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FRONT COVER: We salute our new Chiefs. Please read more about them on pages 10 and 11.

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

APRIL 2005 • SA SOLDIER
From the Editor’s desk

We at SA SOLDIER salute our outgoing Chiefs of the SA Air Force and the SA Navy, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes and V Adm Johan Retief, and wish them all the best for their futures. By the same token everyone at SA SOLDIER welcomes our new Chiefs, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano and V Adm Johannes (Refiloe) Mudimu, to the helm. Please read more about them on pages 10 and 11.

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

In his address at the Opening of South Africa’s Fourth Democratic Parliament President Thabo Mbeki said that as we opened our Fourth Democratic Parliament, which will straddle the end of the first and the beginning of the second decade of democracy, he was privileged to say that as people we have every reason to be proud of our historic achievements during our first decade of democracy. Read more about this auspicious occasion on pages 12 to 16.

Recently former members of the SANDF joined the ranks of the SAPS. This unique career opportunity for members of the SANDF has arisen from an agreement reached between the DOD and the SAPS. They will form part of the contingent of SAPS members who will be responsible for the safety and security of the Pan African Parliament in Midrand. The result of this joint venture is that the people of South Africa are getting more SAPS members, who were carefully selected from the SANDF to help combat the scourge of crime in our country. Read more about this recipe for success on page 5.

We wish our peacekeepers currently deployed in Kutum and Darfur in the Sudan all the best and that they will keep our flag flying high. Read more about South Africa’s support on pages 22 and 23.

As we mentioned last month we will over the next few months be testing various approaches with you our readers, and consult with our communication peers in Government to benchmark best practice in government communication. Your feedback via letters, email, and phone calls is critical to how we go forward.

Please give us your opinion about which language(s) you prefer in your magazine.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

Go tswana go Motseriganyi

ona ba ga SA SOLDIER re tlolomatsa tlhogo ya sesole sa difofane le ya sesole sa dikepe tsa ntwa, Generale Roelf Beukes le Admirala Johan Retief bao ba rolang marapo, mme re ba elesta tse dintle matshelong a bona. Ka wona moyo oo re amogela ditlhogo tsa rona tse ntšlwa, Generale Carlo Gagiano le Admirala Johannes (Refiloe) Mudimu mo ditulong. Buisa go le gontsi ka ga bone mo ditsebeng 10 le 11.

Re solofela gore lo tla itumelang tlhagiso eno, eo jaaka gale e tleseng dikgang tse di nang le maatlakgogedi le tse di bothokwa.

Mo puong ya gagwe ya go bula palamente ya bone ya demokrasi mopresidente Thabo Mbeki o rile jaaka ga re bula Palamente ya bone ya demokrasi eo e supang bokhutlo jwa dingwaga tsa ntšla tse lesome mme e kaya tshimologo ya dingwaga tse lesome tsa bobedi tsa demokrase, o akanya gore ke tshiamelelo go bua gore jaaka batho re lokelwa ke go ipela ka diphitlhelho tsa rona mo dingwageng tse lesome tsa demokrase. Buisa go le gontsi ka ga tiragalo e mo ditsebeng 12 - 16.

Kgantele ditokololo tsa maloba tsa SANDF di inaakantse le SAPS. Tšhono e ya go sa tshwane le dingwe e tšlisitswe ke ditumallano fa gare ga DOD le SAPS. Ditokololo tse di tla nna karolo ya ditokololo tsa SAPS tse di tla rwalang maikaarabelo a tshireletsego le pabalesego ya Pan African Parliament e e leng kwa Midrand. Ditlamorago tsa maiteko a - baagi ba Afrika Borwa ba bona ditokololo tse dintsi tsa SAPS, tse di tšliphiwójeng ka kelelophoko go tswa go SANDF go thusa go Iwantsha bosenyi jo bo namelese ng si ngaeng y a rona. Buisa go le gontsi ka ga motswako o wa katlego o ka bonwang nakong e e tlang mo tsebeng ya 5.

Re eleleta masole a rona a a bolokang kagiso kwa Kutum le Dafur nageng ya Sudan masego le gore ba tsheletse folaga ya rona kwa godimo. Buisa go le gontsi ka seabe sa Afrika Borwa mo ditsebeng 22 le 23.

Jaaka re kaile kgwedweng e e fetileng, mo dikgwedwing di se kea tse di tlang rona le lona babadi ba rona re tla be leka ditsele tse di farologaneng, re rerisana le badiri ba neelese tsa jaaka rona mo pusong mme re tšihopa ditsele tsa maemo a kwa godimo a neelese tsa pusong. Ditshwaelo tsa lona ka makwalo, e-mail, le metato di bothokwa go re lemosa gore re ka tswelapele jang.

Re kopa gore lo re fe dikakanyo tsa lona ka ga dipuo tse lo di ithophelang mo kgatiso bokeng (magazine) ya lona.

Nelda Pienaar
Motseleganyi
Redeployment of SANDF members to the SAPS

Altogether 168 former members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) joined the ranks of the South African Police Services (SAPS) on 1 February 2005.

This unique career opportunity for members of the SANDF has arisen from an agreement reached between the DOD and the SAPS. This agreement stems from Cabinet Memorandum No 04 of 2003 according to which the SAPS must make provision for the execution of borderline control and the management of National Key Points. For this purpose the Protection and Security Division was established within the structure of the SAPS.

From this an agreement was reached between the DOD and the SAPS that 3 600 members of the SANDF could be accommodated within the structure of the Protection and Security Division of the SAPS. A formal Memorandum of Understanding between the DOD and SAPS will be signed in the near future. A pilot group of 47 SANDF volunteers successfully completed the required conversion training provided by the SAPS at the Military Police School in Thaba Tshwane in 2004. Both the current group and the pilot group will form part of the contingent of SANDF members who will be responsible for the safety and security of the Pan African Parliament in Midrand. It is essential to notice that the re-deployment of SANDF members to the SAPS is being done on a voluntary basis. The DOD also wishes to achieve as close a match as possible between individual expectations and the organisational requirements of the SAPS.

The minimum entry requirements for SANDF members considering this option are as follows:

- Standard 8 or Grade 10 report.
- Not older than 40 years of age.
- Must be in good health.
- No criminal or departmental cases pending or recorded. All applicants are screened by the SAPS.
- A Code 8 driver’s license.

The SANDF and SAPS make it happen

By PO Dennis Ndaba

A passing-out parade for 168 SANDF volunteers, who opted to be redeployed to the SAPS after completing a twelve-week conversion-training course, was held at Mankwe Military Base near Rustenburg on 18 February 2005.

Addressing the parade Maj Gen F.W. Robbertze, Chief Director Joint Support Management, said that the parade also demonstrated the real cooperation between the SAPS and the SANDF when it comes to practical matters.

“What you see here is the result of a joint venture with people on both sides going out of their way to make it happen. It is not that visible, but people worked nights to complete the administration within deadlines. This venture was not without challenges, as we had to merge our separation process with the recruitment process of the SAPS, and also create capacity to present this course, and courses to follow. I thank the role players in the SAPS and the SANDF for their patience and collaboration to make this happen. We now know that we have a certain recipe for success for the future,” Maj Gen Robbertze said.

He said that in the larger scheme of things, on the one hand, the people of South Africa are getting more SAPS members, who were carefully selected from the SANDF to help combat the scourge of crime in our country.

On the other hand, the SANDF is given the opportunity to rejuvenate its Human Resource component, which will better position us to conduct our missions on the continent. We will also contribute in many ways to social upliftment through the Military Skills Development Programme that we designed for the SANDF. In this way everybody wins.

Speaking for the SAPS, Assistant Commissioner B. Luke said that the parade served as an introduction of the student constables, who had completed their first and second phase of Basic Training. He added that the SAPS and the SANDF would support and supplement each other for the combat readiness of their personnel and praised the DOD for providing a pool of mature and disciplined members.

He mentioned that the SAPS would ensure that the members were armed with the necessary skills, competencies and an extension of their productive life.

SA SOLDIER spoke to Constable Risenga Baloyi, who said he grabbed this opportunity with both hands since he realised that the introduction of Vision 2010, especially the age against rank, would put him at a disadvantage.

Constable Joey Thubakgale said that his future looked bright in the SAPS as the organisation was advanced and professional and one had to study for one’s next promotion. She urged members of the SANDF to consider a career in the SAPS and to follow in her footsteps.

APRIL 2005 • SA SOLDIER
Ten Years of Democracy

My friends, believe in yourselves in whatever you do. Each challenge that comes will bring something new, carrying you to your destiny.

Let us carry our spirit safe and sure, open our hearts, all will be pure. Let us spread our wings and fly up high. We can reach another decade. The darkest moments of our lives are not to be buried and forgotten. Rather they are a memory to be called upon for inspiration to remind us of the unrelenting human spirit and our capacity to overcome the intolerable.

Now is the time to complete what we have worked towards yesterday, and a wonderful new opportunity to achieve what we dream to accomplish tomorrow. I believe faith is the evidence of things not seen, so let us judge each day not by the harvest we reap but by the seeds we sow.

Bringing the four big ideas to reality

As is the case in each and every department the DOD and its members are never left behind. This remarkable Department of Defence and its members are gearing up and preparing as never before to deliver what are referred to as the "Four Big Ideas". The ideas are essential for every core business plan of the Department. The strategic plan will nevertheless be the one covering these "Four Big Ideas" to obtain greater clarity.

The question is, as members of the SANDF, how can we contribute and align ourselves to these "Four Big Ideas" in order to deliver efficiently? First, I think there is a need to define the "Four Big Ideas". This will enable us to position ourselves firmly, or perhaps someone out there can assist with the analysis rather than merely define the important "Four Big Ideas". I think through such an analysis our members will be able to reflect the ideas.

Without much ado and for a very good reason let me start with the ideas of improving the regional environment, implementing NEPAD, improving the performance of the State and the social compact. The SANDF can showcase tangible achievements of the AMIB, green soldiering and the implementation of the Environmental Act in the DOD. This is my second deployment to the DRC - I am here because I support Africa’s renewal plan. There is a need to focus on the social responsibility framework and to be able to address consequences resulting from social transition. I personally think the State cannot perform without the performance of the DOD; after all it is an integral part of the State. So the question is how we as individuals can help the Department to continue improving its performance. I would say that we would help if we were more committed to reaching our objectives, more productive in our work environments and, above all else, think exactly like the ambassadors - Pte M.J. Kgoele, 2 SAI Bn, Zeerust.

"We live once but once"

In view of skyrocketing disease on earth nowadays, prevention is the true word to be used rather than abstinence to protect ourselves from being infected.

The prevailing scenario today demands strong discipline. I pass on this warning to the young bloods who recently accepted a calling from the SANDF. We pass through this earth only once.

The future of our country lies with the young members of the SANDF. As the veterans of the SANDF, we can safely say we have left attractive footprints for the young ones to tread on.

So, youngsters, take the necessary precautions to safeguard your lives. Protect yourself by carrying your faith like a shield, then you will be able to put out all the burning arrows fired by the devil. Tighten your belt round your waist as righteousness to serve as your breastplate.

Fight the cosmic powers of darkness with faith. Put on God's armour so that despite the enemy’s attack on you (the disease) you will be able to resist the attack. Build the future on the foundation of discipline - Antony Muntu Msoni, 21 SAI Bn.

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

A dot becomes a line, a line becomes a shape, shapes become patterns and patterns become artwork. One must always remember to start at the pure basics. In the end you will produce a masterpiece.

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible. The key to all our needs and goals is in the palm of our hands - F Sgt Botya Mxolisi, AFB Waterkloof.
Praise our Reserves

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate and honour all the beloved members of the Reserve Force for their distinctive dedication, commitment and determination in their service of the citizens of South Africa. It does not mean that we as the public do not notice their work. We notice it; that is why during violent and disastrous situations in some areas of our country we call upon the Government to deploy them. Why? - because we have confidence in their work. Their integrity and loyalty are striking. I regard them as the best in Africa on account of their ability to defend their country and its citizens. South Africa is indeed a blessed country to have a Reserve Force that it can absolutely depend on at any time and under any circumstances. Soldiering is indeed a challenge, but they have proved too good and can face any challenges. Thanks for their effort in fighting crime in our areas - they are brave and disciplined soldiers. May God bless them in their duties. We as citizens of South Africa will always be on their side through our prayers.

Rfn Babusajang Matlawe, Hartbeesfontein Commando.

A cry for help

I am a married man blessed with two daughters. When my second daughter, Ntombizodwa, was born on 24 May 1996 she was normal and healthy. When she was thirteen months old she was diagnosed with Osthogenizes Imperfector. This is an incurable bone disease according to the doctor. Her bones break very easily, and she has more than 21 fractures. Ntombizodwa is now a person with disabilities. She cannot walk anymore. I would like to lodge a plea with anyone or any company to sponsor her with an electronic wheelchair. It is not for luxury, but for the sake of her bones. When Ntombizodwa uses more power her bones break and burn.

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Cpl P.J. Radebe, Pretoria.

* Any person or company who can assist Ntombizodwa can write to Cpl P.J. Radebe, 3 Electronic Workshop, Private Bag X01, Doornpoort, 0017 - Ed.

Our soldiers to Sudan

It is 21 January 2005 in the middle of summer. The buses are idling, soldiers move from left to right, up and down. Equipment is being loaded, the Company Commander (Lt Col Douglas) wants to give his movement orders and the CSM (WO2 Lizo Mandlendoda) is doing what he’s best at doing: “Hey troop fall in - and you, where do you think you are going I want to leave Umtata, Sudan is waiting”. In the spirit of humanity (ubuntu) and comradeship, Alpha Company of 14 SAI Bn formed up, and already reported march ready. On the way from Umtata to the DOD Mob Centre at De Brug (Bloemfontein) everybody was quiet, motivated and expecting the unknown, just as Sudan will be, new and unknown. On our arrival at De Brug one immediately saw that it had rained there - the yellowness of the tents spoke for itself. Everything started to fall into place. Wake-up time (04:30) was nothing. Thereafter we went for an hour’s run, which was the best of all. The high spirit and discipline was definitely a point to be highlighted. To be part of Alpha Company of 14 SAI Bn as a soldier makes one proud, particularly in the South African context. Our sincerity in our mission to the Sudan is forever reinventing itself. That is why we have the eyes of the whole world on us. It is not always easy, but the discipline we have as the ‘Pride of Lions’, and to be soldiers of 14 SAI Bn and South Africa and the colours of our SA Flag keep us focused. I want to salute my comrades-in-arms who are deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. You make us all proud - I salute you SA soldiers. It inspires and motivates us to stand up and raise the flags of South Africa and 14 SAI Bn high and forever. We are proud South African soldiers. Viva 14 SAI Bn! Viva South Africa! - Capt D. Schrader, Ops Officer Sudan Deployment.
Paying tribute to a fallen young lion

I applaud Mr Mosiuoa Lekota’s New Year’s message: “Forward to the Second Decade of Freedom” published in the January 2005 edition of SA SOLDIER. With its positiveness it surely will inspire and motivate all SANDF members to improve constantly during the next decade.

