following the increasing global military interest in the use of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Farnborough well reflected the fast growing commercial interest of major aircraft manufacturing companies in developing them. It is well-known that many US Predator UAVs are currently flying operational missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. But, looking ahead, on show at Farnborough were mock-ups of Boeing’s X-45C and Northrop Grumman’s X-47B Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles now under development for the US Pentagon. At around 40 ft long and 33 ft wide, the X-45C is designed to take 4 500 lb of internal payload; to fly at 36 500 ft and be powered by a GE F404-102D turbofan. Boeing told me that, subject to passing all its tests, the X-45C could be flying in two years time and be operational in 2010. The UK took the opportunity of Farnborough to announce Thales as the Preferred Bidder for its new Watchkeeper Programme based on using Tactical Unmanned Air Vehicles (TUAVs) for Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) purposes. Some companies were also interested in developments in space.

Farnborough 2004 gave good publicity to the world’s latest civil and military aircraft and in particular provided a welcome opportunity to see those related to South Africa’s current three major aircraft projects for its Air Force. Let us start with the Hawk Lead in Fighter Trainer (LIFT) displayed on the BAE Systems’ stands and of which 24 have been ordered for the SA Air Force to replace its current elderly Impala Fighter Trainers. To meet the SA Air Force’s requirement, the Hawk will be fitted with an updated Adour 951 engine giving some 6 500 lb of thrust and will have local avionics and navigation/weapon suites. The first Hawk is already in South Africa for extensive flight testing of its instrumentation, avionics, weapon systems and so forth. The remaining 23 aircraft are dated ahead for them to be linked to the planned start in 2006 of the first Operational Training Course for Hawk pilots at Makhado Air Force Base.

Under current plans for Makhado, the Basic Jet Conversion Course designed to take ten students - will cover general flying, navigation, instrument flying, night and formation flying. Its Operational Training phase will include ranging and tracking, advanced air combat manoeuvres, air-to-air flying, air-to-ground firing and reconnaissance, plus flying collateral missions. There will also be a Pilot Attack Instructors Course and a Flight Leaders Course - each for eight students a year.

Turning now to the SAAB Gripen for South Africa, the SA Air Force is due to receive nineteen type C single-seat and nine Type D dual-seat versions of this aircraft. The first Gripen is due to be handed over in August 2006, with full-rate deliveries starting the following year. In a separate venture, the SAAB Company is currently conducting some initial work on a helmet-mounted display for the SA Air Force’s Gripen. Currently the SA Air Force is planning to station all its Hawks and Gripens at Makhado Air Force Base - where, in the future, all SA Air Force combat pilot training will take place. On current planning, Makhado Air Force Base will then become the Centre of Excellence for all SA Air Force’s fighter aircraft. The Gripen’s Farnborough flying display sequence of top, barrel and horizontal rolls, inverted flying, steep diving turns, vertical climbs and loops was a tremendously impressive display of sheer awesome power and agility. Little wonder that the No 2 Squadron pilot, Capt Gys van der Walt, told me he could not wait to fly it!

The SA Air Force is planning for a computer-based training system for all
Gripen air and ground crew which will include an operational flight trainer simulator, and integrated management systems for mission are also being paid to the Gripen’s human/machine interface being integrated for a South African weapons fit.

South Africa’s third major aircraft project is with the Augusta-Westland Super Lynx 300 helicopter - of which four Naval Versions are on order for the SA Navy. Under plans, delivery of the Lynx will be completed by mid-2007 and total corvette-helicopter integration is due to be completed by mid-2008. Members of the South African Farnborough 2004 delegation took the opportunity while in the UK to go down and visit Westlands at Yeovil in Dorset to discuss the project. Subsequent reports indicated that the project is currently going very well and is on time. In particular, Westlands much welcomed the candid and forward-looking nature of their discussions with the South African delegation.

This groundbreaking joint venture between the SA Navy and the SA Air Force is a very interesting and sensible foray into future integration from which much will be learnt not only by South Africa. The Super Lynx 300 has a range of 500 nm and a speed of 132 knots. Under current plans, the SA Air Force-crewed helicopters will operate on SA Navy ships under the SA Navy’s operating procedures; and be a fully integrated part of their corvette force. The Lynx’s primary role will be to act as an over the horizon extension of the on board ship’s sensors, and of its weapon and anti-submarine capability. Overall, it will operate as “the eyes and ears of its mother corvette”.

Designed to operate in high sea states and in extreme conditions, the Super Lynx 300 can also support the corvette in many of its non-combat roles, such as investigation, inspection and enforcement, search and rescue, casualty, communications relay, airborne situation assessment, amphibious transport, self-deployment and training. It can also undertake limited vertical replenishment and deck offloading. The Royal Navy, which has great experience in operating its helicopters off ships at sea, has offered to help the SA Navy in any way it can to ensure the success of the project.

The next Farnborough will be like a subject of conjecture by many of this year’s commercial attendees. Some companies said that there are now too many large air shows in different parts of the world and that some of the dates were far too close together. Many also said that the sheer cost outlay of mounting a proper and positive attendance at them had become prohibitively expensive. But you just had to “show” or else, in today’s highly competitive age, you were quickly sidelined.

An interesting problem for thought is just how could you stage a variable air display if the future meant more UAVs than piloted aircraft to demonstrate; certainly mixing them up could lead towards disaster. We look forward to seeing just what happens two years from now!
Salute the courageous spirit of women

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Almost half a decade ago 20,000 women marched to the Union Buildings and planted the seeds of democracy. It is therefore fitting that after 10 years of freedom South African women returned to that very place to complete the circle. 48 years ago women marched against injustice, on 31 August 2004 a new generation of women marched to the same spot in celebration of a new South Africa.

Dozens and dozens of women filtered onto the grounds of the Union Buildings after marching from the Pretoria Art Museum in Arcadia. For many women this was the second time that they marched: they had marched in 1956 and, although their knees were no longer as strong, this was to them an anniversary not to be missed.

It was truly a spectacular sight, there were so many old women, most of whom could barely make it up the steep landscape of the Union Buildings, let alone the endless series of stairs that lead to the Amphitheatre where the main function was held.

It was beautiful to see how so many women could just converge on a chosen point at such short notice. The energy as the women marched was fantastic, it was really all about the spirit and the prevailing feeling of victory.

Those that were no longer physically able came as far as they could with the march, which in reality was to the bottom of the Union Buildings grounds where tents had been pitched and people could sit. From here, still in huge numbers, they danced and sang from their seats.
If one had missed the 1956 march out of fear of the unknown or for whatever reason, history was giving women a second chance to perform this great deed all over again. History does repeat itself, but the wonderful prize is in recognising how things can be done differently this time around.

The younger women marched the rest of the way and represented all South African women in the Amphitheatre where life-size portraits of a few great women were hung.

Ms Sophie Williams-de Bruyn said that retracing steps taken 48 years ago left her with mixed emotions. “We must remind ourselves never to remain complacent,” said Ms Williams-de Bruyn “A solid foundation was laid here 48 years ago: then women were outraged at the injustice, today we celebrate our freedom,” she added.

Also addressing the gathering was our Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma, and he said that today we are able to gather at the Union Buildings, not in protest, but in celebration. “We owe it to this mass of women to celebrate our democracy,” Mr Zuma said. “No amount of words can describe the contribution women have made, we salute the courageous spirit of women,” he continued.

A woman heads Parliament - Ms Baleka Kgositsile - four out of nine premiers are women and the new Cabinet is composed of 27 men and 22 women. Women have created for themselves a sure place in this democracy.

We who raise kings and presidents, mineworkers and street sweepers alike, had our day at the Union Buildings. As the High Commissioner to Malaysia, Ms Lindiwe Mabuza, put it in a poem, “Wena nsimbi ayigobeki” - women are like unbending steel.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma and Ms Sophie de Bryn release doves into the air.

Ground hostesses celebrating Women’s Day

Being a group of multicultural women at Movement Control at Waterkloof AFB their diversity originated the idea to share their cultures with one another to celebrate Women’s Day.

Although they work together everyday, the only culture that is projected is the Air Force culture.

