SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

December 2005

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TOP PHOTO (PAGE 3): The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, calls them his “wonderful machines”. Read more about the Agusta A109 light utility helicopters on page 11. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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From the Editor’s desk

The festive season is here, and what a special time of the year it is indeed! I cannot resist echoing the message by our Chaplain General “Peace to the World! - The message of Christmas: A message of hope and salvation also for us as the Department of Defence as the peacemakers on the continent of Africa”.

SA SOLDIER wishes you and your loved ones a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the Year 2006 be filled with peace and prosperity.

For the fortunate ones who will be going on holiday during December please drive safely. Let us all remember: Don’t drink and drive. Please remember to support World Aids Day on 1 December!

Our December edition is packed with “presents” for the Department of Defence! In October 2005 our Department received the first of its aircraft formally delivered through the Strategic Defence Packages - the Agusta A109 light utility helicopter. (Read more about these “wonderful machines” on page 11.)

South Africa’s first Gripen fighter was unveiled on 28 October 2005 in Linköping, Sweden, in a roll-out ceremony. (Read more about the debut of our Gripen on page 12.)

On 3 November 2005 the South African Navy’s first of three Type 209 submarines was commissioned in Kiel, Germany. (Read more about this most successful conventionally powered class of boat on page 13.)

Do remember to enter the "Spot the Ball" soccer competition on page 46. Surprise yourself and win fabulous prizes! (Entering form available on page 46.)

Until next year! 

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • DECEMBER 2005

Ho tswa ho Mohlophisi

ehla sa keteko se fihlile, aa nako e kgethehileng ya selemo! Ha ke sa kgona le ho itshwara, empa e le ho le fa molaetsa o tswang ho Moruti e Moholo “Kgotsoe atele Lefatshe! - Molaetsa wa Keresemese: Molaetsa wa tshepo le topolo bakeng sa rona jwalo ka Lefapha la Tshireletsso jwalo ka ha re le baetsi ba kgotso kontinenteng ya Afrika”.

SA SOLDIER e lakaletsa wena le bao o ba ratang Keresemese e monate le Selemo se Setjha se tlesteng mahlohonolo. Ha Selemo sa 2006 se mpe se phophome kgotso le katleho!

Ho bao ba lehlohonolo ba tlo yang matsatsing a phomolo kgweding ya Tshitwe, hle kgannang ka polokohe. Ha re se keng ra nwa yaba re a kganna. Hopolang hle ho tshheletsa Letsatsi la Lefatshe la AIDS ka 1 Tshitwe!

Kgatiso ya rona ya Tshitwe e tletse ka "dimpho" bakeng sa Lefapha la Tshireletsso! Ka Mphalane 2005 Lefapha la rona le ile la fumana difofane tsa Iona tsa pele, di tla ka ‘Strategic Defence Packages - e leng helikoptara e bobebe ya Agusta A109 (bala haholwanyane ka “metjhini ena e kgabane” leqepheng la 11.)

Gripen ya pele e phethetsweng ya Afrika Borwa e ile ya bulwa semmuso ka 28 Mphalane 2005 kwana Linkoping, ho la Sweden, moketeng wa neheletsano jwalo ka ha e ne e fihla pheletsong. (Bala haholwanyane ka Gripen ya rona leqepheng la 12.)

Ka 3 Pudungwana 2005 Lebotho la Metsing la Afrika Borwa le ile la fumantswwe disabomarine ts’e tharo tsa mojafa wa 209 kwana Kiel, Germany. (Bala haholwanyane ka Gripen ya rona leqepheng la 13.)

Hopolal ho kenela tlhodisano ya bolo ya ”Spot the Ball” leqepheng la 46. Ako ithabise mme o hape dimpho tse ntle! (Diforomo tsa ho kenela di leqepheng la 46.)

Ho fihilela selemong se tlang!

Nelda Pienaar
Mohlophisi
Peacemakers

By Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, Chaplain General

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 and Matt 5:9 - "At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to take place throughout the Roman Empire. …Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem in Judaea… …Mary gave birth to her first born and laid Him in a manger for there was no room for them to stay in the Inn."

"Blessed are those who work for peace because they will be called children of God."

Peace to the World! - the message of Christmas. A message of hope and salvation also for us as the Department of Defence as the peacemakers on the continent of Africa. This message is beautifully illustrated in this passage of Scripture on the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the one that brings peace to the world. Each one of us should stand and grasp fully. God, irrespective of who is in control and who is governing over a said period, can and always will reach His aim with His promise. We have to work under very difficult circumstances this year in order to be peacemakers on this continent. There were a lot of demands on our resources, both inside and outside the country. Circumstances, especially during deployments, were and are not always easy. Many sacrifices have to be made, especially by the families of our deployed members. We have, however, succeeded in bringing and securing peace in many countries on our continent. To all of you God says: "Blessed are the peacemakers".

- The end result for the peacemakers - honour and glory. This we see beautifully depicted in this message of Christmas. After all the suffering and sacrifices many people came to honour the Newborn Peacemaker and Saviour of the world. Angels sang "Glory to God". Shepherds came with presents to honour the Newborn. Wise men from the East brought presents, all to honour Jesus as the One who brought peace and salvation into the world. Joseph and Mary did not understand this honour and attention. They did not understand the impact of the sacrifice they were making. Neither did the Roman Emperor realise the consequences of his decree. All of these, however, contributed to bring peace and salvation to the world.

May each one of you experience the same peace and salvation over this Christmas period. May you experience God’s grace and love. May all of us endeavour to build on this peace and salvation in all our relationships, especially with our families. May we as the Department of Defence continue to bring peace to this continent and people in need of peace and salvation. I realise that this is not always easy and that peace sometimes comes through a lot of sacrifice, but this is our obligation and calling on this continent. May each one of you fully enjoy the love and peace of God over this period. Remember - you may be only one person in this world, but you may be the world to one person.

May I also make use of this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. May God bless you all as peacemakers with His peace and love.
**Decide what you want in life**

Being the best in life is not determined by your looks, style or clothes that you wear, but by your personality and behaviour. You must know what you want in life because if you do not, any road will take you to its own destiny.

Be passionate at all times. Always remember that you cannot recover lost time as time wasted never returns. Always be disciplined, have your own mindset, and do only what is right for you at the right time and in the right place.

Be productive and do things because you are dedicated. Learn to love yourself unconditionally, because you are who you are and not the average "somebody" in the video, television or newspapers. Your worth must not be determined by the price of your clothes - it does not matter what you are wearing.

Always remember that those who live a longer life are those who have the respect of others, young and old. Never forget to ask for knowledge of the elders.

You must always be you, because you have decided what you want in life - to be "who you are" - Rfn P.H. Damente, 6 SAI Bn (currently deployed with 9 SAI Bn in Burundi).

**Silent partner**

As an SANDF member I too receive my monthly copy of SA SOLDIER and I think it’s wonderful that the magazine shows so much support for the members who have devoted their whole careers to issues such as transformation and race and gender equality. Even the support shown to members risking their lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi for peace on the African continent is amazing. I think it’s very brave and I salute them and wish them all the best. What concerns me is that there are members who in their own, very different ways also devote their lives to serving the SANDF and its goals. I think it’s safe to say they are the ‘silent partners’. To give an example of a ‘silent partner’ I’d like to mention Lt Col A.S. Buys, SO2 HR Planning, Army HQ. This is a woman who placed her career before everything else, even her children, a woman who never used her single parenting as an excuse for not attending meetings outside her province. Instead she would leave her children many times in the care of her teenage daughter. A woman who was not only involved in the recruitment of future NCOs and COs, but who also played a significant role in the SANDF Youth Foundation. This is also a woman who is planning on leaving her eleven-year old son to once again offer her full support to the SANDF in the DRC. To many others this might seem like no big deal, but to her children it is not only her life given to the SANDF, it is their lives given to the same organisation. I’m sure everybody can understand why we, her children, would want her to have the recognition she deserves. Yes, I am the proud daughter of a single parent who gave up more than my childhood to have a prosperous career in the SANDF. And with this letter I’d like to give her my best wishes and my promise of full support in whatever journey she decides on next - Cpl R. Naicker (previously Buys), Pierre van Reyneveldt.

**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.**

**Winning letter**

Decide what you want in life

Being the best in life is not determined by your looks, style or clothes that you wear, but by your personality and behaviour. You must know what you want in life because if you do not, any road will take you to its own destiny.

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Be productive and do things because you are dedicated. Learn to love yourself unconditionally, because you are who you are and not the average "somebody" in the video, television or newspapers. Your worth must not be determined by the price of your clothes - it does not matter what you are wearing.

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**Air Power**

The article titled “Air Power” in the September 2005 edition of SA SOLDIER should rather have been titled “Air Combat Capability”. An opportunity has been lost to expose a wide audience to the real full concept of air power. Our country’s regional initiatives would be seriously hampered were it not for the military air transport of diplomats, the resupply transport flights for the deployed forces and the number of helicopters that have been deployed continuously for a number of years. These and the support elements inside and outside the military are all elements of air power. Fighters have their place in a balanced force, but they don’t represent air power.

Thank you for a very varied and interesting magazine - Brig Gen H.T. Paine, Director Helicopter Systems.
No one is perfect on this earth

In our lives we fail to apply these three words: Please, thanks and sorry. Most of us fail to say "please" when we are giving our juniors commands, but we just tell them that they must do what we are telling them to do.

If you are not using the word "please", it is high time to use it now because that will make our juniors enjoy working under their supervisors, and by doing that you indicate that you really do care for them.

It is a good thing to say "thank you" to a person who saved your life or helped you to achieve what you wanted in life. Saying "thank you" is to show someone that you appreciate what he or she did for you and also makes the people not hesitate when they come to help you in future.

To say "sorry" to someone does not mean that you are a coward or stupid; rather it brings peace and happiness to our lives. Most of us cannot say "sorry" after hurting someone or accusing someone falsely. We must also remember that "no one is perfect on earth" and all people do make mistakes, which means even you who are a leader can make mistakes, even good leaders - By Cpl P. Mlangeni, 17 Squadron, Pretoria.

Love life

I hope we all find joy in life, which is often a cruel road. Let us feel that for once we are on top of the world. You may wonder, silently and perhaps grudgingly so, why I am so inspired when there is so much dependency, hatred, discrimination, prejudice, loneliness, greed, hunger, starvation, death, dying, hopelessness, and indeed war, in this world.

I remain equally, if not more, confused than you are. In fact, I have since refrained from finding answers - I am simply enjoying the ride of life. I am simply living life. I am fulfilling the promise of life and that is to live it to the fullest. I am enjoying the trials and tribulations, and to rise above challenges.

In this highly adventurous, cruel, strikingly beautiful, agonisingly and joyfully unpredictable journey called life I seek to find salvation. I search tirelessly for emotional inspiration.

My goal is to find hope, undying love, compassion, glorious joy and fulfilling happiness. But most of all, I seek harmony, peace and tranquillity. For me to accomplish my dream I have no alternative but to focus on the positive and constructive aspects of life; I look on the bright side of every situation. I am not saying that I am turning a blind eye to the tragedies and the misfortunes of our times, and I suppose the best I can do under these undesirable circumstances is to accept, learn, understand and move on.

I have seen many people - my friends, colleagues and acquaintances - drown in their predicaments. It is almost like being trapped in quicksand: the more you wriggle, the deeper you sink. I am young, but battered, bruised, experienced, and have matured sufficiently to comprehend that time is in the present and continuous tense.

There is absolutely nothing one can do with the second that has ticked away and left one in the lurch, so to speak. Yet time, the present and the future, heals all the wounds. In simple terms, one cannot, should not, and must not cry over spilt milk.

I am greatly inspired by individuals who, after suffering a major setback, pick up the spear and strive to do and be better, not only for themselves but, most importantly, for the upliftment of those who are less privileged than most of us. This is the vision and purpose of life - everybody's life.