However, this optimism changed to disappointment when I read an emotional tribute to the late Col T.L. Mlangeni, written by Col T.M. Khumalo, SSO Strategic Planning Air Force Office. I am referring to the paragraph: “During the 80s, at the height of the political repressions, states of emergencies and the brutal slaughter of our masses by the apartheid government and its puppet councillors…” The paragraph mentioned does not portray an image of reconciliation, and alternatively could have been expressed as: “During the apartheid years…” - seeing that the writer is a senior SANDF member who surely should support the Minister of Defence’s appeal to all leaders and managers in the DOD to influence planning with a view to the understanding of his vision.

One needs to focus on the future of the SANDF and strive to find better ways to tackle the challenges ahead of us, rather than cause bitterness by dwelling on the past.

Capt K.J. Harmse, 68 Air School

AIDS kills

I’ve seen the events. I’ve seen the dying. I’ve heard the incidents. I’ve heard the crying. I’ve known no happiness. I’ve known only sadness. I’ve lost the rich and poor. I’ve lost them young and old. I’ve left them on the floor. I’ve left them lying cold.

No matter your status or skills. If you don’t play it safe. Consider yourself in your grave. No matter your age, AIDS kills! - Lehodi Pitso, Kimberley.

Healing for all

To those fellow soldiers who are HIV positive, in Jesus Christ’s Name there is healing for all kinds of sickness. Remember the Word of God says through Him nothing is impossible. Christ says that what is impossible for man, is possible with God. God says if My people humble themselves before Me, and turn away from evil, I will hear their prayers and heal their land.

We love you. God loves you so much; surrender yourself to Him and in the name of the Mighty Jesus you will be free. Amen. Invite Jesus Christ into your life for protection. For one to do the right thing, one must have the right person in one’s heart. We hear about believers who commit sin because they do not have the spirit of God in them. I want to talk about A and B. A=Abstain and B=Be faithful, which leads to 100% safety. You do not need to condomise because you are abstaining and faithful. When you use condoms you end up taking risks, and lust is also increasing. I encourage those who are married to do what is right - trust God in every aspect of life.

As comrades-in-arms we need one another. We need to look after one another. For those who died, I pray for their families. Before you rest in peace you must make peace - we have peace through Jesus Christ. God bless you all. This was a message of love - L Cpl M.N. Madiloyi, 1 SA Tank Regiment.

Militaria information needed

I have been involved for 35 years in collecting, preserving and researching military medals, badges, uniforms, etc. A collector friend and I are busy drawing up charts of the various colours, designs and patterns used for the different regiments on their beret flashes, or “balkies”, stable belts and lanyards, and the beret colours. We want to collect this information for the Rhodesian, South African, South West African, Ciskei, Transkei, Venda, Bophutatswana and other former homeland states. Many of these items are no longer being worn and do not appear in any books. We would like to preserve this information for future collectors before the knowledge is lost forever. I am also trying to discover the various medal ribbon colours of the different homelands with their medal identifications.

Other information we want to preserve is the different company arm flashes worn by the various regiments. We know the basic designs up to “F” Company only. Besides the Infantry we do not know what regiment wore which colour combinations, who wore embroidered cloth flashes, who had metal ones, who had the “tupperware” or plastic embossed on the material, or which regiments or units had what company flashes. Where Infantry may have up to “F” or “G” Company, Signals or Armour may have up to “E” Company.

I appeal to anyone who has any stable belts, “balkies”, lanyards, berets, company flashes, medal ribbons, information or charts on these items to lend, donate or photograph them for us. I would like to get at least one of each of these items to keep for future reference, even if it is just a short piece of medal ribbon or stable belt, to show the correct colours.

Information needed is what colours were used and how they were worn, eg on stable belts; which colour is/was worn at the top; with the “balkies” which colour was worn facing the left shoulder; and with the lanyards, on which shoulder was it worn, or are all lanyards worn on the same shoulder? Which stable belts had a metal buckle and which had their badge mounted over the buckle? This is all information that will be lost to future collectors and researchers if it is not recorded now. If you send anything to me, please send the above information with it, and the date that it was worn, or the dates you wore it. I will cover any costs of postage to me - James MacKenzie, email.

* James MacKenzie can be contacted on (021) 949 9602 or 083 683 2694 or emailed at: militaria@netpoint.co.za. His postal address is: PO Box 1893, Bellville, 7535 - Ed.
Buendoru

What a beautiful landscape this tiny land
With sumptuous mountain ranges
Complemented by deep magnificent valleys
With excellent vegetation spread all over.
It boasts the massive lake, Tanganyika, but
There is a massive hidden agenda about this
Beautiful country - Burundi
The inhabitants till the soil under the
scorching sun
Of Africa, in the country of misery
They only produce sufficient to survive.

The infrastructure is non-existent
Dilapidated buildings as well as potholed roads
Ravaged by civil war over a decade
Pseudo-liberation is the mother of evil
Evil which is the repetition of atrocities beyond peace

Why has the almighty forsaken this people?
The Assassins, Murderers, Arsonists to mention but a few
The head was assassinated like a filthy thug
Taking his soul deliberately without any remorse
Eliminating his subordinates as well as other freedom fighters
All in the name of those garrulous, self-appointed rulers
Will there ever be peace and stability?

Those vultures of misery will never escape unscathed
Their hands are full of innocent blood of liberators
It pains one to think about those who are buried without

The best of best units

Thank you very much for the good job you have done. It’s because of your efforts that the African Mission is successful. The African Union (AU) is internationally recognised because of you. 4 SAI Bn is the first battalion to operate under the AU since its formation in 1963. You are the foundation of the AU. Burundi knows peace today because of your efforts. South Africa is recognised worldwide because of your efforts, not forgetting what you did on 25 December, namely your organised Christmas celebrations for the families and orphans in Burundi. 4 SAI Bn, you are really a peacemaker. You have got humanity. You are kind. You’re the cream of this Arm and you are the best of the best. You are a good example for the SA Army, the Ethiopians and Mozambican contingents. Yes, you are the best of the best - Rfn T.J. Sigalelana, 4 SAI Bn.

Burundi

Prayer for deployed soldiers in the DRC

Heavenly Father,
King of the world,
They know that all things are in your hands,
Whatever happens to them as a peace-keeping force.

They are prepared to suffer hardship.
They are ready to endure danger,
Unrest, pain and hurt.
They are going to be hungry and thirsty
They are prepared to keep peace Worldwide.

Lord they are weak
They cannot depend upon their own strength,
They do not want to trust in Their own abilities.

Lord, my God
Let them trust in you alone.
Give them courage and strength,
And, above all faith that they serve always harder
Amen!
Babusajang Matlawe,
Hartbeesfontein Commando.

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Saluting our Chiefs of the Air Force

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Air Force was united in its resolve to salute their former Chief, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, an officer par excellence, on a distinguished career that spanned forty years of commitment and dedication to duty. By the same token it welcomed their new Chief, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, to the helm.

Dignitaries that attended this auspicious occasion of the change of command parade at Bay’s Hill in Pretoria on 25 February 2005, included the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chiefs of Services and Divisions, to name but a few.

In his address Lt Gen Beukes said that the fly-past and air display brought back fond memories and he was really grateful for and proud of having been a former member of the Silver Falcons, as well as Officer Commanding of the Cheetahs.

"Over the last ten years I have seen the SA Air Force evolving from a force which almost exclusively operated inside the country in support of the South African Police Services, and humanitarian and disaster relief operations during the early nineties to one which today is required to deploy to all parts of the continent and beyond. Against the background of Government initiatives to improve the lives of the people of South Africa and its neighbours, the peaceful application of air power has become a priority. Examples of such initiatives are the present deployments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi, and the repeated diplomatic initiatives, supported by the SA Air Force, to promote peace and stability across the continent,” Lt Gen Beukes added.

New Chief of the Air Force

Lt Gen Gagiano joined the SA Air Force in 1968 and qualified as a pilot on the Air Macchi 326M in December 1969. During his career he flew the Harvard, Pilatus PC 7, Vampire, F86 Sabre, Mirage 111, FICZ, as well as the Cheetah D and E aircraft.

He was appointed as the Officer Commanding 3 Squadron, which operated F1CZ aircraft. In 1989 he was appointed as the Officer Commanding 89 Combat Flying School, which was equipped with Cheetah D aircraft. He occupied the post of military attaché in Israel from 1991 until his return to South Africa in January 1994. He completed the SANDF’s Joint Staff Course in November 1994 and was then transferred to Central Flying School Langebaanweg as the Officer Commanding.

After a four-year tour at Langebaanweg, he was transferred to the Air Force Office in December 1998, promoted to Brigadier General and appointed as the Inspector General of the SA Air Force. On 1 November 2000 he was promoted to Major General and appointed as the Chief Director Operations Development at the Joint Operations Division, responsible for defence capabilities, joint force employment strategy, joint command and control and joint doctrine.

Lt Gen Gagiano was transferred back to the SA Air Force as Chief Director Air Policy and Plans, responsible for Air Force policy, capabilities, strategy and resource allocation. He was appointed as the Chief of the SA Air Force on 1 March 2005.

Lt Gen Roelf Beukes takes final compliments as the Chief of the SA Air Force, while the new Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, waits in the wings.
First African appointed as the Chief of Navy

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nомнtshongwana

The SA Naval Mess was abuzz with dignitaries on 28 February 2005 who bore witness to the former Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, swallowing the anchor and stepping ashore for a well-deserved retirement. This was a milestone in the history of the SA Navy, as V Adm Johannes (Refiloe) Mudimu became the first African to be appointed as the Chief of the SA Navy.

The Premier of the North West Province, Premier Edna Molewa, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Muleki George, Judge Dikgang Moseneke of the Constitutional Court, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the former Chief of the SANDF, Gen Georg Meiring, the Chief Executive Officer of the GCIS, Mr Joel Netshithenzhe, the Chiefs of Services and Divisions and other distinguished guests were present on this auspicious occasion.

In paying tribute to the former Chief of the SA Navy, Gen Nyanda said that what had impressed him most about V Adm Retief at the outset was his soft-spoken approach and his disarming sense of humour. "He is a clear communicator with great clarity of mind. He is a very articulate leader. The Navy Review was his immediate, tangible contribution. In spite of severe budget constraints he was not a person to complain about the situation, but sought answers to the problems."

Gen Nyanda added that V Adm Retief had the gift of being able to make complex issues seem straightforward, which allowed him to confront and address these issues with ease. He was also known for his strong views on training and the importance of producing a balanced Service in terms of gender and race. In terms of the Strategic Defence Packages, V Adm Retief took the running of two navies in his stride; his legacy is that it can be done. He continued: "I welcome V Adm Mudimu as the new Chief of the SA Navy; he brings his own experience and expertise to this vital office. I am sure the SA Navy will continue to grow and develop under the leadership of V Adm Mudimu," continued Gen Nyanda. Gen Nyanda also said that the new Navy, which V Adm Mudimu inherits, includes four magnificent new Valour Class corvettes, three brand new Class 209 submarines, and many new facilities that will ensure a better quality of life for our sailors. I know that the SA Navy will do well under the guidance and leadership of Admiral Mudimu.

V Adm Retief said: "Tonight is a fitting occasion for me to say thank you, thank you to the many people who have helped me in my career, advised me in times of stress, laughed with me in times of joy, were there as role models and leaders, friends and colleagues, staff and support."

"Collectively we have made a difference," added V Adm Retief. He also thanked Armscor and the Defence Industry for their participation in the creation of the new Navy, which has been essential. "To R Adm Bernhard Teuteberg, Cdr Keith Luyt and the team that have made this evening a success, a very big thank you. To all those who presented us with such beautiful farewell occasions and gifts, our sincere appreciation, specifically for the gifts received tonight. To my wife and sons, thank you for suffering in silence, supporting me, giving friendship and comfort when I needed it. Your achievements have made it all worthwhile," concluded V Adm Retief.

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, officiating when V Adm Johan Retief "hands over the watch" to V Adm Johannes (Refiloe) Mudimu.
"Midwives of peace"

By Alpheus Dzivhani
Photos: Courtesy Navy News

Last year in his State of the Nation Address, President Thabo Mbeki put forward clear and definite time frames for the Programme of Action, which committed the Government to eradicating poverty and underdevelopment, as well as making visible advances on specific social issues. Some of the President’s pledges have been realised, and departments have taken the blame for lack of service delivery.

These issues are related to matters of health, safety and security, moral regeneration, social cohesion and opening the doors of education and culture. Several departments met the deadlines and time frames, and some complained that the deadlines were too tight for them, and there was unsatisfactory delivery within certain departments.

By the end of the year an improved Batho Pele campaign, including unannounced site visits, name badges, and enhanced internal communication within the public service will be visibly asserted. In this regard, we need to have an ongoing national programme to these achievements was our success in advancing our country away from its divided past, towards the realisation of the vision contained in the Freedom Charter - whose 50th anniversary we celebrate this year - that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white." The President added that this foundation must help us to move even further forward towards the consolidation of national unity, and a shared new patriotism born of the strengthening of the manifest reality of a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it, united in diversity. To redress some of these problems the President said that by May the Forum of SA Director-Generals will submit to the cabinet a thorough review of the functioning of the government system as a whole, and make proposals particularly on the capacity of the implementing agents, skills and competence within the public service, alignment of planning and implementation, and issues pertaining to the mobilisation of the public service to speed up social transformation.

But Mr Joel Netshitenzhe, the Chief Executive Officer of the Government Communication Information Services (GCIS), declared that the State was on course to achieve some of the issues identified nine months ago, and that the Government was on course to deliver what it had promised. However, Mr Netshitenzhe admitted that while there has been an impressive record of service delivery, there were certain areas where the promises had not been realised.

In his address at the Opening of South Africa’s Fourth Democratic Parliament in Cape Town on 11 February 2005, President Thabo Mbeki said that as we opened our Fourth Democratic Parliament, which will straddle the end of the first and the beginning of the second decade of democracy, he was privileged to say that as people we have every reason to be proud of our historic achievements during our first decade of democracy.

He further pointed out that central
to entrench the ethos of Letsema and Vuk’uzenzele among all our people and ensure that these values permeate the work of Government, business, labour and communities.

Regarding our foreign policy, the President indicated that in our regional community, the SADC, the people of Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia have held democratic elections once more. In Mozambique and Namibia the passing of the baton of leadership in an exemplary manner was also ensured. The President also said that progress was being made in strengthening the SADC, and we are honoured that South Africa currently chairs the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. We are pleased with the progress being made towards the formation of the SADC Peacekeeping Brigade, which will form part of the African Union Standby Force. He emphasised that we would continue to work with the Government and people of Zimbabwe, as part of the SADC collective, to ensure that the elections they are to hold in less than two months time are free and fair.

