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FRONT COVER: Mamelodi was a buzz with military flair when CMIS received the Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Tshwane on 10 June 2004. Please read more about this special event on page 28.

(Phot o: F Sgt David Nomshongwana)

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

8 years after the SS Mendi tragedy the SAS MENDI and its crew, on behalf of the South African people, laid a wreath on the very same spot where the SS Mendi sank on 21 February 1917 in remembrance of and to honour the South Africans who died on that tragic day. Please read more about this special occasion on page 13.

Members of 15 SAI Bn arrived safely in Burundi after a lengthy mobilisation period that started in June 2004. The important aspect that must be highlighted here is the fact that the battalion is meeting its operational commitments! As its vision outlines - "An external deployment battalion well disciplined and competent". Read more about our deployed soldiers on page 19.

Did our women make a difference in serving the Peace Mission in Burundi? Some twenty women spent their six months at the Demobilisation Centre, some 30 km north-east of the capital city of Bujumbura, only coming to “town” and the “Palace Base” once every month for four or five days at a time. They certainly earned the respect of their male counterparts. They are now back for four months, so perhaps this is a good time for reflection. Please read the oversight of deployment afterthoughts on pages 24 to 27.

It is every combat officer’s dream to take command of his or her ship at some stage of his or her naval career. Even so, not every combat officer can be given the opportunity, as only a few are chosen. On 19 August 2004 the second black naval combat officer, Sub Lieutenant Nkosinathi Michael Manqele, assumed command of the SA Navy’s inshore patrol vessel, SAS TOBIE. This appointment marks another milestone in the history of the SA Navy’s efforts to ensure transformation and representation through the empowerment of young men and women serving in the SA Navy. Read more about this young man from the East Rand on page 29.

The School of Armour was selected as the Bloemfontein Institution of the Year for 2003. This is the first time that a military institution has been awarded this impressive accolade. Read more about this prestigious award and unit on page 30.

We close this edition with a very captivating soccer article - Orlando Pirates Masters joins SANDF in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of football. The Orlando Pirates Masters team had familiar names that could scare anyone out of his wits - Botsotsa Makhanya, Tebogo Moloi, Bashin Mahlangu, Magents Motale and Mandla Sithole, to name but a few. Indulge in this soccer tournament on page 46.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • OCTOBER 2004

Ezivela kwidesika yoMhleli

Kwiminyaka engama-87 emva kwentlelekele yokuzika kwe-SS Mendi, i-SAS MENDI neqela layo, egameni labantu boMzantsi Afrika babeke isithsaba seentyatatambo kwindo dawo apho kwazika khona i-SS Mendi ngomhla wama-21 Februwari 1917 ekukhumbuleni nasekukhulonipheni abantu boMzantsi Afrika abathi balishiya eli limagad’ahlabayo ngolu suki lwilelele. Funda ngokubanzi ngalo mba kwiphepha le-13.


Liphupha lalo nalihiphi na igosa elihlabo wyakho ukhawulelwana inqanwa yalo kwixesha elithile lomsebenzi walo wasemanzini. Noxa kunjalo, asingawo onke amagosa alawo anokuthu akizelekele kwaphandle kwiphepha le-19. Funda ngokubanzi ngalo mba

Africans who died on that tragic day. Please read more about this somber moment on pages 13.

1917 in remembrance of and to honour the South Africans who died on that tragic day. Please read more about this special occasion on page 13.

Nelda Pienaar
UMhleli
Germany invests in our military

**Article and photo by Mr Vernon Kinnear, Comm Officer Service Corps**

Research indicates that the broad experience of demobilisation or the separation of personnel from military establishments in developing countries and reabsorbing them in civilian society, South Africa included, is followed by an extremely challenging process of reintegration. In order to fulfil this task, appropriate skilling and reskilling, aligned with the demands of the South African labour market, are required.

The DOD is committed to assisting members to obtain adequate skills for career paths outside the DOD. There is a renewed focus on skills development and training as a means of effectively managing social aspects, such as crime prevention, poverty and unemployment in South Africa.

The above factors induced the DOD to request the German Ministry of Defence for training assistance in the training of ex-combatants for re-entry into society. This was due to Germany’s experience in equipping military personnel with skills for employment in civilian society.

On 5 April 2002 the agreement between the German Ministry of Defence and the South African Ministry of Defence was signed in Pretoria. This agreement made provision for the implementation of a project over the period 2002 to 2004. The project made provision for Germany’s providing South Africa with training equipment and a group of technical advisors to assist in the reskilling process of members of the DOD, who were due to leave the DOD. Because the exit mechanism was not being implemented to its full capacity, permission was also obtained to include DOD members who might exit the system in the future.

German assistance includes the provision of training material and supportive training services and advice in seven technical training fields.

As outsourcing or decentralisation of training was not an option for Germany at the time, it was decided that the training would be presented at the Service Corps of the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT). This decision resulted in the training facilities of the seven technical training fields at the CAT being upgraded; thus they can currently be compared with the best in the region.

With the arrival of the German Advisory Group and the first cargo of training equipment, which was flown from Germany, the table was laid for the start of the training.

The first intake of 49 DOD members, which was to be trained with the support of German funding, was scheduled for September 2002. The members received training in five different technical fields, namely auto-electrical, computer basics, advanced machine operator, motor mechanical and welding.

Up to date a total of 764 people have been trained at the CAT, with the assistance of German donor funding. Of these, 22% were military veterans who were trained in various technical fields. The SANDF and the German Government realise the importance of assisting the military veterans, who have had no previous experience in the job market, to be self-supporting.

Driver training has become a critical factor, and 196 learners received training in this field. Training for learner licences is done by means of a computer programme that enables learners to proceed according to their own individual capabilities. Owing to this new training method the pass rate of learner drivers is very high. The CAT has an authorised K53 driving facility at its disposal, which is ideally suited to this type of driver training.

Currently 48 Military Police members are being trained in driving and computer skills, which make them redeployable to other Government departments.

The seven technical fields presented at the CAT with the assistance of the German donor funding have been accredited since September 2003 according to the National Qualification Framework (NQF).

At the end of December 2004 the current agreement between the South African and German Ministries of Defence will be concluded. Discussions in this regard are currently being conducted and the indication is that Germany might agree to extend its aid for another four years. A significant prospect for future German donor involvement could be the extension of technical training to the Service Corps Practical Business School in Mankwe (North West Province). This could include training in construction related fields.

Students listen attentively during one of their sessions.
Disability is not the end of the world

We good people with disabilities must be punctual, neat and co-operative at work. We are the people with disabilities and with responsibilities in all aspects of life, and little happens without us. Disability is a challenge, but it is not the end of the world. Whenever and wherever you encounter a negative condition, change it by simply drawing a vertical line through the centre of a horizontal line, and all conditions will be positive. I appreciate the cost-effective means taken to removing identified barriers that unfairly discriminate against people with disabilities. Stereotypes and prejudiced policies should be eliminated as they act as barriers to the achievements of people with disabilities. Reskilling, empowerment and reasonable accommodation are the key factors that lead to the success of people with disabilities. Last, but not least, may I convey this message on behalf of the members of 1 SAI Bn: “Never ever give up in life”. From my side - beautiful sisters and handsome brothers, I love you and wish you all the blessings of the Universe - Cpl M.N. Simka, 1 SAI Bn.

Women in Defence

I think it was a great idea for the SA SOLDIER magazine to celebrate National Women’s Day in the August edition by informing readers about the achievements of women in the DOD. But I also think that too many higher ranked and senior members were mentioned, to the detriment of lower ranked female members, who were deprived of the opportunity of being mentioned in the special SA SOLDIER magazine issue.

Acknowledgement and appreciation for a job well done by all women in the DOD must be mentioned, regardless of rank or status - Cpl A. Ndlou, Pretoria.

* The Editorial team of SA SOLDIER is also very proud of all the achievements of our women in the DOD, regardless of their rank or status. Therefore we promised to continue publishing contributions depicting how phenomenal our women in the DOD are. Please read the letters from our proud Armour women - Ed.

Service Corps opens a new world

I would like to share my experience of the Internet and email Course, which my colleagues at Directorate Facilities and I attended at the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT). We all hear about the Internet and email, but what we do not hear about is the how, when and why they exist. The Internet and email are communication and research tools we all could benefit from. They are the communication and research tools of the future. The course exposed us to the World Wide Web, providing immense quantities of information to the research reader. The email and internet knowledge gained through the course will definitely broaden communication skills, enhance managerial skills and develop administration feedback from your unit, section or directorate. I would like to thank the Service Corps and the CAT for the opportunity given to us and the valuable knowledge taught us.

Remember, whatever you need to know about, just go to the Internet and its all there - Maj A.O.U. Moeti, SO1 Fixed Assets, Directorate Facilities.

Request for an award for bravery

On Tuesday 15 June at 08:00, on my way to work in peak traffic in Nelson Mandela Drive in Pretoria, the windscreen of my car was smashed in violently by three young men who wanted to grab my handbag.

Capt D.L. Mjekula (Service Corps) was driving right behind me at the time. He anticipated this whole incident and was just in time to jump out of his car and run to the culprits who got such a fright from this instant surprise reaction of the Captain. They dropped everything and ran away.

Immediately after that, Capt Mjekula once again ran across the road, in front of the oncoming traffic, to rescue my cellphone, which had been picked up at the scene by another criminal. During all this time the Captain kept his calm and behaved extremely authoritatively, as befitted the fact that he was in uniform. Not once did he show any anger or aggression. When I took him for lunch two days later to thank him in an appropriate manner for coming to my rescue in such a brave manner, I could not help but respect the intelligent, gentlemanly manner in which this officer behaved once again.

I therefore would like, with this letter, to request that Capt Mjekula be awarded in the appropriate manner for his immaculately gallant and brave behaviour. One cannot help but feel proud to know that our Defence Force has officers of this calibre under its command - Ms Ingelore van Zyl, Pretoria.

* Well done Capt Mjekula - you made us proud! - Ed
The Zimbabwe Defence Force (ZDF), a regular recipient of SA SOLDIER (courtesy of the South African Defence Attaché), takes great exception to the article on Zimbabwe which appeared in SA SOLDIER, June edition, page 33. The ZDF appreciates the fact that the magazine encourages debate on pertinent issues. However, it is the feeling of the organisation that the magazine should endeavour to encourage informed debates on the so-called pertinent issues and avoid publishing articles based on thumbsucked information. Pretoria is 502km from Beitbridge and 1 082km from Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital, which is a day’s drive. It would not do any harm for any academic to cross the Limpopo River into Zimbabwe and get first-hand information on what is going on concerning the land redistribution programme. I doubt if the author has ever been to Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the countries that he/she compares, willy-nilly, with Zimbabwe.

The ZDF, and indeed Zimbabwe, appreciates the unwavering support that the country has received from her SADC allies on the land issue, particularly from the Republic of South Africa and the SANDF. This support shows that South Africa as a country, and the SANDF as an organisation, have a better insight into the situation in Zimbabwe.

Coming back to the article in question, may I advise the author and indeed the magazine that two years ago there may have been shortages of some basic foodstuffs in Zimbabwe, but today, as I write, these are in abundance. Coming to the crime rate, it is conviction that Zimbabwe is one of the safest destinations in Africa. Could the same be said of South Africa? Can you walk freely at night on the streets of Pretoria or Johannesburg? You can do this in Harare. Hence, to say that the “unabated levels of crime and food shortages are reaching unacceptable levels” is a bit out of step. And to go further and say that Zimbabwe is slowly collapsing is an insult not only to the people of Zimbabwe, but also to the Zimbabwe Defence Forces who have a responsibility to see that the country does not collapse. ‘Or is it the implication of the author that the ZDF is partly responsible for the alleged collapse’.

Let me assure the author and indeed the readers of the magazine that Zimbabwe is not about to collapse and will not collapse. There is certainly no humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe and I advise the author not to read too deeply in the media because the Zimbabwe he sees on BBC and CNN is certainly not the Zimbabwe I live in. It should, therefore, not be the Zimbabwe he writes on.

On a lighter note, the invitation to Capt Sethu Lubisi is still extended for him/her to come and obtain first-hand information on Zimbabwe. If the Centre for Military Studies cannot cater for his trip to Zimbabwe, all he need do is find his way to Harare and I will provide accommodation and food - Lt Col L. Ngwenya, ZDF.
Letters from proud Armour women

What a day when ladies received the opportunity to serve in the SA Armoured Corps. Each of us ladies experienced it differently. Some enjoyed every moment of it and others did not enjoy it at all. But the greater number enjoyed to the full to be part of a world previously not obtainable for women. We had the opportunity to do things that most ladies could only dream of and will never have the opportunity to do. The first group of ladies that had the opportunity to be trained on the Tank Transports as drivers enjoyed themselves. It cost hard work during the course, grease and dust formed part of daily living, but it felt good being able to drive a vehicle of approximately 100 tons, when loaded with the Olfant Tank. The SA Armoured Corps... We cannot say much more than... May the Flame of the Armour Burn Forever! - In both male and females hearts - Ladies in Armour.

It is very interesting in the SA Armoured Corps (SAAC). I joined the SAAC in 1999 when I completed my Basic Training course at 3 SAI Bn. Before I came to the School of Armour I heard many strange stories about the instructors of 3 SAI Bn. They said if you go there, being a lady, you will not make it. But it was not like that. I did my Basic Armoured Training Course. I did not know what an MG 7.62 MG Browning was. I was scared to shoot it, but ended up learning how to shoot it. I got the opportunity to go to Lohatlha and see all the weapons of the SA Army - thanks to the Armour. While doing my Driver’s and Maintenance course I learnt how to drive a car, that at that time something I could not do at all. I also thought it was a big deal to drive tanks, now it is like driving a bicycle. I feel overwhelmed when I think that I fired a 105 round in a canon. Today I can say I am proud to be an Armour woman: I am a Tank Driver, a Gunner and I can drive a car - Tpr Stekana Manki, 1 SA Tank Regiment.

The most interesting part of my career in the Armour, since July 1999, was when I fired and drove a tank for the first time during my Driving and Gunnery Course in 2003. At first I did not think that a lady could drive or shoot with the armoured cars, but I have proved myself wrong and now know that I can make it. Other people used to say if you have asthma you will not make it in a tank. I have done it because I wanted to prove them wrong and also because it was part of the course that one has to do if you were in the Armour - Tpr Gladys Makatees, 1 SA Tank Regiment.

I started my corps training in 1999 after joining the SA Army. Participating in EXERCISE SWEEPSLAG, we shared all the experiences with the men in Lohatlha. After completing the RNCO course in 2001 I was promoted to Lance Corporal that same year. Being in the Armour I had the opportunity to complete the Driver and Maintenance course. Being a lady in the Armour makes me feel strong, I can do everything the men can do, and better! I did not know that during my career in the SA Armoured Corps I would be able to drive a tank, shoot with it and also give commands on it. I am very proud of being in the Armour, and of the experience that I have gained, especially to sleep in the cold wind of Lohatlha and not be able to wash for a couple of days - this is nobody’s cup of tea - L Cpl Rose Phuzi, 1 SA Tank Regiment.

I was one of the first black women to be trained on the tanks and to receive a tank licence in 1997. I think the question most women in the SA Army ask is how do we manage to work under such dusty and greasy conditions as we do? We really enjoy it. Although most people think it is only men who can work under such conditions, one finds that women can also do the work. There is no man’s world anymore. Becoming a qualified Troop Commander was the most enjoyable moment of my life, although the few hours of sleep caught up with me. To be in the Armour makes me proud. It makes one realise that a woman’s place is everywhere. Drinking the traditional Armour “diesel and dust” makes you feel committed and faithful. The women in the Armour became qualified drivers, loaders, gunners, and crew and troop commanders. This shows how committed women are to the Armour - we are prepared to go the extra mile - Lt Gloria Mazibuko.