The group decided to do this by projecting their culture through their respective traditional dresses. As seen in the accompanying photo, the ground hostesses were honoured by the presence of our Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma.

No effort was spared and the women looked stunning in their traditional dress.

The day ended on a high note with the women having a braai. They commented that women have come a long way since the days when they required a signature from their hus-

The ground hostesses were honoured by the presence of our Deputy President, Mr Jacob Zuma.

bands or male partners to obtain necessities such as apartments and telephones. (Article and photo courtesy Waterkloof AFB)
Women to fly their own flag

By Alpheus Dzivhani and Capt L. Rakhibane
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The final report on the Third African Women’s Peace Table Seminar, whose theme was “The Role and Responsibility of South African Women in the Furtherance of the AU-Nepad Peace and Security Agenda in the African Continent and Internationally” was launched at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria on 24 August 2004 by the DOD, presided over by Brig Gen Ansuyah Fakir, Director Joint Support Management in the Joint Support Division.

Dr Monica K. Juma of SaferAfrica introduced the final report co-sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate (DOD) and SaferAfrica. The seminar brought together over one hundred women representatives from the SANDF and the South African Security forces, twenty-one governmental representatives from twelve SADC member states, thirty women from South Africa’s civil society organisations, and four women ambassadors accredited to South Africa to explore the position and participation of women in defence and security related matters in the furtherance of the AU-Nepad peace and security agenda on the African continent and beyond, and to make key recommendations for the attention of decision-makers.

The report comprises ten presentations and a conference report outlining the key issues and recommendations of the seminar, which was ultimately adopted by the delegates. Each of these presentations describes opportunities for increasing the participation of women in the eight AU-Nepad peace and security agendas, specifically regarding the following:

- Engagement of women in the institutional processes of creating an African peace and security structure.
- Early warning of early action: the role of women in peace support operations.
- The role of women in the actualisation of the AU-Nepad APSA.
- Engagement in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- The role of women in the DDRR.
- Improving security sector governance.
- The conversion of military capability for civilian use.

Brig Gen Fakir said during her speech that the final report charts the
culmination of a three year process which began when the First Peace Table was convened under the visionary direction of the then Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, and Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe, Chief Director Equal Opportunities.

She said that the publication was a collection of the presentations made at the Third Peace table attended by over one hundred women from Southern Africa on 28 October 2003.

“*It is not yet Uhuru when
Lightning threatens the peace in Burundi*
When there is thunder roaring in the DRC
*It is not yet Uhuru
When there are wild fires of hatred devouring
The beautiful people and the land*" - By Col Belinda Martin (Gloria Mtungwa, Sep 2003).

This poem was quoted by Brig Gen Fakir in context, and she said that it resonated with the harsh truth of Africa. We are not free until the last weapon has been put down, not until the last landmine is cleared from our land, not until the last child soldier returns to school, and not until the girl child is safe.

Brig Gen Fakir made a clarion call to the women of Africa to stand up, speak out and take their rightful place in leading Africa to peace and security. She went on to highlight the insecurity and the tragedy in Darfur and the cruel massacre of 160 refugees, mainly women and children, in the refugee camp in Burundi, which was a stark reminder of the important role women must play in peace-making and peace building.

At the publication launch delegates discussed key challenges confronting women in Africa. Those identified were that women continued to face institutional and social discrimination in many countries in Africa, and that women were unequal partners in policy debates, leadership and decision-making bodies. To remedy this required African society in general to remove its barriers to the full participation of women in peace initiatives and to harness the full potential of women.

The women renewed the call to engage the collective wisdom of the AU to expand and develop the concept of developmental peacekeeping to a level where it can be institutionalised and resourced within the AU. This would require the formulation of a developmental peacekeeping doctrine, which should guide the retraining of African forces towards contributing to the reconstruction of the continent.

The vision of this emerging unique continental concept of African peacekeeping is to see military personnel, as well as multi-disciplinary teams of developmental economists, civil engineers, public and developmental managers and policy developers deployed at the onset of peacekeeping operations.

Brig Gen Fakir concluded by saying that the report contributed a framework towards the engagement of women in the AU Peace and Security Agenda for the continent and which must be taken forward through clear implementation plans.

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**Celebrations in the Eastern Cape**

**By Lt Col D.E. Fouché**

A function in celebration of Women’s Day was held in the Nelson Mandela Metropole Municipality City Hall on 10 August 2004. The SANDF Reserve Force Regional Office Eastern Cape, in collaboration with all the other Services, hosted the function.

This was an historical occasion as it was the first time that all Services took hands with their civilian counterparts.

VIP guests who attended the function, included the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Ms N. Balindlela, and the Speaker of the Nelson Mandela Metropole Municipality, Ms N. Mohapi.

Female members of local Government, prominent businesswomen of the Metropole, women from Coega Development Corporation (Pty) Ltd, the National Ports Authority Nqura, tertiary and other training institutions, media and senior female officers of the SANDF in the Port Elizabeth area attended the celebrations. Guests were treated to a formal military dinner during which the role of women in the SANDF was elucidated. The role of employers in support of the Reserve Force was also clarified.

Mr Jacques Arendt of Bay FM had the privilege of entertaining the women during the evening and a special gift, portraying the SANDF, was presented to the Premier and the Speaker.
Reaching beyond the ordinary

By Nakedi Phasha
Photo: F Sgt Amelda Strydom

South Africa is following the global trend where one in every four women is in an abusive relationship, with one woman being murdered by her partner every six days. "Domestic violence is tolerated by society. Men deny it and women tolerate it," to quote Ms Irene Khan, the first female Secretary-General of Amnesty International.

August is the month during which women celebrate their freedom and achievements; it is a month for breaking the silence about the curse of violence against women, and it is about breaking taboos and embracing our femininity. On 31 August 2004 the PSAP ETD held its first women's celebrations at the Navy Mess in Pretoria. The day was well planned with a lot of entertainment and activities, such as makeovers, belly dance demonstrations and a table décor competition, to mention but a few of the items. All the activities were centred on the theme of the day, which was "Becoming a better you". Even Mr Vernon Swarts, Head of PSAP ETD, the only man who had the privilege of being at the celebrations, had his own fair share of belly dance lessons. The first prize in the table décor competition went to the SA National Defence War College, with their table representing Africa, its diversity and the rainbow nation.

In her speech Brig Gen Ansuyah Fakir, Director Joint Support Management in the Joint Support Division, saluted women role models. The likes of Miriam Makeba, Graca Machel, Monique Strydom and Alison, the Noordhoek Ripper case, were inspirations to women to live by their example. She also encouraged women to grasp the opportunities that are around them in the young democracy. "Succeeding is more an attitude, a state of mind, a way of looking at life. Oh yes, talent, hard work and discipline do play a role. Fear of failure makes us take an easy route, to do nothing. But then again, are we living our lives or merely seeing out the minutes, hours and days?" she asked.

"The glass ceiling is there. Do not stand in front of it, break through, it is your right and challenge. Stand up and seize the day! But remember, with rights come responsibilities," Brig Gen Fakir concluded.

Yellow roses are a symbol of friendship. To show his appreciation and respect for women Mr Swarts presented yellow roses to Brig Gen Fakir and Madie Haynes, the Master of Ceremonies for the day. Hopefully some of the men in the SANDF took note…

Legacy of Chief Albert Luthuli

By Maj F. Ricketts, JTRG CECE

Members of Joint Training Civic Education Centre of Excellence (JTRG CECE) and the PSAP ETD attended lectures at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg from 3 to 6 August 2004.

The group was delegated to implement programmes on civic education and governance. The main topic of the week was the Legacy of Chief Albert Luthuli.

This Second Annual Matthew Goniwe Memorial Lecture consisted of seven sessions that focussed on rural development, education, globalisation, urban regeneration/gentrification, health, housing, transport and infrastructure.