I love life and like to share my life experiences, my time, my love, my possessions and my passion with the rest of humankind. I always think about the disenfranchised, the homeless, the poverty stricken, the suppressed and the oppressed in the world.

Those infected and affected by the enemy disease called HIV/AIDS must always be motivated to strive for what most of us, in our comfort zones that make us think we are better than they, consider to be obvious.

Let their souls be blessed, their spirituality reinforced and let them believe in the greater being, and be content and fulfilled. This is the purpose of life - it is for all of us. Till next time: Call me Chief - Sgt T. Gobusamang, SAMHS HQ, Centurion.
**Which one is your hand?**

I was reading a paper when I found this interesting story, and I thought I should share it with my own big family (SANDF). This is the hand that built the Union Buildings, the hand that arrested and released Mr Nelson Mandela. The hand that leads to the future, the hand that covers and nurses the poor. Is this your hand?

It is the hand that gives, the hand that voted for peace and democracy in 1994. The hand that cares, the hand that wipes the tears of innocents away.

This hand does not kill and abuse young and old. Is this your hand?

It teaches us to read and write. This good hand is led by the Mighty hand, God’s hand. Is this your hand?

But there is another hand - the hand of blood, the hand that takes, the hand holding drugs and stealing from people, robbing and killing innocent people, the hand that abuses and fights. Is this your hand?

This is a bad hand, Satan’s hand. The devil’s hand does evil things. But whose hand is it? Is it yours?

Where is your hand? My hand is the one that gives and has built the Union Buildings and released Mr Mandela.

Some people are using their hands to write and they are also using their minds to plan for their future. Are you planning to kill or to study?

Do what is good for your future and those you love - Cpl L.B. Mudau-Funyfunyu, AFB Makhado.

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**Honour and dignity**

The lack of good old-fashioned military ethics that I observed in the SANDF in the past few months made me think about the true soldier. What is a true soldier?

Where have we lost the pride in our uniform, respect for seniors, the elderly, the poor, those less fortunate than us, etc?

Maybe we did not lose it - we just need reminding of what made us choose our calling.

Service in the military is not the same as employment anywhere else. Today it is generally agreed that service in an all-volunteer force does have elements of a profession and occupation, but a very strong element of calling.

Soldiers have always considered service in the military as a calling, which goes beyond economic self-interest. Service in the military is therefore more than just a job; it is a way of life.

A professional is defined simply as a career person who devotes himself to the expertise, responsibility and corporateness of the profession, in other words someone who is committed to service in a specialised field. To view your work as a calling is to add a dimension beyond that of either occupation or profession.

When you feel that what you do constitutes a calling, you give to it not merely most of your time; in a real sense you become identified with your work: your whole personality development is associated with what you do and how you do it. Furthermore, viewing your work as a calling seems most likely to enable you to find meaningfulness in that work and the sense of accomplishment that all human beings desire.

Tasked with a unique responsibility, which requires that soldiers may have to make the supreme sacrifice of giving up their lives in the defence of the nation, the military has developed a unique culture which sets it apart from society and which enables it to undertake its task.

It is the willingness of members to give up their lives that makes the military stand apart as a social institution and makes other menial sacrifices seems insignificant.

Do we really project the images of members of an elite culture who respond to a calling or have we become a military society, which sees its service as an occupation for economic self-interest? Not every soldier will become a senior officer or non-commissioned officer, let alone a general or admiral. Soldiers who consider the attainment of high rank as proof of a successful career are liable to be disappointed and will end their careers in frustration. Rank alone is not the most important achievement.

For most, fulfilment will be achieved by holding an appointment with distinction or serving a unit with honour. The reward will be having met the challenge and having been equal to the task.

A soldier must not lose sight of the smaller things which are equally if not more important. Soldiers cannot consider themselves successful unless they have been faithful to their religious beliefs and have served their country nobly and with courage, dignity and honour.

Soldiers cannot consider themselves successful unless they have been good spouses and parents and good friends to their fellow soldiers. Similarly, they cannot consider themselves successful unless they have taken all things in their stride and have completed them credibly, have set a good example to those placed under their command, and have had the courage of their convictions to do what they believed to be right.

When such soldiers approach the time to leave the service, whatever their rank or decorations, they can leave with pride and contentment. They will know that their time spent in the calling of arms was a success.

Maybe all we need is this small reminder of what a privilege it is to wear our uniform, to be able to protect the weak, respect the seniors and the elderly.

But maybe most important of all is to react to the calling to protect the integrity of the country, uphold the constitution, provide defence for, and ensure the protection of the inhabitants of South Africa - Maj S.J. Henrico, Lohatla.
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Military Veterans *Imbizo* in Potchefstroom

Article and photo by Lethube Phasha

SA SOLDIER was invited to the *Imbizo* of the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, to the Military Veterans at ASB Potchefstroom on 11 October 2005. Accompanying him was Maj Gen Kenny Mokoena, Chief of the Service Corps, and Brig Gen Fanny Mahlangu, Director of Military Veterans Affairs.

In his opening address Mr George said it was clear to him that this *Imbizo* was not well organised, and he mentioned that he "expected a huge turnout considering that this area is closer to headquarters." The *Imbizo* was set to ensure that Military Veterans were registered and that there was proper communication between them and the Department of Defence. He added that his main concern was that most of our Military Veterans were destitute and the situation had to be addressed immediately.

The Deputy Minister of Defence informed the Military Veterans that the Service Corps of the Department, which houses the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT), can assist them with reskilling and training, so that they can go out with useful skills into the community.

Mr George said that members of the Non-statutory Forces (NSFs) should form structures because then they would at least have a better database, which the Department of Defence could use when organising *Imbizos*. In his closing address he said the Military Veterans should make themselves known to the SANDF.

Training and Reskilling of Military Veterans

By S Sgt Sannette Mostert, Corp Comm NCO Liaison Service Corps Regional Office Cape Town

On 4 October 2005 the Service Corps Regional Office Cape Town hosted its first intake of Military Veterans for training and reskilling with funds from the National Skills Fund, obtained through the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA).

Service Corps Regional Office Cape Town obtained authority from Service Corps Head Office, and funds approved by the National Skills Fund through SASSETA, to provide driver training to 125 registered Military Veterans.

Identified, approved, registered and accredited training providers close to the living quarters of the candidates will be providing the driver training. Successful candidates will obtain a Code 10 driver’s license with a PDP.

A further 25 unemployed Military Veterans, who have registered on the Military Veteran database with the Service Corps Regional Office Cape Town, will receive reskilling in the security environment.

An accredited security company has agreed to provide sustainable employment for these Military Veterans who have successfully completed their training at an accredited training provider registered with the Security Industry Regulation Authority (SIRA).

Service Corps Regional Office Cape Town will be hosting further intakes from the Western Cape Region and will secure employment opportunities, in collaboration with the National Skills Fund, SASSETA, other relevant SETAs and identified role players.
Handing over of the Agusta helicopters

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, calls them his “wonderful machines”. He was referring to the latest acquisition by the SA Air Force, the Agusta A109 light utility helicopter, which was unveiled to the media and other guests at the Bloemspruit Air Force Base on 19 October 2005. Thirty A109’s have been ordered to replace the current SA Air Force Alouette helicopter, which has been in service for over 40 years.

Armscor was responsible for the technical specifications, the tender evaluation, and the final contracting of Agusta as the supplier of this light utility helicopter. Armscor will also play a role in the eventual upgrading of these helicopters.

The A109 light utility helicopter (LUH) has established itself as the world’s best-selling military light-twin helicopter able to satisfy a wide range of requirements. The ability of A109 LUH to fulfil a wide range of missions makes the aircraft a true force multiplier and provides military commanders with excellent operational flexibility. Roles for which the A109 LUH is ideally suited include transport, anti-tank, reconnaissance, medical evacuation and armed escort duties.

“This event is an important milestone in the project’s history, highlighting the achievements of the company AgustaWestland, the joint project team and the Air Force. It also marks a major shift in emphasis on this project.

From today the focus will be on the Air Force as it starts to operate the new AgustaWestland A109 light utility helicopter,” says Mr Bruce Ramfolo, the Chief of Acquisition.

To date four pilots from 87 Helicopter Flying School have completed the first conversion on the A109 presented by Agusta on 13 October 2005. These members will continue with the operational testing and evaluation of the aircraft.

The second factory conversion presented by Agusta started on 12 October 2005 and consisted of three instructor’s pilots and one pilot. The first A109 course presented by the SA Air Force instructors will commence in February 2006 at 87 Helicopter Flying School to enable eight pilots who are presently flying the Alouette III helicopters to fly the A109 helicopter. The training of other aircrew for the A109 helicopter will follow suit.

The first training session for technical personnel by Agusta was completed in September 2005. The second technical course started in November and the third course will commence at the beginning of 2006.

“This helicopter will also be the first in which a young helicopter pilot will obtain operational command. With the advanced features of this new generation helicopter, which will enable aircrews to perform even better, great things can be expected,” said Lt Gen Gagiano.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, said: “Today the SA Air Force receives the first of the aircraft to be formally delivered through the Strategic Defence Packages”.

He said that this helicopter would assist the Government to support the people of South Africa with, inter alia, search and rescue, law enforcement and the preparation for the operational readiness of the South African National Defence Force.

The helicopter would further enable Government to participate more effectively in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) initiatives, including the work of the African Union (AU) and contribute to the African Standby Force.
South Africa’s first completed Gripen fighter was unveiled on 28 October 2005 in Linköping, Sweden, in a roll-out ceremony as it left the production line.

The aircraft, which will be the first of 28 Gripens delivered to the South African Air Force from 2008, will now be prepared for a rigorous and thorough flight test programme to integrate South Africa’s customised avionics and missions systems.

Speaking on behalf of the South African Government at the roll-out ceremony in Linköping, Sweden, South Africa’s Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Alec Erwin, highlighted the strategic significance of South Africa’s Gripen acquisition and its role as a catalyst for broad industrial, trade and economic development in South Africa.

Sweden’s Minister of Defence, Mrs Leni Björklund, said Sweden would continue to develop further its already strong strategic political, defence, industrial and economic links with South Africa: “The relations between our two countries can only be described as excellent. I would like to take this opportunity to underline and manifest the Swedish Government’s desire to further develop and expand these much-appreciated relations,” Mrs Björklund said.

Underlining this sentiment, Saab CEO, Mr Ake Svensson, described the significance of the Gripen programme in establishing South Africa as Saab’s second home market. Underpinning its commitment to South Africa, Saab has invested in several businesses, including its major investment in Grintek, the South African advanced technology group. “Saab is now a proudly South African company employing around 1 300 of the best technical and marketing brains within Saab Grintek, in which we own a 70% stake,” he explained.

The Chief of the South African Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, said the Gripen programme was an icon for transformation and modernisation in the SA Air Force and would strengthen South Africa’s contribution to peace and security in Africa. He also expressed his delight with the progress of the Gripen programme. “In an industry notorious for sliding deadlines, SAAB has been able to roll out this specific aircraft well ahead of the original schedule. I congratulate you on this achievement!” he said.
On 3 November 2005 the South African Navy’s first of three Type 209 submarines was commissioned in Kiel, Germany. Our Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, were all present to underscore the importance of this day for South Africa and its navy.

During his speech the Minister of Defence said the commissioning of the new submarine, S101, for the SA Navy represented the best of naval cutting-edge technology, both afloat and under the sea. He said the new submarine would go a long way towards ensuring that South Africa had the requisite maritime defence capability to provide the highest level of protection for its economy and people, while creating the opportunity to rejuvenate the SA National Defence Force with young talent and diversity in terms of both race and gender.

"Putting South Africa’s security requirements into context we must consider that 98% of the country’s imports and exports pass through our harbours," he said. "South Africa is therefore a maritime economy and our strategic geographical position on a major international sea route makes it all the more important to have the best possible equipment to secure all of our interests." The submarine, Type 209, is one of three boats ordered by the SA Government to replace the obsolete DAPHNE class submarines, the last of which was taken out of service in November 2003.