President Thabo Mbeki, the Commander in Chief of the SANDF, also paid tribute to the SANDF for the consistent role it is playing as part of the “Midwives of Peace”, and in ensuring stability and prosperity in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Darfur in the Sudan. With regard to the DRC and Burundi, in particular, it has contributed to our being able to speak with some measure of confidence that our brothers and sisters in these countries will this year at last exercise their right to choose governments based on the will of the people.

Like real “midwives”, the SANDF played a major role at the opening of the Fourth Democratic Parliament. As always, our men in uniform conducted a prestigious military ceremonial (Continued on page 14)
opening of Parliament. Other events performed by our men and women in uniform were, inter alia, forming up to line the streets, forming a guard of honour, lining the steps and unfolding the National Flag just before the President’s arrival in the grounds of Parliament.

When the President arrived, he was led by Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, after which he pledged the loyalty of the SA Army to its Commander in Chief. Honours to the President were in the form of a national salute, salute flight and 21-gun salute. All these were done with pomp and military precision.

President Mbeki concluded his speech on a very high note by stating that we were not being arrogant or complacent when we asserted that our country, as a united nation, has never in its entire history enjoyed such a confluence of encouraging possibilities. On behalf of our Government he commended the programme to the country, confident that its implementation would help to place us on the high road towards ensuring that we become a winning nation and that we play our role towards the renewal of Africa and the creation of a better world. He said that acting together we do have the capacity to realise the objectives - sparing neither effort nor strength - viz “Building a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.”

Mongahadi Mosiuoua Lekota, Letona la Tshireletso o arabela Puo e entsweng ke Mookamedi ha a Beha Maemo a Mmuso Setjaheng

Mohoo o ileng wa ya bathong ba Afrika Borwa ho bo lokisetsa seboka sa batho o ile wa re: "Ha re bueng mmoho. Maafrika le Magkowa, Mainidia le Bammala, bakgethi le ba se nang matla a ho kgetha. Ba nang le hona le ba se nang letho. Ba thabileng le ba se nang mahae. Batho bohle ba Afrika Borwa. Ba ditororo le ba mahaeng, Ha re buisengan ke Tokoloho.

Jwalo ka karolo ya karabelo, batho ba itse: “Afrika Borwa e tla tsitlallela ho boloka kgotso ya lefatshhe a tharoloe le dikgohlakgohlano tsa matjhaba le boitelo ba rona ba ho boloka kgotso ya lefatshhe, ho hahamalle le ho bolokeng kgotso, baele a bokgolo bakgomo leho Afrika Borwa le ka hare ho kontinente.

Jwalo ka ba saenneng Tokomane ya Matjhaba a Kopaneng re itlamme bakeng sa melao ya matjhaba, ho hahamalla le ho sebeletsa kgotso ya lefatshhe.

Ke ho tswa mono moo re fumanang thomo ya Lebotho la Tshireletso la Naha la Afrika Borwa (LTFNAF) e le lebotho le sa kgetholleng empa le kopanyang, thuto ya lona e itshethelele polokehong ya batho, boitelo ba rona ba ho boloka kgotso ya matjhabatjhaba le ntsheletspele e leano la rona la ho se nke karolo tsbedisong ya dibetsa tsa nyutilele, tsa baelojikhale le tsa dikhemikhale.

Ke rata ho tsepatma dintlheng tse pedi tsa Tsaamaiso ya Afrika. Ya pele ke tisileletsang yak gotsero ya kgotso le kgotso le kha lebela lebotho le ko lebela leba. Maafrika (ho kenyeleditswe le leba) a lokela ho iketa ka

ho ripitla dikgohlano le ho thela bot-sitso, hobane ke bono ba utlwisang ba botlalo maemo a teng kontinenteng mme ebele ke bono ba tla kgola molemo ka ho otioloha ditholwaneng sa botsitso le kgolo ya kontinente.

Ke rata ho kopa boetapele ba batho ba naha ya rona, ka hare ho lekgotla lena, ka hare ho NCOP, ka hare ho Makgotla a Ketsamelao le ditheo tsa mumso wa lehane, e seng feela ho rika phepetse e re tobileng empa ho thusa baahi ba maemo ka mufuta ho ananela le ho fuparela boitkarabola bono.

Ha banyefodi ba botsisisa seabo sa rona se tebiling tharolong ya dikgohlano le ho bolokeng kgotso, bae-tapele ba Afrika Borwa ho tswa ka makgaolo oihle a boephelo le dipolotikang ba lokela ho bua ka ntsweng le tabeng ena.

Sena bohlokwahaholo sele-monq foe Afrika Borwa e tlotliweng ka ho ba modulasetulo wa karolwana ya SADC ho ts Dipolotiki, Tshireletso
Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence's response to the State of the Nation Address

The clarion call that went out to the people of South Africa in preparation for the Congress of the People said: "Let us speak together. Africans and Europeans, Indians and Coloureds. Voters and voteless. Privileged and rightless. The happy and the homeless. All the people of South Africa. Of the towns and of the countryside. Let us speak together of Freedom".

As part of the reply, the people said: "South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of international disputes by negotiation, not war".

The conditions that informed the mind of the authors of this reply were those of the aftermath of World War II. They were the memories of South Africans, black and white, who had been drafted into the Union Armed Forces and had seen service in European and African theatres.

Those who had survived Tobruk in Egypt carried memories of the battle there.

Somerville writes: "The Germans attacked the fifth South African Infantry Brigade from the south... killing 224... The dead, in the aftermath of the battle, were buried together in a common grave - white infantrymen and black Native Military Corps stretcher bearers, side by side. Not for long, however. An order from the South African Army HQ soon had the corpses properly sorted: one grave for the whites, and another for the blacks."

(Continued on page 16)
(Continued from page 15)

With memories such as these fresh in their minds, they made world peace a critical component of our agenda for freedom. And they therefore committed us to striving for this element of freedom in our country, in our region, in our continent and in the world.

This mandate informed the letter and spirit of our national constitution and all other relevant laws. It is the foundation of South Africa’s current involvement in peace support operations in Southern Africa and the continent.

As signatories of the United Nations Charter we have bound ourselves to international law, and to striving and working for the maintenance of world peace.

From this we derive the mandate for the SANDF as a non-racial and unifying force, its doctrine rooted in the security of people, our commitment to international peacekeeping and development and a policy of non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

I wish to concentrate on two areas of the African Agenda. The first is the consolidation of democracy in our region through the SADC. The second, contributing to peacekeeping and reconstruction in Africa as a whole.

Africans (including South Africa) must lead in eliminating conflict and creating stability, because it is they who best understand conditions on the continent and it is they who will directly benefit from the fruits of stability and growth on the continent.

I wish to urge the collective leadership of the people of our country, in this House, in the NCOP, in the Provincial Legislatures and local government structures, not only to take to heart this challenge, but to help rank and file citizens to appreciate and embrace this responsibility.

When sceptics question our ongoing and deepening involvement in the resolution of disputes and the maintenance of peace missions, South African leaders of all walks of life and political conviction must speak with one voice in this regard.

This is particularly important in the year when South Africa is honoured for chairing the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and allied ministerial committees.

We cannot as a nation afford to be divided on this issue in the face of the obligations confronting us.

Regionally, our responsibilities include participating in the formation and operationalisation of the SADC Brigade, one of the five regional brigades of the African Union Standby Force.

The time frame is that the SADC Brigade will be up and running, ready to participate in peace missions under instruction by the African Union by the end of June this year. Through such means we will contribute to the stability of the continent and in our region.

Secondly, we have to ensure that the Burundi process for preparing for the elections is sustainable, and concludes with the holding of credible elections this year. And we have to support the Burundi in completing the process of integrating their military formations.

Similarly we have to ensure that the DRC proceeds both in integrating its forces, as well as holding elections.

With regard to these missions Mr President, may I assure you that members of the SANDF are carrying out their responsibilities in the field, united and determined to make these projects a success. But their efforts can only be weakened by the divided voices of the elected representatives of the country.

It is the sterling performance of these men and women over the years since we graduated to democracy, which persuaded the United Nations (UN) at the end of last year to rank South Africa as the 10th nation in the world to participate in UN peacekeeping operations.

In this regard we are following the outstanding examples of our fellow African countries, Ethiopia (ranked 5th), Ghana (6th) and Nigeria (8th), Kenya (11th), Morocco (12th), Senegal (13th) and Namibia (18th) as African countries contributing in the top twenty countries of the world towards UN military and police operations.

This is further evidence of Africa’s commitment to supporting peacekeeping under the UN from a base of very limited resources.

I have outlined a few of the practical steps South Africa has taken to pursue an agenda for the development of democracy in the region.

But, like other defence forces, the SANDF must be capacitated and strengthened in order to ensure its capability to protect the country, its sovereignty and its resources, and to assist other countries, which are engulfed by conflicts. The upgrading of military equipment and the strategic defence packages must be understood within this context. What new equipment we acquire from time to time or are currently taking into service and for which we plan for the future will enhance our ability to meet our own domestic constitutional and international responsibilities.

We have a duty as a country, one that this Government will undertake, and that is to ensure that our peacekeepers have the best equipment our limited resources can buy to carry out their tasks on land, in the air and on the sea, wherever they are deployed, with minimal risk to their own safety and security.

The Freedom Charter further commits South Africa to strive to maintain world peace and a settlement of all international disputes by negotiation, not war. Today’s world underscores the value of this commitment.

The SANDF seeks to rejuvenate itself by training and educating its members in international law and protocols. It will co-operate with its counterparts and will engage the communities of Africa in solid commitment to the noble principles of the Freedom Charter as “the midwives of peace on the continent”.

* The Sesotho translation of Minister Lekota’s response to the State of the Nation Address can be found on pages 14-15 of this edition of SA Soldier.

To obtain a translation of this article or any article published in SA Soldier in any one of our official languages, please make use of the professional services rendered by Directorate Language Services of the DOD. For assistance contact Col Daan Vorster, Director Language Services, at tel no: (012) 392 3176 - Ed.
Focus on national security

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, officially opened the eleventh Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) at the SA National Defence College in Thaba Tshwane on 24 January 2005.

For a period of six months selected members from the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy, the SAMHS, Armscor and other defence industries will participate in this programme.

Gen Nyanda said the importance of this programme lay in the indisputable fact that national security was the concern of everyone and not only the military as had been the perception in the past. The central theme of the programme is national security, the main issues affecting it, what should be done to improve it and what national security should be.

The ENSP is as such the premier programme presented in South Africa to deal with national security.

Representatives from other countries such as Ghana, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Algeria and Rwanda are also attending the course.

French officers paid us a visit

Members of the French Centres Des Hautes Etudes Miliatires (CHEM) visited the SANDF at the SA National Defence College from 2 to 3 March 2005.

The CHEM is the French equivalent of the SA National Defence College (SANDC) and provides strategic level training in the political, military and operational fields.

The programme members are colonels with operational and command experience who have been selected to be appointed as general officers.

The visitors were briefed on the first day of their visit on the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) presented currently at the SANDC. The following day the visitors were briefed on the DOD budget, policy and planning process. Briefings followed on the acquisition process, the integration of former forces into the SANDF, human resources management, joint training and SANDF operational deployments.
Liable for creating unity

By Lebohang Letaoana

The first Military Attaché and Adviser Corps (MAAC) de-accreditation/accreditation ceremony for 2005 was held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 10 February 2005. The incoming and outgoing MAACs from Argentina, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire and Portugal were greeted with a general salute. “The attachés who are leaving us deserve a special word of thanks. Your contributions in strengthening the partnerships between our defence forces have been invaluable; you have made your mark as dedicated professionals,” said Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Corporate Staff. Lt Gen Matanzima bade farewell to those military attachés who were returning home. They were Capt (N) Jorge Gonzales, the Defence, Naval, Military and Air Attaché from Argentina, Capt (N) Jose Carlos Mathias, the Defence and Naval Attaché from Brazil, and Capt Leonel Antonio da Silva Reis, the Defence Attaché of Portugal, who was not replaced as this office closed down as of the beginning of this year. The following attachés were welcomed: Capt (N) Daniel Alberto Enrique Martin (the designated Defence, Naval, Military and Air Attaché for Argentina), Capt (N) Reinaldo Antonio Ferreira de Lima (the designated Defence and Naval Attaché for Brazil), Col Eduardo Justo Zotti (the designated Army and Air Attaché for Brazil) and Cdr Henry Sama (the designated Defence Attaché for Côte d’Ivoire).

Capt (N) Reinaldo Antonio Ferreira de Lima, who is the designated Defence and Naval Attaché for Brazil, and his wife, Yonara Souza Braga, signed the register for the MAACs.

Develop existing goodwill

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, and his Zimbabwean counterpart, the Commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Force, Gen C.G. Chiwenga, during the official welcoming parade held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 21 February 2005. (Photo: F Sgt Amelda Strydom)
Government focus on communication activities in 2005

By Mr Vuyo Zambodla, Head of Communication

In this, the first of a three-part series, the Head of Communication will explain various fundamental issues for Defence communicators to note relating to aligning Defence and Government communication.

In the first quarter of every year Government departments plan their way forward around the outcomes of the Government Programme of Action, the January Cabinet Lekgotla and details of the President’s February State of the Nation Address during the opening of Parliament.

Thereafter the various clusters of Government departments consolidate their ongoing strategies. Thereafter the priorities of the various Ministers are aligned and consolidated in the direction and planning of the various departmental activities.

A key role of the Heads of Communication in the various ministries is to ensure that the communication strategy of the various departments is aligned with the outcomes of the various forums mentioned above, and with the National Strategy Framework for Communication Strategy.

Communicators in the departments must then ensure that a significant portion of their activities includes positioning and articulating the key messages of Government and facilitating the profiling of participation in key national events, ranging from big national events to support for local Government activities and the Imbizo roadshows.

One of the key determinants of our communication strategy for the year is the communication strategy of the Government clusters we belong to, namely the International Relations Peace and Security Cluster (IRPS) and the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS).

The Head of Communication and the Chief Defence Corporate Communication communicators in the Services and Divisions are to ensure that their communication strategies have taken this process into consideration.

IRPS Cluster

**Core message** - Working for the renewal of Africa and the creation of a better world. **General themes** of the IRPS Cluster for 2005 relevant to Defence:

- African developments, including AU/Nepad and developments in the Sudan, Burundi, Côte D’Ivoire, the DRC, Zimbabwe, Haiti and countries in the region soon to have elections.
- South Africa’s efforts in peacekeeping operations: the DRC, Burundi, the Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and the Comores.
- Implementing of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme.
- Developments relating to the Strategic Defence Procurement Programme.
- Peace, security, stability and post-conflict reconstruction.
- South-South Co-operation: positioning South Africa’s relations with Brazil and India as a partnership of economies of the South.
- Profiling South Africa’s role as Chair of the SADC organ on security.
- Profiling South Africa’s political and logistical engagements in the Great Lakes region in pursuit of peace, stability and growth.
- Profiling activities with regard to the establishment of the African Standby Force, the African Common Defence and Security Policy and the White Paper on Peace Missions.