Some of the governance topics that were discussed during these sessions included:
- "The relationship between the Institution of Traditional Leadership and Rural District Councils" delivered by Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the President of the IFP.
- "Rural development and dualism in governance" delivered by Mr Elias M. Mahoma, Director OCEO South African Local Government Association (SALGA).
- "Education, leadership and governance in South Africa in relation to the globalisation phenomenon" delivered by Ms Zandile Kunene, Executive Director Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance.
- "Cities in globalisation" delivered by Mr Sello Moloto, the Premier of Limpopo.
- "Social changes in East German cities" delivered by Ms Dagmar Pohle, Regional Officer for Social and Economic Activities in Berlin’s Marzahn-Hillersdorf District.
Celebrating women in ten years of democracy

By Capt Mohau Modise, Directorate Corporate Communication

While the celebratory mood of Women’s Day was starting to settle down 26 and 27 August a group of women kept the candle burning for Women’s Month by embarking on a visit to different military installations in Phalaborwa.

The visit consisted of women from different Government departments, including Correctional Services, the Metropolitan Council, Itoseng Women’s League, and NW Mogwase Women’s Organisation, to name but a few. The aim of the visit was to commemorate Women’s Month, ten years of democracy and also to sensitise other women outside the DOD to the achievements and capabilities of women in uniform, in particular.

The visit was also graced by senior members from the different Services who accompanied the guests, with Brig Gen Nontsikelelo Motumi, Director Social Work, being the most senior DOD member. She did not only form part of the visit, but also donated bags with a logo depicting ten years of democracy on behalf of her Directorate to the visiting group as corporate gifts.

The group left Swartkop Air Force Base in Pretoria on 26 August 2004 and first visited Hoedspruit Air Force Base where they were presented with the history and present status of the unit by Brig Gen P. du Plessis.

The next day they visited 7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) where the briefing was about force preparation for members deploying outside the borders of South Africa in neighbouring countries. One of the guests at 7 SAI Bn asked what the DOD does in preparing and supporting families and relatives of those members who are deployed. Brig Gen Motumi explained that the Directorate of Social Welfare of the DOD has a mechanism in place to deal with such issues as how to handle their finances, stress management, and how to handle the children while the other partner is away, as there will be role reversal. In cases where a husband has deployed for six months and the wife has to play a dual role, the Social Welfare Department will help to prepare such partners psychologically and make them understand that they are not only married to soldiers, but to members who are expected to safeguard the citizens of South Africa and their inhabitants. Therefore their families must be prepared to sacrifice their loved ones for such a calling.

The next day the cheerful group visited the DOD Reserves where a presentation on the role and tasks of the Commandos and Reserve Force members was explained. The visit was concluded, after which the group left Phalaborwa aboard a C130 and flew back to Pretoria. All were smiles and expressed their gratitude for having learned so much and had a better understanding that the SANDF was an integral part of the broader society and consisted of various Services that they had not known existed. They were now ready to go back to their different communities and share their experiences, especially with regard to the achievements of women in the DOD after ten years of democracy. They could not help singing: ‘Malibongwe I gama la bafazi’ which means ‘Praise to the women’.

Back in Pretoria the visiting group were all smiles.
The Department of Defence (DOD) continues to undergo structural and functional changes in the process of positioning itself for the future. Developments in Education Training and Development (ETD), within the Department, the country and internationally have all had a direct impact on the training element of preparing and maintaining the DOD’s forces, and this in turn has had a bearing on how the DOD facilitates the learning process.

Certainly its vision of creating a credible, values-centred DOD ETD process, creating appropriate, efficient and effective opportunities that are accessible and inspiring to our people, achieving competence for mission readiness within an environment conducive to progressive learning (as defined by the DOD’s ETD Work Group Report 1999) continues to open up many exciting and new ETD opportunities within the Department. New technologies, new delivery platforms and innovative programmes are continuously being developed and implemented by the various DOD ETD providers, while others are still trying to update themselves. A very real need exists with the DOD for providers to be aware of these developments and to develop themselves accordingly.

To address this need a DOD ETD conference was convened in Pretoria on 28 and 29 July 2004 to address two ETD aspects, namely that of accreditation of DOD ETD Providers and distance learning in the DOD. The goal of the conference was to provide Education, Training and Development Practitioners (ETDPs) with the opportunity not only to be informed about distance learning possibilities, but to have the chance to contextualise, through discussion groups and panel discussions, the concepts that were presented. Speakers were therefore selected who practise the whole spectrum of distance learning, from paper-based through to computer-based training and e-learning.

The distance learning stream was consequently structured in four sessions. The first session served to provide the introduction to distance learning by first defining what is meant by distance learning, then providing an overview of the distance learning in South Africa and after that narrowing it down to what is happening in the DOD in this regard.

The introductory session was followed by a session where three presenters introduced the aspects that are considered in the design of distance learning, namely the components of a distance learning system, the technologies that can be utilised from paper-based to e-learning, and the policies that have to be in place for distance learning to be successful.

After the lectures the group divided into three and had intensive discussions led by the presenters. During the panel discussion where the groups reported back from the breakaway session it became clear that the systems approach to distance learning was important to ensure that all the aspects were addressed, especially the support system.

The third session covered the development and implementation of distance learning. The interactive possibilities of information communications technologies were clearly illustrated. It was emphasised that although the DOD did not have all the infrastructure it needed yet to provide all distance learning in a technologically advanced manner, advanced capabilities were available in pockets, for example at the SA Army Combat Training Centre (SAACTC), the SA Military Health Services Training Formation, the Maritime Warfare School in Simon’s Town, SITA and design capabilities at the SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET). The exhibition by the SAMHS training formation and SAACTC clearly illustrated this.

The role of the facilitator was discussed in great detail and one conclusion reached in the panel discussion was that not just anybody could be a distance learning facilitator. Pertinent skills and attributes have to be developed. The role of the line of command (from the officer commanding to the
Instil discipline in our Army

By Lebohang Letaoana

The annual Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers Competition was held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg from 30 August to 3 September 2004.

WO1 Eddie Sykes, Sergeant Major of the SA Army, said the aim of this competition was to empower the Warrant Officers (WOs) and the Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs). This aim was inspired by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, who said his prime mission is to instil discipline in the SA Army. The competition was also attended by officers from Tanzania and Namibia.

The members participated in different activities, such as drill, neatness, a pace stick competition, fitness, orienteering, shooting, physical training and general knowledge. In 2002 the SA Team participated in England in the British Military Pace Stick Competition.

WO1 Sykes mentioned that it was interesting to realise that female soldiers were actually achieving a lot during the competition, in spite of competing against their male counterparts on the same level.

Sgt Mayke Poo (now S Sgt Poo) from the SA Army Infantry Formation Headquarters was overall the fittest NCO in 2002 and in 2003. A Reserve Force female team from Vredendal Commando obtained the first place in the development pace sticking category in 2003. This year quite a number of female teams participated and, in the senior team division, the B-team from ASB Durban came second with a female driver, including another woman as part of the team.

The ideal would be to obtain sufficient funds to send a female pace stick team to the British Military Pace Stick Competition, which is held annually at the Sandhurst Military Academy, said WO1 Sykes.

Addressing the audience at the Awards Ceremony, the Chief of the SA Army said: “The WOs and NCOs are the members of a time-honoured corps known as the backbone of the SA Army. You are the guardians of sound military discipline and leaders of men and women in uniform. You are the ones charged with the responsibility, through your professional conduct, to ensure that orders are carried out with the necessary vigour and conviction they deserve.”

Results

- Best Marksman - WO2 Jansen van Rensburg (Armour Fmn)
- Fittest Member - Sgt Makgetkwa (Int Fmn)
- Lance Corporal of the Year - L Cpl Hanneman (Armour Fmn A-Team)
- Corporal of the Year - Cpl De Bus (Armour Fmn A-Team)
- Sergeant of the Year - Sgt Mokhothu (Armour Fmn B-Team)
- Staff Sergeant of the Year - S Sgt Penny (ASB Potchefstroom)
- WO of the Year - WO2 Van Wyngaard (Armour Fmn B-Team)
- Best Pace Stick Driver - S Sgt Radebe (Engineer Fmn)
- Best Pace Sticker - L Cpl Ray (ASB Durban)
- Pace Stick Team - Reserve Force (Group 16)
- Development Pace Stick Team - Intelligence Fmn A-Team
- Senior Pace Stick Team - Engineer Fmn A-Team
- Master Veteran Pace Stick Team - Base WO Team
- African Cup - Armour Fmn
The success of Phidisa lies in communication

By Brig Gen N.E. Motumi, Director Social Work

Recent media reports on the rate of HIV and AIDS infection in the SANDF have evoked different emotions in individuals. The question to address at this juncture is not how many people are infected with this disease, but what the DOD’s response is to this challenge. The Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) has endorsed the collaboration between the SANDF, US DoD and NIH in order to provide ARVs to SANDF members and their dependants through Project Phidisa.