Ownership of the submarine was transferred from the shipyard to the SA Navy on 20 September 2005 when the Delivery Protocol was signed. A framed copy of the protocol was also officially handed over to the Minister at the ceremony.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, who ordered the commissioning of the boat, handed over command of the new submarine - S101 - to Commander Gary Kretschmer. The initial commissioning ceremony was a historic occasion during which the South African flag was raised on board for the first time and she was manned for the first time by a fully South African crew. The S101 will be conducting sea training and a work-up period prior to her departure for South Africa where she is expected to arrive in late March next year. She will sail home under her own power escorted by the combat support ship, SAS DRAKENSBERG.

South Africa is one of thirteen countries to procure the Type 209 submarine, which is considered to be one of the most successful conventionally powered classes of boats in the world today.
The New Fighters and Submarines: Deterrent and Peacetime Tools

By Helmoed Heitman, Defence Analyst

Two key developments in the strategic arms packages recently occurred in the Department of Defence - the rollout of the SA Air Force’s first Gripen on 28 October 2005, and the commissioning of the first of the SA Navy’s three Type 209 submarines on 3 November 2005.

These two acquisitions have raised the most questions. Most people understand the need for corvettes or frigates, light utility helicopters and jet trainers, but quite a few ask why South Africa needs new fighters and submarines when there is no war and no enemy? The answer is twofold: both are key elements of deterrent capability, and both will have very real capabilities in operations other than war.

Deter whom? South Africa is at peace, but Africa and the world are in an unstable era, and it would be foolish to assume that there will be no threat in the future. That means the SANDF must retain critical defence capabilities at a level that will allow effective training, that will be sufficient to deal with situations that can arise without warning, and that can serve as a basis for expansion should the strategic situation deteriorate. The Gripens and the submarines are a part of that core capability.

The Gripen

The SANDF is a very small force in a very large theatre, which demands the ability to focus combat power quickly. Fighters are extremely effective in achieving that: they can deploy between bases quickly and at short notice, and can quickly reach out to defend or strike far from those bases. That capability makes a fighter force a very real deterrent.

In peace support operations fighters can provide quick response close air support for a patrol in trouble, conduct precision strikes against arms depots, destroy bridges ahead of an aggressor force, and interdict the transport of weapons and the export of high-value minerals often used to fund rebellions. Precision attack can also be of immense value in operations against terrorists. In South America several air forces use their fighters to interdict the air transport of narcotics.

The Gripen should prove to be effective in all of these roles and, being a modern ‘4th generation’ fighter, should serve the SA Air Force well for the next twenty years. Its main advantages are that it is designed as a "swing role" fighter, able to change from air-to-air to air-to-ground missions with no more than a change of weapons, and that it is designed to operate from ‘austere’ forward bases with minimal ground support. All that is needed for turnaround between missions is a team of one technician and four assistants. That ability to operate from small airfields with little in the way of ground support will give it immense flexibility in Africa.

The very capable multi-mode
radar, the infrared search and track system, the helmet display (South African developed) and sight system, and the data link just add to its capabilities. While the weapons have not yet been selected, the Gripen will be able to employ a full range of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons, including precision stand-off weapons. Some will probably be South African. In closing, it is worth saying that a twin-engined fighter with greater range would have been nice - but it would have cost close to twice as much.

**Type 209 submarine**

The Type 209 is the most successful post-World War II submarine type to have been built - and it has been continuously modernised since the 1970s. Today there are 63 in service with 13 navies. It is a deep-diving attack and patrol submarine that is extremely quiet and that has the range and the endurance (10 000 nautical miles, more than 30 days) to be effective in a large theatre.

The SA Navy version is fitted with an ISUS90 combat management system integrated with a comprehensive sonar suite, an optronic mast, an optical attack periscope and an electronic support measures system. The latter and key portions of the optronic mast and the attack periscope have been developed in South Africa. The boat will use wire-guided torpedoes and can lay mines. Unlike older types, these boats have an active torpedo countermeasures system to defend them against anti-submarine torpedoes.

But why submarines? Because a submarine force is one of the most effective deterrent forces a small country can afford. A modern diesel-electric boat like the S101 presents a very real threat to even the most modern surface warship, let alone freighters loaded with critical cargos. Worse, once a submarine is at sea, no one knows where it is. That makes even large navies nervous. The 1982 Falklands War (Islas Malvinas in Spanish) is a good case in point: While a single Royal Navy nuclear powered submarine forced the Argentine Navy to return to port, a single Argentine diesel-electric submarine exerted an immense influence on how the RN task force positioned itself.

In peacetime modern submarines are ideal surveillance and reconnaissance tools, able to monitor events in the littoral without major risk of detection and the political fall-out that would follow. They can use their sonar and periscopes to monitor and record ship movements and their ESM systems to monitor communications and locate radars, and they can land and recover special forces’ reconnaissance teams. These capabilities, termed "strategic surveillance" by some navies, can also be of considerable value in a peace support operation, where good intelligence is as important as in war.

Some navies have made even more use of their submarines in peacetime: Canada used its Oberons to gather evidence against Spanish vessels overfishing cod on the Grand Banks, and against American shrimp boats fishing illegally in its waters. In both cases it was the ability to gather evidence without being noticed that was the key to success.

Some South American navies use their submarines for the same role in countering the sea transport of narcotics in the Caribbean, and there have been reports that the Royal Netherlands Navy has used its boats in that role as well.

**Summing Up**

Both the Gripen and the Type 209 submarine should serve South Africa well in the SANDF’s primary role of deterring aggression, and both will have very real utility in regional security missions.

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The new submarine, S101, during her trials. (Photo courtesy SA Navy)
Goodwill and joy to our deployed soldiers

By Capt Lizette Lombard, PR Intern at CDCC

Goodwill and joy will be brought to SANDF members deployed internally and externally during the festive season. Out of a total of 5 500 parcels, 3 100 parcels will be distributed to our soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Sudan during a Goodwill Visit to these countries over the period 12 to 15 December 2005. This is made possible by the Goodwill Parcel Project, which was started five years ago.

The project is currently led by WO1 Jakes Jacobs, the Sergeant Major of the SANDF. The Patron is Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff. On 19 October 2005 the project received a boost through the generous contributions of companies such as ABSA, the SA Army Foundation, SAFI, the Clinix Health Group, Sanlam, Old Mutual and Novare. These contributions came to a total of R440 000 and were officially handed over by company representatives to the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, as part of the proceedings. Gen Ngwenya in turn handed over invitations to the companies and invited them to be part of the Goodwill Visit in December 2005.

Gen Ngwenya made the following closing remarks: "This kind of contribution makes us proud today. We are involved in a number of countries, which is not easy. I think we must say thank you to you people, because you have supported us through thick and thin. Make it a point to be there in December so that the members can see you." It is heart-warming to know that at this time of the year there are people who support the SANDF’s efforts to bring joy and goodwill to all our deployed soldiers.

Gen Ngwenya and the senior leadership of the SANDF and representatives from the sponsors will be visiting the DRC, Burundi and the Sudan from 12 to 14 December 2005. From 19 to 22 December 2005 troops deployed internally in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Port Elizabeth and KwaZulu-Natal will be visited respectively.

The Task Force in the DRC is in support of the United Nations (UN) MONUC III, which consists of 1 196 members. The SANDF contingent deployed in support of the UN in Burundi consists of 904 members. Altogether 288 members are deployed in support of the African Union (AU) mission in the Sudan.

Presidential jet pilot received his wings

By Sgt Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, was the chief functionary during the SA Air Force Wings and Medal Parade which was held at 68 Air School in Pretoria on 21 October 2005. This parade was different from other parades, because on this occasion one of the recipients was the pilot of the Presidential jet (President Thabo Mbeki), the Inkwazi. He has been flying this aircraft since August this year.

Lt Col Nhlanhla Dube is an SA Air Force Reserve Force member who is also a pilot for the South African Airways (SAA), flying international flights on the Airbus A380.

Lt Col Dube underwent various flying training courses in the United Kingdom and completed his aircraft typewriting on the Inkwazi in September 2005. He is currently undergoing Military Basic Training at the SA Air Force Gymnasium. Lt Col Dube was born in South Africa and was raised in Swaziland by his relatives. At the age of 18 he was reunited with his parents in South Africa upon their arrival after they had spent a lengthy period in exile.

"The strength of the SA Air Force lies in the diversity of its people, the diversity of the various cultures it embraces and the diversity of the tasks which its members are competent to perform. Training is a key factor in the achievement of such competence and the importance of the contribution made by 68 Air School in this respect cannot be underestimated," concluded Lt Gen Gagiano.
South Africa and the Netherlands in Agreement

By Capt L. Lombard,
PR Intern at CDCC
Photo courtesy of Mr Peter Morey

The South African Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Netherlands, Dr Bernard Bot, came together at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria for the signing of two bilateral defence cooperation arrangements on 11 October 2005. The two arrangements concerned a joint project to support the integration of the DRC Armed Forces and a framework for bilateral military cooperation.

Mr Lekota ended his address to the Netherlands delegation with the following words: "Please convey the South African Government’s sincerest appreciation to the Government and people of the Netherlands for the committed support and confidence in South Africa as a regional partner". Dr Bot, for his part, ended by conveying his heartfelt thanks to the South African Government for the welcoming and hospitality shown towards the Netherlands delegation. The formalities were concluded with the signing of the two bilateral arrangements.

Saying goodbye to our soldiers

Article and photo by Maj Elize Lizamore, Corp Comm
SA Army Foundation

43 Infantry Brigade bade farewell to their comrades in arms who were about to deploy in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Twenty-five members of this infantry battalion assembled in their unit’s auditorium on 8 October 2005. Chaplain Moshweu gave the members spiritual armour with his message from God’s cloud that provides His people with shade against the scorching sun.

The Officer Commanding, Col Lawrence Smith, reminded the members to apply self-discipline and self-respect in performing their tasks while in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The SA Army Foundation had the privilege of attending the special event. The Foundation wishes the members the best with their mission and appreciates each member for his or her contribution in safeguarding our African region.
Update on the African Standby Force

By Brig Gen Les Rudman,
Acting Chief Director Strategy
and Planning

The formation of the SADC Brigade of the African Standby Force met the 30 June 2005 deadline through the finalisation of its structure, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SADC Member States and the SADC, and a pledge in excess of 6 000 soldiers by Member States.

This Standby Force Concept is fully and proudly supported by SADC Member States, the levels of commitment are high. Member States feel strongly about their independence as a region and it is quite clear that the SADC is serious about showing its commitment to fully participating in addressing the African Renaissance.

The SADC Brigade (SADC-BRIG) has come a long way since the Second African Chiefs of Defence Staff (ACDS) meeting took place in Harare in 1997 where a number of recommendations were made, including the alignment of peace support operations with the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of African Union (OAU) Charters, the establishment of Standby Brigades in five regions of the African continent, and the establishment of centres of expertise for peace support operations training.

The approach and attitude within the SADC to make a success of the African Standby Force (ASF) is very positive. An excellent working relationship exists at all levels.

Progress from there was both focussed and consistent with the philosophy and expectations set in 1997. The launch of the African Union (AU) in Durban in 2002 gave further impetus to the concept of collective and self-reliant defence for Africa through a protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSC) and the Common African Defence and Security Policy (CADSP).

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An SADC perspective.

Subsequently, the PSC was been charged with the development of the Military Staff Committee (MSC), the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System and the ASF. At the Third ACDS meeting in May 2003 in Addis Ababa the policy framework for the Establishment of the African Standby Force and the Military Staff Committee was further consolidated with implementation recommendations that included five regionally based Standby Brigades, the development of the ASF in two phases (Phase 1 is to be completed by 30 June 2005 and Phase 2 by 30 June 2010), the structuring of the Brigade to meet peace support operations requirements, the establishment of a strategic AU Headquarters to direct the ASF, a regionally managed logistics support plan, ensuring that the standby arrangement will include AU Military Liaison Officers, police and civilians on call at 14 days notice, regional planning to support the Continental Early Warning System that must include national, as well as regional early warning initiatives, and, by August 2003 the Chiefs of Defence Staff in the five regions having to meet on a regional basis to set in motion the regional processes.