When I joined the Armoured Corps on 28 July 2000, it was one of the proudest moments of my life; I was joining such a proud corps with so many traditions. I work at 1 SA Tank Regiment - one of the youngest military units in the SANDF. The unit and its personnel give genuine support to all its members who excel in sport, both at provincial and national level. During my school career I received Free State colours for athletics and Northern Free State colours for hockey, followed by provincial colours for u/21 hockey and action cricket. I have captained the Free State Women’s Rugby Team since 2001. I was a member of the SA Women’s President’s XV Rugby Team that played against England in 2003. In 2004 I received my national colours for rugby and played against Wales on 29 May and 5 June 2004. I am grateful for the support I receive from my parents, family and my unit - L Cpl Louise du Pisanie, 1 SA Tank Regiment.

Military collection for sale

For financial reasons and also because of a space problem I am forced to sell a part of my militaria and military book/magazine collection. I offer for sale shoulder shields, T-shirts, etc. Anyone interested can write to me or phone me.

* Military collectors can phone Mr J.J. Strauss after hours at tel no: (046) 622 2858 or write to him at: PO Box 7069, Grahamstown North, 6148 - Ed.
Military Strategy in Context published in July 2004

I must take Col Bob Janssen to task for his comments on Defence Strategy prior to 1994 as it is clear that he has no idea about what went on in this discipline before in the 70s and 80s. I was in fact at Defence Headquarters as SSO Strategy (Navy) in 1980/81 and then as Director Departmental Strategy in 1982.

Military strategy in that era was entirely a joint Services process. Although the individual services did “lobby” for their own Service and did produce papers on subjects such as the Maritime Strategic view, these inputs were then co-ordinated by the Military Strategic Planning Committee (MSBK = Militêre Strategiese Beplanningskomitee) into joint Service strategic documents.

It was in fact also our Directorate, which in 1981/2 first tried to break away from the concept of determining strategy and force level planning only from the “perceived threat”, largely because we were able to demonstrate that this “threat” as defined by the Intelligence Branch was based on opinions regarding the future actions of other nations.

We introduced a concept of designing strategy on national requirements and then basing the resultant force levels on available resources - that is financial, technical and human.

Although this did not find favour at the time I should like to believe that it did sow the seed that has grown into the modern strategic planning process.

I also dispute his comment that "There were few financial constraints, with few or no limits on design and structure". In fact extremely stringent constraints were placed on force design, and even the Air Force, which was the best of the Services at lobbying for funds, was unable to get much of what it believed it really needed. As an example, a personal memorandum from the Chief of the SADF to the Chief of the Navy in 1988, turning down a proposal to regenerate the President Class frigates that the Navy had been lobbying to get for years, states: "The Defence Top Structure should by now be acutely aware of the seriousness of our force planning and development problems vis-à-vis the financial and other restraints".

Although defence budgeting was at the time at an all-time high of 4.6% of GNP, this figure is about half of what the USA, Britain and France and probably one third of what the USSR were allocating to defence at that time. I agree wholeheartedly that at 1.6% of GNP South Africa is at present very much underspending on defence. As the regional major economic power we should at the very least be allocating the IMF norm of 2.2%, preferably closer to 3%. Is it any wonder that we struggle to comply with our commitments to peacekeeping?

Lastly, in his presentation of the present military strategy - which as an ex DDS I am very pleased to see being made public - there still remains a major failing. Historically, and especially in developing nations (eg the USA in the 19th Century and even effectively post World War II) one of the primary roles of defence forces in peace is what used to be known as Nation Building. In this role the Military, largely in meeting their own requirement for a youthful workforce, provide the nation with a source of people trained in various technical and academic areas with four or five years’ experience. An example of this process is West Point in the USA which was established at a time when America was “opening up the West”, as the Army was the only organisation capable of providing the large numbers of trained civil engineers needed to establish the rail and road infrastructure.

The new naval programme of Military Skills Development is an excellent example of the implementation of this strategic role of the military - R Adm Chris Bennett (Ret), Tokai.

Message from Lt Col Dix Smook

It is with nostalgia that I am writing this message, as it is my last as a soldier in the SANDF. After serving for 21 years in the Reserve Force (Infantry Corps) and 18 years in the Permanent Force (Logistics) I have decided to call it a day. I have many memories of the last 18 years. The fond ones I will cherish forever. The not so fond ones have become logistic companions and, if time allowed, there probably would have been many more. Others, simply friends because we share a common passion, love and interest in soldiering.

The exposure to other sections of our great but vulnerable industry was also immensely satisfying. Not only did I meet with some exceptional experts in their fields (Armscor), but was also afforded the opportunity to have a better understanding of the intricacies and the extremely fine balance that had to be maintained between Defence industries.

There were many highlights and special occurrences during the past 18 years, too many to mention, but I would like to mention a few special ones, not necessarily in order of importance.

The leading role that the DOD played in the weapons industry, better liaison with all Services, the enormous contribution in support of national objectives, the vast improvement in the quality of training of senior and junior members, support to the people of the RSA, support to prevent aggression, and the tragic passing away of Lt Gen P.P.J. Coetzee and his legacy to Logistics.

Logistics greetings - Lt Col Dix Smook.
**Signing of two new defence agreements**

By Nakedi Phasha

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Two new defence co-operation agreements were signed at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 2 August 2004. Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, our Minister of Defence, and the British High Commissioner, Ms Ann Grant, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the governments of the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on the provision of UK Armed Forces personnel to the RSA Department of Defence to advise the RSA DOD on aspects of democratic defence management and peace support operations. A Supplementary Arrangement between the governments of the RSA and the UK concerning the provision of support during exercises, training and operations was also signed. "The MOU and the Supplementary Arrangement will facilitate and regulate increasing bilateral military co-operation between our two countries, particularly in the area of combined military exercises," said Minister Lekota. "The MOU will formalise the presence of the British Peace Support Training Team in South Africa. The team plays an important supporting role during the preparations of DOD elements earmarked for deployment during peace support operations. "The Supplementary Arrangement will complement the provisions of the MOU on Defence Co-operation between South Africa and the UK signed on 12 November 1997 in respect of military exercises, training and operations (other than war) by setting out general principles, procedures and responsibilities and methods of support the parties may provide to each other," Minister Lekota continued. The Minister of Defence said that the signing of these two documents is a positive development. "This development also reflects the commitment of both parties to take joint responsibility to solve regional security issues by the role the UK is prepared to play in augmenting our capacity to prepare our forces for peacekeeping operations in the region and the continent," Mr Lekota concluded.

**Exercising the Right of Freedom of Entry**

By Capt B.S. Nobanda, Corporate Communications SAAF

A very great honour was bestowed upon the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing (AF MDW) when the Hibiscus Coast Council, at their Executive Meeting held on 7 October 2003, resolved that the council would grant the Freedom of Entry to the Hibiscus Coast (Hibberdeen to Port Edward) to the AF MDW.

The AF MDW exercised this right on 12 June 2004 with a ceremonial parade at Margate Airport. During the parade a plaque was unveiled by the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Sibusiso Ndebele, renaming Escombe Street Nelson Mandela Drive. Thereafter members of the AF MDW marched through the streets of Port Shepstone with Colours flying.

The awarding of the freedom of entry to a city or town to a regiment or military unit is a tradition that dates back as far as the 14th century. It symbolises the confidence of the civilian population in the regiment or unit, and confers on the regiment or unit the right and privilege to bear arms while marching through the city.

The Hibiscus Coast Mayor, Councillor N.F. Shusha, addressed dignitaries, guests and spectators at Margate Airport and officially unveiled a plaque commemorating 400 Aerodrome Maintenance Unit, which constructed the airfield at Margate in 1969. She also took the salute during the march past in Port Shepstone when AF MDW exercised its right of freedom of entry to the town.

Construction of the airfield at Margate by 400 Aerodrome Maintenance Unit began in 1969 and the Town Council of the Borough of Margate, as a tribute to this Unit, graciously honoured them with the Right of Freedom of Entry in 1973. 400 Aerodrome Maintenance Unit exercised this right of entry in 1980 and 1989. 4 Air Depot exercised its right of entry in 1995 and 2000.

Transformation resulted in 4 Air Depot changing its name to 4 Air Servicing Unit in 1999 and when this unit was de-activated, the Hibiscus Coast Municipality graciously transferred the Freedom of Entry to Margate from 4 Air Servicing Unit to the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing. The role of the AF MDW is to provide sustainable combat ready, integrated and deployable air support capabilities for the SANDF in service of the RSA.
Signing of joint declaration between two countries

By F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his counterpart, Mr Clazte Cissouma, the Malian Minister of Defence, signed the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Governments of the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Mali concerning military and technical co-operation at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 12 August 2004. The signing of this Joint Declaration of Intent is an essential step to expedite formalisation of the defence co-operation between two countries. Minister Lekota also said: "The defence co-operation between our two Armed Forces will further strengthen mutual co-operation in the field of defence with the aim of maintaining a lasting peace security, not only between our countries but also in the continent."

In terms of this Joint Declaration the two countries undertake to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future so as to formalise relations between the two armed Forces.

"The intended Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in the near future will, firstly, develop and formulate procedures for military co-operation between the militaries of our two countries," Mr Lekota continued.

"Secondly, it will promote co-operation in the training of military personnel and the conducting of combined military exercises, especially in the peacekeeping environment, and further encourage the exchange of military personnel at all levels."

Consolidating ties between two countries

By PO Dennis Ndaba

The People’s Republic of China played a crucial role in ensuring that the struggle against apartheid succeeded and that South Africa attained its freedom. The relationship between the two countries has grown from strength to strength and it was no surprise that on 1 January 1998 diplomatic relations were established. This paved the way for the two countries’ armed forces to forge close and friendly bilateral relations.

As recently as June this year, His Excellency, Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice President of the People’s Republic of China, visited South Africa. While in the country, he reaffirmed China’s policy in Africa, which aims at strengthening its partnership with the African continent, based on the concepts of stability, equality and mutual benefits.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota and Gen Guo Boxiong signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance between the Department of Defence of the Republic of South Africa and the Ministry of National Defence of the People’s Republic of China at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 19 July 2004. Mr Lekota said the signing ceremony for a donation of 100 computers and 100 laser printers for training, marks yet another milestone in developing and strengthening the close and friendly bilateral relationships that already exist between the two Defence Forces.

He added that the two countries co-operated on many fronts and, to this end, a broad range of agreements has been concluded. Of specific importance are those in the fields of police co-operation, trade, science, economic affairs and technology.

Gen Boxiong emphasised that the People’s Republic of China viewed the donation as mutual help or support as it cements the mutual relationship and friendship. He added that there would also be an exchange programme in the field of military training and co-operation in peacekeeping operations.
Our Deputy Minister visits the Air Force

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mululeki George, was welcomed and introduced to the SA Air Force Board by the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, at the SA Air Force Headquarters (SAAF HQ) on 5 August 2004. This was followed by a presentation by the Director Air Capability Plan, Brig Gen Piet van Zyl, on the strategic overview of the SA Air Force. Various issues were discussed, including the operational priorities of the SA Air Force, namely air mobility for diplomatic missions, support to the SA Police Service, humanitarian deployments, capital and renewal programmes, Air Force Employment for 2003/2004, SAAF capabilities and, most of all, the SAAF Vision 2012, key strategic issues and challenges.

The next stop of the visit was at the Air Force Command Post (AFCP). This is the most critical facility in the SA Air Force. It is responsible for the provision of support to Chief of Joint Operations in the overall strategic, operational and tactical command and control of the SA Air Force. The AFCP also supports the Chief of the SA Air Force in preparing combat-ready SA Air Force resources and meets its VIP obligations. In his presentation the Officer Commanding of the AFCP, Brig Gen Piet Burger, provided the Deputy Minister of Defence with a full picture of all the elements and interfaces in the role of the AFCP.

The visit ended with a stop at the Cockpit Restaurant where Mr George was presented with a symbolic gift by Lt Gen Beukes as a token of appreciation for his visit. Mr George thanked all those involved in making his orientation visit a success, and said that it had been very useful. He also commented that he had learned and benefited much and promised to return soon.

Our Deputy Minister visits Makhado

By Sgt N.R. Mantshongo,
Corp Comm Ass Makhado AFB
Photo: Sgt D.J. Nel

Makhado Air Force Base had the pleasure of being visited by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mululeki George, as part of his orientation programme on 28 July 2004. The General Officer Commanding Makhado Air Force Base, Brig Gen Des Barker, welcomed the Minister and his entourage with an informative presentation on matters involving, among others, the organisational structure and history of the base, operations, force preparation, facilities, as well as all aircraft stationed there.

Brig Gen Barker also emphasised the role that Makhado Air Force Base has in integrating the new aircraft, the Gripen and the Hawk, with other fighters.

After the briefing by Brig Gen Barker, Col Kobus Botha, the Officer Commanding 3 Air Servicing Unit (3 ASU), introduced Mr George to his unit and the role it plays in terms of support and assistance to the operations conducted by the base. Col Botha stressed the fact that 3 ASU is responsible for providing quality maintenance and repair capabilities to ensure that aircraft are serviceable in a cost-effective way. 3 ASU also has a mandate to ensure that even the new aircraft that are coming will be provided with the same service that the Cheetah has enjoyed over the years.

The next stop for the Minister was at 2 Squadron, the home of the flying Cheetahs. Col Don Dormehl, Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, briefed the Minister on the history and the operational roles that are entrusted to 2 Squadron to ensure that Makhado Air Force Base lives up to its expectations. Col Dormehl made it clear that air defence and ground attack were areas that the Squadron was engaged in to a large extent. He made a clear distinction between the capabilities of Cheetahs C and D in terms of features that enhance their utilisation on operations and general manoeuvres. The occasion was also graced by the presence of the Greater Makhado Municipality Mayor, Mr Sariel Nkuzana.

At the end of the visit the Deputy Minister of Defence thanked all members involved in making his visit a huge success. He conveyed a special word of thanks to Mr Nkuzana for taking the time to accompany him on his visit to the base.
SAS MENDI and her crew laid a wreath

On 16 January 1917 the SS Mendi troopship sailed from Cape Town en route to Le Havre in France carrying the last contingent of the South African Native Labour Corps (SANLC) comprising 805 black privates, five white officers, seventeen non-commissioned officers and 33 crew members.

On the morning of 21 February 1917, another ship, the SS Darro (10 0000 tons) travelling at full speed and emitting no warning signals, rammed the SS Mendi (4 230 tons), which sank in 20 minutes.

Of the 805 black troops 607 were lost, along with 9 of their fellow white countrymen and all 33 members of the ship’s crew. The event is commemorated by a number of memorials in South Africa, Britain and France. The names of those who died in this tragic incident are engraved on the Hollybrook Memorial, in Southampton, for those lost at sea and also at the SS MENDI Memorial in Atteridgeville near Pretoria. The SA Navy has honoured the Reverend Dyobha by naming a strike craft (fast attack craft), the SAS ISAAC DYOBHA (P1565), after him.

The last of four MEKO A-200 patrol corvettes purchased by South Africa from Germany is named after the SS Mendi to honour the valour shown by the members of the SANLC in their last moments.