The question raised by many at this point is whether the DOD should engage the media on HIV and AIDS related matters as there is a risk of the information being sensationalised. The Phidisa leadership’s response in this regard is that the media should be an intended target audience, as members of the press have the power to influence public opinion either positively or negatively. It is for this reason that the Phidisa communication strategy advocates a controlled process of media access to information related to this important project.

Project Phidisa entails ground breaking clinical research on the use of ARVs by SANDF HIV positive members and their dependants. This is the first time in this country’s history that researchers who are examining an issue understand the participants completely. It is already evident that the results of this research will influence policy decisions on the use of ARVs in the South African context. As a result, engaging the media about progress achieved in this endeavour should be regarded as part of raising members’ awareness of the positive results and the side effects that might be experienced by patients on these drugs.

The primary goals of project Phidisa’s communication strategy are to encourage internal awareness of, support for, and participation in this project by informing SANDF members and their dependants that this clinical research seeks to provide objective evidence of the best way to care for HIV positive uniformed DOD personnel and their family members.

Through this research questions about the use of ARV in the South African context will be made available, and members’ understanding of the concept of clinical research will be enhanced. This will include the message of participants as partners in this important medical research initiative.

The core message for SANDF personnel affected by HIV and AIDS is that the DOD is proactively involved in researching the best possible treatment regimes for HIV positive members and their dependants.

Participation in project Phidisa is strictly voluntary and people can choose whether they want to participate or not. However, once enrolled, they cannot leave the project because this would be to the detriment of their health. Project Phidisa is a long-term programme, and full participation in the programme requires commitment. Participants in this research project are regarded as full partners.

For SANDF members who do not know their status: Project Phidisa is the DOD’s proactive response to a critical problem. Project Phidisa aims to promote and maintain the combat readiness of the SANDF.

For other government officials: Project Phidisa is a South African initiative that will establish a state of the art clinical research programme within the DOD. This project will enable the SANDF serve the country in different, but significant ways, through the implementation of the Batho Pele principles.

For other influential community leaders and NGOs: Through Project Phidisa research will play an important role in policy formulation and implementation. This project will contribute to the effectiveness of a holistic treatment programme to the general public.

The SANDF as a microcosm of South African society is best positioned to establish such a clinical research programme, because of its ability to trace its members.

For the public: Prevention is still the key message in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Project Phidisa is proactively addressing a critical problem for the benefit of this country and the region.

For HIV positive members: Support groups will be established in all research sites for SANDF HIV positive members in order to solicit their views on policy issues, planning, development and implementation of this research.

In general communication plays a key role in all spheres of life and for this reason information on progress and challenges experienced through this Project will be furnished on a continuous basis. For Project Phidisa to succeed, its leadership will focus its communication on SANDF members and their dependants. It is hoped that by so doing, the internal audience’s understanding of the use of ARVs will be enhanced.

Through this process they will be able to read through the sensationalism behind any story relating to HIV and AIDS within the DOD. The message conveyed is that through enrolment in Project Phidisa, the lives of SANDF HIV positive members and their dependants will be prolonged.
She who has conquered

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo

Sergeant Philisiwe Nqobile Ntshangase, a Data Monitor for Phidisa at 1 Military Hospital has first names that tell a tale. "Philisiwe" means one to whom life has been given and "Nqobile" is one who has to conquer. In June 2004 Sgt Ntshangase, who is living with HIV/AIDS received on behalf of the DOD the candle of hope from the Interdepartmental Government Committee.

She then lit a flame of remembrance in honour of herself and all those living with HIV/AIDS, including the many loved ones and friends affected by the scourge and the millions who are abused every day as they fight against discrimination towards people living with the virus. The flame was also lit in memory of the many that have lost the battle against the disease and have passed on.

It takes a remarkable kind of woman to be in people's faces all day long, going on about HIV/AIDS, yet that is what Sgt Ntshangase does for a living. The Phidisa Project that she works for is a treatment study for HIV/AIDS that is run by the SANDF.

"Women have been empowered so we can stand up for anything," said Sgt Ntshangase. "Women living with HIV/AIDS must be strong and face the challenges of life; they must get more information and be empowered."

"It was very difficult to be the first woman in uniform to disclose my HIV status in the SANDF, said Sgt Ntshangase. "I have been through thick and thin, not to mention the abuse, but through God I fought it and said that I will never stop teaching people about HIV/AIDS," she continued.

"They call HIV positive women terrible names and people sometimes say the reason why I decided to come out, was because I had given up on life," Sgt Ntshangase revealed. She added that, on the contrary, she is open about her status because she is fighting for herself and for the right to live.

"My church, my faith and the people I love give me the strength to live," said Sgt Ntshangase.

"Many women do come to me and disclose their positive status. I know that not everyone will shout out like I do and I give them tips about healthy living and how to take medication," she continued. Sgt Ntshangase takes seven anti-viral tablets a day - a commitment she must stick to for the rest of her life. She said: "I try to teach mothers, sisters and daughters how to cope with taking medication in all their various environments."

"I give them tips because I am also from there," Sgt Ntshangase reaffirmed. She also noted that partners in denial about their HIV status place a heavier burden on the women who stay silent out of fear of rejection. "Other women are not empowered, especially those from poor backgrounds and those who rely on the man's salary. But the women who are independent tell their partners and go on with their lives," she said.

How do you handle talking about this difficult subject everyday in a world where many are not ready to hear I asked, "I communicate with God," she replied.

"I thought it was a burden to be HIV positive. I did not know what was the meaning of life, but thank God for HIV because I have seen wonders - that power to talk about what you have been living with and what you are living for," she said, making all seem so simple.

"Maybe there is a flip side to the AIDS/HIV tragedy, but it is a long journey to a destination that can be reached only through determination and courage. Women need to make that choice to turn the situation around.

As Sgt Ntshangase said: "I did not realise I had power until I was tested HIV positive. Now I can educate young people, the community and members of the SANDF."

"Life is still there to enjoy, so 2010 Soccer Bid, here I come! I will be a VIP on that day because one day I be the Director for HIV/AIDS in the SANDF," promised Sgt Ntshangase.
Reopening of Air Force Command and Control School

By Brig Gen Portia Sibiya, Director Corporate Staff Service, SAAF

The history of Air Force Command and Control School, as it is known today, can be traced back to 1 January 1956 when the control and reporting school at Waterkloof AFB was opened. During the seventies and early eighties radar operator and mission control training took place at the Air Defence School, air traffic controllers were trained at the Air Traffic Control School at Pietersburg and missile control training was conducted at 250 Air Defence Unit at Hammanskraal.

The three groups, namely the Air Defence School, the Air Traffic Control School and 250 Air Defence Unit Training Wing amalgamated in 1985 to form the Air Space Control School. Organisational development and restructuring later necessitated the relocation of the joint operations training wing, previously stationed at the Air Force College, to the Air Space Control School. Owing to the lack of sufficient accommodation and facilities at the former school for logistical training, the communication-training wing was likewise moved to the Air Space Control School. Transformation and the establishment of the new system groups saw the integration of the Air Traffic Control, mission control and reporting, communications and command post functions in the SA Air Force into one directorate, namely the Directorate Command and Control Systems. This subsequently led to the renaming in 1999 of the Air Space Control School to the Air Force Command and Control School.

Up to and until April 2003 Air Force Command and Control School functioned as a force structure element of Directorate Education, Training and Development, which managed the training required for command and control systems.

The core business of Air Force Command and Control School is to be the proud provider of command and control training for the SA Air Force. It conducts the functional developments of air traffic controllers, mission controllers, communication officers, command post officers, MAOT commanders, air traffic service assistants, radar operators, communications operators and command post assistants. Because the most of the training at the school is advanced functional training the Air Force Board decided to transfer the Command and Control School to Directorate Command and Control Systems. As training lies at the heart of the development of excellence, Directorate Command and Control eagerly accepted the Command and Control School as its force structure elements and saw the school as the true cornerstone for the future of command and control excellence.