The recent EXERCISE THOKGAMO, a very successful regional peace support operations exercise hosted by Botswana in June 2005, was a tangible test case for the interoperability of SADC defence forces and the SADC Brigade concept as a whole.
The African Peer Review Mechanism

The purpose of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is to foster the adoption of appropriate laws, policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental economic integration. In this first part of a two part series SA SOLDIER looks at some of the critical questions about the APRM.

What is the African Peer Review Mechanism?

The APRM is a system introduced by the African Union (AU) to help countries improve their governance. It is a way of looking forward, while taking account of where we are today. Participation in the system is voluntary. A panel of Eminent Persons working with the APRM Secretariat oversees its implementation throughout Africa. South Africa’s APRM process is overseen by our APRM Governing Council, which has ten civil society members and five from Government.

The stages of the system

The development of a country’s self-assessment report and a programme of action. This is based on a questionnaire that looks at four themes: Democracy and political governance, economic management, corporate governance and socio-economic development.

A Country Review Team led by the panel member responsible for South Africa will visit the country to consult with a wide range of stakeholders on the report. The point is to encourage African countries to plan a way forward for themselves and to implement their plans.

What does South Africa want to achieve from the review?

This is a way to build unity and encourage the emergence of consensus on our national development strategy. The APRM will provide an overarching national vision that will help guide many other initiatives, in both Government and civil society. The development of a national vision will encourage foreign and local investment in the country.

When is South Africa’s Peer Review scheduled to take place?

The process unfolds over nine months from October 2005 and starts with the process of developing a country’s Self-Assessment Report and a Programme of Action. South Africa’s APRM Governing Council will make sure that the process is a participatory and consultative one.

How will this process benefit South Africans?

The APRM process will help us to identify policies, laws, structures and processes that need to be reformed and developed. This will help us build a society in which ordinary people are able to participate in governance. It will also create a more stable investment climate and promote economic growth.

Who should be involved?

To succeed the APRM process must be open and participatory. All members of South African society should contribute. This includes stakeholders such as civil society organisations, business, academics, the youth, women, religious communities, labour, people with disabilities, the aged, children, civic organisations and the unemployed, cultural communities, professionals, political parties, etc. The process is open to all South Africans who would like to make submissions and participate.

How can South Africans get involved in the process?

Anyone who wants to contribute should obtain the APRM questionnaire and respond to the issues it raises by making a submission. The questionnaire is available on the website: www.dpsa.gov.za. You can also make submissions on issues not raised by the questionnaire. Submissions should be written up in a clear, simple document that includes your contact details. You can also participate by getting involved in the APRM consultations being run in the different provinces. Watch the press for details.

Participation

You can participate as a group or as an individual through the following channels:

- Ward committees.
- Metro, district and local municipalities.
- Community Development Workers (CDWs).
- MultiPurpose Community Centres (MPCC).
- National and Provincial Government Offices.

Enquiries: DPSA
Website: www.dpsa.gov.za
E-mail: aprm@dpsa.gov.za
1020 Call Centre
SA and UK united forces to develop peace support

By CPO Dennis Ndaba

The South African National War College hosted the Peace Support Operations Course over the period 23 to 28 September 2005.

It was a joint venture between the War College and the United Kingdom to enhance the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme and to further develop peace support capacity within the College and the learner body.

Speakers included Lt Gen Sipho Binda, Chief of Joint Operations, Maj Gen John Attipoe (Ghana), the Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre and also currently the Chair of the African Peace Support Trainers Association and Chair of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres, Brig Gen J.S. Nkrumah (Ghana), a Sector Commander in MONUC, and Brig D. Keenan, the UK Defence Advisor.

Maj Gen Attipoe told SA SOLDIER that the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Centre provided training at operational level for persons to be deployed for peace support operations.

The purpose of the Centre is to develop a regional peacekeeping education and training institution with high academic standards and research in peace support operations. He added that conflict situations in our region were hampering stability and economic development.

The Centre was named after His Excellency, Mr Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, who prior to his current position was the Head of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations.
A first for **Chief of the Navy**

**Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomtshongwana**

Vice Admiral Refiloe Mudimu hosted his first annual Gala Concert as the new Chief of the SA Navy in Pretoria on 14 October 2005. The aim was to reflect on the highlights and achievements of the SA Navy, while the now world-renowned SA Navy Band entertained the guests with their music.

"My key responsibility is to create a Navy with a better tomorrow - a Navy that derives its strength from its yesterday," Vice Admiral Mudimu said during his speech. He added: "In our Peoples Navy there will be a place for all persons of colour, creed and code, including those with disabilities." He also said that in the middle of next year our ships would visit South America to conduct the biannual **EXERCISE ATLASUR**.

V Adm Mudimu concluded his speech by thanking those who were adding value to the progress of the SA Navy.

**A Navy member on board a Brazilian training ship**

**By Col Sue Palmer**

Ensign Philiom Nwane Leshage from the SA Navy boarded the Brazilian training ship "Navio Escola Brazil" on 8 July 2005 in Rio de Janeiro. The voyage of the ship included calling at the ports of Salvador, Recife and Fortaleza in Brazil, San Juan in Puerto Rico, Miami in the USA, Cork in Ireland, London in the UK, Hamburg in Germany, Rouen and Toulon in France, Valencia in Spain, Civitavecchia in Italy, Lisbon in Portugal and Las Palmas in the Spanish Island.

The DA in Italy, Col Sue Palmer, met up with Esn Leshage at the harbour of Civitavecchia in Italy on 5 October 2005 for a cocktail hosted by the Captain of the ship. The crew members and the Captain spoke very highly of Esn Leshage and his efforts in support of the ship. He was trying to master Portuguese (language of instruction on the ship), but also managed to teach fellow crew members some words in Sotho.

The training on board the ship includes navigation and tactical training simulations systems, which is basically tactical warfare. Esn Leshage told the DA: "This kind of training is an excellent opportunity and with the right preparation one can learn a lot. I feel very privileged to have attended the learning opportunity and I hope it will go a long way to strengthening the relationship between South Africa and Latin America."

**Having a ball**

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, hosted his Prestige Ball in Pretoria on 29 October 2005. During his speech he emphasised the importance of the industry in creating partnerships, which will not only serve our Navy, but also our industry, and thus create a viable, growing and stimulating maritime environment that will be able to support the Government’s initiatives in our country, including the region as a whole. V Adm Mudimu concluded his speech by inviting his guests to sit back and relax, dine and dance and to enjoy the evening. (Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

**Mrs Yvonne Mudimu, the wife of V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, handed over a bouquet of flowers to WO2 Tanya Steyn during the Prestige Ball of the Chief of the SA Navy.**

**Vice Admiral Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, addressing the guests during his Gala Concert.**

**DECEMBER 2005 • SA SOLDIER**
5 September 2005 marks another highlight for the SA Army Armour Formation. The day saw the presentation of the fourth armour symposium presented at the School of Armour in Bloemfontein. The symposium was presented under the leadership and coordination of the SA Army Armour Formation HQ. The theme of the symposium, "Armour in African Peace Support Operations in 2020," evoked wide interest and ensured the attendance of highly distinguished local and international guests.

Altogether 329 people attended the symposium. Among these were thirteen foreign military attendees, including seven military attachés from the USA, Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Pakistan, the Netherlands and India, as well as four military guest speakers from Germany, the UK, Australia, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Altogether they represented twelve countries on six continents. Over and above these, 76 civilians attended the symposium, including the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank and Honorary Colonel of 1 SA Tank Regiment, Mr Tito Mboweni.

The symposium was co-hosted by BAE Systems Land Systems OMC. Altogether fifteen companies from the local defence industry sponsored the symposium. These were ADS, Armscor, ATE, BUSAF, DELKON, Denel Aerospace Systems, Denel Land System, Internex, IST Dynamics, MOH-9, RDL, SA Army Foundation, ThoroughTec & Walog.

Attendees received a CD at registration containing the presentations and papers of the guest speakers. Although not all the presentations were available beforehand, the CD was compiled in a very professional manner. The American military attaché even requested a second CD and remarked: "This is really great to receive a CD during registration, I have not experienced this at any other event like this..."

Maj Gen L.M. Dlulane, Chief Director Army Force Structure, officially opened the symposium which consisted of four sessions. Session one, chaired by Col William Nondala, Officer Commanding School of Armour, set the scene with presentations by Mr Ben du Toit (Defence Analyst at the Defence Institute), Col Eddie Drost (Project Leader of Army Vision 2020), Col S. Gwekwere from the Zimbabwean Defence Force, and Mr Helmoed Römer-Heitman (Defence Correspondent for Jane’s Defence). The presentations dealt with issues such as South Africa’s disposition and responsibility towards peace support operations in Africa; structures within SADC; and the particular challenges of the African battle space, especially with regard to armour. The importance of strategic lift and urbanised environments coupled with the challenges of asymmetric warfare was addressed. It became clear that the African battle space is probably one of the most complex battle spaces in the world.

Session two was chaired by Ms Khapametsi Maleke, Director Business Development BAE Systems Land Systems OMC. The presentations by Dr James Hoyle of BAE Systems UK and Mr Cobus van der Merwe of SAAB Avitronics focussed on technological tendencies and new developments in the field of armour, such as vehicle design, electric drive and armour protection.

The General Officer Commanding SA Army Armour Formation, Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys, chaired the final session, which was a panel discussion where all the speakers of the day formed a panel and answered questions from the floor. The panel discussion ended with the formulation of a number of resolutions that were displayed by means of a computer and projector. A secretariat was appointed to assist with the formulation of the resolutions and to document relevant information presented at the sympo-
A T-34 Russian Tank from the SA Armour Museum at the main entrance to the Big Willie Auditorium at the School of Armour where the symposium was presented.

The German guest speaker remarked afterwards that the formulation of resolutions at the end of the seminar by the chairman and secretary demonstrated that the event was not merely the presentation of pre-arranged papers by guest speakers, but showed that the symposium was really used to make a difference. He also requested an electronic copy of the resolutions. The symposium leads to the following main conclusions and resolutions:

- South Africa needs a dedicated expeditionary force, customised for the African battle space as part of a multi-national force.
- Such a force must be capable of handling the full spectrum of peace support operations and must be prepared to handle any situation.
- Armour forms a fundamental and indispensable part of such a force.
- Armour is a wide and diverse concept. The armoured capability must consist of a balanced mix of light, medium and heavy armour, bearing in mind that form follows function. Armour reconnaissance is of particular significance.

- Multinational, joint, and combined arms doctrine, based on asymmetric warfare concepts must be specifically developed and training conducted according to common standards.
- Sustainment must be compatible between forces and the host nation as well as tailor-made for the force that is to be supported.
- Technology and equipment must be developed to enhance interoperability, including a mix of high-tech and low-tech, old and new.
- Non-lethal ammunition and all-round protection against anti-tank weapons, mines, and improvised explosive devices are specifically required.

Resolutions:

- To update the recently approved South African Armour Strategy in term of its human resources, force preparation, force structure, and force support components.
- To develop armour doctrine to include the employment of light, medium, and heavy armour in peace support operations.
- To compile a Required Operational Capability (ROC) for the development of a light armour reconnaissance capability using affordable and appropriate technology.

The symposium suggested that the way ahead should be shaped around the following recommendations:

- Acquire approval of the updated armour strategy.
- Present the ROC to the Landward Defence Capability Board.
- Establish formal relations with the relevant role players.
- Market aggressively.
- Use equipment available as a short-term/interim solution.