JCPS Cluster

**Core message** - Safety and Security for All. **General themes** of the IRPS Cluster for 2005 relevant to Defence:

- Batho Pele - Serving all the people.
- Safety and security for all.
- Developing the national security strategy.
- Border control and security - building on progress made by shifting borderline patrol and control from the SANDF to the SAPS.
- Consolidating peace and security outside our borders.
- SANDF phased withdrawal from internal deployments.
- Phasing out commando units and replacing them with a revised SAPS reservist system.
- Migration of SANDF members to the SAPS.
- Intensifying internal communication.
- Effective communication with military veterans with regard to Government support for their welfare.

**Book received**

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, our Minister of Defence (left), received a copy of the book: “Shake hands with the devil”, from the author Lt Gen Róméo Dallaire, while Ms Sandelle Scrimshaw, the Canadian High Commissioner, looks on. The book focuses on the life of the general while he was deployed in Rwanda. The handing over ceremony took place at the Defence Headquar ters in Pretoria on 25 February 2005.

(Photograph by F Sgt Amelda Strydom)
Our heroes who stood unshaken by fear of death

By Maj Gen Mohato Dan Mofokeng, Chief of Defence Corporate Communication
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

On the third Sunday of February 2005 we once again commemorated the death of the soldiers who lost their lives in the SS MENDI disaster. Every year the facts and the legend of one of South Africa’s worst tragedies of World War I not only remind us, but also force us, to measure ourselves against the qualities those troops displayed during their final hour at sea.

This year’s annual SS MENDI Memorial Service was commemorated on 20 February 2005 by the holding of a number of remembrance services in South Africa, Britain and France, as well as in the names of two SA Navy ships:
- The SAS Isaac Dyobha, a Warrior class fast attack craft. It is the only naval warship in the world named after the Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyobha.
- The SAS MENDI, a valour patrol corvette, which is named after the famous ship whose crew displayed great valour.

As we remember this historical event as descendents of the SS MENDI warriors, we rejoice that progress has indeed been made in illuminating the obscurity that previously surrounded the wartime shipwreck.

Soldiers are reminded by this emotional commemoration that they are still sons and daughters of Africa. Our leaders are committed to promoting peace and security on African soil through peace support operations and therefore our soldiers are to maintain the proud tradition of SS MENDI warriors, by being disciplined and courageous. Let us as soldiers follow in the tracks of these courageous men who were united by obedience in fulfilling their mission.

A new perspective on the sinking of the SS MENDI

The troopship, the SS MENDI, was transporting 823 black privates and their white officers to France to support the Allied forces in the final stages of World War I. These troops of the 5th Battalion of the South African Native Labour Contingent (Black) were volunteers and, although they were unarmed, regarded themselves as warriors who were prepared to sacrifice and fight to the bitter end.

After stopping off at Plymouth, the MENDI steamed for her final destination at Le Havre in France. Then, while sailing through thick mist on 21 February 1917, she collided with the SS DARRO near the Isle of Wight. The MENDI sank about 25 minutes later, and of the 823 SANLC troops that were aboard the vessel, some 616 perished. Some died on impact, but most drowned in the icy waters of the English Channel.

It was also reported that although fear must have gripped many hearts aboard the MENDI and despite the fact that many of the men had not even seen the sea before boarding the vessel, they did not panic and acted in a most disciplined manner after the collision.

These are the reported facts about the tragedy, but there was also a legend of heroism to come out of the
sinking of the MENDI. After the collision, every man coming up from below went straight to his appointed place and then stood quietly awaiting orders. A clergyman, Padre Isaac Dyobha, took over and addressed everyone on deck: “Be quiet and calm my countrymen. What is happening now is what we came to do. Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Zulu, say here and now that you are all my brothers... Swazis, Mpondos, Basothos and the others, let us die like warriors. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war cries my brothers, for though we left the assegais back in the kraals, our voices are with our bodies”.

On the tilting, darkened and freezing decks, the warriors then stripped naked against the noise of wind, crashing seas and cracking plates of the doomed ship, and began stamping the death drill with their bare feet which, with their war songs, celebrated their onrushing death.

This was the scene that the survivors of the tragedy never forgot. On receiving the bad news on 9 March 1917, the entire white South African Parliament under the then Prime Minister, Louis Botha, who himself was a Boer War general, rose to its feet as a mark of respect for the drowned warriors.

What is astonishing even today is the ultimate example of courage, bravery, comradeship, pride, honour and discipline the African troops set on deck that morning. These qualities, not only displayed by Padre Dyobha, are the basic traits of effective leadership.

During the first terrifying minutes, Padre Dyobha took the initiative and spoke directly and with confidence as he addressed the hearts of the warriors. He then motivated and inspired these ordinary men to perform the most extraordinary deeds of bravery.

The warriors on the deck of the MENDI had the courage and the inner strength to stay calm in their crisis and face their worst inner fears. These men were not professional soldiers but were mainly used for chores, as labourers, and tasks involving supplies and logistics. They were extremely disciplined. They accepted that the inevitable, which was death, was about to happen and stood prepared to undertake their last mission with dignity.

Although the troops came from diverse backgrounds, with their own ethnic cultures and languages, they became comrades-in-arms during their last minutes on earth. Comradeship enabled them to conquer their fears and to perform the death drill with explosive energy and enthusiasm.

These are the qualities that have distinguished the great warriors of all times. Therefore the legend must be told to the children so that our nation can remember and take pride in the brave deeds of our ancestors. You do not have to be a soldier to appreciate and identify with exceptional deeds of bravery or to strive to become like our heroes from the past.

The SANDF endeavours to instil these qualities into the young soldiers who enter its ranks every year. Its role has expanded beyond the borders of our country. Regional and continental military co-operation and integration, multinational deployments and training have brought a new dimension to defence today.

Sergeant Major made history

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

WO1 Ralph Graham Solomons made history on 28 January 2005 on being appointed as the first black person to take over the Office as the Formation Sergeant Major of the SA Army Engineering Formation HQ. He replaces WO1 Johan Bredenkamp, who has served the Engineering Corps for the past 31 years. WO1 Bredenkamp will now be the new Ceremonial Warrant Officer.

WO1 Solomons was born in Simon’s Town on 17 November 1952. In 1979 he attested in the SANDF and worked as a carpenter. In 1993 he was transferred from 8 Engineer Regiment to Witwatersrand Engineer Regiment as a works foreman. From January to December 2000 he was the Squadron Sergeant Major at Gauteng Engineer Regiment. Then WO1 Solomons became the RSM of 10 Engineer Regiment from January to December 2001. From 15 January 2002 to 28 January 2005 he served as the RSM of 1 Construction Regiment.
The crisis affecting the Sudanese people led to the fundamental emergency in the process of liberation and peacekeeping. This is driven by the thirst for freedom, justice, and by the struggle of the Sudanese to recover their despoiled humanity. Addressing the soldiers at the SANDF Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein on 25 February 2005, the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, warned the South African soldiers who were heading for the Sudan on a peacekeeping mission not to bring this country in disrepute.

The South African peacekeepers from 14 SA Infantry Battalion. Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Minister of Defence, was accompanied by Maj Gen Barny Hlatshwayo, GOC Joint Operational HQ, on their way to address our soldiers at the SANDF Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein.

By PO Eddie Kgomo

Lekota emphasised: "What you men and women are about to embark on is an extremely important mission not only for South Africa, but also for the rest of Africa. We cannot and will not tolerate any abuse of human rights. Our laws along with international humanitarian laws will be used to mark your behaviour. Just as you treat our citizens with respect and dignity so must you treat the Sudanese people."

"Like your counterpart in the other peacekeeping mission you will have huge responsibilities in that you will be expected not only to comply with our country's law, but also with international laws which dictate that we treat people with respect for their humanity. Stay focused and make sure that people's lives are protected at all times." Minister Lekota concluded: "We cannot afford that something should go wrong."
An invitation was extended to the Department of Defence by the Department of Foreign Affairs to participate in the RSA’s support to the capacity and institution building project in the southern Sudan over the period 5 to 12 February 2005.

The delegation was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Essop Pahad. Maj Gen Mohato Mofokeng, Chief Defence Corporate Communication, Maj Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, Chief Director Strategy and Planning, Maj Gen Solly Mollo, Chief Director Human Resource Support, and Mr Tsepe Motumi, Chief of Policy and Planning, represented the Department of Defence.

Following the peace agreement signed on 9 January 2005, between the government of the Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), the South African delegation was tasked to prepare the SPLA for governance. According to Mr Motumi South Africa will also help the Sudan government with demobilisation, integration and the establishment of a new Army. He added that South Africa will also share its first-hand experience in matters pertaining to defence administration, pensions and social integration. “We will remain engaged in the context of assisting them to grapple with the challenges after many decades of war,” Mr Motumi said. Before SA SOLDIER went to print a follow-up meeting was scheduled for the end of March, at which time the SPLA would visit South Africa on a fact-finding mission.

The United Nations believes in our soldiers

As a result of the uprising in the Ituri Province of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2003, the United Nations Security Council authorised an increase in the force levels of the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC). UN Security Council Resolution 1565 of 2004 increased the force levels for MONUC to almost 24 000 in 2004.

In order to ensure optimal use of the increased force levels, the MONUC Force Commander revised the concept of operations, which means that the force will be divided into two divisions - broadly one division in the south and one division in the east, each with a Divisional Commander with the rank of Major General. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) invited troop contributing countries to provide two infantry brigades for deployment in the eastern division.

With the arrival of a brigade each from India and Pakistan the eastern division will now exercise operational control over the MONUC forces in the Ituri Province by means of the North Kivu Brigade (Indian) and the South Kivu Brigade (Pakistan).

UN DPKO also invited South Africa to nominate a person for the post of Deputy Divisional Commander in the eastern division. Brig Gen Duma Mdutyana from South Africa was accepted for this post and reported to the MONUC Headquarters in Kinshasa in February 2005.

Brig Gen Mdutyana is married to Wendy and they have four children. Brig Gen Mdutyana has been the General Officer Commanding of 43 SA Brigade Headquarters since January 2002 and has a Masters degree in Defence Studies, which he obtained at Madras University in India.

The South African Infantry Battalion deployed in the eastern DRC was identified as the Eastern Divisional Reserve and is in the process of redeploying to Beni. The fact that the RSA Battalion Group was chosen as the Divisional Reserve and the acceptance of Brig Gen Mdutyana as Deputy Divisional Commander is an undisputed feather in the South African cap and is testimony of the United Nations’ confidence in the South African soldiers.
A contingent of SA Army Defence Reserve Force members had been deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of a peace support operation. This necessitated clarity from the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen - therefore SSO Promotions at Chief Defence Reserve Division, Col Belinda Martin, conducted an interview with both generals.

Interview with Lt Gen Solly Shoke

Col Martin: General, could you briefly explain what led you to take the decision at that stage to deploy a Reserve Force contingent to the conflict area of the DRC?

Lt Gen Shoke: We are sending three platoons and a headquarters for a peace support operation in the DRC, which will be commanded by a major from the Regular Force and the rest of the platoon will be Reserve Force members.

Col Martin: Are there any women in the contingent?

Lt Gen Shoke: Few women are deployed with the Reserve Force contingent. These women are at the sharp end and they have undergone the same training as their male counterparts. They will not be given preferential treatment by virtue of being women, but we will make sure that they are not discriminated against as we are gender sensitive.

Col Martin: Are the men and women combat ready, spiritually ready, and have their social circumstances been taken into account that they will be leaving behind?

Lt Gen Shoke: The contingent prepared itself adequately for its mission in the DRC during Exercise SEBOKA, and prior to that the members had undergone training in various units, including 7 SAI Bn, which had returned from deployment in the DRC. The members of 7 SAI Bn imparted the necessary skills, and equipped the contingent for its mission. The contingent will have to undergo a comprehensive health assessment prior to its deployment.

Col Martin: Has this contingent being doing regular battle drills over the past six months to ensure that it is ready for a battle situation?

Lt Gen Shoke: When you train the Reserves, you train them over a period of time, unlike the members of the Regular Force, who are available 24 hours, 7 days a week (24/7). The Reserves are fully-fledged military men and women, who have undergone all the training requirements, and are properly trained and prepared in peacekeeping operations. Soldiering is about risks and sacrifices. As we are wearing uniform we say to the country and its people that we are ready to serve at any given time, even if its means that we have to lay down our lives in the process. We are preparing them for a mission in the...
DRC. There will be hardship as the terrain will be unfamiliar, some places not accessible by road and they will be far away from home and their loved ones. Sometimes there will be diseases, such as malaria, and I hope they will withstand these challenges with the necessary support. We expect soldiers to be geared up for every challenge.

Col Martin: How are these deployments help with the image of South Africa and that of the SANDF?

Lt Gen Shoke: Conflicts in some areas of Africa have resulted in the call for South African Forces to intervene. This is a vote of confidence. The role that our Commander in Chief plays on the continent means that people do not see a stronger SANDF, but a partner. We must not stretch ourselves beyond our limits, as we will be unable to fulfil our primary obligation. I do not see the Reserves as a separate entity from the Regular Force. The Reserves have been neglected over the years. It will be premature to predict where they will be in five years. We are busy with the 2010 Strategy and assure you that the SA Army will constitute a small component of the Regular Force and a large contingent of the Reserve Force.

Interview with Maj Gen Roy Andersen

Col Martin: The mission of the Defence Reserves is to direct the development for an effective Reserve Force. Could you tell us how successful you are in achieving this mission?

Maj Gen Andersen: It is for the Services to say because partly our role is to give support to the Services and Divisions and give advice to the Chief of the SANDF, and the measurement of our successes should be our users. I am very proud of what the SA Army is achieving through this deployment as it is a measured step forward. Another development in the last year was that the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) approved the new strategy for the Reserves.

Col Martin: Could you briefly explain how we are going to influence the strategy and address issues pertaining to the meaningful transformation of the leader group of the Reserves?

Maj Gen Andersen: It is not up to us to implement this; we are a staff division that acts as advisers, therefore, and implementation must happen at the Services and Divisions. We have seen progress with the SA Army recruiting 1 200 new recruits for basic training. Some of those we have selected to go to the DRC as the Reserves contingent. Those young troops have been recruited from all races and genders, and I think you can see a strong transformation happening now. Also we see the intake of the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme, which in due course will flow into the Reserves. Once again that is a transformed and integrated force. In the SA Army we have been recruiting former Regular Force members, with particular emphasis on the Non-statutory Forces.

Col Martin: This demonstrates that there is clear dedication in transforming the Reserves, especially since the SA Army is taking the lead by deploying the contingent in the DRC.

Maj Gen Andersen: Because of budget constrains, the Reserve Force was neglected. The consequences of that are that the Reserves are not transforming too quickly. The new strategy is designed in such a way that that we should have a transformed, representative, combat ready Reserve Force, which should become part of the One Force Concept. 