In September 2003 the Air Force Board decided to re-locate two units to Hoedspruit AFB, namely the Air Force Command and Control School and 19 Squadron. The Air Force Board gave the target date as December 2004. Directorate Command and Control Systems grasped the relocation opportunity as the catalyst to bring about a fundamental change to a real learning environment. To this end it was decided to relocate during December 2003 to give impetus to the required culture change. This decision did put extreme pressure on the organisation, and it was only due to the excellent team approach and dynamic leadership within the command and control environment and the greater Air Force that this huge task was completed in such a short time.

Maj Gen C. Gagiano, Chief Director Air Policy and Plan (left), congratulates Col M.O. Mcetywa on his new appointment as OC Command and Control School and with the reopening of the school in Hoedspruit.
All the role players had to perform well to bring all systems into play. They had to focus on the migration plan elements, which included accommodation, both domestic as well as functional, transportation of equipment, upgrading of facilities, transfer of personnel, cost implications and many more. On this note, the officers commanding and their teams from Hoedspruit AFB, 1 Air Servicing Unit, 5 Air Servicing, 10 Air Depot and the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing were praised for their total commitment and exceptional support that brought about the smooth re-location of the Air Force Command and Control School. An awesome amount has been achieved in a very short period, if it is taken into consideration that it has only been ten months since the Air Force Board decided to relocate the school.

The last courses to be presented at Command and Control School at Waterkloof AFB were completed on 28 November 2003. Since early January 2004 when the Command Control School once again opened its doors for training at Hoedspruit AFB, fourteen courses have been successfully presented. Seven courses are currently in progress and thirteen courses are planned for the rest of 2004. This also means that at certain periods since January 2004 up to seventy students at a time have been trained and accommodated. During this phase a new MAOT course, as well as a Command and Control AB INITIO Course was also developed and presented.

Concluding from the observation and comments made by the visiting groups during the tour of the accommodation facilities, the learning centre, the ham shack and the different training wings at the school, it is clear that all have gone out of their way not only to make this relocation a success, but more importantly, the culture transformation to a learning environment has been hugely successful.

There is also an impression that the new environment has resulted in members having a more positive outlook and the new culture of learning will continue to assist Command and Control School to step into the future as a centre of learning excellence.

With what has been achieved at Hoedspruit AFB, Command and Control truly see themselves as part of SA Air Force vision 2010 in assisting the Air Force Board in its endeavours to make the SA Air Force a truly representative, competent, proud and combat-ready organisation, which the nation expects it to be.

"A final word of appreciation goes to the Officer Commanding of Command and Control School, Col M.O. Mctetywa, and all the members of the school: never forget that you are representing the SA Air Force in the Limpopo region and that it is your duty to promote the image of the Air Force and to uphold its traditions. You performed with great distinction and you did your unit and the SA Air Force proud. Our value of excellence in all we do was perfectly demonstrated. Well done." Those were Maj Gen Gagiano's words during the official opening ceremony held at Hoedspruit on 19 August 2004. Command and Control School has reopened and I will proceed to unveil the plaque as the symbol of learning excellence, concluded Maj Gen C. Gagiano, Chief Director Air Policy and Plan.

The Northern Military Police Region held a change of command parade at the SA Army College in Pretoria on 30 July 2004. Col Khuselwa Inah Goboza handed over the reigns to Col Mzobanzi Justice Macanda. It was the second change of command since the establishment of Northern Military Police Region.

Col Goboza was born at Bedford on 28 October 1954. Her first employment was with the Department of Education where she worked as a teacher. She joined the Department of Prisons, and then integrated into the SANDF in the Military Police Agency in 1998. She was then appointed as the SO1 Correctional Facilities at the Military Police HQ. Col Goboza was the first senior African staff qualified officer in the Military Police Agency, as well as the first woman to become Provost Marshal. Col Goboza has since been appointed as the SSO Policing and Chief of Staff at the Military Police Agency Headquarters.

The newly appointed Provost Marshal, Col Macanda, joined the Ciskei Defence Force in 1986. He started as an Infantry Paratrooper and later, in 1989, he became an Infantry officer. He was later transferred to the Military Police. In 2002 he was deployed in Burundi during OPS FIBRE as the Second in Command. Col Macanda was the first Military Police officer appointed to act as Operational Commander.

(Article by Lebohang Letaoana)
A few firsts for our military police

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Military Police Agency held its first flag hoisting and medal parade, as well as its first-ever prestige event in its present format at the military sports grounds in Thaba Tshwane in August 2004.

Brig Gen M.J. Ledwaba, the Chief of the Military Police Agency, said it was an honour to reward and recognise the recipients of medals and merit certificates on this Military Police Agency (MPA) medal parade. Medals and merit certificates have over the ages been awarded to soldiers as a token of gratitude for loyal and meritorious service rendered.

“You are all worthy recipients of the medals and merit certificates awarded to you and I want to urge you to wear your medals with pride,” said Brig Gen Ledwaba.

Lt Col J. van Zyl received the Good Service Medal (Gold), while six Good Service Medals (Silver) were awarded to Lt Col B.L. Jaji, WO1 B.C. Klopper, WO1 J.C. Klaasen, WO1 A.J. Mohammed, WO2 M. Hamman and CPO I.M. Dennis.

WO1 J.R. Masinge and WO2 C.G. Middelton each received the Sergeant Major of the SANDF Merit Certificate. Col K.I. Goboza was awarded both the Silver Service Medal and the Bronze Service Medal.

However, the MPA flag hoisting and medal parade were not the only activities that took place on that day. There was also the first-ever individual competition where members of the MPA in the rank groups Private to Major competed against each other in the military subjects of fitness, 9 mm shooting and theory.

The results of these prestige events were as follows: Maj R.B. du Plessis (MPA HQ) was chosen as the best major. The best captain was R.S. Theron (WMPR HQ), while Lt T.T. Moganyaka (Middelburg MP) was chosen as the best luitenant and the best warrant officer was W.P. Zikalala (Thaba Tshwane MP). The best staff sergeant was M.J. Motaung (MP School) and the best sergeant was A.H. Hurter (Wynberg MP). The best corporal was M.D.J. Kgomoyadira (Simon’s Town MP) and the best lance corporal was R.S. Modise (Potch MP), while Pte E.M. Cebekulu (Ladysmith MP) was chosen as the best private.

The best shottist was Sgt A.H. Hurter (Wynberg MP), while the fittest MP member was Maj R.B. du Plessis (MPA HQ). The best academic was WO2 M.A. van Loggenberg (PE MP) and the best MP official was Maj R.B. du Plessis (MPA HQ).

Western MP Region won the soccer and the adventure sport, while Titans (MPA HQ, MP School and 13 PRO COY) won the netball competition. The sevens touch rugby winning team was that of Southern MP Region. Northern MP Region won the volleyball. Western MP Region was also chosen as having the overall best MP sporting structure.

The overall best choir was that of Southern MP Region.
Nothing happens in the world

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Aftter his appointment as DOD Inspector General, Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan wanted to find out what his predecessors did. This was a difficult task as no records were available. He was inspired by the words of Bob Greanleaf: "Nothing happens in the world except the initiative of a single man". The idea of writing a book about the Defence Inspectorate started to take shape.

Brig Gen Mathys "Tokkie" Strumpher (Ret) was given the mandate to consult widely, but to stick to the core function of the Inspector General (IG), which is: "to ascertain the validity and reliability of management information in the DOD in order to promote accountable, transparent, efficient and effective use of DOD resources through inspections, monitoring, internal audits, surveys and output evaluation".

The hard work paid off when the book depicting the past disposition of the Defence Inspectorate - its history from 1908 to 2004 - was launched at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 21 July 2004.

Maj Gen Ramlakan said he was pleased that Brig Gen Strumpher had done a splendid job and that this was the first official book in the history of the SANDF to be published with public funds. It consists of short articles on the IG’s history up to 1980, but these do not relate to the internal auditing history or the IG’s real environment in which the Inspectorate operated in the past or in which it is still operating.