The symposium not only made it clear that armour had a definite and distinctive role to play in peace support operations, but also pointed out the importance of main battle tanks and other lighter armour reconnaissance capabilities.

It became clear that peace support operations in the African battle space required a paradigm shift for the SA military. Asymmetric warfare techniques and the necessity to operate over the full spectrum of military operations within a theatre were emphasised. The versatility and utility of armour (communications, protection, mobility, firepower, as well as force and space factors) are proven virtues that will be needed in all future operations.

Overall the symposium was considered a great success by all who attended it. The Dutch military attaché remarked during the first break in the tearoom: “That was very interesting. You guys are presenting a great symposium...”
Our Air Force goes straight up at IMAX

By Capt J.P. van Vuuren,

AD ASTRA

Photo: WO2 C. Crous

The SA Air Force saw itself going "straight up" as the giant screen of the IMAX Theatre at Menlyn Park Shopping and Entertainment Centre launched its latest IMAX experience, Straight Up! Helicopters in Action, on the morning of 23 July 2005.

The opening ten minutes saw a visual documentary of the SA Air Force (SAAF) and SA Police Service (SAPS). The IMAX Theatre invited local organisations, the SAAF, the SAPS and BassAir Aviation to participate in the launch to showcase their skills and expertise to the Pretoria public.

An action packed live display of helicopters in action commenced after the premiere screening of the film. 17 Squadron, based at Swartkop, in conjunction with the Mountain Club of South Africa, simulated a dramatic drop-line rescue from the roof of the five-storey high IMAX Theatre.

Immediately thereafter the SAPS Air Wing and Special Task Force thrilled the crowd with their action packed anti-crime simulation.

Straight Up! Helicopters in Action was filmed over 18 months on three continents: North America, Europe and Africa. Straight Up! Helicopters in Action will give audiences a greater appreciation of the unique nature of vertical flight as they travel along with skilled helicopter crews in the film’s series of challenging adventures. Straight Up! Helicopters in Action celebrates the critical, yet often unheralded role helicopters play in a turbulent world.

Straight Up! Helicopters in Action is now open to the public. The Menlyn IMAX Theatre is located on the lower first floor, Menlyn Park Shopping and Entertainment Centre. Ticket prices are R35 for adults and R25 for children, students, seniors and uniformed services. Theatre contact details: (012) 368 1186/8.
African Defence Systems Advert
(Repeat Nov 05 advert)
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PHIDISA is more than just a clinical research project focusing on the management of HIV/AIDS for uniformed members of the SANDF; it is a way of life and a lifeline to many. Through PHIDISA the SANDF is basically saying: “As the defenders and protectors of the nation, we have come up with a unique and strategic way to go to war with AIDS; therefore any member who signs up with the programme becomes part of a ‘special force’.”

PHIDISA is yet another readily available benefit for military members who are part and parcel of the organisation’s medical aid programme, but it remains underutilised. How does a pilot project designed to tackle HIV/AIDS at a time when AIDS infections and statistics are soaring in South Africa remain underutilised?

Or perhaps the misunderstanding about what PHIDISA represents lies in the fact that our young members believe that the SANDF can only go to war with a living, breathing and bleeding enemy. Well, that is the kind of enemy our grandfathers went to war with, but we now live in a new world where poverty and disease kill more people than people who die in countries at war with each other. AIDS, coupled with poverty, will single-handedly wipe out an entire family. So who is the enemy now?

Blaming it all on the stigma attached to anything linked to AIDS/HIV has become really tired and old. It has everything to do with the fact that perhaps as a people many of us have lost the will to fix things, let alone fight the unusual.

As much as PHIDISA is there to fight AIDS, the war does not begin only with HIV positive members. It starts with those who are negative, but who are then encouraged to do all in their power to remain negative; PHIDISA supports awareness messages that state that prevention is still better than cure.

For those members who test positive for any other types of illnesses, including HIV the programme then provides treatment that is broken down and given in an easy to understand layman’s language. It becomes an excellent opportunity for all members to have their health closely scrutinised and monitored for the well-being of each individual.

PHIDISA started in 2004. The programme has since recruited close to 3000 members. There are six PHIDISA clinics - three rural (Phalaborwa, Umtata and Matubatuba) and three urban (Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Pretoria). The programme is to run for a period of five years after which members will be absorbed into the SAMHS.

In an enlightening conversation I had with Lt Sheila Senokwanyane, the Project PHIDISA Communications Coordinator, she explained to me that the new communications office was trying to create a better relationship between members and PHIDISA.

“PHIDISA is not only for HIV positive members, it is for all SANDF members, because PHIDISA is divided into protocols,” said Lt Senokwanyane, which means PHIDISA is divided into different governing activities, i.e PHIDISA 1-3.

“PHIDISA 1 is the infection stage where members and their dependants come and check their health status. From here they may pass to PHIDISA 2, which is the treatment regime. We are still developing PHIDISA 3 where we will look at African herbs and how they work on people. This is for those who are willing to disclose that they are using African herbs,” added Lt Senokwanyane.

“I think we are falling short with regard to management, especially with people who do not understand how this system works because the Officer Commanding is supposed to provide transport for members by bus to the clinics.”
Cpl Andries Nhlengethwa and Sgt Philisiwe Ntshangase help bring PHIDISA to members.

This is also a way for each and every Officer Commanding to know that he has force prepared members. It is not asking too much of members to come in and get a check-up. Remember that confidentiality is guaranteed,” she continued. “This should not be regarded as a trip for those with HIV/AIDS; it should be a ‘health bus’, so the Officers Commanding should encourage their members to come to PHIDISA on the ‘health bus’ that comes to ‘1 Military Hospital’.

“PHIDISA is governed by a lot of protocols. We are monitored by a number of medical bodies, including the WHO, and must maintain an international standard,” emphasised Lt Senokwanyane.

“I am going to say to members, there is help next door, come it is your life! We are building capacity, the result of which will not only show SAMHS and South Africa as a whole, but the whole world how the SANDF managed to deal with HIV/AIDS,” she said. “If you are brave enough to sign up and stand against bullets, be brave enough to come to PHIDISA,” Lt Senokwanyane concluded.

Also working away in the new PHIDISA Communications Office and busy with the drive to bring PHIDISA to the people are Sgt Philisiwe Ntshangase and Cpl Andries Nhlengethwa, two names that are synonymous with this ongoing and never-ending war against AIDS. Both are uniformed members of the SANDF, they are HIV positive and live openly with their status, with the hope that through themselves others will come forward and provide PHIDISA with the necessary capacity to reach a point of excellence.

For instance Cpl Nhlengethwa is not on anti-retroviral drugs (HIV/AIDS), but participates fully at PHIDISA by taking full advantage of what the clinic has to offer. Here he is able to kill many birds with one stone; he educates people on living positively with the virus, his health is constantly monitored by PHIDISA’s readily available professionals and his professional life continues to grow and develop.

Speaking to SA SOLDIER, Cpl Nhlengethwa said the communications office has the huge responsibility of delivering the PHIDISA message and making sure it is understood. “We are fully responsible for recruiting all members to come and be a part of this clinical research that we are doing at PHIDISA”, said Cpl Nhlengethwa.

“I tell them more about what is going on there and make them feel comfortable about joining,” he added. “I tell them we are not only a clinic that does research on HIV, but we go further and do research on various other chronic diseases. It is my daily duty to tell them what is going on.”

“There are a lot of professionals here who can counsel you, help you, deal with your stress or depression,” he said. Diagnosed seven years ago, Cpl Nhlengethwa is a health fanatic and bodybuilder at a CD4 count of 1600. “I knew early that I was HIV positive and since I was not ignorant I made sure that I looked after myself and I eat healthily. I condomise and I have a good attitude,” he said.

“The issue of medication is the last option. Firstly, you must accept that you have cancer, or you are diabetic or TB or HIV; no professional can make you do that. Then you must eat healthily, get rid of your addictions, be they drugs or substance abuse, exercise and get informed,” said Cpl Nhlengethwa.

“As uniformed members we must make sure that we use this opportunity and privilege. I don’t understand why soldiers are still dying of AIDS; this message cannot continue to fall on deaf ears,” he said.

Sgt Philisiwe Ntshangase, on the other hand, is on anti-retrovirals (ARVs) and her progress is monitored by the clinic. At PHIDISA she is in a patient advocacy function and speaks on behalf of patients that are enrolled at the clinic and at Greater Involvement by People Living with AIDS (GIPA) within the DOD.

She talks on behalf of those that are infected or affected by the pandemic, offers advice to patients on how to take medication and she also advises the members on the Bill of Rights, even in the workplace, and handles issues surrounding disclosure.

“The project is going very well, I see people who couldn’t walk go back to work,” Sgt Ntshangase said. “I have been taking this treatment and I look good and healthy. Nobody can say that I am on the treatment because I take it privately at the hour convenient to me,” she boasted.

“So I encourage people to come forward. Treatment is really working,” she added. ARVs are taken twice a day: in the mornings and evenings.

SA SOLDIER also visited the PHIDISA pharmacy where Sgt Ntshangase gets her ARVs and met one of the resident pharmacists, Ella Ntshani, who said she has seen the results of the tablets working on the patients.

“We have seven drugs that we use and we place patients into different regimens, so depending into which regimen one falls, the individual will use a combination of three drugs,” said Ntshani.

“Our patients come in every month with their remaining tablets and that is how we are able to monitor adherence to taking the treatment. We (Continued on page 28)
also monitor their progress through blood tests,” she said.

“Patients also take support medication, depending on whether they have an infection. If that is the case, we prescribe the necessary antibiotics which they get from the main pharmacy at 1 Military Hospital,” she continued.

“We are coping and doing well,” she added. The pharmacy also makes follow-ups to make sure that the patient does not miss appointments to the clinic and therefore run out of medication.

Ntshani also said the number of patients now taking ARVs is about one thousand. “We expected to have more by now, but we are not reaching that number, maybe people are not well informed or there are fears around the taking of ARVs,” she explained.

Female Admiral leads women's conference

By Lt Cdr Prince Tshabalala, PRO: SA Navy

The first female Admiral of the SA Navy, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, led a women’s conference and workshop for serving female uniformed officers and female non-uniformed personnel of the SA Navy. The three-day conference commenced on 5 October 2005 at Milnerton, Cape Town.

The aim and objective of the conference was to empower, enable and challenge all SA Navy women in respect of their roles within the SA Navy and society in general.

The speakers consisted of government, corporate and military women who have made significant inroads in their respective disciplines. Topics such as femininity, health (HIV/AIDS), leadership, trust issues, networking, role-modelling, unity and sharing women’s experiences within the military, corporate and public sector were covered over the three days of the conference which ended with a gala evening on the third day. The main sponsors of the SA Navy women’s conference were Standard Bank.

In his opening speech, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, said that he believed that this venture would be continued into the years to come. He mentioned that the women had gathered under the banner of realising their power and how to translate it into action that would shape how women should be regarded.

The conference arose in response to the need of the SA Navy to align itself with the President’s vision and initiative of ensuring that 50% of women are represented within the top and middle management levels of government, public and private sectors respectively.

This vision was adopted after a call in the Defence Public Service Act to ensure that there was adequate representation of women in top and middle management structures.

The conference will also serve as a benchmark for future initiatives and programmes to empower women within the SA Navy and members of the broader society who deal with the Navy. This initiative will be extended to non-commissioned women of all ranks levels at a later stage.

R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala says: “This is the first women’s conference in the 83 years of the SA Navy, marking a new era of women’s empowerment in line with the President’s support of women’s leadership and the Chief of the SA Navy’s commitment to achieving equity”.