Current DOD peace-support operations

- Operation MONTEGO: UN Mission in Liberia - (UNMIL)
- Operation CORDITE: African Union Mission in Sudan - (AMIS)
- Operation MISTRAL: UN Mission in the DRC - (MONUC)
- Operation ESPRESSO: UN and AU Missions in Eritrea/Ethiopia - (UNMEE & OLMEE)
- Operation FIBRE: UN Mission in Burundi - (ONUB)
- Operation TEUTONIC: Tri-lateral Trg Assist - DRC, RSA and Belgium
The Citizen's Role in Defence in a Democracy

By Col Gareth Richard Hide, SSO Directorate Military Health Reserve Force
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The SA Military Health Service, in collaboration with the SA Army, held a media briefing at the SAMHS Officers’ Club in Pretoria on 16 February 2005 to introduce their pilot project - the University Reserve Training Unit.

The SANDF established the aptly named Project PHOENIX to formulate ways and means to “revive and rejuvenate” its Reserve Force. Project PHOENIX has produced several initiatives: one of these has been the development of the University Reserve Training Unit (URTU).

Based upon the models of highly successful, well-established programmes in other countries, the URTU offers eligible volunteer undergraduates a structured, challenging and enjoyable programme of part-time military, leadership and personal development training leading towards commissioning as junior officers in the SANDF Reserve - achieved by developing the leadership potential of selected undergraduates - and so to provide the “Expansion Capability” of skills and expertise in the sciences, administration, business and legal fields referred to above.

**Students’ perspective**

The URTU curriculum is spread over a three-year cycle and consists of instruction in leadership skills, personal development and specific military training. Eligible volunteers are students in the third or later year of study and are required to complete a comprehensive selection process, which determines academic, psychological and physical suitability for training. Those successfully selected enlist in the rank of URTU Officer Cadet in Reserve Service Category B, which requires 28 to 30 days of service per year, paid at a daily salary of between R126.00 and R141.00 according to the year of service. Successful completion of Years 1 and 2 leads to commissioning as a Second Lieutenant at the commencement of Year 3. An additional annual service bonus of R600.00 is paid at the end of the year. Out-of-pocket subsistence and travel (S&T) costs are reimbursed to Officer Cadets.

Military training consists of the standard SANDF Junior Infantry Officers core curriculum, while the leadership training component is accredited at NQF 5 and is thus a qualification which is useful in the civilian sector as well. The Service-specific training is presented in Year 3.

**Implementation of project**

It is proposed to launch the URTU in 2005 by way of a pilot phase at the Faculties of Health Sciences at the universities in Gauteng. This pilot phase will be presented jointly by the SAMHS and the SA Army. Should this pilot phase - aimed at recruiting third and fourth-year medical students for the SAMHS Reserves - prove successful, the URTU will be expanded to other faculties and departments at all other institutions of tertiary education in South Africa with the aim of recruiting for all the Services and Divisions of the SANDF in a roll-out process commencing in 2006.

(The Tshivenda version of this article is published on page 27)
Mushumo wa mudzulap kha Vhupileli na demokirasi

Nga: Col Gareth Richard Hide,
SSO Directorate Military Health Reserve Force
Zwifanyiso nga: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Vha SANDF vho thoma thitemiswa tsha Project Phoenix hu u itela u divhazda nga ha u thomiwa ha thandela ya ndingo ine ya divhe na nga la University Reserve Teaching Unit.

Vha SANDF vho thoma thitemiswa tsha Project Phoenix hu u itela u vusa na u fhatoni nga Reserve Force, Project Phoenix yo da na zwithu zwinzhi zwingaho sa University Reserve Training Unit (URTU) ho sedzino u nthu a duvha na duvha, vhurangaphanda na vhudibveledzi vhuhula vho u sjinga tsha University Reserve Teaching Unit.

Ndivho na Tshipikwa
Ndivho na tshipikwa tshihiuwane tsha URTU ndi u thithise mishumo ya pfiriri dza matshudeni. Zwenenwo vha dzvisiweka nga u njikitha nga zwi shumisa kha zwi u thulwana ha University Reserve Teaching Unit.

Siani la Matshudeni
Kharikhulamu ya URTU yo tan-davudzwa kha minwaha miraru hu tshikatela ngudo dza vhurangaphanda, vhudibveledzi na u pfumbudzwa ha tshisole. Vhagudiswa vho teako ndi matshudeni vha re kha minwaha na vhuraru na u ya phandu ya nthu a duvha na duvha, vhukoni ha muhumbulo na u takala ha muvhili kha u pfumbudzwa.

Kutshimbidzele ka thandela.

Ho dzudzanywa u thomiwa ha tshipikwa tsha URTU nga ndingo u thandela ya URTU ido fhiriselwa kha manwe matavhi a zwi imiswa zw the zwa SANDF maswole a mariseve nga vhunzhi u thomla nga nhwahwa wa 2006.
Our youth is the backbone for the country

By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, Communication Officer WOP

On 3 February 2005 the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, accompanied by various journalists, visited the recruits of the Military Skills Development (MSD) Programme, who were receiving Basic Military Training at the School of Infantry in Oudtshoorn.

Altogether 4 200 recruits joined the SANDF this year - the largest single MSD intake in the history of the SANDF. The recruits are all between 18 and 24 years of age and form part of the process to transform and rejuvenate the DOD.

During the visit to the School of Infantry Minister Lekota received briefings on the current state of MSD training in the SA Army. Part of Basic Military Training is the early morning preparations for inspection. The recruits stood inspection for our Minister, after which he witnessed a drill session and an R4 weapon training session.

In his address to the recruits Mr Lekota said that history has taught us that if a nation does not invest in its youth, it has no future. He mentioned various challenges to the youth, one of which was unemployment. Mr Lekota added: "As we enter the Second Decade of Freedom, we do so with renewed enthusiasm and vigour in the knowledge and hope that our youth will increasingly become part of Government’s programmes to create a better life, both for themselves and the nation as a whole." He mentioned that he had contacted the Minister of Labour for help in providing funds so that more deserving young South Africans can be recruited in July this year.

3 SA Infantry Battalion will receive 2 000 more recruits in July this year. The end of basic training - the passing-out parades - will be on 14 April 2005 at the School of Infantry and on 15 April 2005 at 3 SA Infantry Battalion. After a well-deserved long weekend the soldiers will receive Corps training at the various Corps schools. Selected candidates will then undergo Junior Leader Training at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

The highlight of the training of the MSD Programme will be in October 2005 when the recruits to the Programme will be participating in the annual SA Army exercise held at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohathla to test and verify the various subunits’ combat readiness.

During their second year of military service the members will be utilised and deployed with their respective units. After the initial two-year service members will return to civilian life. Selected members will be offered an additional service contract. Those who return to civilian life will be assigned to one of the SA Army Conventional Reserve Force units where they will serve as Reserve Force members.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General of the SANDF, encouraging the new students of the MSD Programme during his recent visit to the SAMHS Training Formation. On the day of the visit the recruits were busy with physical training. S Sgt Frans Hlaha, the Chief Instructor, said that the recruits will receive training, such as battle support and driving. "You made your choice to be here. I want you to use this opportunity to learn more about the SANDF," said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

(Military personnel, Corporals Ulrike Keller, Anastacia Snyman and Alta de Beer, with new recruits: Lerato Monnapule, Pearl Benni, Cathrine Cardrighd, Paulina Msibi, Elsie Tsabalala and Nqobile Mohaule. They left Thaba Tshwane to do Basic Military Training at Kimberley and Oudtshoorn.

Empower our youth

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General of the SANDF, encouraging the new students of the MSD Programme during his recent visit to the SAMHS Training Formation. On the day of the visit the recruits were busy with physical training. S Sgt Frans Hlaha, the Chief Instructor, said that the recruits will receive training, such as battle support and driving. "You made your choice to be here. I want you to use this opportunity to learn more about the SANDF," said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

(Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma)
Remarkable naval officer bids farewell

By Lt Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Naval Base Media Liaison Officer
Photos: Courtesy Navy News

The SA Navy officially bade a farewell to R Adm Eric Green, who was retiring from the SA Navy after more than 42 years distinguished service, on 31 January 2005.

R Adm Green was the first Flag Officer Fleet to be appointed in the newly created post of Flag Officer Fleet since 31 March 1999. His main tasks as First Flag Officer Fleet were to lead the transformational process and to establish the new Fleet Command, co-ordinate the staffing of personnel and install vital infrastructure in order to stabilise the newly formed structure.

He lead the transformation process of the Fleet Command for six years, culminating in the full implementation of the Navy 2001 Force Design which oversaw the preparation of the integration of the new corvettes and submarines.

The farewell pomp ceremonies began with the Fleet Review at Simon’s Bay, where R Adm Green did his final inspection of warships and bade farewell to the ships’ companies in the harbour of Simon’s Town. In the afternoon a change of command and medal parade were held at Simon’s Town sports field where R Adm Green handed over medals to the recipients and the command to R Adm Hennie Bester, who previously held the post as the Director Maritime Warfare.

During his emotional farewell speech R Adm Green highlighted various milestones achieved by the Fleet Command during his term of office, for example challenges faced by the Fleet Command dating back to when the Fleet was faced with challenges of implementing the Navy’s radical transformation plan (Navy 2001 Force Design), which lead to the closure of some units, ships and sections. This had resulted in the birth of a new, leaner, and effective, efficient Fleet.

R Adm Green said the question is often asked whether the SA Navy has the right people to operate the new ships and submarines and maintain the expensive equipment? He said the answer was simple: yes the SA Navy does have the right people, but it must be understood that it takes time and great effort to meet the required standards.

During his term of office he did not allow the lowering of standards, as one can never compromise on the safety of a ship or submarine and the people serving on board. Yes, standards do change - new rules governing safety at sea are amended from time to time and we must comply with the amendments and changes. He emphasised that the Navy must never tamper with standards, as the lives of our sailors are far too precious. If it means taking longer to reach the required standard, then so be it. In his final note R Adm Green advised the SA Navy that one must not artificially disadvantage the already disadvantaged as this will lead to embarrassment and frustration.

When asked about his feelings on retirement R Adm Green said: “The Fleet Command is all about the ships and submarines of the Fleet. The recent fleet reviews were awesome and brought a lump to my throat and unashamed tears to my eyes. The time has come to hand over to my old shipmate, fellow communicator, colleague and friend, R Adm Hennie Bester. I am proud to have been a serving member of the SA Navy for the past 42 years. It was always a privilege and an honour to have been associated with the first team, the winning team, the Fleet Command”.

As far as his retirement was concerned, R Adm Green will spend most of his time in sports development. Having been involved in the SANDF, South African and international amateur boxing since 1958 as a referee, judge and administrator, he will continue with these responsibilities.
10 Years of Democracy

By Col J. van der Walt, SSO Peace Support Operations UN, and Capt (SAN) C.H. Ross, SSO Peace Support Operations Non-UN, Joint Operations Divisional Headquarters

The Minister of Defence remarked in the DOD’s Annual Report of the past year that the “DOD intensified its efforts to promote security, peace and stability on the African continent in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).” This is also evidenced by the continued deployment of members of the SANDF to peace missions, among others, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Burundi. The Minister also expressed his pride in “the role the DOD played in participating in the establishment of the structures of the African Union (AU), especially in the role South African Developing Countries (SADC) has to fulfill through the African Standby Force.” He added that we will continue to hold the view that conflict situations should be resolved through peaceful means. Please read the remainder (Part II) on the above-mentioned topic. (Part I was published in the March 2005 edition of SA SOLDIER.)

During the rotation of Operation MISTRAL in April 2002 South Africa provided 48 members of the Military Police Agency to form the MONUC Police Agency to provide the Senior Military Observer. During 2002 the composition and strength of SAPSD was increased.

The peace process in the DRC gained momentum and the military force component of MONUC was increased to 11 500. During July 2002 the UN DPKO requested South Africa to consider the deployment of a task force comprising a Task Force Headquarters, Infantry Battalion Group, Engineer Company and a Medical Facility. This request was later amended to include an engineer company, headquarters support unit and a Level 2 medical facility. The provisioning of Well Drill and Ferry Units were later added to the request. Feasibility studies were conducted and following final negotiations with the UN DPKO in New York an urgent deployment of Task Force Headquarters, Infantry Battalion Group, Engineer Company, Headquarters Support Unit, well drill and ferry units took place.

Owing to the urgency of the deployment, a major procurement and repair programme was launched to ensure that the major equipment and equipment for self-sustainment were ready for the pre-deployment inspection. The latter was done in the RSA and was followed by the MOU negotiations. The elements finally deployed during May to June 2003.

During the deployment of the South African Task Force (TF 1), the MONUC concept of operations changed and TF 1 assumed responsibility for the newly established Sector 5 with headquarters in Kindu. The TF 1 Commander, Col Lawrence Smith, was appointed as Sector Commander of Sector 5 and assumed command of all the MONUC military elements deployed in Sector 5. This was the first time that a member of the SANDF commanded a multinational force in an international peace mission with approximately 3 000 personnel from a number of countries. These included the India Aviation Unit, which was equipped with attack helicopters, a riverine unit from Uruguay, guard and security units from Senegal, an Engineer Company and a Medical Level 2 facility from China and various smaller units.

The signing of a number of cease-fire agreements between belligerents provided new impetus for the peace process in Burundi. The newly established African Union (AU) became involved and the first African Union peacekeeping mission, the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB), was officially established on 1 May 2003. Maj Gen (now Lt Gen) Sipho Binda from South Africa was appointed as the first AMIB Force Commander. Major military contributions were provided by South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique. The French-speaking countries in Africa were mainly responsible for providing MILOBS. The South African contingent was increased and a maritime element was...
added to the contingent. All four Services were now represented in this mission.

With the increase in tension in the Ituri province of the DRC, the French led European Union Interim Emergency Multinational Force invited South Africa to provide a helicopter element. South Africa obliged with the deployment of helicopters and ground personnel over the period June to September 2003.

Operation MONTEGO was established in October 2003 with the deployment of three staff officers in support of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

The normal rotation of elements and staff officers deployed in support of Operations MISTRAL and SPRESSO continued during 2003.

In 2004 the MONUC concept of operations was again amended and, the with the establishment of the Kivu Brigade Headquarters, the South African post of Sector Commander was transferred to the brigade headquarters as the Chief of Staff.

South Africa contributed MILOBS in support of the African Union Observer Mission to Comoros over the period March to May 2004.

Following a United Nations Council Resolution, the United Nations Mission in Burundi (ONUB) was established on 1 June 2004 with Maj Gen Derrick Mgwebi from South Africa as the first ONUB Force Commander. This was the first appointment of a member of the SANDF as a Force Commander of an international peacekeeping force.

The South African contribution to Operation FIBRE in support of ONUB was reduced from previous force levels with the establishment of ONUB. South Africa agreed to provide certain elements during the transition phase from AMIB to ONUB and these would return to South Africa upon being relieved by other troop contributing countries.

As part of Operation FIBRE South Africa continued to provide a VIP protection service to some of the returned leaders in accordance with a bilateral agreement between Burundi and South Africa.