When a book covers such a long period one encounters many structural changes in an organisation, especially when there is a new and dynamic democracy. To illustrate these changes, the book consists of three parts. Part 1: the period from 1908 to 1994, Part 2: the Joint Military Co-ordinating Council (JMCC), and Part 3: the post JMCC period, including the transformation and restructuring processes of the DOD, effected by the IG.

Brig Gen Strumpher said he was both privileged and grateful for having been given the task. He added that the extent of the task, which included many aspects, was much bigger than what he had expected, and therefore it took much longer than what he had estimated. The research, he said, had been both a pleasure and educational. It was a pleasure because it once again brought him into direct contact with colleagues, and educational because it required him to be acquainted with the fascinating facts and details of our country’s rich military past.

"Recording the 90-year history of the Inspectorate is a formidable task. Many books have already been written about South Africa’s defence establishment during the apartheid years and some have covered the period of transition. This book has tried to place the focus on the Inspectorate, while still acknowledging the other important offices and organisations that interacted with the IG. The Inspectorate has had close relations with other parts of the defence establishment and their histories are, in parts, inseparable," Brig Gen Strumpher said.

Mission accomplished, as Brig Gen Tokkie Strumpher (Ret) hands over the book to the DOD Inspector General, Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan.
Resource Management Programme

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Ex-ternal and internal audit reports have revealed that internal control systems within the DOD have deteriorated to such an extent that intervention from management became necessary.

To avoid any further occurrence of misconduct and improper expenditure, the Accountability Management Committee (AMC) has commissioned a work group to design a Resource Management Programme so that the level three and four incumbents are orientated regarding their internal control responsibilities.

The work group consisting of Brig Gen M.C. de Wet, Lt Cols R. Mashele, K. Mpiwa, F. la Grange, Maj K. Boer and Mr P. Motaung was sent as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Department of the United States of America (USA) and the DOD on an orientation tour to various military bases in the USA to investigate the US DoD Pre-Command courses and to develop a similar programme within the RSA legislative framework.

The result is the Resource Management Programme that focuses on both functional development and work content training and is designed according to the SAQA requirements to equip both line commanders and managers with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes required to manage their resources according to the Public Finance Management Act and other applicable DOD legislation.

The Resource Management Programme will be conducted in four phases, i.e selection, preparation, residential and a post-phase. The first contact session with the learners was successfully piloted over the period 14 to 16 July 2004 at 68 Air School, Tek Base in Pretoria and was officially opened by the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Jack Gründling. The aim of this session was to allow the learners to interact and network with the facilitators and with other learners on the programme. The concept of the Help Desk (Kaizan Method) was also introduced to the learners. The residential phase was piloted over the period 18 to 29 October 2004. During this phase the learners were individually assessed on their presentations of rectification/business plans regarding case studies that were handed out during the pre-phase. This phase also incorporated syndicate work on case studies and was interspersed with lectures by guest speakers.

The case studies are designed in such a way that they are interwoven with Integrated Finance, Logistics, Human Resources, Procurement, Military Security and OHS problems and allow the learners to be in a totally peer and self-taught discovery situation, and are thus taken on a “journey through their areas of responsibilities”.

During the post-phase, the evaluation of action plans will be conducted with the assistance of the Inspectorate General DOD. This phase will also help determine if the learning programme outcome, i.e. line authorities that are fully committed to their organisational mandate to conduct legally responsible and accountable management and control over the available DOD resources, was achieved. This phase will also help determine how the future scheduling of the Resource Management Programme can be improved.

Members requesting additional information on this Programme must contact the Project Manager, Maj Kantha Boer, at tel no: (012) 339 5573, fax no: (012) 339 5550 or cell no: 072 469 4218.

Fltr: Maj Gen Johan Jooste, Chief Director Army Corporate Service, Mr Jack Gründling, Chief Financial Officer, and Brig Gen Garry Malinga, Director ETD, at the function.
The SA Air Force hosted the biannual air power capability demonstration at the Roodewal Bomb Range outside Makhado, formerly Louis Trichardt, on 25 August 2004.

The demonstration was aimed at providing a window on the core capabilities of the SA Air Force and at the same time the SA Army’s joint contribution in demonstrating its vital capabilities in terms of armour, personnel, equipment (both land and air) and the readiness of the SANDF to deal with emergency situations.

Local residents came in numbers to witness this spectacular event. The opening was done by 2 Squadron (two Cheetahs in a simulated attack on a third Cheetah). The best moment of the air capability demonstration was when 16 Squadron did a flying demonstration in a Rooivalk.

The aerobatic display was carried out by a Pilatus Astra, an Impala and a Cheetah. They were supported by the Special Forces and the SA Army Artillery Formation, which were responsible for the 120 mm mortar cargo sling and 120 mm mortar firing.

Air power is not only firepower; it is many faceted and includes not only the classical air combat characterised by fighters, bombers, attack helicopters and more recently, even unmanned air vehicles. It also includes the elements of air mobility, which usually take a back seat to firepower, but which are just as important in the campaign as a force multiplier for ground forces.

"The recapitilisation programme of the SA Air Force is designed to replace the offensive capability of 250 fighters with only fifty. As unbelievable as this may sound, the quality of the new equipment and the capability of the replacement aircraft will enable the SA Air Force to meet the political and defence imperatives of Vision 2012," said Brig Gen Des Barker, Officer Commanding Makhado AFB. "Air power is a national asset and the SA Air Force is the proud custodian of this asset on behalf of the nation."
Depicting various cultures

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Army College held its cultural and potted sports day at the College on 13 August 2004. The members of the College depicted the different cultures and traditions of the people of South Africa. Nine cultural groups participated in this year’s event, namely Coloureds, Xhosas/Zulus, Whites, Tsonga/Venda and Tswana/Pedi/Southern Sotho. Each group had to prepare its own dish, item, setting of the table and dress code. The groups representing Xhosas/Zulus won the category for Best Tradition and were also the overall winners. The winners of the Best Item were the groups representing Vendas and Zulus/Xhosas. The groups representing the Tswanas, Pedi, Tsonga and Zulus/Xhosas won the Best Attire category. The potted sports consisted of wheelbarrow pushing, bakkie pushing and egg tossing. The Tsonga group won the wheelbarrow pushing sports item, while the bakkie pushing was won by the Coloureds and the egg tossing by the Tswanas.

Equal opportunities for all

By Nakedi Phasha
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Despite the cold, windy weather there was a huge turnout at the Zwartkop Racetrack in Pretoria, when the SANDF hosted Casual Day celebrations on 3 September 2004. Invited guests from colleges for people with disabilities and society in general made it there in large numbers, including children, young adults and the old. The day was filled with lots of activities and entertainment, and everybody had an enjoyable day, even though it felt like Mother Nature had deserted everyone.

The celebrations were opened with a prayer, followed by a performance by the National Ceremonial Guard, to the delight of most. “The DOD, in supporting Casual Day, will today with your presence here again demonstrate to the South African society and disabled community, our commitment in raising awareness about people with disabilities, their rights, their needs, their potential and their contribution to society at large,’ said Brig Gen A.S. Somdaka, Director Equal Opportunities, in his welcoming speech.

If you are into cars and could not make it to the celebrations, then you missed out. The guests had an opportunity to see cars up close. There was also a wheelchair race. Despite the wind, one could not miss the smell of "boerewors" and steak in the air. It is a South African norm; a celebration is not complete without a braai. No need to feel sad because you missed all this fun at this year’s celebrations; make sure you attend next year. A smile holds more meaning than laughter, children with disabilities enjoying themselves.
On 3 September 2004 the DOD Mobilisation Centre deployed a very special contingent in the spirit of Casual Day. The Mobilisation Centre was host to 27 children and three teachers from the Lettie Fouche School for mentally disadvantaged children.

At 09:00 the very exited ‘troops’ were received at the main entrance of the unit by Lt Col Jaco Pretorius, SO1 Mobilisation, and the RSM, WO1 Jan Koen, and escorted to Veld Kitchen 3 in the concentration area. The sight of a Ratel 60 and three fire-fighting vehicles waiting in front of the facility and the festively decorated tables inside, confirmed to the visitors that Casual Day, Mobilisation Centre style, would be fun with a capital letter.