PHIDISA may be about fighting AIDS and being in the front line, but it is also about giving the SANDF control over other chronic diseases, so if soldiers can sign up with the SANDF and be prepared to stand against bullets, they most certainly can play a part by supporting PHIDISA. For more information please contact Cpl Andries Nhlengethwa at tel no: (012) 631 9960 or cell no: 083 555 7916.
International Coastal Clean-up 2005

By CPO KC Linderoth, Naval Base Simon’s Town Environmental Services

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism invited Naval Base Simon’s Town Environmental Services to take part in the international coastal clean-up, which took place from 12 to 17 September. It turned out to be the biggest coastal clean-up the Navy had ever undertaken. Worldwide the clean-up involved approximately 5 million volunteers.

The SA Navy had approximately 220 members who took part and 69 learners from St James Primary School in Kalkbay. The clean-up was organised and coordinated by WO2 B.V. Walters and CPO K.C. Linderoth of Naval Base Simon’s Town Environmental Services. The areas which were identified were Simon’s Town harbour, Kalk Bay harbour and surrounding areas and Gordon’s Bay harbour and surrounding areas. The clean-up started at 10:00 and ended at 14:00. Twenty divers carried out a subsurface clean-up of Simon’s Town harbour. They reported that the harbour was reasonably clean and only 25 bags of rubble were collected. The items found consisted mostly of cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons and beverage bottles.

Kalkbay harbour was the area most in need of a clean-up. The ship’s company of SAS UMKOMAAS and the learners of St James Primary School cleaned the surrounding area of Kalkbay. They collected 170 bags of rubble, which included clothes, broken bottles and beverage cans. An interesting item was a Bible, which was in good condition, found by one of the learners. Ten divers cleaned the subsurface area and 68 bags of rubbish were removed. Among the rubble were tyres, metal objects, car batteries, a chair and some cellphones. Although a considerable amount of rubble was removed, the harbour still needs a lot of attention.

Gordon’s Bay Naval College had the most participants, namely 39 permanent uniformed staff, 86 Military Training Officers (MTO) Part I learners and 34 civilian members. The area they covered was from Bikini Beach to Harbour Island and Gordon’s Bay harbour towards the SA Naval College. A total of 183 bags of rubbish were collected, which included a bag of used bandages. Ten divers cleaned the Gordon’s Bay harbour, which was also found to be reasonably clean. Overall, the clean-up was a huge success. The message was clear to all involved that we have to keep our environment clean, not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. “Be responsible, let’s stop pollution.”

SAS PROTEA - Voyage to Maputo

By AB Zelda Lebelo, Assistant Media Liaison Officer Naval Base Simon’s Town Public Relations

After almost three weeks of surveying along the KwaZulu-Natal coast, the South African Navy’s hydrographic survey vessel, SAS PROTEA, under the command of Capt (SAN) Mark Blaine, proceeded on Friday, 16 September 2005 from Durban through to Maputo, the capital and chief port of Mozambique for a courtesy port visit. The main reason for this long awaited visit to Maputo was to promote the image of an effective RSA maritime capability, to project a positive image of the SA Navy and to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the Mozambican Navy. With the awesome camaraderie amongst the crewmembers of the ship, all cleaning stations were completed in time, and at approximately 17:30, the ship left the port of Naval Station Durban beautifully painted in white and ready to enter the port of Maputo on Sunday, 18 September 2005.

Everyone on board, including officers, senior and junior ratings were happy and anticipating the trip as it was an awesome experience for those who were sailing abroad for the very first time. As we entered the port of Maputo on the Sunday morning a 21-gun salute was fired as a mark of respect for the country, its president and people. Hundreds of people from the surrounding areas, including the media, were already waiting at the port. On our second day in Maputo on Monday, 19 September 2005, there was already a lot happening, eg we had a crewmember celebrating his birthday - Leading Seaman Kenny Peverett - and even though he was away from his family and friends and in a foreign country, he still enjoyed his birthday.

The SAS PROTEA Volleyball Team played a match against the Mozambican Navy Marines at the Mozambican School of the Navy. This was a team building exercise and everyone who participated had fun. A luncheon and a cocktail function were also held on board on the same day. Among the guests were the Military Attaché of South Africa in Mozambique, members of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors and the members of the Mozambican Armed Forces. The last day in Maputo was the busiest; we had a lot of people who came for a tour on the ship, children from an orphanage and Mozambican Navy Maritime Police and seamen who came on board for training.
‘Alive with Possibilities’ was South Africa’s challenging message to the international defence community at this year’s Defence Systems & Equipment International (DSEi) Exhibition held at the EXCEL Centre in London’s docklands. Some 25% bigger than before, it had some 200 exhibitors from 34 countries, received 25 000 visitors who included 84 overseas defence delegations from 52 countries, and hosted over 700 specially invited guests from 59 countries. The naval dimension was provided by eight vessels moored alongside - a Royal Navy frigate, offshore patrol vessel (OPV), and a sea cadet craft, a French frigate, an Italian OPV, a Belgian and a German mine-hunter and a Dutch hydrographic survey vessel.

There is no doubt, as DSEi showed, that we are now in a fast developing defence world of net-centric and network-enabled hi-tech operations. This new environment is being created by revolutionary technologies in command and control, weaponry, surveillance, communications and intelligence gathering which, together with complimentary advances in optronics and electronics, are fast transforming the battle space. For example, the British Army’s Future Integrated Soldier Technology programme will enable him to be individually briefed to operate, communicate, fight and survive to a degree unimaginable to his forebears of even a few years ago.

In the shadow of this new Defence arena, there was a discernible reduction in the displays of heavy weapons and tanks. However, reflecting a readily identifiable trend that armed forces - and indeed police forces - now have to face increasing threats of well-organised terrorism, security and civil disorder, there was a big increase in displays of appropriate weapons, detection and anti-intrusion devices, protective clothing and other measures designed to counter this fast-growing 2005 Defence dimension. In DSEi 2003, for instance, there were only two exhibitors featuring anti-terrorism: this year there were 67. Similarly, homeland security displays rose from 102 to 146 exhibitors, and port security from 3 to 49.

The South African Delegation to DSEi 2005 was led by Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, Chief of the SANDF, and included Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, Brig Gen Sandile Sizani, the PSO of the Chief of the SANDF, and Mr Sipho Thomo, Chief Executive Officer Armscor. On day 2 it was joined by Her Excellency, Dr Lindiwe Mabuza, the South African High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, and together they visited exhibiting companies in the South African pavilion and those of interest to the SANDF elsewhere. Remembering Lt Gen Shoke’s recent comment that his main aim was to deliver soldiers who were combat ready - which meant focusing on force preparation and training - there was obviously much of related interest to see.

It was of particular topical interest to examine Finland’s PATRIA 8-wheeled armoured modular vehicle, one of which has recently completed
over 7 000 km of trials in South Africa during which - according to reports - it performed very well. The PATRIA is designed to carry eleven soldiers - the vehicle commander and his driver at the front, the gunner and the section commander in the turret, and the section’s seven troops seated in the rear. It is expected that in due course a number of variants - for instance for command and control, fire support, anti-tank missile launchers and mortars - will be developed.

The ‘buzz’ at DSEi was that part of South Africa’s current fleet of 20-year old RATEL infantry fighting vehicles were likely to be replaced by some 267 PATRIA AMVs, fitted with a DENEL advanced 2-person turret containing a stabilised 30mm Mk 44 Bushmaster Mk III cannon. They will also have a 7.62mm coaxial machine gun, two banks of 81mm smoke grenade launchers, improved mine protection, a 150 litre chilled water tank, and a new rear door with integrated weapon and ammunition storage. Denel’s involvement in the PATRIA bears out the point made daily by Shawn Liebenberg in the DSEi Show that changes in the defence industry have forced consolidation and the forming of alliances worldwide. Although Denel would continue as a domestic prime contractor, it will also focus on becoming a specialised contractor or sub-supplier to other international defence contractors. It has a technology edge and low cost production capabilities in several niche areas. The shift to mobile weapons and electronic technologies has resulted in a long-term move from heavy vehicles and large calibre weapons to small calibre and reconnaissance systems - and Denel has had to take cognisance of this shift. DSEi also revealed that, following contracts from the South African and Finnish navies, Denel is now marketing its successful UNKHONTO surface-to-air missile to other navies across the world, and is investigating a truck-mounted version for possible ground-based air defence systems.

BAE Systems Australia revealed that it was developing a simulator to support the SA Air Force’s Hawk Mk 120 Lead-In fighter training aircraft - now in production. The operational flight trainer (OFT) is based on BAE Systems Australia’s experience in developing its tactical weapon system training systems for the Royal Australian Air Force. The first OFT, reportedly, is now being set up on a SA Air Force base. In essence, it comprises a replicated cockpit, ejection seat and a control loading system giving realistic feedback to the pilots. A four-projector visual display reproduces terrain, sky and target information. The instructors can introduce aircraft malfunctions and other emergencies, and also air-to-air combat or ground attack scenarios.

At DSEi, Thales was able to announce the first flight of its WATCHKEEPER programme’s ELBIT HERMES 450 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in UK airspace. During its successful five-hour flight over Wales, flown by ground control station computers, high resolution imagery from its optical and infrared sensors was transmitted by data link. With a projected in-service date of 2010, WATCHKEEPER is set to provide all-weather day and night surveillance in times of war, tension or peacekeeping, without the need to deploy troops into sensitive areas or harmful situations - heralding a very important new development in the defence field.

Once again Camelbak was displaying its highly popular rucksack range of anti-hydration individual water carriers to prevent heat casualties - the latest of which includes a Chem Bio Reservoir attachment for wear in an NBC environment. In an increasingly competitive explosive disposal IEDD/EOD field, Allen Vanguard were displaying its latest (Continued on page 32)
wheeled BOMBTEC Defender Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV), while Rheinmetall-Talerob revealed its CUTLASS ROV programme currently under research and development for the British Army. HESCO Bastion once again demonstrated its all-embracing Concertina Bastion blast wall systems against military and terrorist attack - used very effectively by the British Army on all its recent operations - consigning the old-fashioned sandbag to history!

Finally, an interesting star attraction was the new Roush Diesel Quad Bike, which is entering full commercial production in early 2006. Operational trials have clearly demonstrated its suitability for a variety of infantry, Royal Marine and Special Forces roles. The torquey twin cylinder 686 cc naturally aspirated Lombardini engine is matched to a ROUSH design transmission, linked to an IBC constant velocity transmission system - giving excellent control and exceptional 'drivability'. Its front and rear rack payloads are over 45 kg and 90 kg respectively and it can tow a gross trailer load of up to 500 kg. It has a stealth exhaust system to reduce its acoustic signature and future options include winches, special lighting and a twin throttle. A family of variants is also being considered.

Returning to South Africa’s pavilion, Fields Wear’s ballistic vests, flame resistant tank crew overalls and body armour received a lot of UK, Australian, Iraqi and Saudi interest. Grinteck Communications renewed many international contacts and Imperial Armour received 'a lot of interest' in its vests, ceramic plates and so on. Hermanus Magnetic Observatory, making its first DSEi appearance, attracted 'good interest' in its very specialised field 'which was very worthwhile'.

Another bonus ‘was getting to know and becoming known to the other South African companies!’

Charnaud speciality coatings, whose specialisation is deception and countermeasures with 'just paint', were very happy with DSEi. RDI Communications commented: ‘It was good to see other people’s work in similar fields.’ Fuchs Electronics already had ‘well spread world-wide and NATO interests’ in its field of fuses and air weapons. Reutech Radar Systems was also already well known for its ground and naval optronics surveillance and tracking systems. Night Vision Optics experienced great international interest in its MEGARAY hand-held searchlight system either ‘stand alone’ or as a key component in other systems of target surveillance - ‘a very good DSEi which revealed a very big market for the product’.

Cochrane Steel Products experienced 'lots of visitor interest' in its wide range of anti-intrusion and barrier razor wires, coils, meshes and spikes - 'a very effective DSEi'. Sirdicks Uniform Company, which showed its latest impressive green with gold piping Presidential Guard uniform, received a huge number of visitors and lots of interest and enquiries, especially from the Middle East. The view expressed by many was that South African materials and workmanship are now superior to those of the Far East - its uniforms are better made, the material lasts longer and they are generally better value for money. They say: ‘We know we are buying quality.’