The first three, already in South Africa, are the SAS AMATOLA, SAS ISANDLWANA and SAS SPI- OENKOP. While some of the names commemorate famous battles in South African history, the symbolism of the ship’s names is not in the battles themselves, but in the valour shown by both the victors and the defeated in the battles. The corvettes are thus collectively known as the Valour Class.

The wreck of the SS Mendi lies 11,3 nautical miles from St Catherine’s Light, the most southerly point of the Isle of Wight, on a bearing of 217 degrees magnetic.

On 23 August 2004 HMS Nottingham, a Type 42 destroyer of the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy, and the SAS MENDI rendezvoused at the position to lay wreaths in remembrance of those who died for their country and the allied forces.

At 13:30 the off-watch personnel of the SAS MENDI mustered on the flight deck. The Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Kevin Packer, opened the ceremony. Lt Theo Hokoma (the personnel officer) read a brief history of the SS Mendi. The scripture reading from Revelations 21, verses 1 to 5 was led by Chaplain Patrick Diniso. The prayer was followed by a poem: ‘Our fallen heroes’ recited by its composer, PO Mpho Rakoma.

R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala and Capt (SAN) Packer then laid a wreath, which was followed by a wreath from HMS Nottingham. 87 years have passed since the SS Mendi tragedy, but on this special occasion the South Africans who died on that day were remembered and honoured by the SAS MENDI and its crew on behalf of the South African people. (Article courtesy SA Navy website)

Our Deputy Minister meets Military Veterans

By Sam Mkhwanazi, Spokesperson of the Minister of Defence
Photo: Mr Vuyo Zambodla, Head of Communication

The Advisory Board on Military Veterans’ Affairs met with the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, in Pretoria on 23 July 2004 to report on progress in the discussions about the future of military veterans’ associations and related issues.

Deputy Minister George expressed his concern about the pace of progress on certain critical issues relating to specific groupings of military veterans. “The Ministry of Defence has identified matters relating to military veterans as being of key and strategic importance, especially those disadvantaged by lack of income and unemployment.” He emphasised that one of the first priorities is to identify military veterans who urgently need assistance. Other issues discussed included: recognition, registration, pensions and building capacity to service the veterans.

The Advisory Board on Military Veterans’ Affairs visiting the Deputy Minister included the Council of Military Veterans Organisations, MK Military Veterans Association and APLA.

Front, fltr: Mr L.L. Mlonzi (member), Lt Gen D.P. Knobel (Ret) (Vice Chairperson), Mr M. George (Dep Min), Ms E.M. Kubushe (MOD Legal Advisor) and R Adm (JG) L.M. Bakkes (Dir MVA and member). Back, fltr: Mr J.P. Mlambo (member), Mr D.C.D. Gush (member), Lt Col L.F. Poorter (Ret) (member), Mr L. Mosia (member) and Col L.W. de Clerk (secretary).
School of Armour hosts high profile group

By Lt Col Fanus Buys, Second in Command, School of Armour
Photo: Lt Charl Ihlenfeldt

On 12 May 2004 the School of Armour had the honour to host the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) in order to expose programme members to the landward defence capabilities, which constitute the hub of the conventional capability of the SANDF.

The ENSP, which is the most senior programme presented by the SANDF, consisted of senior officers of the SANDF, senior delegates of other state departments and senior officers from countries, such as Kenya, Lesotho, the United States of America, Germany and Nigeria.

With the support of the SA Army Directorate Force Preparation, the event was expanded to include the exhibitions of the Infantry, Intelligence, Artillery and Air Defence Artillery Corps. This visit constitutes an educational and development opportunity for the ENSP. Members were briefed about the capabilities of the SA Army and exposed to the main equipment and organisations which forms our landward defence capability. The use and mobility of this equipment was also demonstrated to the visitors.

Under the direction of Lt Col Andrew Doyle, ETD Wing Commander, an immaculate day was presented. The School of Armour even went so far as to exhibit vehicles of the SA Armour Museum to the visitors. The ENSP was not only exposed to the heartbeat of our conventional capability as is concentrated in Tempe, but they also experienced the warm hospitality of the Bloemfontein community. This visit is one of many similar initiatives and opportunities used by the School of Armour to host visitors of national and international standing.

First female student trained as a fighter pilot

On 2 June 2003, under the command of Lt Col “Barries” Barnard, 85 Combat Flying School opened its doors to very unfamiliar territory and welcomed its first female student to be trained as a fighter pilot.

Capt Catherine Labuschagne received her wings at Langebaanweg in May 2000 and thereafter moved on to do a three-year tour at 41 Squadron, flying C208 and BE20/BE30 aircraft. When the opportunity arose early in 2003 to join 85 Combat Flying School she welcomed it with open arms. She joined the Unit in June 2003 and is currently on course with seven other students, which will probably be the last course to complete before the Operational Training Course on the Impala aircraft.

85 Combat Flying School is an old unit alive with potential and possibilities and ready to train these new young students. It provides the SA Air Force with the finest quality of fighter pilots as it has done in the past.
Beautiful beginnings
By Nakedi Phasha
To cement a friendship that stretches back into history the United Kingdom donated £150 000, which amounts to about R1.8 million. The handing over ceremony took place at the SA National War College on 5 August 2004. The money was used for a good cause, viz the installation of the necessary facilities that will help the students at the SA National War College. The money was used to open a library, an Internet room and a conference room and to buy some useful equipment.

The Chief of Joint Training, Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, in his speech said: "There have been wars in this country between the inhabitants and the British and it has to be acknowledged, as no human beings can change the footprints of history. Today, I am glad to say it does not matter how dark the clouds of history were, as a sound and professional relationship exists between the two countries and more especially the two militaries."

The availability of funds is a huge problem. The members of the SANDF could not hide their happiness and appreciation. In thanking the UK the Chief of Joint Training encouraged the commandant and the staff of the SA National War College to seize these opportunities that are being offered to them. "You are the flagship of the SANDF. Utilise these opportunities not only for the benefit of the SA National War College, but also to the advantage of the larger SANDF community. You are instrumental in the development of the future military leaders who will have the responsibility to be able to perform their duties in the international arena, in Africa and maybe other continents in future," Maj Gen Ntshinga concluded.

The Commandant of the SA National War College, Brig Gen William Nkonyeni, officially opened the Internet room. For the students at the College this was just the start, as they will be enjoying reading and studying with the books of the new library and studying through the Internet.

Saving money with a container
By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana
On 13 August 2004 Col Gideon Odendaal, the Officer Commanding of the Military Health Base Depot, introduced a uniquely designed, multi-purpose container which saved the DOD half a million rand.

The design of the container was a joint effort between the Military Health Base Depot and Container World, which for the past twenty years have been working in different projects with the SANDF and Armscor. The idea came about after Lt Col Vernon Visser and WO1 Giep Pieterse from Military Health Base Depot, who had to procure a new vehicle that could replace the damaged one, had explored many options. They found that it would be much cheaper to design a container that could be used on a vehicle already in the possession of the Military Health Base Depot. To put the plan into action, they visited container manufacturers and sought advice from different organisations, groups and individuals.

The drawing they came up with seemed impossible at that time. It only takes one person to load the container on the flat rack, as it operates with roll-on roll-off system. Another unique feature of this container is the three compartments. Two cubicles are used for loading ammunition, medication or any other commodity that needs to be transported. This gives an obvious solution to another problem the logisticians previously had to face.

Equipment such as ammunition and weapons that may not be transported within one container can now be transported on one vehicle, which saves a lot of money and time. The container was designed according to regulations for transporting explosives, ammunition and weapons. The third compartment is a sleeping quarter for two to three people. The driver and co-driver can now sleep in comfort while en route.

One more distinctive feature the container has, is in the loading and offloading of cargo. It has secure doors at the back and in the left and right walls. The loading can therefore be done from any side.

Mr Christopher Lee, the Managing Director of Container World, said it took them three months to finish this project with the budget of R100-000. The container truly portrays an image of what a modern, smaller and cost-effective SANDF should look like.
National Science Week 2004

By WO1 Manny Gounden,
PRO Naval Station Durban

Naval Station Durban participated in the National Science Week 2004, which commenced in KwaZulu-Natal and eight other provinces from 10 to 15 May 2004. The venue for this event was at N-shed, a centrally situated and easily accessible venue with the eThekwini Port precinct. On display for the first time to a large audience was a model of the newest acquisition of the SA Navy, the MEKO patrol corvette, which drew enthusiastic interest from all those who visited the display stand of Naval Station Durban. Research and Development Strategy showed that human resources in science, engineering and technology fields were being inadequately renewed. In order to turn the situation around, there is a need to interest our youth in science while they are still at an early age and to increase their interest in studying mathematics and science. While putting emphasis on youth, awareness should be created among those sectors of society that can bring an influence to bear on the subject and career choices of learners. National Science Week 2004 is a national strategic initiative by the Department of Science and Technology. This year’s theme, in keeping with the country’s celebration of 10 years of democracy was: “Exciting our youth with science in a democratic South Africa”.

The primary focus was on the youth from pre-school to undergraduate level. The secondary focus was on other sectors of society with an influence on the subject and career choices of learners, viz parents, educators, the media, politicians and families. Naval Station Durban also took the opportunity to explain the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme which is being offered by the SANDF and the DOD Youth Training Foundation. Approximately 3 000 MSD forms were handed out to prospective students. The locality of the exhibition gave visitors the opportunity to view a display of harbour protection boats and the important role they play in providing harbour and inshore patrols. In terms of learner excitement the naval display was rated highly by independent judges, and elicited many questions from interested learners.

Indian contingency visits our soldiers

By Lt S.M. Motebe
Photo: Sgt V. Jumba

History was made on 16 June 2004 by the ambassadors of 2 SAI Bn when they gave a hearty welcome to the Indian contingency led by the Air Vice Marshall B.N. Gokhale and his high-level entourage members when they visited Nyiragongo Base. The visiting group was briefed by the Officer Commanding of 2 SAI Bn, Lt Col B.C. Greyling. The structure of the unit was explained in some detail. Members are currently mandated to assist with the process of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegation (DDR) and disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) in the DRC, protection of all UN personnel, properties and evacuation in times of need. They also do escort duties in respect of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), military observers, and they patrol rural and urban areas. They are involved in the gathering of information, destruction of seized weapons, area domination and air power support in terms of cargo routine movement, recce flights troopng for reinforcements, close air support, M125 protection, as well as medical evacuation and supply replenishment. In conclusion the visiting group was informed of the mode of co-operation and relationship built and maintained by both structures via informal and formal meetings. The members of the group toured the base and enjoyed dinner with the Officer Commanding of 2 SAI Bn.
All roads lead to Rome

By Ms Dalleen van Sittert, SA National Defence College

The Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 09/04 had the privilege of visiting Italy from 22 May to 29 May 2004 as part of the final course module - "Global trends." The aim of the visit was to acquire practical experience of the Italian approach to political, economic and social issues affecting national security, gain an understanding of its demographics, availability of natural resources and its economic potential, as well as their relations with Africa and South Africa in particular.

On the first working day, ENSP members visited the Centre for Higher Defence Studies (CASD), which is the equivalent of our South African National Defence College (SANDC). They were briefed about the CASD organisation, tasks and curricula and on defence and security related matters. It was interesting to note that the CASD is in many respects similar to the SANDC. The main difference is that it falls directly under the command of the Chief of the Italian Defence Force and enjoys a high-level advisory relationship with the Italian Defence Command Cadre.

The CASD is furthermore accredited with the education and training institutions/universities within Italy and members are awarded with a recognised university qualification upon completion of their programme. The day ended with a visit to the South African Embassy where the group briefed Ambassador Lenin Shope on the findings of their research before the visit to Italy. He reacted positively to the identified critical issues and responded with a short contribution, which included an analysis of the challenges the Italy faces within the European context.

The second working day was filled to capacity with a visit to the Italian Parliament, and another to the South African Embassy and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the Parliament, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe and Member of the Justice Commission at the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Honorable G. Kessler, briefed the members on Italy’s security challenges after they attended a session and thereafter enjoyed a guided tour of the buildings. At the South African Embassy, Dr Menotti of the Aspen Institute Italy gave a lecture on how Italy’s Foreign Policy was influenced by world events, such as the 11 September 2001 attack in the USA and the Iraq war. At the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador B. Cabras, the Director General Sub-Saharan Africa of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affair, gave the members an overview of Italian Foreign Policy and Italy’s involvement in Africa, with specific reference to its role in peace-keeping and peace promotion in Africa.

On the third working day ENSP 09/04 members went to Naples where they were received and briefed by Adm G. Johnson, the Chief in Command of NATO Joint Forces Command HQ. Noteworthy was the importance that regional security co-operation will play in the future and that language and cultural differences are subservient to the common security goals of any region. South Africa should thus take note that a common language and interoperability of all systems are required in our region. Highlights on the fourth day were the visit to the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and the reception given by HE Ambassador Lenin Shope at his residence in Rome. Italian guests involved in the visit, a selected group of South African diplomats in Rome, as well as the German DA and Nigerian representative in Italy were also invited.

On the fifth working day, programme members visited Milan and the AgustaWestland helicopter facilities in Vergiate. It warmed South African hearts to watch our own A109 LUH going through its paces. The sixth and last day was spent on recreational and cultural activities.

All of us returned from Italy touched by the friendly nature of her citizens and the wealth of her history and culture. The importance of visits such as these cannot be underestimated because of the practical experiences, which enable members to understand better the geopolitical challenges of Italy, the EU and NATO and the relevance thereof for South Africa and our region.
Women's Day celebrations in Kindu

By Capt J.M. Motau, Info Ops Assistant

Women deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were invited to come and join the Women’s Day celebrations together with their South African brothers and sisters as one group in Kindu (Basoko Base). Those who could come arrived on 6 August 2004 from Kinshasa, Bukavu and Goma. Everybody worked hard in preparing for the day.

9 August 2004 was planned as a "dry ration" day for everybody in the base, as is the custom every 28 days. Women were favoured on this day because it was their day; they were treated specially well and, instead of "dry rations", the men prepared a very palatable breakfast for the women.

All came together dressed in beautiful outfits on - "The Deck". The National Contingent Commander, Col W.A. Nkosi, and Chaplain Mara were present during the breakfast to wish the women a fruitful day and to tell them how special they were. The women sang a song "Igama le Makosikazi ma li bongwe" (Let the name "Women" be praised) whereafter they enjoyed breakfast.

Next, the women prepared for a trip to the Congo River. A bus was waiting to take them there.

When they got to the river they were immediately taken onto the water in rubber boats. Those who were afraid of the dinghies also got a chance to get to the middle of the river, viz by ferry. All enjoyed themselves and many pictures were taken.

After hours of enjoyment on the river the women were very tired and all they wanted was to return to the base and relax before the next event because the day was far from over.

At 14:00 the men of Basoko Base started running relays dedicated to the women. At 16:00 the women came together for a braai. The mess provided them with pap and salads. While they were still busy with the braai it started raining heavily. The cultural evening still lay ahead, but the rain did not stop them from going on with their rehearsals for the night.

The cultural evening was held specifically on this day to incorporate and celebrate Women’s Day. This time the men were officially welcomed to join the women in the celebrations. The events started at 19:00. The Master of Ceremonies was a woman, Capt J.M. Motau. The Bolivian contingent and their band and dancers were there, having been invited to the celebrations.

The Bolivian band and dancers performed later, followed by the women performing again in the different traditional outfits, this time in uniformity - they performed what is called Traditional Khiba. Two men from the South African contingent acted in a drama based on the oppression of Congolese women in the DRC.