Operation CORDITE was launched in July 2004 with the deployment of staff officers and MILOBS to the Sudan in support of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Additional forces have been requested and feasibility studies completed. South Africa will shortly be deploying additional MILOBS and staff officers to supplement the current deployments, while an Infantry Protection Company, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, will make up the rest of the contingent.

Normal rotation of staff officers, MILOBS and contingents deployed as part of Operations FIBRE, MISTRAL, SPRESSO and MONTEGO continued during 2004.

South Africa, in particular the SANDF, has come a long way from its humble beginnings in international peacekeeping, with the deployment of a single person in 1999. Just as South Africans are proud of its achievements during the first ten years of freedom and democracy, so they can be proud of the achievements of the SANDF over the past 5 years in international and regional peace missions. South Africa is today acknowledged as a leader in pursuance of peace in the international and regional sphere. This is reflected in the United Nations statistics, which show that South Africa was the tenth major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations at the end of November 2004, and the third major contributor to MONUC (Op MISTRAL) and ONUB (Op FIBRE).

President Thabo Mbeki remarked during the closure of the first Decade of Freedom: “As part of the African continent, we have a duty to ensure that the AU succeeds in spreading and consolidating democracy on our continent, and to find ways of helping the AU’s development programme and the NEPAD to succeed”.

All these milestones and highlights mentioned point to the dedicated role that the SANDF plays in making the past decade a success and shows by our deeds that we are committed to contributing to the democratisation and development of Africa.

Our challenge in the second decade will be to become a partner in the formation of the SADC Peacekeeping Brigade, which will form part of the AU Standby Force or African Standby Force.

We will therefore continue to strive towards our vision of “Effective Defence for a Democratic South Africa.”
Dealing with disciplinary matters of PSAP

By Advocate S.S. Thoka, Director Labour and Service Relations

Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Discipline is an integral part of management of performance and individuals who deviate from the standards of conduct laid down for the efficient operation of an organisation, undermine the performance of that organisation.

Discipline is primarily seen as a progressive measure to restore performance standards, but unfortunately in extreme cases may lead to the ultimate sanction of dismissal.

The importance of sound labour relations practices in the building of PSAP disciplinary matters to ensure long-term success cannot be overemphasised. The importance of the aforementioned was identified in various disciplinary hearings that did not conform to the required principles of labour relations management.

During the appreciation of the labour relations environment, with specific reference to disciplinary procedures and processes, some gaps were identified with respect to the skills required in the performance of Departmental representatives and chairpersons of disciplinary hearings of PSAP in the DOD.

Appreciating the above and recognising the need for individuals to develop skills directly related to disciplinary enquiries of PSAP, the Director Labour and Service Relations, Advocate S.S. Thoka, recently arranged a skills development workshop in Pretoria.

Fifty-eight employees - Defence Act Personnel (DAP) and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) - attended the PSAP Disciplinary Skills Empowerment Workshop in order to meet the specific skills requirements of Departmental representatives and chairpersons of disciplinary hearings.

Overall the attendees commented positively on the workshop and indicated that they had gained a lot of knowledge, which will assist them in future in dealing with disciplinary matters of PSAP. A further benefit to the Department is the fact that these employees are making a real and positive difference at their units in that they are able to assist other managers to deal with disciplinary or incapacity issues.

Attendees of the PSAP Disciplinary Skills Empowerment Workshop.

Thank you SAS UNITIE

Issued by Cdr Trunell Morom, Officer Commanding SAS UNITIE

For 100 years Cape Town has provided naval volunteers to serve their country afloat and ashore in war and peace. In terms of section 15 of Act 32 of 1892, the services of a proposed Corps of Naval Volunteers to be designated “Cape Colonial Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve” was accepted as from 1 February 1905. This was the forerunner of what is today known as SAS UNITIE. The unit was first housed in a shed in the Cape Town docks, then later in an SA Railways shed in Woodstock, with a further move to the Feather Market in Dock Road. From 1922 to 1942 the unit was housed in the yard between the Oranje and Leerdam bastions of the Castle of Good Hope. World War II was undoubtedly the finest hour in the long history of the unit, and it was wartime expansion which led to the construction of a new base, HMSAS UNITIE (now SAS UNITIE), which is also fondly known as “Copey’s Castle”. During World War I officers and ratings of the unit served ashore and afloat. They served in the German South West Campaign, and during World War II most of its personnel volunteered for full-time service, and served with distinction on Royal Navy warships in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans and in the “little ships” in South African waters. After World War II the unit continued to train sailors and naval cadets and was responsible for supplying volunteers to the SA Navy during times of need, while also providing a naval presence in the international port of Cape Town. On 10 October 1967 SAS UNITIE was granted the Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Cape Town. On 12 February 2005 she exercised this honour for the last time, with the Mayor of Cape Town officiating. On 26 February 2005 SAS UNITIE was sadly finally decommissioned.
Usuku loMkhosi woKhuseleko woMoya

Ngulu: Lebohang Letaona
Lifoto: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Usuku loMkhosi woMoya (Air Force Day) obuqhutyelwe e-Bay’s Hill ePitoli.
The 2002 Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP) was unique in that it was the very first of its kind to be implemented in the SANDF. Participants in the programme were faced with the great challenge of having to switch off from the usual training provided at their respective units to taking part in a joint or integrated course.

Adding to the challenge was the fact that the new learners were expected to have an in-depth understanding of the operational arts from the start.

In this JSCSP class of 2002 there also sat thirteen women from the four Services. In December 2004, two years after the completion of the programme, nine of the women decided to get together at the SA Military Intelligence College (SAMIC) in Pretoria to compare notes on the impact that the course had had on their respective careers.

The most important reason why the women came together was to network and exchange views, and also to weigh the impact or extent to which the course had influenced the careers and lives of each one of them. Currently in different positions, the women also wanted to strengthen their ties and see where they could help each other in their careers.

"We were the guinea pigs of the JSCSP; everything was new. It was an experimental course to discover whether jointness was eminent and if it was feasible. I think as guinea pigs we did set a pace", said Col Kedi Jele, a JSCSP graduate, speaking to SA SOLDIER at their reunion.

"Particularly modules on geopolitics, the DOD Strategic Management Process, a presentation of Government Integrated Planning Framework, as well as South Africa's foreign policy created a very sound base for my current post," Col Jele added.

"There are two broad themes in this course - the management and the operational part - I will urge women of the SANDF who attend this course to decide beforehand which field they want to specialise in," advised Col Jele.

"I request many women to take Operational Art seriously. This will close the gap within the Chief Joint Operations' environment, which is more male dominated - women need to go in and face the challenges," Col Jele emphasised.

Col Snowy Moremi, SSO Research at Equal Opportunities Chief Directorate, said she became more aware of the importance of succeeding with the challenges of diversity and equal opportunities. "These are critical to national, regional, and international security. If they are not addressed within our DOD, then we will not be able to achieve the military strategic objectives. Hence my command research paper was called: 'The challenges of Integrated Women in the Submarines',' said Col Moremi.

Her paper was voted the best command research paper in the SAMHS. Each Service had to vote for the best command research paper by its members on the course. "The programme also made me aware of the shifting of the security paradigm from traditional military security to more important concepts of human security," noted Col Moremi.

"To me it overrides almost everything because if the citizens' needs and concerns are not addressed, that
nation runs the risk of being unstable and insecure. It will never have sustainable peace and stability. Social equality and mission readiness are still a challenge for our military,” Col Moremi continued.

Col Thembi August, SSO Ancillary Health at 1 Military Hospital, said the JSCSP was worthwhile and contributed to her career development. ”As a member of the former liberation movements who integrated at a senior level in an already long established organisation, this was extremely beneficial,” said Col August.

"As a staff member one is expected to be knowledgeable in many if not all aspects of the day-to-day issues of the SAMHS and the DOD. The SANDF may be ten years old, but most of its policies and instructions go beyond that,” Col August pointed out.

"By inviting and concentrating on external speakers, the JSCSP helped to address pertinent topics from various viewpoints on management, regional and global security,” said Col August. “The idea of ‘jointness’ (the four Services) was successful in bringing forth the realisation of where the SAMHS fits in the broader theme of the DOD, especially on interaction with long serving members,” she added.

Meanwhile Col Abigail Tshabalala, SSO Health Intelligence at Defence Intelligence (within Operational Intelligence), mentioned that the JSCSP prepared her for her current position in terms of strengthening her confidence regarding management and knowledge of the military field. “I particularly benefited from the programme because it demystified other Services, such as the SA Navy. Today I am able to understand the language of operations that my section has to support,” Col Tshabalala told SA SOLDIER.

Col Tshabalala’s current task is to provide intelligence support with regard to Sub-Saharan health/humanitarian issues to the decision-makers, particularly operationally through Joint Operations.

“The experience of camaraderie between the learners was excellent and we will nourish the friendship forever,” promised Col Gerda Smith, the SSO Business Architecture at the Directorate Integrated Management Systems in CPP.

"The JSCSP broadened my understanding of the DOD’s strategic environment, its processes and how the defence impacts on the rest of Africa and how Africa as a continent also impacts on the SANDF,” said Col Smith. According to Col Busi Buthelezi, the SSO Military Security at DOD at Logistic Support, she was not able to speak with authority about any aspects at strategic level in the past, but now she can successfully and efficiently discuss and reason with any person in this regard.

"I also fully mastered the art of warfare and for this reason I was recommended to function as senior staff officer (SSO) and an operations commander. The course also contributed to the development of my personality because I discovered my strengths and weaknesses,” added Col Buthelezi. "I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Commandant of the SA National War College, Brig Gen William Nkonyeni, and his senior Directing Staff (DS) and the DS from foreign countries, such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and the United Kingdom, as well as the guest lecturers for a mission well executed and for the immense contribution they made to the development of my career,” Col Buthelezi said.

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**Rest for body and soul**

By Maj Elize Lizamore, Corp Comm SA Army Foundation

Nestled in the heart of the Bushveld lies Rhemardo holiday resort. It is one of the most cost-effective services that the SA Army Foundation offers to its members. Surrounded by mopane and thorn trees and blessed with a natural warm water spring Rhemardo provides rest for body and soul.

At the foot of the hills of the Waterberg, only 20 km from the picturesque town of Mookgopong (Na-boomspruit in the Limpopo Province) and less than two hours drive from Johannesburg International Airport, members of the SA Army Foundation can enjoy a well deserved and affordable rest special discount rate of 25%. Members who are pensioners can enjoy themselves at Rhemardo at an affordable and special tariff of 50% discount on the normal rate from Mondays to Fridays during non-peak seasons (peak seasons usually include school holidays).

Rhemardo holiday resort boasts self-catering 4 to 6 sleeper huts, rondavels, chalets and caravan stands with power points, hiking trails, hot and cold swimming pools. There are jacuzzis, a super-tube that will keep children busy, game trips and fishing. Two exclusive mountain huts are also available for a more luxurious stay.

The venue for conferencing is ideal at Rhemardo, as this exclusive SA Army Foundation’s holiday resort can host from 40 to 70 conference goers. The daily rate is from R250 per person per night, and includes usage of all conference facilities, morning coffee and rusks, brunch, afternoon tea and coffee, and dinner.

Conferencing at Rhemardo goes hand in hand with the unique Bushveld tranquillity and nature. Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, conference goers can apply their minds to the tasks at hand.

All members of the SA Army Foundation are more than welcome to contact Rhemardo to ensure accommodation, either by speaking to Joey or Kitty at tel no: (014) 743 0612 or (014) 743 0684. The postal address is: Rhemardo, PO Box 10, Mookgopong, 0560.

For further information visit the following websites at: www.rhemardo@saarmyfoundation.co.za or the SA Army Foundation at www.armyfoundation.co.za

To find out more about the SA Army Foundation’s products and services telephone the SA Army Foundation’s head office at (012) 673 9440/1 or contact the nearest regional SA Army Foundation’s office, representative, or visit the website at: www.armyfoundation.co.za
Participate in the future of your training

By Lt Cols Paula Cronje (Joint Training) and Nicolene Conradie (SANDF COLET)

In the previous edition Part I of the topic: "Participate in the future of your training" was published - it was an overview of "Recognition of Prior Learning". The SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) implemented an RPL process and this is what they have to say...

For the providers who still need to implement RPL in their own unique training environments, all the best! It took us almost a year, doing research, compiling policies and implementing instructions, processes and standard operating procedures to achieve this. We also had to look into the need of our clients and discovered that the field was huge with many opportunities from which our whole training unit could gain.

Where did we start? It helps if your unit already has some national unit standards to work from. We recognise prior learning by allocating national credits, which can lead to a national qualification. It is important to note that you can only recognise prior learning for those unit standards that you as a provider are accredited for. Another starting point is to train and register selected staff members as assessors and moderators.

The process by which a candidate applies for RPL starts with a screening process during which a self-assessment is carried out. This is a crucial step in which the candidate should come to an agreement on why and for what he or she applies for RPL and what is required as part of the process.

The RPL candidate is allocated an evidence facilitator or advisor who will guide him or her through the process of collecting evidence, building a portfolio of evidence and self-assessment. The evidence facilitator will also prepare the candidate for the assessment process.

Assessment and moderation are done by different parties to protect the reliability of the assessment judgement.

Did we as COLET learn lessons? Lots! And we are still learning. We will give you the following tips, which we learnt through the evaluation of our processes. In doing so we hope to assist you in proactively compiling processes and procedures to make implementation easier.

- Know your RPL applicant's intentions and make sure it concurs with the specific purpose of RPL for your unit.
- After the completion of the screening phase, inform the applicant of the possible gap and the options of going through the RPL process or rather entering the learning programme.
- Inform your RPL applicant of his or her own responsibilities and tasks during the RPL process before you agree to RPL.
- RPL is an intense and long process - manage your time so that you do not promise to deliver, without doing so.
- Candidate support is of the utmost importance. Role players such as evidence facilitators, assessors and moderators should be trained in the RPL approach to different ways of assessment and methods of support. (There is a unit standard available to guide you in this: Unit Standard No 12544 - "Facilitate the Preparation and Presentation of Evidence for Assessment").
- The concept of RPL should be understood and supported by your whole unit. Schedule training days for unit staff to be orientated in how they should support the RPL effort.
- RPL feedback from candidates is vital for quality assurance.
purposes and the development of training in your unit. Make this a permanent item on the agenda of your meetings.

- Do not create a silo for RPL - it should be managed, facilitated, assessed and moderated by experienced facilitators in the field of training. In this manner they will be enriched by the possibilities and different ways of evidence collection RPL offers. It will widen their concept of assessment and improve their expertise in facilitation. We use experienced assessors to execute this function - no additional posts were established.

In COLET a small team is dedicated to managing RPL. RPL workshops and top-up training workshops are held exclusively for ETD practitioners in the ETD related national unit standards, such as facilitation and course design. These workshops aim to assist RPL candidates in the understanding of the RPL process, applicable unit standards, self-assessment and portfolio building.