After a warm welcome by Lt Col Pretorius the ‘troops’ were handed over to WO2 Gerald Sansom, who without further ado explained military etiquette and informed the very attentive visitors that Warrant Officers are recognised by their being the guys who can shout the loudest.

The visitors were shown a video on the history of the SA Armoured Corps (courtesy School of Armour) and another on airborne infantry training (courtesy 44 Parachute Regiment), while feasting on ‘ratpacks’ containing chocolates, chips, condensed milk tubes and cool drinks.

The videos were followed by a show-and-tell briefing on parachuting and parachute equipment by Sgt G. Feni, Sgt M. Ncomfu and L Cpl M.L. Kgobe from 44 Parachute Regiment. Parachutes were fitted and deployed in the brisk Free State wind by the visitors, who had decided that they all wanted to be paratroopers and were preparing for selection by doing sit-ups between briefings.

At 13:00 very reluctant goodbyes were said between new friends. Karel Goosen, a pupil from Lettie Fouche, confirmed what all the soldiers from preceding deployments know: “It’s ‘lekker’ in the Army and the Mobilisation Centre is the best!”

Festivities continued for members of the unit with ‘potjiekos’ at the transit stores. Participants were required to wear a Casual Day sticker and dress up, down or funny. Israelites, cross-dressers, a cowgirl, a sailor and women in pyjamas enthusiastically entered the competition to determine the best costume. Cpl I.T. Mojatau from Facility Maintenance Section won the competition. Lt Col F.W. Schutte, co-ordinator of the day, confirmed that this community effort would be an annual event at the Mobilisation Centre. (Article by Nicky de Ru, DOD Mobilisation Centre)

Mrs S. Janse van Rensburg and Mrs N. de Ru serving lunch to the visiting ‘troops’.
The biannual Exercise AIRBORNE AFRICA was officially opened by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, at 44 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein on 13 September 2004.

This competition was co-ordinated with the Africa Aerospace and Defence exhibition 2004 regarding timings and resources, and was attended by sixteen different countries from Africa, Asia and Europe. The objectives of this exercise was:

- To build airborne force bridges in Africa and with countries beyond.
- To foster goodwill and friendship among forces that are committed to peace in Africa.
- For airborne forces from different countries to compete in a competition that deals with their core function, viz to conduct airborne operations successfully.

The competition started with a hangar demonstration outside 44 Parachute Regiment, which included parachute jumps. Some of the participants were blown by strong winds into trees after being dropped by a C130 at 3 000 ft. Only two injuries were reported on that day: a member of the Tanzanian Team suffered a dislocated shoulder and a Malaysian parabat broke his arm when he landed on a rocky outcrop.

Addressing the delegates at the opening parade Gen Nyanda said that since they first appeared on the scene parachute troops have been renowned for their initiative and perseverance on the battlefield. "A paratrooper has the indelible mark of a combat soldier with excellent survival skills and pride in undertaking missions impossible. Your participation in this exercise serves as an inspiration particularly to the South African youth aspiring to become future paratroopers," said Gen Nyanda.

Then the parabats were off to the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha (Northern Cape) for a gruelling three-day endurance test. On the first day, they did a 30 km route march and an obstacle crossing. The next day they competed in shooting, observation, speed marching and casevac. By this time some of the teams were already disqualified because of injuries and dehydration. On the last day they did navigation, grenade throwing, observation and tactical hiding. Then they had to escape and evade on the same night to return to Bloemfontein, where the results of the competition were to be announced.

At the prize-giving ceremony Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, said he was particularly overwhelmed by the competitive spirit, comradeship and courage projected by all of the participating teams that challenged themselves par excellence in their quest for the crown of glory in this tough military competition.

The South African Team won the 2004 Exercise AIRBORNE AFRICA competition, and their team manager, Lt Hendrik Tigele, said it took a lot of hard work and determination for them to win this tournament. "It took us a year to prepare for this competition and to select the best guys. Through team spirit and lots of training we succeeded," said Lt Kitiza Nonketa, the team leader.

Results (out of 500 marks)

- South Africa (474)
- India (467)
- Netherlands (465)
- Pakistan (457)
- Botswana (422)
- Zimbabwe (416)
- Senegal (412)
- Tanzania (404)

...A quest for the crown of glory.

Filtr: Rfn Herman Smit, Lt Kitiza Nonketa, L Cpl Isaac Mahlangu, Cpl Gersone Muronga, Rfn Mbulelo Mafenuka and Lt Hendrik Tigele (Team Manager) with the winning trophy.
Celebration time

By Matshidiso Pila
Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo

68 years at 68 Air School - this certainly calls for a big celebration and members of the unit could not miss this for the world. A two day long celebration was not bad, they could not have come up with any better suggestion to celebrate their anniversary.

The celebrations started with a cheese and wine function on Thursday evening, 15 July 2004, and among the people who attended were former Officers Commanding, Chaplains and RSMs of the unit. Maj Gen E. Dert, Chief Director of Development and Support, received a token of appreciation on behalf of the Chief of the SA Air Force, from Col W.M. Tilsley, the Officer Commanding of 68 Air School.

The next day was spent in lighter vein when visitors came from the Abraham Kriel Children’s Home in Nylstroom. No doubt the children had a fantastic day and they participated in every sport that was played at the sports grounds with the students of 68 Air School.

When asked if there was anything they would like to share with SA SOLDIER, they said life was good and these kinds of outings really cheered their lives.

This was not the end of the celebrations. The students could not wait for the evening, because of the big bash that awaited them.

It takes real skill to stay on top.

Air Force members cleaned Marabastad

Members of the SA Air Force Headquarters Unit rolled up their uniform sleeves and joined employees from the Tshwane Metro City Council in cleaning Bloed Street in Marabastad in Pretoria in August this year, in a bid to encourage communities to take care of their environment.

Shoppers and taxi commuters teeming the normally hectic Bloed Street in Marabastad showed appreciation for the joint venture by members of the SA Air Force and the council employees when they cleaned up the littered area.

“We want people to understand that the SA Air Force is not just about aeroplanes, but more about working together with the community and celebrating ten years of freedom and democracy,” said Maj I.L. Jones with a broom in his hands.

This clean-up campaign, which originated in Soshanguve township, has been an ongoing project for the past two years and is expected to spread its wings into other identified adjoining areas.

It is hoped that this partnership in educating communities about the environment will last for many years to come. (Article by Maj M.P. Morake, SAAF HQU Corporate Communication)
The members of Klerksdorp Commando often participate in shooting championships. The veterans in Klerksdorp Commando were previously the marksmen, while the youngsters play marbles. This year the whole situation changed. Veterans such as S Sgt Renier McMurray and Rfn Johan Coetzee can now see the youngsters collecting medals and prizes too. They join the youngsters, but struggle to keep up with them.

During 2004 these youngsters and the two veterans took part in different competitions and won gold, silver and bronze medals. Sgt McMurray won gold (300 m rapped) at Thabazimbi and Bloemhof in the 300 m category. Rfn Coetzee won a gold medal (snap) in Potchefstroom and a bronze medal (veteran total) in Hennenman. On the other hand the youngster, L Cpl Hannes Scholtz, received fourteen medals in competing at four different units: A gold medal (300 m snap) and a bronze medal (200 m practice) in Thabazimbi, as well as a gold medal (200 m practice) and two bronze medals (100 m rapped and 300 m practice) in Hennenman. L Cpl Scholtz also received a silver medal (rapped) in Potchefstroom. In Limpopo he was the overall winner and also won four gold medals in the categories 200 m rapped, 300 m practice, 300 m snap and 300 m exercise. He also received two silver medals (100 m rapped and 200 m snap) and two bronze medals (300 m snap and 300 m rapped).

Another youngster, Cpl Antony Claro, participated in five competitions and won nineteen medals: A gold medal (100 m snap) and two silver medals (100 m rapped and 200 m snap) in Thabazimbi, as well as a gold medal (rapped total), two silver medals (200 m snap and 200 m rapped) and a bronze medal (snap total) in Bloemhof. Cpl Claro also received a gold medal (300 m practice), a silver medal (200 m snap) and two bronze medals (day total) in Heidelberg. In Hennenman he won two gold medals (100 m snap and short distance), a silver medal (junior shot) and a bronze medal (200 m rapped). Cpl Claro also received three silver medals (junior total, 200 m snap and 300 m exercise) and a bronze medal (200 m rapped).