There were gigs by gumboot dancers, Mapantsula and African Jazz. The events of the evening ended with the women dancing freestyle and jazz in jeans and T-shirts. Later, many women were exhausted after the long day and all they wanted was to go and rest.

This article was written to thank all the women who were motivated to make the Women’s Day celebrations in the deployment area such a success. Special thanks are due to Col Nkosi for letting it happen and to Maj Mtetwa (Info Ops), who helped with the preparations.
An external deployment battalion

By Sgt Abé le Roux,
Comm NCO, 15 SAI Bn

15 SAI Bn has arrived safely in Burundi after a lengthy mobilisation period that started in June 2004. The Advance Team arrived on 12 July and from 22 July the remainder of the battalion started to fly out to Bujumbura. By the end of July everyone was on terra firma in Burundi.

During the mobilisation period the members of the Battalion had to “adapt” to weather conditions not really conducive to the human anatomy. The average temperature at De Brug during the nights was -5 to -8 degrees Celsius. On our arrival at Bujumbura we encountered stifling heat when we disembarked, but with determination on our faces visible, every step of the members of 15 SAI Bn showed guts.

The Officer Commanding of 15 SAI Bn, Lt Col P. Davids, was a welcome face on arrival. We boarded the waiting buses and were welcomed in the 450 man base, after which we moved to DC 1 in the Bubanza area. This base is situated in a geographically unfriendly region and we were faced with dust, heat, bunkers and of course the Advance Team, which had adapted well to circumstances. By this time the sun was already setting and we had to hurry to get to our sleeping places for the night.

Thinking back on my “journey” from 450 man base to DC1 while trying to sleep I could not forget the faces of the local youth standing next to the roads and holding out their hands as if asking for something and shouting in friendly voices, SOUZA! This made me realise that 15 SAI Bn can be grateful to have had the opportunity to be here to be part of this mission to better the lives of these “innocent” creations of God.

Our mornings at DC1 start with a run up the “Polleys” of Burundi, which is very steep, but to my amazement I noticed the Officer Commanding running up front. I must commend the members of the battalion for their fitness level. The “not-so-well-built” also did well!

The days at DC1 went on with normal operational routine until we heard the news that the Nepalese were on their way to take over the duties here.

It is now 16 August 2004 and our final group from the battalion has settled into the Palace Base in Bujumbura. Once again the members of 15 SAI Bn were faced with the enormous task of making this base “liveable”. Tents had to be taken down and erected, toilets were cleaned, and drainage systems and ablution facilities had to be upgraded. “Hats off” to the Officer Commanding and his team for a job well done.

The base is about to be completed. The important aspect that must be highlighted here is the fact that the battalion is simultaneously meeting its operational commitments!

The Officer Commanding took the initiative to plan a project for the deployed women to celebrated Women’s Day. They were treated on 14 August 2004 to a day of festivities. This included breakfast and lunch at the yacht club, as well as a braai and swimming at the ambassador’s mansion.

As the vision outlines - “An external deployment battalion well disciplined and competent” - 15 SAI Bn will embark on this deployment in “full flight”. Greetings to all in the RSA. We will not let you down!

Sweet voices

By Nakedi Phasha

The Thaba Tshwane City Hall was packed with music lovers on 22 July 2004 when the annual Departmental Choir Competitions took place. The SANDF was the host and it was the first time that the SANDF choir took part in the competitions. Several government departments, such as the Department of Health represented by Kalafong and Ga-Rankuwa Hospitals, the Reserve Bank and so forth. But, as a first time competitor, the SANDF choir was way above the standard.

The SANDF choir took part only in the group category, and won with three of their songs. The group graced the hall with their sweet voices, to the surprise of some as they have their own perceptions of people in uniform. Defending the country is the number one priority for the SANDF members. It is not surprising that the choir sang the National Anthem better than any other department and came first, with Ga-Rankuwa taking the second position. Although the choir did not make it as overall winners, they performed at their peak level. We all have to start somewhere, watch this space next year.
Instruments of peace and development

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Workshop for Women in the Workplace presented at SAS WINGFIELD in Cape Town from 4 to 5 August 2004, granted women some quiet time to share views and experiences.

Needless to say SA SOLDIER was there, only this time as a participant observer. I can never separate myself from occasions that involve women coming together and doing their thing. Women have such a vast world of experience and are such great storytellers, so that seeing them gathered and communicating was intoxicating.

The topics were varied; some were admittedly lighter than others, while yet others were met by a deafening silence. Our conversations ranged from tips on how to “dust your home with love” to taking our rightful place as some of the most influential leaders of our time.

The workshop coincided with “Cancer Week” and so we had a representative from the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) to educate us on cancer of the cervix and breast. Emphasis was laid on these two types of cancer because they are the most prevalent types affecting women. Women were advised to be familiar with their bodies to enable early detection: if detected in time, cancer can be stopped.

According to the information provided by CANSA, breast cancer is currently the most common cancer among South Africa women and is the number one cancer among women worldwide. All women run the risk of getting breast cancer and the lifetime risk of developing cancer is one in eight.

We were also told that exercise, a low-fat diet and weight control can reduce a woman’s risk of getting breast cancer.

Then we had a speaker from the Heart Foundation South Africa who addressed the group on risk factors in heart disease and how to eat healthily for your heart. We were told that these risk factors were high blood cholesterol, hypertension, overweight, physical inactivity, smoking, diabetes and a family history of heart disease.

The spokesperson from the Heart Foundation South Africa slowly took us through the food pyramid and guided us on the best types of food and eating habits to adopt for a strong and healthy heart. It was clear that a healthy lifestyle largely contributes to the well-being of the body, as does regular exercise, no smoking (never too late to quit), and developing per-
Celebrating women in a decade of freedom

By Nakedi Phasha
Photos: PO Eddie Kgomo

"Brave Mothers of Africa."

Malibongwe igama la makhosikazi, yes, let there be praise to the women’s name. That is what the women in the SANDF were doing at the Navy Mess in Pretoria on 4 August 2004. They were honouring and giving praise to all the women in the SANDF and the women of South Africa.

The SANDF Gender Forum is an annual tradition of the women in the Defence Force, but this one was one of a kind. It was held to celebrate a decade of women and their achievements in Defence and to pay tribute to a former Patron of the SANDF Gender Forum, the late Capt (SAN) Lindsay Evans.

Cpln (Rev) N.C. Rweqana opened the day with prayer and a sermon. Then women representatives from the different Services sang the praises of women in their services and gave an overview of the achievements and growth of women over the decade.

One remarkable woman in the SA Navy and an achiever herself, appeared on stage, she is the only female Admiral in the SA Navy, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala. She spoke proudly about the SA Navy and the women in the SA Navy and their achievements. Then representatives from the Services spoke.

In the African tradition, it is the head of the family's duty to welcome his or her guests and make them feel at home, and that is exactly what the... (Continued on page 22)
host of the day, V Adm Johan Retief, the Chief of the SA Navy, did.

One can never celebrate if there is no entertainment. Fortunately the women in the SANDF are very talented. The day was full of entertainment, ranging from opera music, traditional songs and a poem, which was recited by Col Belinda Martin. The poem was entitled: "Brave Mothers of Africa". The poem took us back to where and how the day - 9 August -originated. It salutes all the brave women who took part on that day in 1956 and encourages the women of today to live by their example.

**Brave Mothers of Africa**

**Brave Mothers of August 9th**

NOT A SOUND WAS HEARD ON THAT HISTORIC AND COLD WINTER’S MORNING

NOT EVEN THE HUSH OF THE AUGUST WIND

EVEN THE INFANTS ON THE BACKS

OF THE DARING WOMEN

REVERED THE MOMENT WHEN THEIR MOTHERS MARCHED IN ONE STEP WITH ONE VOICE

MOTHERS

TWENTY THOUSAND STRONG

THERE WAS ONLY ONE DIRECTION

UNION BUILDINGS WHERE STRYDOM FLED THROUGH THE WINDOW TERRIFIED AT WHAT HE SAW WARRIOR WOMEN SOLEMN AND DETERMINED

LS Rachel Khumalo singing her heart out, while paying tribute to the late Capt (SAN) Lindsay Evans.

Col Belinda Martin.
Remarkable PSAP women in the DOD, Dr Mary Ledwaba, Chief Director Human Resources Policy and Planning (right), and Ms Thuli Manzini, Director Human Resources Policy Management.

The only female Admiral in the SA Navy, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala.

TO MAKE THE WORLD QUAKE THAT DAY IN DEMAND OF HUMANITY INTEGRITY AND HUMAN JUSTICE

LILIAN NGOYI PRAISE BE YOUR NAME LEADER OF WOMEN BRAVE MOTHER OF AFRICA SOPHIE WILLIAMS-DE BRUYN YOU LIVE ON AS THE LEGEND OF THAT MOMENTOUS AND GLORIOUS OCCASION YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION OF VALOUR ENDURANCE AND GREATNESS RAHIMA MOOSA MALEIKOM SALAAM PRAISE BE UNTO THEE HELEN JOSEPH COLD YOU LAY IN YOUR GRAVE BUT NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN GREAT SISTERS WHO LED THE MARCH THAT DAY

WE HONOUR YOU YOUR BLOOD PULSATES THROUGH OUR VEINS TO FIGHT INJUSTICE TO THIS DAY

BEAUTIFUL SISTERS OF AFRICA BEAUTIFUL MOTHERS OF SOUTH AFRICA WE SHALL MARCH FROM THEN TILL NOW USING THE COMPASS OF PEACE EQUALITY JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY MOVING ON FORWARD WITH THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT THABO KA MBEKI AND THE CARING ZANELE WHO HOLDS THE CANDLE THE FLAME OF FREEDOM

LISTEN TO THE SOUNDS OF PEACE THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER THE SOUNDS OF FREEDOM IN AFRICA

AMAHORO PEACE BE WITH US ALL - Col Belinda Martin (Gloria Mtungwa)

A candle was lit in remembrance of the late Capt (SAN) Evans. The atmosphere became very sad as the women remembered their sister who passed away, when R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala paid tribute to this brave sister.

LS Rachel Khumalo sang a very heart-warming song in memory of the late Capt (SAN) Evans. "All is not gone you will always be remembered, your presence is still felt." In these words she sang her heart out.

The highlight of the day was when the women from SAMHS, with the assistance of Mr Sonny Leshika, donated wheelchairs to former ex-combatants. Brig Gen Petra Mari, Director Military Health Human Resources, presented the wheelchairs and walking sticks, and also a certificate of appreciation to Mr Leshika.

The day ended with all the women dancing to the "click song". What a day!

If only women could be celebrated everyday, but the struggle continues for women to be empowered and to get the respect and acknowledgement they deserve - ALUTA CONTINUA.
Women soldiers back from deployment in Burundi

I believe one can only reflect on a situation once you are not "in it" any longer. After deployment to the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) for a six-month period - from August 2003 to February 2004 - and now back for four months, so perhaps this is a good time for reflection.

Did all the other women and myself make a difference in serving the Peace Mission in Burundi? Nowadays when I watch the news and I hear the word Burundi, I tend to give my full attention. Every time the peace process seems to have a stumble, my heart aches. Every time it goes ahead full steam I feel like dancing.

Some twenty women spent their six months at the Demobilisation Centre, some 30 km north-east of the capital city of Bujumbura, only coming to "town" and the "Palace Base" once every month for four or five days at a time. They certainly earned the respect of their male counterparts. I do believe their input to safeguarding some 200 ex-combatants did make a difference to the Mission.

Within the VIP Protectors and the Static Guards there were almost thirty women. Being a VIP Protector has its own kind of challenges, but the women proved that they could perform this specialised job without standing back for any man. I do believe that each one of them made a difference serving the Mission.

At the Airport Base some eight women served the Mission as logistics and even in the Artillery Battery, inter alia!

The Medical and Air Force personnel rotated more frequently than the Army personnel did, but without their medical care Burundi would not have been the same. As any soldier knows, good support contributes enormously to morale.

At AMIB HQ some twenty women held posts varying from photographer, "manning SAFI", a civilian lady (ABSA Blief Tannie) in the pay office, to CMI services, etc - I believe each and everyone of them made a difference in the support tasks they performed.

What motivates a woman to volunteer to deploy for a period of six months? The same question can be asked of all the men who voluntarily deploy. One will be dishonest if one says that the money involved does not count. There are, however, other reasons as well. Reasons such as "wanderlust" and the gaining of experience in one’s specific area of specialisation within a peacekeeping environment - experience that nobody can take away from you.

Oversight of deployment afterthoughts…

Capt Harriët Joseph and an Ethiopian soldier.

Fltr: Maj Lucky Sangweni, Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer and Sgt Sipo Magwijana were responsible for public information at AMIB HQ and the RSA contingent.
If I now look at photos and try to share the wonderful experience with friends and family, I do realise to my dismay that they cannot be as excited as I am. Unfortunately, only those who shared in the hardships, but also the highlights, can really share in the excitement.

Where should I start? - Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer

Having been asked to reflect on time spent during a six months deployment at the African Mission in Burundi from August 2003 to February 2004, I do not really know where I should start.

Would it be at:
- The Mission Training held at 4 SAI Bn early July 2003?
- Mobilisation at Bloemfontein from middle July 2003?
- Arriving at Burundi on 1 August 2003?
- At the first operational morning meeting or the first theatre dynamics meeting (held once a week)?
- Being introduced to colleagues from Ethiopia and Mozambique, as well as the personnel from the Head of Mission?

Would it be the first time:
- I slept in my chopper tent? (a privilege to have had one!)
- I spoke telephonically with my daughter at home?
- I received a parcel with fresh apples and some other special goodies?
- The first time I tried to support a lonesome friend and started crying myself?

Or would it be:
- A man said something sexually offensive to me? (Luckily there were only two culprits.)
- Some new friends and I had a quarrel?
- We had to have a "house meeting"? (This was not like Big Brother where people got voted out…)

I experienced real challenges in performing my job as the SO1 Public Info, without the necessary equipment?

Would it be the first time?
- I took a cold shower and realised running water was a privilege?
- I used the chemical toilet facility and realised this is IT for the next six months?!
- A thundershower fell down from heaven like it would never stop?
- I missed my mom's home cooked meal?
- Buying "King Cone" Belgium ice cream at the local butchery?
- Visiting Sage Plage at Lake Tanyanika?
- Time visiting the Chief of the SANDF, our Minister of Defence, our former Deputy Minister, our Deputy President and many more?

Or would it be:
- The arrival of the new rotation early in February and the excitement that the time to return home was near?
- Arriving back in Bloemfontein and the demobilisation process?

On each one of these “reflections” I can write an essay, but I also know that only those who shared similar experiences will really understand what it is about.

Being deployed in Burundi as a woman - Capt Harriët Joseph

On 26 July 2004 I left for Burundi, afraid yet anxious to see what this new challenge had in store for me.

Today as I look back after deployment to the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), I think it was one of the best things that could have happened to me - My best experience in my career so far. Being deployed for six months outside the borders of South Africa in Burundi was not only an experience for me, but also an eye-opener. We as human beings take so many things for granted, such as having a warm meal every day of our lives, to have clothes on our bodies and to be with our beloved families everyday. That is until you reach a place called Muyange, situated in Gihanga commune about 30 km out.

(Continued on page 26)
side Bujumbura, where you see so much poverty that it breaks your heart.

In an area of magnificent beauty measuring nearly 2 square kilometres and situated in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province was where almost twelve women of different backgrounds were deployed. I started by being the Intelligence Officer for 4 SAI Bn. Scared, nervous and alone I began my deployment. We had left our husbands, boyfriends and children behind. We had given up six months of luxury in our beloved country to become part of a peacekeeping force.