Our experience is that the successful RPL candidate usually has a very determined, self-disciplined and focused personality. Two such people are Lt Col A. van Breda and Lt M.J. Maila who recently went through an RPL process at COLET.

Lt Col Van Breda says: “As an experienced facilitator and curriculum developer in the social services environment, I did not feel I needed to go through a course in ETD, but I was interested in obtaining formal recognition for the years of experience and on-the-job learning that I have gained. RPL seemed a perfect solution. I was immediately impressed by the flexibility and respect for the learner that RPL offered.

RPL is a lonely process. You work alone with the COLET manual and your prior learning, trying to fit the two together. Compiling a portfolio of evidence to prove my experience was difficult, involving careful checking of my work against the assessment criteria of the unit standard.

Nevertheless, the RPL experience has been extremely fulfilling for me personally. I have had the opportunity to compile evidence of what I have achieved over years of working and learning. It was very gratifying and rewarding to hand in, among other things, a file of learning aids that I had developed, to be assessed on my facilitation skills and to provide examples of learning processes that I have designed.

I would strongly recommend RPL for those who believe that they have mastered the knowledge and skills associated with one or more unit standards. I would caution them that it is lonely, that they may want to give up, that they may feel frustrated and that they may, at times, feel overwhelmed by the task. I would encourage them to persevere - that the reward to be declared ‘competent’ makes the process of getting there well worthwhile.”

For Lt Maila the RPL process was very rewarding and exciting, when he compared the RPL approach with the ETD Level 1 Course he attended in 2000. He went through the RPL process for the purpose of improving his training skills and aligned himself with the changes that have taken place in the ETD environment. This process gave him the opportunity to do self-assessment and concentrate on the areas in which gaps were identified. I recommend all facilitators to follow suit and be credited for their competencies and previous training.

Lt Maila says: “I was given ample time to prove my competency and the COLET RPL team was always there to guide and support me. May you continue with your good work of conducting this programme - we salute you!”

### Helicopters and vultures sharing mountain and sky

**Courtesy Etienne F. van Blerk for Tshwane News Eastern**

The SA Air Force recently made it official policy to restrict military flights in the proximity of the important Cape Griffin vulture colonies in the country.

According to Director Helicopter Systems, Brig Gen Hugh Paine, the SA Air Force has a history of environmental awareness in training its pilots, spanning more than twenty years. This approach is necessary says Brig Gen Paine, since the SA Air Force is dependent on specific areas for training pilots to operate over rugged terrain and preparing them for search-and-rescue operations or crime-prevention missions in co-operation with the SA Police Services.

Areas such as the Drakensberg and Magaliesberg are designated as being ecologically sensitive; so specific procedures have been followed over the years in the training of helicopter pilots of the SA Air Force, in particular, to ensure that environmental disturbance is limited to the minimum.

Apart from their susceptibility to disturbance at nesting and roosting colonies, Cape Griffin vultures are endemic to Southern Africa, ie the majority of the world’s population of these rare birds occur within the borders of the Republic where they have been given priority protection. The Vulture Study Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the SA Air Force have co-operated since early 2002 to establish a means of eliminating conflict between essential military helicopter training in areas that coincide with important colonies of the Cape Griffin.

Following extensive research and consultation between the EWT and the SA Air Force, minimum precautions have been recommended to pilots operating in these areas. Pilots in the SA Air Force have welcomed the promulgation of the instruction, which now provides them with clear guidelines to operating in ecologically sensitive areas.

Following the approach adopted by the SA Air Force regarding military aviation in the proximity of important Cape Griffin vulture colonies, the EWT wishes to initiate a similar approach in respect of civil aviation.
Taking over the reigns

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Col Sibonelo Lembede has been appointed as the new Officer Commanding of the SA Air Force College from 1 January 2005. Brig Gen Charles Schoeman handed over command to Col Lembede during a medal and change of command parade held at the SA Air Force College on 15 February 2005. In his address Brig Gen Schoeman said that the College played a distinct and important role in the lives of Air Force members and was indeed a prestigious and an invaluable asset to the SA Air Force. He also alluded to the fact that the effort and hard work of the members of the College are visible and tangible to most other units, in that they can count and see their product in the successful completion of a course. The training product delivered forms an integral part of the SA Air Force as it moulds and shapes the future leaders of our Air Force. "The SA Air Force needs all of you through your hard work and dedication in order to react to the goals set out in Vision 2012. You should not underestimate the importance that the SA Air Force places on training. It is one of the building blocks to achieve its vision of air power excellence," Brig Gen Schoeman added. He also congratulated the thirteen medal recipients, who were awarded the Good Service Medals (10 and 20 years), as well as the Unitas Medal, for their achievements and for serving the SA Air Force with distinction. Brig Gen Schoeman concluded by congratulating his successor on his appointment and promotion and wished him well. He also urged the staff of the College to support the new Officer Commanding in the same way that they supported him and expressed the wish that they may all grow from strength to strength and achieve all their goals for the future.

New leader

Col Lembede was born in Umbumbulu in KwaZulu-Natal on 22 August 1965. He joined the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA) in 1982. He matriculated at Ekwazini Senior Secondary School in 1986. In 1989 he successfully completed his Secondary Teacher’s Diploma at Amanzimtoti College of Education. He integrated into the SANDF in 1997. In the same year he joined the SA Air Force as a major at AFB Durban. In 1999 he completed his BA degree at the University of Zululand. In 2002 he obtained his Masters degree in Human Resources from the then Rand Afrikaans University (RAU).

Change of command

The Acting Officer Commanding of the DOD Mobilisation Centre, Lt Col J.C.J. Louw (left), handed over command to Lt Col F.W. Schutte during a parade held at the unit on 20 January 2005. Lt Col E.M. Mataba, the then Officer Commanding, was attending the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme. Lt Col Schutte joined the SANDF in January 1990 after completing the Junior Leader Course in 1989. He has served as Officer Commanding of 7 Base Ordnance Depot since January 2000.
(Source: Nicky de Ru, DOD Mob Cen)
Light up your fire

By Lt S.R. Steenkamp, Acting Comm Officer SA Army College
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

During a prize-giving ceremony on 12 November 2004 at the exhibition of the Entrepreneurship Module at the University of Pretoria (Department of Education) Lt Col Wim Smith received the first prize of R2 000,00 and Lt Col Marie Venter received the second prize of R1 000,00. Both members are studying for a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education - 2004.

Lt Col Smith was the then Directing Staff (DS) and former leader for the Civic Education Module of the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course at the SA Army College. (He has recently been transferred to 46 Brigade.) The focus of the module was to exhibit a project that includes the whole process of project management, and the end result was the presentation on the business plan. Project "BRAAIBUDDY" consisted of a one-system "braaikit" in which the firelighter and charcoal are combined in one container. This container can then be placed on a fire and lit. After the whole container has burned out, one can braai and there is no residue, ie empty bags or container to get rid of. This project started out as a "just for my convenience", but later turned into a small business.

On the other hand the second prize, Project "FLAME" (Future Leaders Always Meet Expectations), was based on the re-designing of the Distance Education Module of the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course presented by the SA Army College from 10 January 2005.

The Chief Instructor of the Junior Command and Staff Duties Branch, Col J.J. Wessels, headed the main project. Project "FLAME" is only one part of the main project. The main project entailed the redesigning of the whole Junior Command and Staff Duties Course as presented by the SA Army College. The project effectively got off the ground in August 2004 and was finalised in November 2004. The aim is to develop a structural distance education module, specifically focusing on the development of senior officers of the SA Army in terms of General Military Studies that would serve as a building-block for the Residential Module (Foundation Studies and the Tactical Phase) also presented by the SA Army College. The judges came from the University of Pretoria, and the sponsor was ABSA Bank. The judges were highly impressed with the output achieved by the team within the short time frame and the professionalism that was portrayed by the Directing Staff of the SA College, as well as the idea of the "BRAAIBUDDY".

Project "BRAAI-BUDDY" was subsequently awarded the first prize, the second prize going to Project "FLAME". Well done Directing Staff - you made us proud!

Farewell to a true gunner

By Maj Marinda Oberholzer, SO2 Comm SA Artillery Formation

During a change of office parade held at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom on 14 January 2005 the gunners of the SA Army Artillery Formation bade farewell to WO1 Frans Botha, a true gunner legend. WO1 Botha was appointed as the Formation Sergeant Major on 1 March 2001. Brig Gen Abe Notsheleka, General Officer Commanding of SA Army Artillery Formation, paid tribute to this dynamic and dedicated soldier. He said: "WO1 Botha is an excellent example of what we expect from a Formation Sergeant Major, as he was not just a soldier by occupation, but it was his way of living..." WO1 Botha contributed in a unique and special way to the success and achievements of the SA Army Artillery Formation. He never hesitated to listen to any member on the ground and was always prepared to give advice when problems were experienced. His knowledge of ceremonial aspects was always respected and acknowledged.

WO1 Jacques Niemand, who was the Regimental Sergeant Major of the School of Artillery, succeeds WO1 Frans Botha.
When reading this article some of you may perceive it as a serious reality check, but deep down most of us might even perceive it as a reality shock.

Why are you a soldier? What is the essence of a soldier? During World War II the British Minister of Defence stated: “A true soldier is a person who willingly offers himself to be slain for his country”. Do you share this view? Are you willing to make this sacrifice?

**Reality test**

Test yourself by honestly answering to the following questions? In this way you can determine if you are a true soldier:

- Do you respect the rank or the person?
- Would you deploy for financial gain, or do you accept the risk that you might “die for your country”?
- How would you react if your buddy was fatally wounded next to you?
- Do you accept and can you cope with suffering (extreme heat, freezing cold, continuous rain, hot, dusty or windy conditions, pain, fear and sleep deprivation)?
- Would you go into combat with any soldier of the DOD, regardless of his or her unit, race, ethnicity, and culture?
- Are you competent in basic military skills (map-reading, determination of position, radio procedures and mechanised commands)?
- Are you fit (passed the entire prescribed fitness test required by DOD)?
- Is your combat gear complete and on standby?
- Are you eager and enthusiastic to do courses or practicals at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla?
- Are you informed of the latest developments regarding strategies in war or combat?

**Cohesion**

Lt Col G.J Joubert, an instructor at the Junior Command and Staff Duties Branch at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, developed the “Reality Check” lecture. According to him the soldier on the future battlefield wins or loses the battle based on supply, weaponry and cohesion, whether on conventional or peace support operations. On all courses currently presented, specifically in the SA Army, emphasis is only placed on the first two aspects, ie supply and weaponry. Training is entirely structured around these two aspects. Cohesion or group solidarity, however, is frequently the most important contributing factor, which keeps soldiers fighting together when the going gets tough. Yet no attention is paid to this aspect and it is not incorporated into the current training of the SA Army.

War holds unimaginable, almost indescribable horrors for the combatant. During combat the majority of soldiers experience fear. If this is compared with the findings by S.L.A. Marshall in his book - “Men against fire” that only 15% of soldiers in contact with the enemy during combat will fire their weapons because of terror, the question arises whether or not soldiers in the SANDF are adequately prepared for war? Effective training necessitates focussing on aspects which will contribute to the lessening of the effect of combat on soldiers - extreme discomfort (such as heat, cold, rain and wind), physical and mental exhaustion (sleep deprivation, small or no meals), as well as psychological impact (barbaric killings, mutilation, genocide and rapes).

Marshall wrote: “To give the soldier a correct concept of battle is a far different thing from encouraging him to think and theorise about war. He needs to be taught the true nature of that battlefield as it is in war and as he may experience it some day.” The greatest fear that a soldier experiences during battle is the fear of physical and psychological isolation.

One of the aspects that will assist a soldier in surviving the horrors of war is the trust and loyalty of other soldiers and the knowledge that they can be relied upon. The single most important element in developing bonds (cohesion) between and among ranks is caring and nurturing officers and NCOs. The necessity for strong group cohesion within the SANDF is imperative. Cohesion has to be developed at all levels and specifically during training. Training commanders in this field is especially important, because warfare is a total human undertaking.
Every soldier needs to be made aware of what his or her personal contribution should be to ensure a unified and cohesive SANDF. Introducing new rank insignia, dress regulations, unit badges, etc is not sufficient to ensure and enhance cohesion. Soldiers have to change their attitude to what is expected of them in this most honourable profession.

The lecture

The “Reality Check” lecture emphasises the necessity for cohesion between soldiers at all levels, and in all services and mustering. It also emphasises the extremely important role of commanders, leaders, facilitators and trainers in fostering and developing cohesion. The lecture is structured around the Story of War and includes conventional and peace support operations.

It aims at motivating soldiers on all levels to make a serious effort through individual contributions towards the creation of cohesion within the SANDF. It focuses on changing personal attitudes and accepting personal responsibilities.

The lecture also aims at bridging differences by emphasising the similarities. "We will always have differences, but we cannot allow these differences to destroy us. We have to build on what is needed and in the process we will learn to forgive and to accept."

Comments from debriefing reports

- It deals unambiguously with the issues that prevent comradeship (camaraderie) and unity among forces and races that constitute the SANDF. In essence the presentation is a wake-up call for us to forge a common bond and a new patriotism for the good of South Africa. (Anon)
- It opened my eyes in many ways and made me realise that I am not ready for war. We have a long way to go in the SANDF. (Anon)
- The presentation was a hard-hitting, no holds barred and honest appraisal of the situation in the SA Army. It challenged the deep-seated prejudices still harboured by all members of the SA Army. (Lt Col K.E. Mahlangu, SA Army Eng Fmn)
- It is an eye-opener to me, especially when it comes to interrelationships among blacks and whites in the SA Army. It made me relax my attitude towards people who fell victims to things, which they did not participate in. (Sgt W.M. Modiselle, ASB Potchefstroom)
- It is necessary for us to start working together. If such presentations are presented often, division will be minimised among different race groups as presently encountered. (Sgt E.M. Ntipe, MPA Bloemfontein)
- You said exactly what I feel. Nothing in our SANDF will ever change for the better if I myself as an individual am not willing to accept my responsibility to change. Yes, getting out of the comfort zone of my white friends is not easy, but nothing worth achieving is ever easy. This paradigm shift can only be made willingly. (Sgt M. Lötter, ASB Oudtshoorn)
- It should be presented to every member in the SANDF. (Anon)
By Chaplain M. Gwazilitye,
SA Naval College

There are social issues that we need to understand in life. These social issues include marriage, premarital counselling, post-marital counselling, parenthood, sexual diseases, child abuse, women abuse, domestic violence and many others.

Of these I have decided to talk about marriage. I regard marriage as our bread and butter. It is about the essence of our being. There can be no continuity of humanity without marriage or procreation. Better still, there can be no sound or well-balanced family life without our members being given in marriage. I feel marriage is something very important and necessary to discuss.

Another important reason to discuss marriage is to conscientise our members in the DOD, both the married and the unmarried, about its importance in our lives. If our marriages are shaky and frustrating, our work performance as soldiers on the ground and as leaders in our work situations will also be affected.