The biggest achievement of the year was for S Sgt McMurray to represent the North West Team for the fiftieth time.

By Cpl Aletta Holtzhauzen, Head Corp Comm Klerksdorp Commando
Play soccer while expanding friendships

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

The SANDF hosted the 7th CISM ESALO (Eastern Southern Africa Liaison Office) Soccer Championships at Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria over the period 23 to 28 August 2004. Six countries were invited to take part in this prestigious tournament, namely Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Botswana. For the first time ever women's soccer was also recognised in this tournament. Also invited were observers from Canada (SLT Laura Sarty) and the USA (Capt Jennifer Farina).

The tournament was officially opened by Maj Gen Mokheti Radebe, Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation to Human Resource Support, who welcomed the guests. "The CISM ESALO has been stationed in South Africa for some years and will by the end of this year move to Botswana. This event comes at an opportune time, during a year in which our people and the SANDF celebrate ten years of democracy," said Maj Gen Radebe.

The CISM ESALO Games are not only about football, but also about social responsibility. The delegates participated in the ESALO march against HIV/AIDS to 1 Military Hospital, which was led by the Chief of the ESALO Games, Brig Gen Lindile Yam, Director of physical Training, Sport and Recreation.

After the march, it was off to Soweto for a cultural tour. The delegates had an opportunity to visit the famous Nelson Mandela Family Museum and the Hector Peterson Memorial. They finished the tour by doing some shopping at the Oriental Plaza. The players of Swaziland and Namibia and the observers went to Atteridgeville to conduct coaching clinics at one of the local schools. WO1 Caleb Mkhulise, Acting Chairperson SANDF Football, said: "The reason behind the coaching clinics is to introduce the SANDF to the public and to expose the talent we have in the SANDF, as well as to make people aware that soldiers have many sporting codes and they are willing to help the community in any sports." The SANDF donated two soccer balls to the school.

Also present at the games was SAFA's Under/20 National Team coach, Bobbie Williams. He said SAFA's role in the SANDF was to assist the coaches to identify players, make recommendations and draw up a programme with the coaches and WO1 Mkhulise for the next three camps to prepare for the International Military Soccer Championships in Mali later this year.

The South African Women's Team played in the finals against their neighbours, Swaziland, and beat Swaziland 4-0 on penalties. The Zimbabwe Men's Team was crowned this year's ESALO Champions when it beat Lesotho 2-1.

"The South African Sports Commission is sincerely thanked for the most visible interest that the institution has taken in recognising sport within the military. It was the effort of the South African Sports Council (SASC), led by Mr Edgar Mogale, that ensured the commitment and participation of SAFA through Mr Williams. It is heartening to be recognised by those who matter that we are in a mission for the country," said Brig Gen Yam.
Former enemies reconciled with rugby

By Col (Rev) P.J. Oberholzer, Vice-President Selection and Training SANDF Rugby Association

The recent television programmes on the involvement of the SANDF in Burundian rugby broadcast on SABC TV and M Net is the culmination of more than two years involvement by the SANDF.

In November 2001 members of the SA Protection Support Detachment (SAPSD), under the leadership of Col Mannetjies de Goede, established a rugby development project in Burundi. In 2002 the SANDF Rugby Association became involved and a delegation, under the leadership of Col Pieter Oberholzer, Vice-President of Selection and Training of the SANDFRA, visited Burundi to promote rugby. The other members of the delegation were Lt Col Riaan van Wyk, a Senior Referee, and Sgt George Julies, a coach. During their ten-day stay in Burundi in March 2002, coaching clinics and a formal coaching course at the University in Bujumbura were presented. The delegation was also involved in the coaching of both the male and female national rugby teams.

The delegation gave guidance at managerial level to put rugby structures in place and advised the local rugby administrators how to run league and development programmes. A visit to the Deputy Minister of Sport resulted in a commitment to provide land for a rugby field.

Since the first initiative, rugby has been growing in Burundi. The number of clubs has more than doubled and the standard of play has improved drastically due to the continuous involvement of the different SANDF contingents. The SANDF, with the assistance of rugby unions and sponsors in South Africa, has sent balls, cones, tackle bags, sets of jerseys and a set of rugby poles to Burundi.

As a result of the involvement of the SANDF in Burundian rugby, the latter has recently become a member of the Confederation of African Rugby (CAR) and received associate membership of the International Rugby Board (IRB). It has started to compete in international competitions under the coaching of SANDF members. In 2003 Maj Jan Barendse was the coach of the national team. The current coaches of the National Team are Capt Os van den Berg, Capt Willie Enslin, WO1 John Young and WO1 Deon Goodall. Internationals against Rwanda and Tanzania have already taken place. A club league competition named after Col De Goede has been established.

There is still an enormous need for trained coaches and referees and the facilities are very poor. There is also an urgent need for equipment, fields and other infrastructure.

The SANDF has made an enormous contribution to the development of rugby in Burundi. In the process former enemies have been reconciled and unified in the same team with a common goal and objective.

Rugby has also played a major role in improving the acceptability of the South African contingent by the local community.

The future involvement of the SANDF is an absolute necessity to ensure the continuous growth and development of rugby in Burundi.

Good quality competition is essential for the improvement of the standard of play. Therefore the SA Contingent Team in Burundi should keep on playing against the Burundians. The Burundian National Team should also be invited to the SANDF Rugby Week and if possible assisted to come, which would be a wonderful learning experience for them.

On 29 August 2004 at the Bujumbura Sports Stadium in Burundi a sponsorship from the Blue Bulls rugby team from South Africa was handed over to the Vice-President of the Burundi Rugby Federation, Mr Oscar Nduwimana, by Lt Col Owen Dube, who is the Second in Command of the RSA contingent deployed in Burundi. Lt Col Dube was appointed as the Chief of Sport for the contingent.

Lt Ngcelwane, who is a member of the SAMHS currently deployed in Burundi, and detached to the Special Forces deployed here, was recently appointed as the rugby coach for the National Rugby Federation in Burundi. This is seen as a great honour for South Africa and we are glad to have a man of such stature among us.

According to the Secretary-General of Burundi, Mr Derweduwen Jurgen, rugby in Burundi started three years ago and currently has 250 registered players. Although soccer is the national sport, rugby is developing at a steady pace and he is honoured to have a man like Lt Ngcelwane as part of the development of rugby in Burundi.

In his speech Lt Col Dube said that it was an honour for the RSA contingent, and more specifically South Africa, to be part of this historic event and to provide sporting equipment sponsored by the Super Twelve rugby team, the Blue Bulls from South Africa. He also reiterated that it would be a great pleasure to compete at this level with players from the RSA contingent against the Burundi rugby teams. (Article by the late Sgt A.H. le Roux, Communication NCO 15 SAI Bn in Bujumbura)

Soldier appointed as Burundian national rugby coach

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The NFD partnership offers valuable benefits for African Life customers who have the Buy' eKhaya® option. These include major savings and efficient service in arranging a funeral that meets the individual requirements of customers while taking in to account their cultural needs. NFD partners will also pay policy claims outside the Buy' eKhaya® Benefit.

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Phuti Funeral Directors: Burgersfort, Lebowakgomo, Makhado, Polokwane, Botlokwa, Ga Matala, Ga Nkwane, Giyani, Masubelele and Sekhukhune

Insikayesizwe: Durban, Eshowe, Stanger, Jozini, Empangeni, Pietermaritzburg, Greytown, Port Shepstone, Newcastle, Mtabutaba, Ulundi, Highflats, Ixopo, Kwa Njambane, Melmoth, Nongoma, Pongola, Kokstad, Bergville, Ladysmith, Nkandla, Nqutu, Vryheid, Bulwer, Escourt and Umzinto

Celani Funeral Services: Ulundi, Umlazi, Eshowe, Margate, Osizweni and Durban

Phahla Funeral Services: Witbank, Botlokwa, Mphahlele, Magoto, Polokwane

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