Members of 4 SAI Bn were deployed at Bubanza where their main task was to accommodate combatants who voluntarily surrendered. Part of my duties as a member of 4 SAI Bn was to put the combatants through a Disarmament Demobilisation and Re-integration (DDR) process. I had a lot of inner fights with myself because I wanted to give up, but I told myself to stay strong. The DDR process in itself was not only to demobilise the combatants, but also to look after them. WO1 Matlala, S Sgt Malousi, Sgt Cloete and myself were the responsible members for those men and children. So many fights were fought with the combatants, which was mainly about rations. The ration scale was calculated according to United Nations standards, despite the increment of the combatants. These combatants were allowed visits from friends and families. All of them wished to be part of a community again or to have the opportunity to go back to school again. They had also received visits by the top "brass" of the SANDF, including the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.

Our contribution as women to the whole peacekeeping mission was of great value. We had built ties with the community of Gihanga that no one can or will ever be able to erase from our minds and hearts. We had a surprise on Christmas Day for the children of the village by giving them sweets and food parcels. We even showed them the "Mr Bones" movie of Leon Schuster, which brought so much joy to their faces that it made one’s heart sore just to see that a small thing like that could cause so much happiness. The smiles on those faces will be an everlasting memory for me.

It was an honour to participate as a woman in the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) and whatever little contribution I have made towards the objectives of the DDR, was driven by the courage of my being part of the sons and daughters of the continent and making a meaningful contribution in my life-time.

Financial rewards should not be our motivator, rather to see the African continent implementing the many resolutions agreed upon, and to see African countries joining in implementing those resolutions for all our people. Our aim of achieving success during our deployment in Burundi to a large extent depended on our skills in communication, negotiation and devising our solutions together with our hosts, including the international community. Without the combatants, which were responsible for so many grey hairs, we would have never succeeded in our mission.

As women we should never underestimate our strength when it comes to challenging situations. We

(Continued from page 25)
Reflections - Maj Tania Botes

What a great opportunity I had eventually to be part of an SANDF contingent participating in external deployment, in this case in Burundi.

As a mother of three children (aged one, two, and four) I went aboard. Yes, I have a very capable husband when it comes to the caring of our children. One can also say that the family support system ("grannies") was in place.

So, it was with a good heart that I left South Africa on my own six-month adventure…

Thinking back, I ask myself: "Was it worth it?" YES, Yes, of course!

I made a lot of friends, I learned to relate and even leaned on people, something I never thought I would. You see, when out there, we all have the same feelings of missing our loved ones, the same excitement over a parcel received, the same adrenaline rush of some action that may take place.

I do smile from time to time at the struggles we had in order to fit in the friendship hierarchy. I do smile at the times I cried over missing my dog and how attached I became to Fibre - our dog at the Palace Base.

It was also a totally new experience. I definitely learned how to deal with crisis management.

No, definitely not!

I feel like putting the money in the one hand and the time lost with my children and husband in the other hand. The money will never buy that children and husband in the other hand. The money will never buy that.

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Indeed a secretary with aspiration

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: PO Eddie Kgomo

"I am the Secretary of Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF," said Ms Phyllistas Mukondeleli Mavhungu, introducing herself to the SA SOLDIER team just before the interview began. Ms Mavhungu turned out to be a very direct, yet undaunted person, bursting with energy.

Ms Mavhungu is originally from Venda in the Northern Province and had spent all her working life in her home town until she set her sights on Pretoria. Little did she know where that would take her…

She worked for the Venda Defence Force since 1989 as a Secretary at the Maunavhathu Battalition. After integration she became secretary to more than five officers commanding. Following her move to Pretoria, Ms Mavhungu worked at the SA Training Formation where she worked as a typist for two years. She then moved to the Chief Directorate Force Preparation were she worked as a senior administration clerk. In both posts she relieved the secretaries when they were sick or on leave. She has now been the Secretary to the Chief of the SANDF for eight months.

"When I saw the advertisement for a post in the Chief’s Office, I decided that now I am going up”, revealed Ms Mavhungu.

I asked her why she thinks she got the job, "I think it is my honesty; during the interview I did not lie about anything. I was asked concerning the workload and the work times,” she said. She pointed out that Gen Nyanda formed part of the four-member panel that interviewed her.

"I told him I would be here whenever there is a need, and I meant it,” continued Ms Mavhungu. She explained that she was also chosen because of her work experience; this is now her fifteenth year in the defence environment, ten of which were spent as a secretary.
The Mamelodi residents were watching with astonishment. Some of them really appreciated what they saw when the various Colours of the different units, marching soldiers and mechanised columns occupied the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square and surrounding streets.

It was not the first time that the Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division had staged such a special occasion. In June 2003 Paul Kruger Street was a buzz with military flair when CMIS received the Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Tshwane in Pretoria. On 19 June 2004 it was in Mamelodi that the CMIS Division was granted the Freedom of Entry to the City of Tshwane in Mamelodi.

Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, and Maj Gen Ashwin Hurribunce, the Chief of CMIS Division, mounted the podium to acknowledge the events of the day.

Father Mkhathshwa during his speech highlighted the significance of the custom of granting the privilege of entry to a city to a regiment, so that its soldiers may march through the city concerned, with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. The custom has a long history. Drums were used to draw attention to, and flags were flown to announce a call-up for the King of England’s service. In the early days the soldiers were allowed to carry spears, and later to march with fixed bayonets.

He further elaborated on how the custom of tribute was paid to a defence force unit by a government institution in South Africa. It can be traced back to the year 1879. After the Zulu War in Natal, the units that had taken part in the war were thanked by means of a Legislative Council resolution. In August 1879 the city of Durban received the Durban Mounted Rifles with an impressive display of rejoicing. A few days after the return of the unit some of its members were invited to a dinner by the Mayor. After the Bambata uprising in 1906 a resolution was adopted by the Natal Parliament on 31 July of that year, expressing the Council’s gratitude for the soldiers’ prompt response to the call-up and for the courage and perseverance displayed by all ranks.

The Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane continued by mentioning that the awarding of the freedom of entry into a city is a tradition that dates back to feudal times. Today it symbolises the confidence of the civilian population in the regiment or unit and confers on it the right and privilege of bearing arms while marching through the city or town. Where the civic authorities of a city or a town have formally granted a unit or regiment the freedom of entry into such a city or town in appreciation of a service rendered, or for any other reason whatsoever, this action by the civic authorities should be greatly appreciated and the privilege exercised in the spirit of the tradition.

The vision of the City of Tshwane is to become an international African Capital of Excellence that empowers its community to prosper in a safe and healthy environment.

“"The Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Tshwane is a token of our pride and trust in the Division and the people who ensure that it relentlessly pursues its vision.”

He concluded by wishing the CMIS Division a prosperous and glorious future in the service of our people and our country.

Maj Gen Hurribunce said during his speech that the tenth anniversary of the birth of the SANDF was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony on 27 April 2004. “The cardinal role of the Defence Force to defend and protect our sovereign nation was once again indelibly imprinted in the minds of all peace loving South Africans through the parading of our soldiers and military hardware through the streets of our nation’s capital. It is therefore fitting that we dedicate the CMIS Division’s privilege to exercise its freedom of Tshwane to the SANDF on the occasion of its tenth anniversary of existence in our democracy,” said Maj Gen Hurribunce.

He extended his appreciation that the CMIS Division is honoured to have received the Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Tshwane last year and again this year, and has accepted with it the responsibility to collectively defend and protect the people of Tshwane.
Young man from East Rand takes command of a Navy warship

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

It is every combat officer’s dream to take command of his or her ship at some stage of his or her naval career. Even so, not every combat officer can be given the opportunity as only a few are chosen. On 19 August 2004 the second black naval combat officer assumed command of the SA Navy’s inshore patrol vessel, SAS TOBIE, at the change of command ceremony at East Dockyard in Simon’s Town.

The appointment of Sub Lieutenant Nkosinathi Michael Manqele as the Officer Commanding of SAS TOBIE marks another milestone in the history of the SA Navy’s efforts to ensure transformation and representivity through the empowerment of young men and women serving in the SA Navy.

South Africa requires a Navy with a broad range of balance capabilities as a key component of the SANDF in order to support the nation’s objectives to project peace or, if necessary, to show strength, during times of tranquillity or tension. It is necessary that Navy personnel be well trained to meet the demanding challenges of the future.

On completion of his Matric at Buhlebuzile High in 1990, this young lad, originally from Thokoza in the East Rand, had the goal of becoming an electrical engineer. He was recruited by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) as a trainee engineer in 1991. After three years with the company, the military bug bit Nkosinathi after he saw an advert in the newspaper about career prospects in the SANDEF. Seeing the opportunity for an adventure of a lifetime, he decided to embark on a career as a combat officer in the SA Navy in 1996.

S Lt Manqele completed a Bachelor of Military Science degree (B MIL Nautical Science) at the University of Stellenbosch and a Computer Information Systems Diploma at UNISA in 2001.

From 2001 to mid 2003 he underwent training to become a combat officer in the SA Navy. S Lt Manqele completed various courses at the Maritime Warfare Training School, and was rotated between various ships for the completion of the Combat Officer’s Task Book in order to gain maritime experience.

In mid 2003 he was tested in his Bridge Watchkeeping Board, which he passed with flying colours, and earned the prestigious Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate. In the same year he was appointed as a First Lieutenant (Second in Command) and a Navigator of the highly effective inshore patrol vessel, SAS TOBIE.

Although relatively small vessels, the inshore patrol vessels have carried out crucial operations in support of the SA Air Force in carrying out air-sea rescue missions and have been extensively utilised to support the SA Police Service and the Department of Marine Coastal Management in combating the poaching of marine resources.

S Lt Manqele takes command of the SAS TOBIE from Lt Johannes Germishuys who has now decided to embark on a career as a Navy Hydrographer on the SAS PROTEA.

When asked how he felt about being appointed as the captain of the SAS TOBIE he said: “It is an honour and privilege to be chosen from among many excellent young combat officers in the SA Navy. This is a symbol of trust and recognition given to me by my superiors. I am indeed honoured to serve my country in this capacity,” S Lt Manqele concluded.
Prestigious award for the School of Armour

By Lt Col Fanus Buys, Second in Command School of Armour

On 21 April this year the School of Armour was selected as the Bloemfontein Institution of the Year for 2003. This competition, which has been run for the past 21 years, is annually sponsored and presented by the Bloemfontein community newspaper, “Ons Stad”, and Mangaung Tourism. Impressive and worthy institutions are considered by a panel of judges who have to make the almost impossible and difficult decision about announcing a winner from very deserving candidates. This is the first time that a military institution has been awarded this impressive accolade.

The criteria for the award are based on how the nominated institution advanced the image of Mangaung, the community service it rendered and achievements that brought honour and prestige to Bloemfontein. The School of Armour has been part of the Bloemfontein community since April 1966, and this award is the culmination of 38 years of service.

The Officer Commanding, Col André Retief, was one of twelve finalists in the competition of Bloemfontein Personality of the Year, which is awarded simultaneously. Only five institutions are nominated annually as Institution of the Year. Although the award can be attributed to the hard work, dedication and exceptional service of all previous Officers Commanding and personnel, it is under the guidance of Col Retief that the unit realised this goal of community involvement. The fact that he was a finalist is ample proof of his exceptional leadership and human skills.

The School of Armour recently received the Freedom of Entry to the City of Mangaung. This parade generated valuable publicity, not only for the city of Mangaung, but also for the SANDF. It contributed immensely to the new spirit of national pride in the Defence Force. The School of Armour is currently at the forefront of this resurgence of pride experienced by the local community of Mangaung.

The School educates and trains around 1 000 learners annually when it presents its 94 military courses. Apart from this, the unit houses the SA Armour Museum and 1 SA Tank Regiment. This museum is fast becoming a popular tourist attraction in Mangaung, which draws visitors from around the world. Delegates and visitors from more than forty countries have passed through the gates of the School of Armour over the past eight years.

The annual Open Day presented by the School of Armour, where museum and contemporary equipment is displayed, also contributes to the overall corporate image of the DOD. This day is aimed at strengthening the bond between the military and the community it serves.

One of the biggest cycle races hosted in Bloemfontein is the annual SA Armour Museum Cycling Race. Funds raised during this event are used to maintain the museum displays, as well as to keep various military vehicles with heritage value in a running condition.

The award of Bloemfontein Institution of the Year shows the appreciation of the Mangaung community towards the School of Armour for being a beacon that it can be proud of.

The symbolic Flame of the Armour truly burns with pride and vigour in the hearts and minds of all these members.

Col André Retief, the Officer Commanding School of Armour (third from the left), receives the award of Bloemfontein Institution of the Year 2003 on behalf of the unit. Fltr: Mr Maré Scholtz, Executive Director of Mangaung Tourism, Ms Saartjie Potgieter, Bloemfontein Personality of the Year 2003, Col Retief and Ms Marietjie Gericke, Editor of the community paper: “Ons Stad”. (Photo: Charlé Lombard, “Ons Stad”)
Take Siyandiza to the skies

By F Sgt Ethel Lemmetjies

Bloemspruit Air Force Base really flew high these past four months. First they had a very successful Young Falcons Introductory Camp during the week of 28 March to 3 April 2004. Although it was a first for Bloemspruit it set a standard that will be hard to beat.

Bloemspruit Air Force Base also took part in the Upington Expo, where aircraft flew to schools in the area as part of the Siyandiza Aviation Awareness Programme. Selected learners had the chance to fly in one of the Oryx helicopters. For them it was really an awesome experience. The week of 3 to 8 May 2004 was a real eye-opener for the learners and the community of the Upington area when the SA Air Force took them to the skies.

The Siyandiza Young Falcons Project was really boosted in the Northern Cape Province, when members took part in the National Science Fair in Kimberley during the week of 10 to 15 May 2004. Even the remote schools of the province had the chance to be part of the aviation awareness programme. It was obvious that the learners knew little or nothing of aviation. From the aviation awareness point of view, the week was a great success.

Some of them dreamed about flying, but did not know where to find the right information. As one of the youngsters said: “I want to fly, but my parents cannot afford it”. The light in his eyes really touched my heart when I told him that the SA Air Force will train him free of charge, provided he studies hard at school, and takes the right subjects. He is only eleven years old, but I think he is already starting to live his dream.

Learners like these make all the hard work worthwhile. I believe that once again the SA Air Force lived up to the Siyandiza slogan: “We are Flying”. It is a great programme, and if the members who form part of it really have a passion for this project, it will be a huge success.

New home for our Army Armour Formation

By PO Dennis Ndaba

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Army Armour Formation opened its new Headquarters in the Sebokeng building complex on 7 July 2004. The Sebokeng Building was previously know as the Ad Astra Mess, but was renamed by the then Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, on 2 July 2004. Sebokeng denotes a place where people with different backgrounds and from different places stay and live together and work jointly towards a common goal. The festivities began with the unveiling of a plaque of steel artwork at the main entrance of the headquarters - Pectore Sicut Ferro (with the chest of steel) - by the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Armour Formation, Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys. Mr Tito Mboweni, the Governor of the Reserved Bank and Honorary Colonel of 1 SA Tank Regiment, was given the honour to propose a toast to the SA Armoured Corps. He mentioned that proper facilities go a long way towards improving the morale of soldiers and congratulated the Department of Defence on allocating funds for the renovation of the building. In his address Brig Gen Gildenhuys said that they were extremely proud of their new headquarters and those serving in it are acutely aware of their responsibility while serving here. “It is here where strategies and plans are born. It is from here that direction is given to our commanders and their units. It is here where we link the higher headquarters with the soldiers in our units. It is here where value is being added to the processes, programmes and projects of our Army and National Defence Force. It is indeed from here that actions are generated to accomplish our mission of providing combat-ready Armour forces,” Brig Gen Gildenhuys said.