Protechnik Laboratories welcomed the opportunity to meet others in the same field of filters, canisters, etc. It stressed that the special South African environment made a valuable contribution in terms of climatic and other factors. Global Armour said: It was run off its feet by the phenomenal interest taken in its products from all over - especially the Middle East, Asia and Europe. It was just incredible - at one time visitors were queuing for half an hour! Safety Xpress Stromberg was showing a wide range of security barriers and road-blocking equipment. Tellumat had a high level of pre-arranged international visitors from the Middle and Far East - India especially, to discuss its IFF and other hi-tech field capabilities’ systems and sub-systems.

Finally, Canvas and Tent were once again really well pleased with DSEi - 'very successful - with great interest shown by the UK and the USA, quite apart from other continuing huge demands for camp systems and accessories from Africa and the Middle East'.

Certainly, South Africa’s pavilion companies showed that in the Defence field, South Africa was truly - as proclaimed - ‘Alive with Possibilities’. 

The naval ships moored alongside.
EXERCISE SEBOKA - SA Army Participation in EXERCISE INDLOVU

By Maj Merle Meyer, Comm Officer
SA Army Infantry Formation
Photo: Craig Niewenhuizen, Rapport

On 14 October 2005 the smell of diesel, dust and cordite hung in the air at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, Lohatlha where EXERCISE SEBOKA took place from 4 to 30 October 2005. These smells reminded experienced soldiers of the "good old days" and will remind members of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) for many years to come of their first stint at Lohatlha where they were taught to be real soldiers.

Most of the MSDS members only completed their matric last year. During October they were eating and sleeping with the diesel, dust and cordite. The first part of EXERCISE SEBOKA served as the culmination of MSDS training, the aim of which was to conduct integrated training for conventional operations.

Over four thousand members, of whom 35% were women, took part in EXERCISE SEBOKA. SA Army units participating were 121 SA Army Infantry Battalion (121 SAI Bn) situated at Mtubatuba in KwaZulu-Natal and 1 SAI Bn, a mechanised battalion from Bloemfontein. Armour provided 1 SA Tank Regiment and 1 Special Services Battalion both from Bloemfontein, 4 Artillery Regiment from Potchefstroom, 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment also from Potchefstroom and the Air Defence Artillery from Kimberley. Also included was 2 Field Engineer Regiment from Bethlehem, 17 Maintenance Unit from Potchefstroom and 102 Field Workshop and the Lohatlha Fire Brigade.

The SA Army was supported by the SA Air Force, SA Military Health Service, (8 Medical Battalion Group), the Military Police Agency and the Command Management and Information Services that provided the communication support. Close to a thousand vehicles were used in this exercise costing over RM25.

Members of the media and invited guests were treated to a display of the firepower used in the exercise and they saw several female soldiers in action, including Maj Ezelda van Jaarsveld, the Rooikat Squadron Commander. Brig Gen Nic Roets, General Officer Commanding of 46 SA Brigade, said that during October the forces experienced four seasons in one day, but all the soldiers kept to the pace even though they had to dig and sleep in trenches. "All part of the soldier's life," he said.

The firepower display included the creation of a crater by the SA Army Engineers, an air strike by two Cheetahs from 2 Squadron and the weapon systems used by the Infantry, Artillery, Air Defence Artillery and Armour Corps. All the vehicles and personnel that took part in the demonstration in the end took part in a combined fire belt action. This action included integrated action the Infantry and Armour. Soldiers from 121 SAI Bn stepped out on foot and heavy artillery fire included the distinct sounds of the multiple rocket launcher (also known as the Stalin organ). These combined actions required the commanders to remain calm and direct their soldiers while still focusing on the operation at hand. This is the type of action a soldier can experience in a real war situation and these young soldiers showed of what calibre they were made.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, expressed his satisfaction with this year's exercise when he addressed invited guests during the lunch that was presented at the De Ridder Club.

The last part of the exercise consisted of course support training where learners on SA Army general training courses presented by the SA Army Combat Training Centre were exposed to real command and control situations within the conventional and peacekeeping role of the SA Army.
Fighter Meet 2005

By Mr Dyason of the Plastic Modellers Society of South Africa Photos: WO2 Christo Crous, Ad Astra

The heraldry logo on the South Africa’s Development Community (SADC) emblem clearly states: "Towards a Common Future". A manifestation of this calling was clearly evident at AFB Makhado’s attempt to bring together the fighter forces of the SADC countries by hosting Africa’s first ever Fighter Meet on 8 October 2005.

Representatives from various SADC air forces attended the show, with only Zimbabwe participating actively with fighter aircraft - two Chinese K-8s. It was the first time a Chinese built fighter or fighter trainer aircraft had visited South Africa in official capacity.

Air forces of Angola, (the Chief of the Angolan Air Force, General Neto), Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia, Swaziland and Botswana among others - all sent high-level delegations to attend the Fighter Seminar on the preceding day: a seminar that had as its main heading "African Fighter Force - A Force in Being".

With the integration programmes of new aircraft currently under way at Makhado AFB, as the home of our premier fighter Squadron, 2 Squadron, security is normally very tight. To host a public display on the base must have been a daunting task for the organisers due to the tight security of the base. However, entry into this very large and complex air base was very smooth and a strong contingent of armed guards was always present to restrict the public to specially demarcated areas. All VIPs, media groups and foreign dignitaries were assigned dedicated escorts, not only from a security viewpoint, but also to attend to the needs of the various groups. Also present were representatives from BAE systems and BP South Africa, both of which provided fuel for the various non-SAAF displays.

Static Display

Two Cheetah Ds, a Cheetah C, a Mirage III CZ and various items of equipment used on the aircraft formed part of the large static display area. Indeed it was a field day for the scale modeller to achieve a higher degree of accuracy in the very popular subject. The Denel Cheetah, No 861, a Cheetah D painted in an attractive alternative colour scheme, was armed with two laser-guided bombs and proved a popular spectacle with the crowds.

By placing Cheetah D No 858 on aircraft jacks, the intricate workings of the main hydraulic system to raise or lower the complex undercarriage, was demonstrated to the crowds. A complete Cheetah engine, the Atar 09K50, was displayed on an installation trolley. Cheetah C No 371, with two V4 missiles, was the only single seater on display. A very interesting aircraft found in the static display area, was Mirage III CZ No 804. This aircraft was recently restored at AFB Makhado to represent the high gloss camouflage scheme used on the type shortly after

camouflage was introduced on the SA Air Force’s fighter line during the early 1970s. The Mirage IIIs and in particular the CZs were synonymous with 2 Squadron and served with the Squadron for the entire duration of the aircraft’s service life in the SA Air Force. This aircraft used to be on display at the SAAF Museum Swartkop, but was swapped for Mirage III CZ No 809 during 2005 as it was required for spares.

**Air show**

Around midday the fighter activity at “Fighter Town RSA” increased with a number of individual aircraft departing for the scheduled mass formation fly-past. What a sight to see Mirage III CZ No 800 “Black Widow” appearing out of nowhere from behind the tree line to climb away in a beautiful sunlit black and gold colour scheme before turning for the formation form-up. The Fighter Meet 2005 was officially opened at 11:55 with the National Anthem of South Africa when all military personnel from the base came to attention and turned to face the South African Flag.

Immediately afterwards the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (a fighter pilot by “trade”), officially opened the Fighter Meet 2005 - Africa’s first ever Fighter Meet.

This was followed by the mass fly-past of jet aircraft “towed” along by the very colourful 60 Squadron Boeing 707 tanker. The formation included two Cheetah Cs, a Cheetah D, two Impala Mk Is and two Impala Mk IIs. No sooner had the formation passed overhead than the pilots from 2 Squadron split from the formation to thrill the crowds. Cheetahs thundered into the display area for their standard routine of 2 versus 1 mock air-to-air combat. The two-seater, Cheetah D No 852, served as the “boogy” with the two Cheetah Cs No’s 351 and 362 acting as the attackers. The 2 Squadron pilots pulled out all the stops that saw the afterburners light up every so often. This was quite possibly the fastest and most aggressive mock simulated combat routine ever flown by the SAAF jet pilots at a display: in all, great entertainment for the crowd as 2 Squadron staked their area as “Fighter Town RSA”.

An impressive display was given by Dave Stock in the Hunter with a very catchy ‘tiger’ colour scheme. ZU-AVC, owned by Ron Wheeldon, was especially painted in this colour scheme for the Fighter Meet.

85 Combat Flying School, currently based at Hoedspruit and currently in the process of relocating to AFB Makhado, probably put up the last public display of the Impala as a number of both Impala Mk Is and Mk Is let by Lt Col Koos Kieck, carried out low-level bombing attacks from a very low level run. Interestingly, the SAAF’s first lady fighter pilot, Catherine Labuschagne, and a pilot from the previously disadvantaged community, Lt Lance Matabula, also flew as wingmen in the “Rapier” attack formation. With all the Impalas in a steep climb, a huge pyrotechnics fireball detonated a distance from the crowd to make the Impala “attack” on the airfield more realistic. Fortunately Brian Emminess did warn the crowd to take precautionary measures with small children due to the imminent explosion. Paul Coetzer again put the Impala Mk II No 1094 through its paces in a solo display, while Maj Jaco Labuschagne (married to Catherine) performed the solo display in the dual seater Impala Mk I No 371.

Glen Warden displayed the vintage Vampire No 227 from the SAAF Museum to the great delight of the visiting BAE representatives. But the day belonged to Mirage III CZ No 800, known as the “Black Widow”. This aircraft has always been a firm favourite at air shows in South Africa, but has been placed in flyable storage over the last few years. Through the efforts of Glen Warden and his dedicated team, No 800 took to the air again as part of the air show circuit at the Fighter Meet.

Pierre Gouws in the L39 “ZU-TEE” served as the intruding aircraft from the “Red Star” air force simulating an attack on the Base which saw a Cheetah C scrambled for the interception. After dealing with “ZU-TEE”, the Cheetah climbed to 30 000 feet for the supersonic run towards AFB Makhado.

The solo display by Blokkies Joubert in the Super Mirage F1 AZ No 216 saw the burner light up beautifully against the failing light. Lt Col (Ret) Blokkies Joubert was subsequently awarded the SAAB/Bae trophy for the most professional solo display.

One of the visiting K8s from the Zimbabwe Air Force performed a solo routine, making it the first Chinese military aircraft to take part in a South African air show. Recently Denel handed over the third Hawk LIFT (Lead In Fighter Trainer) to the SA Air Force for operational tests and evaluation. In the late afternoon Gordon McClymont, a test pilot from BAe, flew Hawk LIFT No 254 in its first public demonstration of the type.

The Fighter Meet was closed with a final mass fly-past of all military types that had participated during the day. The Boeing 707 from 60 Squadron again “towed” the formation, which included three Cheetahs, Super Mirage F1 AZ, Hawk Mk 120 LIFT, four Impalas, Mirage III CZ and two Chinese K8s from Zimbabwe.
n accordance with the Ministerial Security Committee resolution of February 2000 and the Cabinet Memorandum No 4 of 2003 on the redeployment of South African National Defence Force (SANDF) personnel to the South African Police Services (SAPS) Protection and Security Division, SANDF members were invited to apply voluntarily to be transferred to the SAPS. At present only members in the rank groups Private to Staff Sergeant can apply.

An agreement between the SAPS and the SANDF to redeploy 3600 members of the SANDF to the SAPS emanates from Cabinet Memorandum No 4.

This process should be seen in a positive light, viz that of sharing human resource skills among departments in the security cluster. The SAPS gains well-trained soldiers, which means that they will save on their training budget, while the SANDF saves on personnel payments and can also have an ‘outlet for the Military Skills Development (MSD) inlet’.