The historian and writer, Douglas (1975: 786) defines marriage as: "The state in which men and women can live together in sexual relationship with the approval of their social group". He further argues: "This definition is necessary to show that polygamy is not sexually immoral since it constitutes a recognised married state, though it is generally shown to be inexpedient." But without exhausting the argument, my own submission goes along with McKerizie (1972L 548) who says: "The ideal union of the sexes is monogamous".

Historically, marriage was neither a religious nor a public concern - it was a private contract. The contracting parties were not the bride and groom, but the families, that is the fathers of the spouses and the brothers of the bride could dispose of the girl if the father was dead. Now let us look at the husband and wife. Man and woman were created at the same time. No one who is an afterthought. They were created as equals to multiply and subdue the earth. They were both given the same equal status of being created in the image of God, with one mission given to both of them. It seems that the woman was given to marriage in order to deal with the loneliness of man. Is it really fair to think that women are given in marriage as men’s aids, be they fitting or misfits? Is it indeed an acceptable position to think that the wives we have are just our helpers? Can this not lead some of us to believe that women are just ladders of convenience, which means that if the man has finished with the help he needs from his dear lady, he can just dispose of her? I believe that many men believe that women are their appendages, not independent human souls, free to be on their own. They think that they are made to depend on them in almost all respects and, sadly, many women seem to have accepted this philosophy. I therefore argue that human dignity is the same, no one is better or less important than the other. The fact that it is traditionally believed that a trance was made to fall upon man, and that part of his body was taken in order to create woman, should be a point of departure in believing that it is precisely for that reason that men should respect women’s dignity, because they are part and parcel of them, their own flesh and blood. The only difference is their sex. Who can undermine or hate his own flesh? One can question the mental fitness of such a person! We are all equal, both men and women. We are all created with the same
status, the same human dignity.

The marriage rule, that in marriage the man and woman will leave his or her mother and father, is very costly yet very necessary for the couples. Marriage is meant only for two people and no more.

Many couples refuse to leave their old habits, arguing that they have been created to be like that, and yet they do need to change for the better. Many couples refuse to adapt in marriage. They want to remain the old guys or girls, single or gentlemen, who used to do things the way they liked, and continue this even when they are given in marriage. At this juncture, one should think of the two places, namely the "Free State" in South Africa and the "United States". When you are in the "Free State" you happen to be used to that state of freedom; but remember that wedding in marriage serves as a flight to the "United States", in which you have to adapt to the new rules of another state, so that you cannot just do as you like as a single person any more. Such people want to continue in their previous state of life without due regard to change or adaptation.

Many couples remain their mother's or father's babies even when they are given in marriage. They refuse to make independent decisions with their partners, but prefer to refer to their mothers or fathers, sisters or brothers or their peers. The verse in the Bible which says: "and the man and his wife were naked, and were not ashamed" (Gen 2:25) is very interesting. What is nakedness in marriage? Yes, as husband and wife one can undress in the presence of the other, that is quite obvious, but what is it to be naked? I believe that nakedness in marriage is openness, frankness, transparency, accountability, etc. They must air everything in marriage. There can be no sound marriage if the man belongs to himself or the woman to herself in marriage. The married couple ought to share their gains and losses in life, their wants and prosperities, their ambitions and aspirations. There is no need for one partner in marriage to be declared insolvent or to be liquidated without the knowledge of the other. There is no need for one partner to have friends or relatives not known or declared to the other partner. There is no need for one partner in marriage to be declared insolvent or to be liquidated without the knowledge of the other. There is a need for one partner in marriage.

There is one other important thing that I have noticed regarding our people in marriage, especially male partners. There is a tendency not to trust one's partner, especially in the handling of finances. This is very evident when one member is away from home, either because of deployment or through being on course. You will find that no arrangement has been made by the member to cater for financial needs. What is the end result of this?

You will find that a member has to be called back either from deployment or from course to come and sort out these financial needs that he or she did not cater for. This will lead to a member's frustration, especially if the member has not been released to go home. The result of this is that the member is not totally combat ready. This, we must note, has a very detrimental effect, especially in an operational environment.

Pointing a finger at male partners in this instance does not mean that I am ignorant of the fact that there are female partners who are very extravagant. I advise our members to train their spouses in handling finances by entrusting her with your finances while you are still at home and letting her run the finances on your behalf. You will see that by the time you have to be deployed or go on a lengthy course she is able to handle financial matters. Believe me, this will contribute to your combat readiness.

There is something that we should notice, viz the rings worn by the bride. You will find that the bride wears three marriage rings. We know that there is an "engagement" ring and the "marriage" ring. We usually do not care what the third one is. I now want to give the third one its name, the "suffer" ring.

This simply means that in marriage there is "happiness" and also "suffering". One needs to know that there are certain problems in marriage, but these problems must be regarded as stepping stones to our maturity. If there are no problems in marriage, it means that that marriage is boring and therefore doomed.

In conclusion, I want to say that men must know that women like the words: "I love you". Keep on telling your spouse that you love her, even if the differences between you threaten to overpower you, but show your love for her. To wives, I want to say that men like to be taken care of, and to be pampered like children. To both husband and wife, if we treat each other like this, there will be peace and harmony in our marriages. If possible, let us practise an agape type of love. If our houses are not in order, we cannot perform well in our work environment, and the whole DOD will suffer.
The gateway to fitness

By Brig Gen Lindile Yam, Director PTSR

The aim of this article is to share with the SANDF community some efforts taken by Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (DPTSR) to meet its mandate to ensure that sport is practically conducted to address some training aspects, implement the Chief of the SANDF’s intention and keep the SANDF on the South African and international sporting map. (Part I was published in the March 2005 edition of SA SOLDIER.)

The dilemma of the shrinking budgets

The voluntary subscription payment that is now in operation has presented immense challenges in meeting the demands of competitive sport.

One should mention that it can no longer be business as usual when it comes to competitive standards in SANDF sport. To refer to just one recent example, the visit of the SA (SANDF) Soccer team, which is to compete in Mali from 1 to 12 December 2004, was not budgeted for, as one of our neighbours was supposed to go. The MC realised that with South Africa as the “Chair” of ESALO Office, the SANDF had an obligation to ensure the representation of the region. A very clear leadership was provided by the MC when all Chiefs of the Services and Divisions committed themselves to making some sacrifices within their limited budgets to ensure attendance.

This was therefore a very clear signal from the Chief of the SANDF and our top military leadership that it cannot be business as usual. The SANDF sports teams and individuals cannot continue to go to sporting competitions for fun only. “They have to compete and win - period”. If the SANDF is to provide relief for its competitive sport, which will of course contribute a great deal to force preparation, we have to begin producing numerous teams and top-level individuals very soon. These will ensure that our leadership does not feel ashamed to come out of their offices to cheer our teams and sportsmen and women. This will mean that sport is not ignored as part of operational concepts and training programmes by commanders.

This would alleviate the burden on state funds and reliance on meagre subscriptions, as sponsors and partners would have sportsmen and women to invest in, and we would not continually have to invite the press as it would invite itself for good and beneficial reasons. This would also mean accelerated growth in building up physical training and sports facilities of international standard (like Egypt), to attract enough private funds to the advantage of the SANDF. The result would be excellent high levels of morale, new healthy lifestyles, the achievement of the necessary individualised and team based military pride and identity.

Owing to the difficulties imposed by shrinking budgets, DPTSR has now proceeded, through proper SANDF logistical and legal procedures, to find public-public or public-private partnerships to alleviate the burden on state funds. The South African Sport Commission recognised this as potentially successful and subsequently assistance was received from the institution. Some benefits are the following:

- The SASC has provided lessons or lectures at own cost to the SANDF PTSR Joint Training Centre.
- The SASC intervened on behalf of the SANDF to obtain sponsorship in the form of high quality sports shoes from NIKE, which was handed over to DPTSR by Mr Dan Moyo. They will be sent either to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or Burundi in the very near future.
- The SASC responded promptly and positively to the recent request from DPTSR to provide an expect coach for the soccer team going to Mali for the Africa Soccer Cup and Mr Bobby Williams from SAFA is presently involved to ensure that we perform at no cost to the SANDF.
- Books and other materials, including presentations by the top leadership of the SASC, has become the norm.
It was after a presentation to the MC by DPTSR that leadership was shown when collaboration with the Free State Sport Science Institute (FSSSI) was approved. This is the first major public–public partnership the SANDF PTSR has formed, with major benefits for the future of SANDF contributions to the development of our people and to the benefit of SANDF members, at no cost.

It is interesting to mention that at the time of my writing this article, the SANDF soccer squad going to Mali received the best testing, rehabilitation and training ever from this institution in Bloemfontein as a result of this partnership, at no cost. It is now a better team than ever and ready for action. It is important once more to express the SANDF sporting community’s sincere gratitude to the leadership first shown by the Surgeon General himself, as the partnership depended on the SAMHS providing biokinetics to the institution. To our surprise, he did so without hesitation, which led to the grateful acceptance of this endeavour by the MC.

There are numerous benefits in this for our soldiers, all of which cannot be mentioned. One should mention, however, the possible renovation of unserviceable SANDF sporting facilities at Tempe near Bloemfontein, and the use of FSSSI facilities at no cost.

A similar partnership is working very well in Cape Town, which was initiated by the Cape Town ASB Regional Sport Club and Virgin Active, when a swimming pool that was absolutely unserviceable suddenly came to life again. It is warmed by modern generators and serviced by a well-qualified instructor accredited to Swimming South Africa. This is available to soldiers at almost no cost at all. It is a win-win arrangement.

These few examples have shown only one thing to me, namely that these endeavours have to be transparent and focused on what is to the benefit of the SANDF. The SANDF has to address the intention of the Chief of the SANDF in respect of sport and even PT, and it has to alleviate the burden on state funds and ensure the continual serviceability of SANDF facilities to the benefit of its members.

**The thirst for the support of the commanders**

The SANDF is one of the most crucial strategic components for promoting peaceful co-existence between nations. It is for this reason that we have forces deployed externally. The country is a signatory to the UN, the Non-aligned Movement and a number of other international protocols. The SANDF therefore has no option but to be one of, if not the main driver, for some of the endeavours meant to realise the commitment of the country to its strategic goals. It is for this reason that the SANDF has become part of this international organisation called CISM.

It is crucial that all of us realise that we cannot commit ourselves to these important international obligations and yet be insufficiently committed and determined to meet our obligations.

The military budgets have been shrinking over the years, yet the commitment of the country and the international community and hence the expectations in regard to our military have been growing unabatedly. I am saying this because the shrinking budgets have been forcing a number of commanders not to regard sport as part of their core business and sports budgets have therefore in a number of cases been ignored. This is coupled to the fact that commanders often have to contend with loss of productivity as some members are continually called on to prepare themselves to represent the country in sporting activities.

It is, however, true that the SANDF is part of this country’s strategic thrust and sport is therefore one of its major weapons in realising this. However, this does not negate the fact the sport in our military is mainly meant to enhance force preparation.

I am on record from the very first day of my appointment as having said that no realisation of any good vision or goals without the support of the commanders will ever be achieved. This is especially true in regard to the sporting activities within the military. The demands of sport on commanders in preparing the SANDF National Soccer Squad for the Africa Soccer Military Cup in Mali (BAMAKO) in December 2004 and the one that will follow in order to build a winning team when we have all these countries converging on our shores for the 49th World Military Boxing Championships in July 2005 and then the possible hosting of the Africa Military Games in 2010 are enormous. They are all requested and encouraged not only to be supportive, but to be actively involved in ensuring that the SANDF and South Africa win. It is such a mood that will contribute in the building up and sustaining of a cohesive, healthy, confident team-type military force.

**Conclusion**

DPTSR is responsible for ensuring compliance with the ministerial mandate and that of the Chief of the SANDF and his intentions in respect of PTSR.

The MC projected the most needed and dynamic leadership in relation to the development and projection of military sport.

It was after certain legal imperatives were presented that an option to accept some sports codes as part of training was accepted by the MC and this posed certain obligations for the commanders. A minor change regarding HQ units meeting physical training obligations is to be noted.

The guidelines received resulted in our rapid response to ensure good and beneficial relations with the civil sports authorities.

The SANDF is part of the country’s strategic thrust and sport is therefore one of its major weapons in realising this. The support of the commanders is critical to its success, as no objective will ever be achieved for as long as they do not see what value sport adds to their environments.

The shrinking budgets have forced the SANDF sporting community to find innovative, but transparent and legal ways and means to alleviate the burden on state funds, and instead to form or be part of working and workable public–public and public–private partnerships.
Greens and golf clubs

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The DOD hosted its annual golf day at Centurion Country Club on 25 February 2005. The aim of this tournament was for the DOD to interact with its specific stakeholders. Those who took part in the event were academics, businessmen, defence industry and Government officials. Maj Gen Mohato Mofokeng, the Chief of Defence Corporate Communication, said that by hosting such events, they were hoping to take the DOD to the people. The golfers strutted their gear on a course that has three unique features, in that it has a waste desert section, parkland sections and numerous holes surrounded by water, as well as 42 bunkers in total. All in all the golf course has ten holes near the Hennops River and lakes. Addressing the guests at the prize-giving ceremony Mr January Masilela, the Secretary for Defence, said it was important to build relationships with the leaders of Government and the private sector. “The support we have received from these quarters has enabled and assisted us as a Department to develop ‘Defence and Human Security in the 21ST Century’,” said Masilela. The SA Army Band kept the guests on their feet by playing entertaining jazz music to conclude a successful golf day.

Mr January Masilela, the Secretary for Defence, hands over a prize to Ms Thuka Mahloko, one of the golf players, during the prize-giving ceremony.

High school donates wheelchairs

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Hercules High School in Pretoria donated a wheelchair to the DOD Disability Equity Section on 10 February 2005. The event took place on the school grounds. The school won three wheelchairs when it participated in the annual Dis-Chem Interschool Wheelchair Race held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 29 January 2005. The school nominated the DOD’s Disability Equity Section, the Curamus Association, as well as the Multiple Sclerosis Association as beneficiaries. Mr Kobus Swart, the Deputy Director Disability Equity, received the sponsored wheelchair on behalf of the DOD, while Mr Rassie Erasmus, CEO of Curamus, also received a wheelchair on behalf of the Curamus Association.

Fltr: Ivan Stander, Vice Chairperson Multiple Sclerosis Association, Mr Danie van der Walt, Principal Hercules High School, Mr Johan Bouwer, Chairperson Multiple Sclerosis Association, Ms Simone van Staden and Ms Liezel Bothma (both from Dis-Chem), Mr Vincent Shabalala, member of Directorate Disability Equity DOD, and Mr Rassie Erasmus, CEO of Curamus. Front: Mr Kobus Swart, Deputy Director Disability Equity DOD.
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The Department of Defence (DOD) intensified its efforts to promote security, peace and stability on the African continent in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

The role that the DOD plays while participating in the structures of the African Union (AU) demonstrates its commitment to resolve conflict in our neighbouring states by peaceful means.