He concluded by saying that it was his hope that he and his staff, as well as the generations to follow them will always be reminded of the important role to be played by members of this headquarters.
Making it a home away from home

By Garley Tshivhase,
OC Secretary 7 Med Bn Gp

At the beginning of 2004 members of the SAMHS Secretaries Forum decided that 2004 would be a year to make a great difference in the lives of others. After a few of the secretaries visited the Children’s Ward at 1 Military Hospital and the Military Hospice in Thaba Tshwane and saw that most children felt lonely, with no toys to keep them busy. There was also a shortage of linen. The Military Hospice could not provide most essential items; it became clear that the difference these women hoped to make in 2004 would be most appreciated by these little patients. The secretaries identified this need and decided to fill the gap with goodwill. The Surgeon General supported this initiative and a donation drive was put in place so that funds could be raised. The drive was a success due to the true dedication and cooperation of the secretaries. On 15 July 2004 the members of the SAHMS Secretaries Forum, in cooperation with the SANDF Ceremonial Guard Entertainment Group and the SAHMS Band, held an “Afternoon of Music” concert at the Military Health Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane. The aim being to raise funds that would provide linen and toys for the Children’s Ward at 1 Military Hospital, as well as to purchase essential items for the terminally ill patients cared for at the Military Hospice in Thaba Tshwane. It was the secretaries’ hope that these gifts would help make the patients’ stay, either in hospital or in the hospice as comfortable as possible. It was an honour to have Mrs Leoné Jansen van Rensburg, wife of the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, welcome all honoured guests and sponsors present. Most of all, the greatest honour was to have Mrs Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General’s mother, present at the event. Capt S. Lekgeu from the Children’s Ward at 1 Military Hospital and Capt S. van Emmenis from the Military Hospice were there to receive the gifts from the secretaries. As the “Afternoon of Music” concert continued the people attending the event had the opportunity to go home with surprises as the secretaries had arranged to have four lucky draws, with the fifth draw being a free week at the SAMHS Holiday Resort. This was donated by Col Jock Stenhouse on behalf of the SAMHS Fund. Donations were made by Lt Col David McNally, Cdr (Ret) Fanie and Mrs Hilda Olivier, WO1 Rodney Wilson, the Military Psychological Institute, the Area Military Health Unit Gauteng and the Institute of Aviation Medicine. Other donations were received from Total Facilities Management Company (TFMC), Isabel Kirchner on behalf of Pep Division North, Mr Sakkie Hurd on behalf of ABSA Consultants and Actuaries, Mediterranean Fish and Grill in Centurion, Nestlé, Seattle Coffee Shop in Centurion, the Wimpy in Centurion and PLUS Motor (Shell) in Schoeman Street.

The SAMHS Secretaries Forum would like to express its sincere gratitude to the GOC Military Health Training Formation, Brig Gen Albert Jansen, for allowing them to use the facilities of the unit to host the event and to the sponsors for the donations that were made. To everyone who contributed to this project, thank you.

Hercules Boogie 2004

While on vacation in Sweden I was fortunate enough to attend the first day of the 11th Hercules Boogie which took place from 24 to 31 July 2004 at Hovby Airport just outside Lidköping in Sweden. Approximately 600 skydivers from all over the world, from as far away as South Africa, Brazil and Australia, joined up to skydive and party at this event which takes place every second year. A Hercules C-130 NO 841 operated by the Swedish Air Force, based at Skaraborgs Wing, is used to jump from. (Article by Ruline de Bruyn, 18 Deployment Support Unit/SAAF and photo: Håkan Brandt)
A new and innovative approach to peacekeeping has been formulated and is currently being debated in many circles. This concept is called Developmental Peacekeeping. Developmental Peacekeeping was formulated after it was found that traditional peacekeeping approaches did not address the main causes of conflicts in Africa. Developmental Peacekeeping combines peace enforcement, peacekeeping and peace building in one process. This requires the military and civilian components of the peacekeeping operation to be deployed simultaneously, irrespective of ceasefire agreements.

Developmental Peacekeeping requires the deployment of multidisciplinary teams in the target country to conduct a macro-economic assessment. These teams consist of economists, security experts, engineers, public and development managers and town planners. The deployment of civilians in a war-torn country, however, carries a significant risk. It is therefore required to provide these individuals with the necessary training that will equip them to operate in these countries. The pilot project to provide training to this new type of peace builder is currently being conducted at the Naval Training Unit in Saldanha, as part of the Naval Gymnasium Programme (formerly known as the Military Skills Development Programme).

Ms Madlala-Routledge championed the SA Navy’s Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme. She defined the need for a mechanism to promote skills and also to put in place building blocks, which could lead to the realisation of developmental peacekeeping. Ms Madlala-Routledge last year invited Ms Zanele Mbeki, our First Lady, to SAS SALDANHA to experience first hand the success the students had achieved through the MSD Programme. The Naval Gymnasium programme focuses on preparing Naval recruits for the SA Navy and the Naval Reserve. They emerge so well-rounded that they are eminently suitable for multiple roles, including developmental peacekeeping.

Currently 57 Built Environment Graduates from the Department of Public Works are participating in the Naval Gymnasium Programme at SAS SALDANHA. These learners will be the first individuals to be trained for Developmental Peacekeeping. The Department of Public Works is therefore the first Government department that will be able to respond to a call for civilians to participate in peacekeeping missions through the deployment of multidisciplinary teams. After they are awarded the Military Maritime Certificate for Seaman, which is accredited by DIDTETA (120 credits on the National Qualifications Framework), these individuals will be deployed in the Department of Public Works. These members will in addition join the Naval Reserves on completion of their military training to ensure that they enjoy the best training and development for their future roles as peacekeepers in Africa.

In addition to the contribution towards developmental peacekeeping, the training programme at SAS SALDANHA contributes towards the National Skills Development Strategy of the Department of Labour, through the provision of increased skills development on the Naval Gymnasium Learnership Programme to larger numbers of the labour force. The increased number of learners trained at Saldanha creates a mechanism for job and capacity creation, as well as the potential for increasing service delivery in participating Government departments.

With the appropriate political endorsement and support, Developmental Peacekeeping could become the new methodology for peacekeeping missions on the African continent, and South Africa could become the leader in peacekeeping missions in the African Union (AU) and the world, instead of the United Nations (UN).

(Compiled by Capt (SAN) Robert Shelley, OC SAS SALDANHA, Lt (SAN) Greyling van den Berg, PRO SAS SALDANHA and Nelda Pienaar. Photos: Able Seaman Thabiso Lenkoe)
Adopting a policy framework for peace and security in Africa

By Prof Theo Neethling,
Faculty of Military Science
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In January 2004 it was announced that African Ministers of Defence and Security, meeting at the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa, adopted a Draft Framework for a Common African Defence and Security Policy for the continent. The relevant functionaries also reviewed progress on the development of an African standby (peacekeeping) force, and of an early warning system to detect and prevent potential conflict situations and to ensure speedy humanitarian relief in the event of disasters. According to reports, the ministers expressed their satisfaction with the progress report at the conclusion of their meeting. In July 2004, the AU Assembly, meeting in Addis Ababa, formally adopted the said Framework for a Common African Defence and Security Policy (hereafter common defence and security policy) as Africa's 'blueprint' or conceptual framework in the search for peace, security and stability on the African continent.

The adoption of a common defence and security policy is premised on an understanding among African leaders of what is required to be done collectively by African states to ensure that Africa's common defence and security interests and goals, as set out in Articles 3 and 4 of the AU's Constitutive Act, are safeguarded in the face of common threats to the continent as a whole. Moreover, these developments should be viewed against the background of various calls over a number of years for a macro-policy framework on conflict resolution and peacekeeping, specifically with regard to the role that the AU and sub-regional organisations should play on the continent. The need was also expressed for African political functionaries to clarify the multi-levelled relationship between the AU, sub-regional organisations and the UN, as well as the type of interventions African role-players might undertake and how those interventions should be authorised.

The AU's adoption of a common defence and security policy should therefore be seen as a decisive step forward for the AU, bearing in mind the need for a holistic approach towards appropriate responses to security crises on the continent. The challenge is to harness all existing regional, continental and international role-players and instruments into an integrated and coherent framework, both on a political and technical (military) level. In view of this, this article reflects on some of the salient features of the common defence and security framework.

Salient feature of the common defence and security policy framework

The common defence and security policy is a fairly comprehensive document that contains the following sections:

- Introduction.
- Principles and values underlying a common African defence and security policy.
- Objectives and goals of a common defence and security policy.
- Implementing organs and mechanisms of the common African defence and security policy.
- Relations with the UN and other international organisations.
- Building blocks of a common African defence and security policy.

One could expound a great deal about the contents of the common defence and security policy, but for the purpose of this discussion the following would suffice: In the first instance, the relevant document is premised on a point of departure that the common defence and security of Africa should be based on both the traditional, state-centric notion of the armed forces of states to protect their national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the less traditional non-military aspects which are informed by the new international environment and the high incidence of intra-state conflict. In this regard, the point is clearly made that each African state is inextricably linked to other African states, other regions and, by the same token, to the African continent as a whole. Furthermore, it is stressed that the causes of intra-state conflict necessitate an emphasis on human security, based not only on political values but also on social and economic imperatives. This implies an embracing of "human rights; the right to participate fully in the process of governance; the right to equal development as well as the right to have access to resources and the basic necessities to life; the right to protection against poverty; the right to conducive education and health conditions; the right to protection against marginalisation on the basis of gender; protection against natural disasters, as well as ecological and environmental degradation".

Against this background, it could be stated that the AU has clearly acknowledged - in accordance with
the broadening of traditional concepts of security in recent times - that appropriate responses to ongoing political, economic and social instability need to include a focus on effective governance, robust democracies, and ongoing economic and social development. In other words, there has been an acknowledgement that Africa finds itself in a profoundly new and different environment to that of the pre-1990 period, and that re-configured strategies are required to deal with previously ignored sources of insecurity and instability.

Secondly, the common defence and security framework deals in a comprehensive manner with those security threats that may be deemed to pose a "danger" to the common defence and security interests of the continent, or may undermine the maintenance and promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent. Such threats have been listed under the following four main categories:

- Inter-state conflicts and tensions;
- Intra-state conflicts and tensions;
- Unstable post-conflict situations; and
- Other factors that engender insecurity.

Of the above-mentioned categories, intra-state conflicts and tensions are probably the most interesting and significant, since conflict resolution and peacekeeping in Africa in the post-Cold War era has been heavily concerned with challenges relating to civil war and internal strife. To this end, the common defence and security policy lists the following threats under intra-state conflicts or tensions:

- The existence of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.
- Lack of respect for the sanctity of human life, impunity, political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities.
- Coups d'état and unconstitutional changes of government, as well as situations which prevent and undermine the promotion of democratic institutions and structures, including the absence of the rule of law, equitable social order, population participation and electoral processes.
- Improper conduct of electoral processes.
- Lack of commitment by the parties to abide by elections conducted in accordance with the laws of the country.
- Absence of the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights, individual and collective freedoms, equality of opportunity for all, including women, children and ethnic minorities.
- Poverty and inequitable distribution of natural resources.
- Corruption.
- Political, religious and ethnic extremism, as well as racism.

In the third instance, the drafters of the common security and defence policy document attended to a number of principles and values underlying the policy framework. As far as intervention action is concerned, the document confirms the importance of the concept of state sovereignty on which the international system and the AU were founded. Drawing on 'old' OAU principles, respect for borders existing on the achievement of independence is acknowledged and there is a presumption that each state has the power, authority and competence to govern its territory. At the same time, the document reiterates the AU position that intervention may be necessary where a weak state is unable to protect its citizens from war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, as well as a serious threat to legitimate order, in order to restore peace and stability in a relevant state. The right of any member state to request intervention is also acknowledged.

Fourthly, the drafters of the common security and defence policy document outlined the objectives and goals of the policy framework. It should be noted that the scope and parameters of the common defence and security policy extend far beyond the need to dovetail conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts on the continent. Generally speaking, it addresses the need to ensure collective responses to both internal and external threats to Africa in conformity with the principles enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act. The following objectives and goals of the common defence and security policy could inter alia be noted in this respect:

- To serve as a tool for the enhancement of defence co-operation between and among African states.
- To provide a framework for AU member states to co-operate in defence matters, through the training of military personnel, exchange of military intelligence and information, the development of military doctrine and the building of collective capacity.
- To serve as a tool for the simultaneous enhancement of defence cooperation between and among African states, and the consolidation of national defence.
- To provide best practices and develop strategic capabilities through training and policy recommendations in order to strengthen the defence and security sectors in Africa.
- To develop and enhance the collective defence and strategic capability as well as military preparedness of AU member states.

More particularly, some of the objectives and goals outlined are of special relevance to the dovetailing of conflict resolution and peacekeeping endeavours on the continent. To this end, the following objectives and

(Continued on page 36)
goals could inter alia be noted:

- To enhance the AU's capacity for and co-ordination of early action for conflict prevention, containment, management, resolution and elimination of conflicts, including the deployment and sustenance of peacekeeping missions and thus to promote initiatives that will preserve and strengthen peace and development in Africa.
- To integrate and harmonise regional initiatives on defence and security issues.
- To provide a framework for delineating the legal parameters for African civil society to function with regard to conflict prevention, management and resolution.
- To provide a framework for the effective participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution activities.
- To provide a framework for post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.
- To enhance the capacity of the AU to develop and promote common policies in other areas such as foreign relations and trade, to ensure the security of the continent.
- To provide a framework to establish and operationalise the (envisioned) African Standby Force.
- To promote a culture of peace and peaceful co-existence among AU member states and within the regions that could foster an emphasis on the use of peaceful means of conflict resolution and the non-use of force, such as preventive diplomacy, negotiation, the use of good offices, persuasion, as well as mediation, conciliation and adjudication.

Finally, the common defence and security policy also deals with a number of "implementing organs and mechanisms", i.e. the "Actors or Organs for implementing the Common Defence and Security Policy for the whole African continent". Not surprisingly, a number of sub-regional organisations have been listed, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Arab-Maghreb Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and some others.

From a military point of view, the creation of an African Standby Force as a new initiative (although fairly old as a pan-African ideal) is of special interest as such a mechanism is envisaged to enable the newly established AU Peace and Security Council to perform its responsibilities with respect to the deployment of peacekeeping operations and intervention pursuant to the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act. It is clearly spelt out that the African Standby Force should be regarded as the "implementing mechanism" for decisions of the Peace and Security Council. Thus the notion of an ASF is basically to set up a multinational force empowered to intervene in serious conflicts around the troubled continent. In terms of the new policy framework the ASF will be deployed to intervene in border wars and internal conflict under the auspices of the AU. Practically speaking, the ASF will be developed to consist of five regionally based brigades in addition to a sixth, continental, formation based at the AU's headquarters at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This will provide the AU with a combined stand-by capacity of 15 000 to 20 000 peacekeepers.

**Conclusion**

The adoption of a common defence and security policy for Africa is premised on a common understanding among African leaders of what is required to be done collectively by African states to ensure that Africa's common defence and security interests and goals, as set out in Articles 3 and 4 of the AU's Constitutive Act, are safeguarded in the face of common threats to the continent as a whole. As such, it provides a broad policy (political) framework that will inter alia help to govern and direct conflict resolution and peacekeeping practices in Africa. In fact, one could say that the common defence and security framework has been motivated by a need for greater conceptual clarity on parameters and principles for the conduct of multi-levelled (UN-AU-sub-regional) peace support operations.

All in all, the AU has made significant progress in the development of a comprehensive and cohesive peace and security policy framework in recent times. Although many practical issues and principles guiding interventions have yet to be thrashed out at specific functional levels, the common defence and security policy certainly represents a meaningful advance in conceptual thinking concerning the parameters and principles of regional or coalition peace operations in Africa. Some observers assert that the most important point relates to the need to register some progress regarding donor support to undertake peace missions. Peacekeeping operations are by their very nature costly endeavours. In Africa, there is a common acceptance at macro-policy level that the UN is the primary body responsible for international peace and security. However, it is often said that the UN today cannot do much beyond classical (Chapter VI) peacekeeping in the realm of military intervention. African coalitions, on the other hand, have proven themselves capable of conducting fairly sustained multinational operations that have involved some heavy combat engagements. At the same time, it can rightly be pointed out that the African experience is that even relatively small and less logistically intensive military observer missions were expensive for African role-players to maintain.

In view of the above, efforts in Africa to adopt a more detailed policy position would enable the AU to attain a more focused approach which - in a resource-constrained environment such as Africa - is crucial for role-players in considering what kind of missions could be undertaken by the AU and what is to be undertaken by means of multi-levelled endeavours. Thus it is trusted that recent developments to table a more detailed policy position and efforts to establish a continental standby force would cast operations on the continent in a more meaningful mould. Leaders of Africa would consequently be in a better position to regulate conflict resolution and peacekeeping on the continent in a constructive manner.
In 1772 the Radcliffe Trustees founded the Radcliffe Observatory in Oxford, England. The observatory was named after John Radcliffe (1652 - 1714) a British physician. In the 1900s Oxford was expanding rapidly from being a university with a small town into an industrial city, which adversely affected the city’s night skies. In 1924 Harold Knox-Shaw with the support of Sir Frank Dyson from the Astronomer Royal provided the first impetus for the necessary move of the observatory. By 1929 Knox-Shaw and Dyson had already made a preliminary reconnaissance to South Africa.

Dr W.H. Steavenson came to Pretoria and carried out an extensive series of tests on a site, approximately 8 km to the south-east of Pretoria, on a range of hills. The Pretoria Municipal authorities then stepped in and offered to make the Radcliffe Trust a gift of the 57-acre site. The new location for the observatory was chosen, but not without opposition. Eventually, in July 1934, the go-ahead was given. The observatory buildings with the dome were built and in 1939 the astronomers moved in. However... there still was no telescope. In August 1935 the order for the telescope was placed. World War II completely interrupted the building of the telescope. The telescope was finally installed in 1948, thirteen years after it was ordered.

Meanwhile during the 1960s Maj G.E.P. Nel was tasked to develop Intelligence training in the then SA Defence Force. It was first presented in the facilities of the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane (then known as Voortrekkerhoogte). The task of presenting the Intelligence training of the SA Army College, as well as that of Section Military Intelligence, became too big. Instructors were trained to support the Intelligence training requirements of the SA Army. Focus could then be put on the Intelligence Training for Section Military Intelligence, which was by now presented at the Poyntons building in Pretoria. Soon the facilities became too confined.

At Radcliffe Observatory the relocation of the observatory was once again planned, due to the deteriorating conditions of the night skies in Pretoria. After extensive surveys of possible sites in South Africa, the telescopes were relocated to the arid Karoo region, near the village of Sutherland. A hilltop just off the road between Sutherland and Fraserburg was chosen for its clear, dark skies. Thus, in 1974, the 1.9 m telescope was moved to Sutherland, after 26 years as the main instrument of the Radcliffe Observatory in Pretoria.

On 2 June 1975, with the help of Mrs Alet Pretorius (a founding member of the college and secretary of the first OC, Col D.J. Greyling) and her father-in-law, Mr C.F. Pretorius, the Radcliff Observatory site near Fort Klapperkop in Pretoria became the birthplace of the Intelligence Centre. Previously also known as the South African Military Intelligence College it was renamed in 1998 as the South African Defence Intelligence College.

A lot has happened since the opening of the Centre. The main dome of the observatory was renovated into a conference facility. Offices developed into classrooms, “temporary” classrooms were erected and the houses of the observatory personnel developed into guesthouses for guests of the Chief of Intelligence. House Orion was rebuilt and extended after it burned down in the eighties. On 2 June 2005 the SA Defence Intelligence College will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Part of the celebrations will be the opening of the SA Defence Intelligence College Museum, as well as the publishing of the history of the unit.

Staff members and students on course at the Intelligence Centre, SA Military Intelligence College and SA Defence Intelligence College are hereby invited to share their stories and memoirs with the unit. Any contributions are welcome and may be communicated to either Maj Dirk van den Berg at tel no: (012) 315 0961 or cell no: 082 418 9467 or Maj Thea Pelser at tel no: (012) 315 0969 or cell no: 084 499 0207 or email: sadic_college@hotmail.com

Radcliffe Observatory: dome, office and library.
By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Lucky is the young person who will recognise a great opportunity even if it is shrouded in extremely hard work. The Denel Youth Foundation Training Programme (YFTP), designed to accelerate young South Africans into the world of science and technology, is for youngsters who will persevere, especially when temptation is knocking at the door.

In 1994 Denel established a Denel Bridging Programme to prepare 24 learners for technical careers. In March 2001 the Department of Defence (DOD) allocated a two-year tender to Denel to set up and manage a Youth Foundation Training Programme to accelerate our youngsters into the science and technology fields.

Originally, when the Denel YFTP started in 2001, 167 learners were being prepared for science and technical careers in the SA Air Force, SA Navy, SA Military Health Service and, a year later, the SA Army was added to the list.

In 2003 the Denel YFTP opened with 250 students for the DOD on a five-year tender. With a count of 400 learners the year 2004 saw the consolidation of the Denel Bridging Programme together with the Denel YFTP and the Office of the Auditor General sponsoring 20 financial learners. At this point Denel is sponsoring 130 technical learners and the DOD is sponsoring 250 students (213 technical, 12 medical and 25 financial).

The main objective of the Denel YFTP is to fully develop the potential of the learner. This programme draws from school leavers who were previously disadvantaged applicants trying to get employment in highly specialised combat, technical, health and financial fields.

Through the programme Denel is expected not only to improve the learners’ understanding of mathematics, physics, science, biology and accountancy, but also to double or even triple their original Grade-12 scores. At the end of the one-year programme the DOD, Denel and the Office of the Auditor General can look forward to recruiting highly trained students ready and geared to impress.

Through the Denel YFTP the SANDF and associates are yet again saying: “We believe in our youth”. SA SOLDIER was fortunate to be able to attend the Denel YFTP Open Day held at Denel on 28 July 2004, and reported on young South Africans who recognise that the future of our country is in their hands. We were shown what it is to plough back something into society should an organisation intend to exist forever. Catching them while they are still young is exactly what will bring vitality into the SANDF. At the YFTP, obstacles standing between young people and a good career are minimised: all the student needs to master is everything personal.

SA SOLDIER spoke to some of the students: “I’m enjoying it a lot, there are a lot of ups and downs, but I am still enjoying it,” said 20-year-old Keketso Sepanya from Springs in Gauteng. “The teachers really get through to you and I am hoping to study IT at a local university when I complete the programme,” he added.

“If I had not been accepted into the Programme I would have had nowhere to go, I didn’t even have money to register at a university,” said 19-year-old Meokgo Mashishi from Soshanguve, a township near Pretoria (both Mashishi’s parents are deceased). “I know what I want and I go for it even though I must still deal with petty youth matters,” she continued. “I am hoping to go into the medical field of the Defence Force.”

The academic results for the YFTP in 2003 were HG Mathematics 90.6%; HG Physical Science 97.8%, HG Accounting 100% and HG Biology had 100% pass rates.

Also present at the YFTP Open Day with the intention of protecting the interests of the DOD were the Chief of Joint Training, Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, and the Chief of Air Policy Planning, Maj Gen Lucky Ngema.

Addressing the students Maj Gen Ngema gave them a morale boost and said that the youth was the future. “Out there is a world waiting for winners,” he said. “This is a good chance to express yourself to the best of your ability.”

A group of young men from the Denel Youth Foundation Training Programme teach the Chief of Air Policy Planning, Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, a few things about flying.
Senior serves Air Force for 60 solid years

By Col Les Weyer, Defence Reserves

As a young boy growing up in Pretoria Alan Bridgens dreamed of becoming an aviator in the fledgling SA Air Force. He held this dream through the rest of his school years in the Eastern Cape and joined the Air Force to serve as a pilot in World War II. After demobilisation Alan Bridgens entered a 45-year phase of personal academic improvement which lasted until 1990. During this period he obtained his BSc degree in Soil Conservation (1948), completed a course in radioisotopes as research tool (1958), obtained an MSc degree in Agriculture (1968), did a course in public administration (1985) and a course in negotiating skills (1990).

While improving his academic qualifications he did research and technical administration for the Department of Agriculture and rose to the rank of Director in that Department. He was also appointed, and eventually became the longest serving, Secretary General of an international technical organisation which promoted close technical collaboration between member governments.

His military career began in January 1943. He trained and qualified as a fighter pilot, whereafter he was seconded to the Royal Air Force. He flew mainly Hurricanes and Spitfires in the Sicilian, Italian and Greek theatres of World War II, but crewed some fifteen operational types during his three-year tour of service. After demobilisation he joined the SA Air Force Active Citizen Force as a founder member and subsequently flew in four Citizen Force units: No1 City of Pretoria Squadron (Harvard and Spitfire), 21 (Auxiliary) Squadron (B34 and PV1 Ventura), 25 (Auxiliary) Squadron (Ventura and DC3 Dakota) and 44 Squadron (DC3 Dakota and DC4 Skymaster). This tour of service was spread over a 38-year period from August 1947 to November 1985, and in this time was appointed as Flight Commander, Testing Officer, Instrument Rating Examiner and Training Officer. He was the first Citizen Force pilot to achieve and hold the "A" VIP Transport Category on Dakota and Skymaster aircraft. He and a colleague were promoted to the rank of Colonel in January 1979, thus becoming the first SA Air Force Citizen Force officers to achieve this rank.

The Southern Cross Medal and Bar, The Military Merit Medal and John Chard Decoration are among the fourteen medals and awards he proudly wears.

Col Bridgens has seen many years of service flying a mahogany cockpit, serving as Senior Staff Officer at SA Air Force Headquarters and as a member of the SA Air Force Reserve Council. He was active in sport and was awarded the SA Air Force Silver badge of Merit for hockey in 1968, the Gold badge in 1997 and Honorary Life membership of the SANDF Men’s Hockey Association in 1984. He is also an Honorary Member of the Defence Flying Club and was awarded the honorary appointment of Doyen of the SA Air Force Reserve on 1 December 2000.
5 July 2004 marked a sensational day for the members of the SA Navy who have worked hard in their various fields. About thirty men and women were acknowledged for the sweat and struggles they had to face for a better SA Navy.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, congratulated all the medal recipients: "You worked very hard and made many sacrifices during your careers and the award of these medals is one of the ways the Department of Defence, the SANDF and the SA Navy in particular, can express their sincere appreciation for your essential contribution to your difficult task."

Like all the other recipients WO1 Mogamat Carelse could not wait for his name to be called. As he went to receive his medal he walked like a true disciplined Warrant Officer.

Fortunately for him the discipline he was taught in 1979 when he joined the SA Navy kept him on his toes even after he had resigned in 1998 and become a Reserve Force member. Most people know him on account of the work that he does now since resigning as a permanent member of the SA Navy, ie as the Lotto Draw Manager. He is also a member of the Referee Committee Team of the South African Football Association (SAFA) and worked for the realisation of Operation Dribble (match fixing).

"The SA Navy is my life; it taught me firm principles and in whatever I do the Navy always keeps me on my toes," WO1 Carelse said. Just a few weeks ago he gave four members of the SANDF, including one woman, an opportunity to become referees for SAFA.

"I never forget where I come from and I knew there is a need for principled referees." S Sgt Violet Poo encourages more women to join the referee team as there is a need for more women in this field. Cpl Malefetsane Mokoena, Cpl Leon Struis and Sibusiso Ndaba all agreed that this was a stepping stone for their careers and that it was now up to them to make their mark and to make the SANDF proud of them.
It's time to say goodbye

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: CPL Elias Mahuma

Members of the Department of Defence Inspectorate celebrated a joyous occasion when they bade farewell to their Inspector, WO1 Alec Tshabalala, who went on retirement at the end of June 2004. This was a token of appreciation for his contribution and achievements in a career that spanned 30 years and that oozed exuberance and an impeccable behaviour.

The DOD Inspector General, Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, described WO1 Tshabalala as a humble role model who was well versed in legal matters and development. He emphasised that the occasion was suitable for honouring the man, who was a shining example to the others. He also added that although WO1 Tshabalala plunged in at the deep end, he was instrumental in fostering the "One Force Concept" because of his courage and attitude.

"We are honoured by your service, you were always aiming for the best, impartial but objective, and the DOD owes you much for your dedication. Thank you for your assistance and efforts; go well, we are unhappy because the Inspectorate needs you. Continue what you have been doing, as you have been a real soldier of the highest calibre. Our appreciation goes to your family for lending you to us, enjoy life," Maj Gen Ramlakan said.

WO1 Tshabalala said that sometimes in life one must stop and thank God for giving us good health, as it the greatest blessing in life. "In my career, during the peak of the struggle, when the enemy was viciously defending itself, I have met kindness, loving people, true human beings that you can trust with your life. We can be thankful that we survived, not because of our wise thinking, but through some intelligent Creator somewhere, who takes care of us," WO1 Tshabalala said.

According to WO1 Tshabalala, 30 years is a very short period compared to 60 years. But that 30 years was very long, when you start analysing it. One is always under the constant pressure of supervisors demanding production. Commitment and loyalty enable one to make valuable inputs and, after some period one needs to retire and have a rest.

"It is the time, I hope I have not shown some signals of tiredness. If I did, my wife, Tiny, is the first person to have noticed it. Everyone keeps on telling me that I do not look that old, I do not know if people are telling the truth or if they are just deceiving me: of course that makes me happy, although my hair now begins to expose me. I know that I am going to miss your friendly faces, but most of all, I am going to miss the organisation where I met and made true friends," he concluded.

The National Ceremonial Guard singers raised the house to a frenzy when they performed the song "It's time to say goodbye" - in a grand finale to bid farewell to the son of the soil, who sacrificed his youth for the love of his people and country.

Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the DOD Inspector General, congratulating and wishing well WO1 Alec Tshabalala on his retirement.
Buying your own home

By Mrs R. Schuurman, Acting SO1
Housing Admin in the HR Support Centre (Directorate Personnel Maintenance)
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

For how much can I buy a house? is a question regularly received at the Human Resources Support Centre. Each member can best answer that question for himself or herself as everyone should know exactly how much money he has available each month with which a bond instalment can be paid.

To obtain a loan the financial institution will require a 20% cash deposit or some other form of security. An existing life insurance policy may be ceded to the financial institution or other property that you own or an investment may be accepted as security for the loan. Discuss this with your bank as circumstances differ from one person to another. A Government guarantee is probably the best known form of security accepted as collateral for a home loan. Take note that it may only be used to obtain a home loan, and not to purchase a car or furniture or any stand that you think might be a good investment for speculation purposes.

Government guarantees are issued and administered according to the requirements of the Government Guarantee Policy, issued by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs as amended in February 2000. The primary aim of this scheme is to help government employees to obtain a loan from an approved financial institution with which to buy a house for yourself, your spouse and your dependent children. Remember: you may only make use of a guarantee if you, your spouse and dependent children live in the house full-time and permanently. This means that you must be able to travel between your home and your place of work on a daily basis. If you are single and the dwelling is so far from your place of work that you are not able to travel from your home to your work and back to your home each day, you do not comply with the requirement of occupying the property full-time and a guarantee cannot then be issued to you. Should you or your spouse already own a house in the same town where you intend to purchase another home, or should either you or your spouse already own a property in any other town that has been obtained with a Government guarantee that has not been cancelled, you may not participate in the scheme.

Your salary notch determines what the maximum loan is for which you may apply, and only your basic salary, when applying for a government guarantee, may be taken into consideration when calculating what loan amount the SANDF will be prepared to guarantee. You must also already be 21 years of age and must have contributed to the Government pension fund for at least one year. Short-term service members, however, even though they also contribute towards the Government pension fund, may not participate in the guarantee scheme as it is so stipulated in their service contract.

Please note that the SANDF does not give the money for the deposit to the financial institution or to you. The pension gratuity, which you will receive on termination of your service in the SANDF, will be used to pay off the guarantee issued to you. Should your pension not be enough you will have 90 days to pay in the amount required to release the guarantee.

You may apply for a maximum of two guarantees in the area where you are stationed. This means that a first guarantee may be issued to purchase a house and a second guarantee may be issued to obtain a second bond to improve or to extend the existing dwelling. Sometimes the financial institution may merely ask for the first existing guarantee to stay in place as collateral for the second loan, but this is considered to be the second time that use is made of the guarantee scheme. The second guarantee may also be used to buy another property in the same town, but only after your first property has been sold and that guarantee is cancelled. Remember: once your house is sold, the bond will
be cancelled, which will mean that the guarantee is released.

A re-advance may also be granted on an existing loan. This is when part of the original loan (the capital) that has been paid off is again made available to you, the client. The financial institution must, however, obtain prior written consent from the Housing Section at the HR Support Centre that the re-advance may be granted, and it is your responsibility to ensure that the financial institution requests this. This too is considered to be the second and last opportunity that you may make use of the guarantee scheme in that area. It does not matter whether the re-advance you obtain is R1 000-00 or R30 000-00, it is a matter of the two opportunities that you have utilised.

As with the original guarantee, the money obtained as a second bond or a re-advance may only be used for structural improvements to the property itself and definitely not to pay off debt or to buy furniture or anything else. All money paid into the bond account, be it your annual leave bonus or an additional amount paid as an instalment each month, may not be withdrawn when you want or need it, even though you may consider it your own money. Once a Government guarantee has been used to obtain the loan, all amounts paid into the account go towards redeeming the guarantee. Only when 20% of the original loan is paid off, can the guarantee be cancelled, and only then do you have access to the money available in your account.

The Guarantee Guarantee Policy specifically forbids you to change your bond to an “access” type of bond and no amount, however small, may be withdrawn from the account without the permission of the Housing Section at the HR Support Centre. Should this be done, it will be construed as breach of contract. The guarantee will immediately be revoked and the financial institution may then require you to pay in cash the collateral security as it was provided by the guarantee.

How and when is a Government guarantee cancelled?

As a Government guarantee serves as collateral for the 20% deposit, a guarantee is redeemed once 20% of the loan is paid off. Also, a revaluation of the property can be done and, if the outstanding balance on the loan is 80% or less than this revaluation, the guarantee is redeemed. The financial institution is then obligated to cancel the guarantee and to return it to the Housing Section at the HR Support Centre, but it will not automatically return the guarantee for cancellation. You as the client may request the financial institution to do a revaluation of your property to determine whether the guarantee can be released, or you may request the HR Support Centre to submit such a request on your behalf. The financial institution will charge a fee, currently ± R114.00, for the revaluation and it will be debited to your loan account.

If you ensure that the monthly instalments are exactly what is required by the financial institution, especially when interest rates are increased, 20% of the original loan should be paid off within 5 to 7 years from registration of the bond. The HR Support Centre strives to follow up all guarantees once they are 5 years old, but you should regularly check the balance on your account to ensure that the guarantee is released in the shortest time possible. However, once the guarantee is released it does not mean that the bond is paid off! Only the 20% deposit has then been paid and you must still pay the monthly instalment until the loan has been settled in full. Once your house is sold the guarantee is automatically released because the bond will then be paid off with the proceeds of the sale.

What about the Government guarantee if I can no longer afford the property?

It sometimes happens that members experience financial difficulties and can no longer afford the bond instalment together with all their other financial commitments. In most cases members did not take into account that they have to pay a monthly municipal account or a monthly levy for electricity, water and other municipal services. The municipality, the body corporate or the financial institution may then obtain a summons against you which, if you do not pay the debt, will result in your property being attached and sold in execution. You may be placed under administration or declared insolvent. This will mean that all you own may be sold to settle your debt. No financial institution will then grant you a loan and you will not be able to open any account whatsoever. In layman’s terms, you will be “blacklisted”. If declared insolvent, you may apply for rehabilitation after 5 to 10 years. This has to be done via the court and will again cost money.

All costs regarding a sale in execution will be added to your bond account and you will be held responsible for repaying all of this to the financial institution concerned. This includes attorney’s fees, the cost of the sale, security guards for the property, etc. The amount received from the sale of the property will be deducted from the bond account, but this is hardly ever enough to settle the total debt amount.

The guarantee is then owed to the financial institution and will be paid from the Department of Defence budget to release it. This does not mean that you are now rid of your responsibility. You then become indebted to the SANDF for the full guarantee amount plus interest, which becomes due from the date that the SANDF paid the amount to the financial institution.

It is therefore very important to ensure that you do not buy above your means, as you cannot simply hand back the property to the financial institution if you can no longer afford it. You remain responsible for every cent owed to the financial institution and the SANDF.

What becomes of the Government guarantee when I leave the service of the SANDF?

As soon as information is received of the termination of your service, your housing file is audited to determine whether you have a government guarantee and whether it has already been cancelled. The guarantee is only (Continued on page 44)
considered to be released once the financial institution has returned it for cancellation and has confirmed that the SANDF is exempted from its obligation in terms of the guarantee agreement.

If the guarantee is still in place, the Housing Section of the HR Support Centre will request that an amount equivalent to the amount of the guarantee when it was issued be withheld from your pension gratuity to release it. Information will also be requested from the financial institution to determine what amount will be necessary for the cancellation. Once National Treasury makes the money available to the SANDF, it will be paid into your bond account and the guarantee will be released. Your bond account will then decrease by that amount. Should the financial institution be prepared to release the guarantee without any payment being made, the money withheld from your pension will be deposited into your personal bank account. If the financial institution requires only part of the full guarantee amount, that amount will be paid into the bond and only once the cancelled guarantee is returned to the SANDF, will the balance of the guarantee amount be deposited into your personal bank account. This is a somewhat lengthy process and may take anything up to 3 months or longer. It will therefore be in your best interests to ensure that your guarantee has been released before you leave the service of the SANDF.

Buying a house is not cheap as this will probably be the largest amount of money that you ever borrow from a financial institution and you will be paying interest on that amount for 20 years. It is estimated that you will pay the financial institution four times the amount that you borrowed in the first place, so it makes sense to try and pay back your loan as quickly as possible. Paying the correct instalment plus an extra R50-00 or R100-00 each month will mean that you will pay off your loan five or more years earlier and will save you thousands of rands.

If you save and spend your money wisely, you will be able to afford a home of your own and it will be one of the best investments you ever make. Also try not to spend the profit you make by selling your house on anything other than another house. In this way you may one day be able to pay cash for the house of your dreams. A house is an expensive purchase, so look after it, keep up its maintenance and you will enjoy years of pleasure living in your very own home.

KwaZulu-Natal regiments exhibit at the Royal Show

By Maj Mark Levin, 2IC of 15 Maintenance Unit

Since 1995 the Reserve regiments in KwaZulu-Natal have mounted an impressive exhibit at the Royal Show in Pietermaritzburg.

From 28 May to 6 June 2004 the Reserves mounted their ninth display. The regiments which were represented were Umvoti Mounted Rifles, 19 Field Engineers, 15 Maintenance Unit, 84 Signals Unit and 1 Medical Battalion. The Territorials were represented by Durban South Commando, while Regulars from the SA Air Force and the SA Navy ensured that these two Services of the SANDF were not neglected. The SA Navy’s diving tank was a big drawcard.

Over 200 000 visitors passed through the SANDF stand this year and the response from the public was overwhelmingly positive. The Reserve regiments have utilised the Royal Show to promote the concept of volunteerism, what their contribution is to the new SANDF, to recruit new volunteers and to inform the public of the role each type of unit performs. Crowds of learners learnt how a signals unit differs from a maintenance unit, or could compare the different tasks of the engineers and armour.

In this tenth year of democracy, it was felt that the SANDF had to be present again at the Royal Show, despite tight budgets. The Reserve regiments have changed remarkably over the past decade, as has the Defence Force itself. Visitors to the Royal Show have witnessed those changes, and with it has come greater public acceptance of the SANDF. Some of the comments in the 15 Maintenance Unit Visitor’s Book said it all: “Being a soldier is being patriotic” and we are “very impressed with what you soldiers go through for us”. Another wrote of it being “a good learning experience”, but our favourite (and in “modern” English) was “U Guys Rock”. What better public relations exercise could the SANDF ask for?
Proud to be deployed soldiers

By Lt Col P.A. Eloff, Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo

Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo makes use of deployed soldiers for border protection along the RSA, Zimbabwe and Botswana borders. Tactical Intelligence Regiment provided a company that is stationed at Madimbo Operational Base, approximately 140 km east of Beit Bridge.

Among the deployed soldiers are ten women, who are just as proud to do active duty as any male soldiers. Lt Col P.A. Eloff of the Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo talked to these members. Here follows their impressions of six months in the bush.

These women actively take part in operations, including patrols, manning observation sites, arresting illegal immigrants and curbing smuggling activities across the border between the RSA and Zimbabwe. L Cpl Bophelo Mooki and Scout Gladys Ngxito were part of the patrol which was responsible for the arrest of smugglers who tried to bring 38 boxes of dried abalone, worth approximately R3 500 000, across the border. Life at Madimbo is full of “wild” surprises, including frequent visits from snakes, scorpions and baboons, and there are also elephants that regularly hang out at the base. Scout Gladys Ngxito on one occasion improved her sprinting capacity dramatically when an elephant insisted on introducing himself at close quarters.

Lt Morongwe Methula is actually an operational officer, but she not only efficiently manages operational administration, she actively partakes in operational activities. She and the other women who are deployed go out and “give the illegals and smugglers gas”, as the women described the enthusiastic manner in which they perform their duties.

All of the women agreed, however, that Scout Sinky Thobakgale, who is actually a chef, not only prepares excellent meals, but is a person to be reckoned with during deployments.

After six months of deployment, most of the women have this message for their male colleagues: “I can think for myself and I can also make decisions.”

Fitr: Lt Morongwe Methula, L Cpl Bophelo Mooki and Scout Gladys Ngxito in front of the operational room at Madimbo.

Bowls championships broadening the horizons

A very successful 2004 SANDF Bowls Championships took place in Potchefstroom over the period 7 to 14 August 2004. Teams from all nine provinces competed in beautiful weather for honours. At the end, a six member national SANDF Bowls team was selected. This team competed against the provincial team of the North West Province. The SANDF team excelled by winning all four matches against the highly rated North West Province.

A distinct characteristic of the mixed championships was the improved and excellent bowls played by the women representing their provinces. Maj Hannelie Mathewson and WO1 Pam Squires from the Northern Province convincingly won the gold medal in the pairs competition. There is an acknowledgement that bowls plays an important role in the SANDF by promoting the objectives of physical and mental preparedness of members of the SANDF. The sporting code is currently recruiting interested members. Members interested in bowls should contact their sports office.

Next year’s championship is planned to take place in Port Elizabeth. It is hoped that, as was the case this year, some new talent will come to the fore and be included in the provincial SANDF teams for this tournament.

* For more information contact WO1 C. Rall at tel no: (012) 315 0236.
Orlando Pirates Masters joins SANDF

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SANDF Football Association Championships took place at the Pretoria Military Sports Club over the period 26 to 31 July 2004. The games promoted the motto of friendship through sport and were an auspicious way to celebrate the 40 years anniversary of football in the SANDF.

The opening of the tournament was spectacular and drew soccer enthusiasts from around the country as part of the ten years of democracy celebrations. Twenty-two teams locked horns in a bid to determine the ultimate best. The tournament was very hard and competitive, but sportsmanship and fair play were the order of the day.

All eyes were on the eagerly awaited match between the generals and admirals of the SANDF and the Orlando Pirates Masters. Owing to prior commitments other senior officers could not attend. The Chief of Defence Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Dan Molokeng, was equal to the task as he led the SANDF team, consisting of, among others, Brig Gen Lindile Yam, Brig Gen Linda Selepe, Col Johan van der Venter, Col Monde Mbiya, L Cpl Thabo Nkoane and Mr Jim Tshabalala. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, and Maj Gen Paul Ramahlo, Chief Director Army Force Preparation, were there to cheer and offer their support to the teams. The Orlando Pirates Masters team had familiar names that could scare anyone out of his wits. I am referring to Botsotso Makhanya, Tebogo Moloi, Bashin Mahlangu, Magents Motale and Mandla Sithole, to name but a few. Like a true commander, Maj Gen Mofokeng led his charges against all odds to the delight of the spectators.

On arrival, the Orlando Pirates Masters were given fifteen rules of engagement as a ploy to intimidate them to succumb to the fact that they were now in our territory. However, the ploy backfired on us, as the visitors dribbled, dazzled and made our team run for the better part of the match, and the crowd was entertained. The spectators were taken back down memory lane to the 90s, when “tsamaya”, “shibobo” and “show me your number” were characteristics of a good match and, needless to say, “those were the days”.

It came as no surprise that the half-time score was 4-1 in favour of the visitors. Maj Gen Mofokeng showed how skilful he was when he mesmerised the visitors with quick precise passes that led to a goal scored by L Cpl Thabo Nkoane. The final score was 4-3 to the visitors. After the match, Maj Gen Mofokeng thanked the Orlando Pirates Masters for the gesture of honouring the game and urged them to maintain ties with the SANDF.

After the pulsating game of the big guns, the stage was set for the SANDF teams to showcase their talents and skills and emulate their legends and leaders, who led by example. In the ladies’ categories, Northern Cape advanced to the final after beating Western Province 5-4 on penalties. The other semi-final game was between Gauteng and West Coast in which the former won 3-1. In the ladies’ final, Northern Cape beat Gauteng 1-0.

In the male categories, Western Province beat Mpumalanga 3-2 for a date in the finals with the Northern Cape side that beat KwaZulu-Natal 3-2. In the final, Western Province succumbed to a 2-1 defeat by a determined Northern Cape via the silver rule. According to the silver rule, if a team scores a goal in the first fifteen minute of extra time, and the other team does not equalise, the team that scores a goal is declared the winner. Northern Cape sides proved that they were simply the best.
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