The Directorate Personnel Separation coordinates all activities pertaining to the process. To ascertain the success of this project, all role players had to work together in a professional manner.

Role players

Directorate Personnel Separation

The Sub-directorate Personnel Preparation Advice and Support plays a crucial role in the success of this project. The coordination of all activities means constantly communicating with Services and Divisions to receive applications from members who voluntarily apply for the transfer. Communication lines were also opened with the SAPS and the Protection and Security Division. Constant negotiations to agree on the relaxing of some of the SAPS initial criteria were entered into. We actually forged a very good friendly relationship with our counterparts within that division. The success of the project is crucial for both departments, as they constantly have to report on progress to Parliament.

To have constant feedback to all role players, Directorate Personnel Separation (DPS) introduced a role-players’ meeting every second Friday of the month. The meetings with the SAPS continue on Wednesdays.

DPS communicates with all members by various means, such as implementation instructions, bulletins and one-on-one communication with members by means of roadshows that were embarked on by all units. When this report was being written the marketing of roadshows was still under way.

Service Corps

The Service Corps’ role in this process is very commendable. One of the criteria that could not be relaxed by SAPS was that each member applying should be in possession of a civilian driver’s license. We tried to argue for members with military driver’s licenses, but the SAPS would not budge on that. They wanted members with civilian driver’s licenses. This is where the Service Corps plays a crucial role. They contacted service providers across all provinces to make sure that all members in need of licenses could be catered for within their areas. The Service Corps even had to conduct training from their own budget before Services and Divisions could pay for their members.

The Service Corps also coordinates the process of the baseline evaluations
of SAPS within its regional offices, as well as the coordination of fingerprints for criminal offence clearances.

The initial agreement with the SAPS was that the SANDF would provide the SAPS with venues for the training of the members, as the SAPS College could not accommodate them. Negotiations were entered into between the Service Corps, the Logistic Division and the SAPS for the utilisation of the Mankwe Military Base as a training facility for this project. Mankwe is a Service Corps training unit.

The Service Corps opened Mankwe to the SAPS for use, as it is a training facility. Negotiations are presently under way to transfer the base to the SAPS for permanent utilisation.

**Directorate Human Resource Policy and Planning**

The Directorate Human Resource Policy and Planning (D HR Pol & Plan) opened negotiations with the SAPS on salaries and other benefits so that members who volunteered could not be disadvantaged financially.

There are still negotiations pending regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the DOD and the SAPS that has still not been finalised and in which HR Pol & Plan plays a crucial role. An issue that was crucial for members volunteering for the SAPS was the payback of their contributions towards the Permanent Force Medical Continuation Fund (PFMCF). D HR Pol & Plan successfully negotiated the payback with the PFMCF.

**Military Police Agency**

During the initial stages of the process, it seemed as if the project could fail owing to the lack of a training facility. The SAPS were getting frustrated because it had been promised facilities by the DOD, which did not materialise.

The Chief of the Military Police Agency (MPA) made the MPA School available for the training of the pilot group, which opened the way to a good relationship with the SAPS. They provided some of their stationery to make sure that the project was successful. Most members who volunteered at that stage were also from the MPA.

**Services and Divisions**

The success of this project depends on the volunteers from the Services and Divisions. The most important role to be played by Services and Divisions is that of not just waiting for members to volunteer, but constantly to communicate the principles in terms of which this project is necessary and to motivate members and inform them of the importance of their future careers.

**Present situation**

A pilot group of 47 members were transferred to the SAPS on 1 September 2004 after they had successfully completed a 12-week conversion-training course.

These members were from the following Services and Divisions: SA Army (22), SA Air Force (1), SA Military Health Service (2), Military Police Agency (13), Chief of Logistics (7), as well as Command and Management Information Systems (1).

The second group of 168 members were successfully trained and transferred to the SAPS on 1 February 2005. They were from the following Services and Divisions: SA Army (72), SA Air Force (Nil), SA Navy (27), SA Military Health Service (2), Military Police Agency (25), Chief of Logistics (25), as well as Command and Management Information Systems (17).


**Table 1.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services and Divisions</th>
<th>With Driver’s Licenses</th>
<th>Without Driver’s Licenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA Army</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Air Force</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Navy</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Military Health Service</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Police Agency</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Logistics</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command and Management Information Systems</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>418</strong></td>
<td><strong>573</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Database**

At present we have the numbers of applications reflected in Table 1.1 on our database (see above).

**Financial savings incurred by the DOD**

Since 2003, two hundred and fourteen members have been transferred. According to statistics provided by D HR Pol & Plan, DOD realised the following financial savings calculated over a period of 12 months:

- Pilot group on strength of the SAPS since 1 September 2004 = R2 374 714,00
- Second group on strength of the SAPS since 1 February 2005 = R10 865 781,00
- Total savings for the DOD = R13 240 495,00

**Challenges**

If we are to adhere to the initial agreement of transferring 3 600 SANDF members to the SAPS, and have so far only managed 214 since 2003, there is still a lot to be done.

Even though this is voluntary, there are situations where members apply but are refused to go, because according to Officers Commanding, they are their deploying candidates. The issue of an ‘outlet and inlet’ for MSDs becomes questionable.

Some members fail the SAPS baseline evaluations, which involve physical and psychological evaluations.

These challenges are minor and can be overcome if we all work together for the success of this process.

*For more information please contact Col Kefilwe Mathibe at tel no: (012) 392 3105.*
A 35 Squadron success story

By Lt Col André Swart and Lt Andre W.G. Vollenhoven, 35 Squadron, Ysterplaat AFB

Maritime air operations encompass much more than merely ‘flying over the sea’. It requires an in-depth knowledge of naval doctrine, experience of the requirements of other stakeholders and, above all, it requires ‘time on station’ to enable a member to become part of the maritime culture. It is also a bit of an enigma - it is practised behind the scenes by a few dedicated airmen and women flying ancient aircraft - and the secret of our trade is unknown to the average observer. In short, maritime air operations are a unique and specialised discipline that is practised on such a small scale that it should be listed on the endangered species list...

In the past, the maritime experience was vested in 35 Squadron’s pool of pilots and navigators. However, the current staffing reality has resulted in the Squadron losing expertise as most of its older and experienced pilots and navigators have left. To compensate for the loss of experience, the Squadron looked at its previously untapped pool of telecommunications operators. We then realised that they held the key to unlocking a source of maritime experience that stemmed from the Shackleton era. It was then that the Squadron took the initiative to empower the section by creating two additional telecommunications officers’ posts especially designed to allow telecommunications operators to act as maritime mission coordinators during an operational flight. The main motivating factor behind this major change was to retain knowledge with regard to maritime warfare and reconnaissance operations and exercises.

Two flight sergeant posts were duly converted to captain posts and the necessary administration took its course. Eventually, after everything had been said and done, a selection board was convened over the period 15 to 16 February 2005. Two out of the four applicants, the then Flight Sergeant A.W.G. Vollenhoven and Sgt M.N. Matha, were found suitable by the selection board. They both started the Officer Forming Course 2005/01 on 21 February 2005 and qualified as officers on 8 June 2005. Both members excelled on course and earned various accolades: Lt Vollenhoven achieved final position 3 out of 69, with a learner academic average of 91.24% and was also awarded the Leadership Floating Trophy. Lt Matha achieved final position 7 out of 69 with a learner academic average of 90.9%.

The ‘newly appointed’ officers reported that the ‘Officer Forming Course was more than just a course - it was an adventure, a once-in-a-lifetime experience with unforgettable events, such as the Induction Phase/’Gogga’, Loskop Dam and the Practical Leadership Exercises’. They said it was an opportunity to develop skills, to make acquaintances and to surprise oneself in respect of one’s own abilities and to realise that “Niks is te moeilik vir die wat wil” (Nil Volentibus Arduum - Nothing is too difficult for those who want to do it). The Officer Forming Course was also truly an experience never to be forgotten. It offered numerous challenges: physical, educational and mental. "This is more of a development phase in one’s life than a course, as this programme changes many things, such as mindset, attitude towards the organisation, conduct towards officers, endurance and responsibility, to name but a few. The SA Air Force College truly strives to uphold and improve the standard of training and development of ordinary soldiers into officers."

The significance of the above must never be underestimated. This is the first time in the Squadron’s history that a non-pilot or navigator officer will be empowered to act as mission coordinator on board a maritime operational flight. The Squadron’s vision ensured that a potential was identified and developed - and if the members’ College results are anything to go by, then we must be proud that the officers’ core has been bolstered by men and women of great calibre.
SA Soldier e laledišwe Imbizong ya Motlatša-Tona wa Tšhireletšo Mna Mluleki George ya Bagale ba Ntwa kua ASB Potchefstroom ka la 11 Oktobere 2005.

O felegedišwe ke Maj Gen M.K. Mokoena, Mookamedimogolo wa Service Corps le Brig Gen fanny Mahlangu, Molaodi wa Ditaba tša Bagale ba Ntwa.

Mo polelong ya gagwe ge a bulo modiro Mna George o rile go a itaetša gore Imbizong ye ga se ya lokisëšiswa gabotse mme a laetša gore o be a "emetše batho go tla ka bontši ka ge lefele le le kgaswi le motsemošate (HQ)." Imbiz o lešišiši go netefatša gore Bagale ba Ntwa ongwadišišišo ebile ba na le kgokagano le Kgoro ya Tšhireletšo. O tlaledišiši ka gore hlobaboroko ya gagwe ye kgolo ke gore bontši bja Bagale ba Ntwa ba a tšihakela mme seemo seo se swanetiše go lokisëša ka bjako.

Motlatša-Tona wa Tšhireletšo o tsebišiši Bagale ba Ntwa gore Service Corps ya Kgomo ye, yeo e lego karolo ya Lefelotirelo la Thahlo ya Godimo (Centre for Advanced Training [CAT]) e ka ba thuša ka thahlo le thahloleswa bokgoning gore ba tsene setšhabeng ba na le bokgoni bja go ba hola.

Mna Mluleki George, Motlatša-Tona wa Tšhireletšo a e fa polelo Imbizong ya Bagale ba Ntwa ye e swarešwiswe Potchefstroom.

Mna George o boletše gore maloko a sešole sa pele ga tokolo ogo swanela go ipopa ngata e tee gore ba be le lenaneo la maina a bona kamoka leo Kgoro ya Tšhireletšo e tšago le šomiša go go lokisëšiswa diimbiz. Mo polelong ya gagwe ya go ruma o rile Bagale ba Ntwa ba swanela go dira gore ba tsebeje go SANDF.

* The English version of this article is available on page 10. 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.
7 Signal Group preparing for the future

By Col Ian Cloete, OC 7 Signal Group

Together with its headquarters, 6 Signal Regiment, sister units in 84 Signal Unit based in Durban and 71 Signal Unit in Cape Town and the more recent additions to the Reserve Force signalling family based in Potchefstroom and Port Elizabeth, 7 Signal Group is entrusted with the mammoth task of providing the SANDF with its tactical communications expansion capability. This is no menial responsibility - and certainly not one that could be tackled without substantial expansion of the unit’s membership, leadership and skills base.

The first step in preparing for the future is to survive the present. Because the present is not static and the future is not certain, it is necessary to consider the recent past to determine the measure of success with which one is moving into the future.

Considering 7 Signal Group’s achievements so far in this millennium, it is not difficult to see that the unit is firmly on track towards becoming a modern and transformed Reserve Force unit that will not only survive, but excel in the future.

In the recent past, 7 Signal Group has, inter alia -
• Grown its membership from a few dozen predominantly white males to 181 active and motivated volunteers of all races;
• Conducted two full-time basic training courses to equip recruits with basic soldiering skills; (In the absence of a natural feeding mechanism, it has been necessary to look externally to recruit new members who have often had no previous military experience);
• Conducted several internal ‘Silver Jimmy’ basic signal training courses;
• Participated in countless weekend signal training exercises and at least four annual national exercises with the other signal units mentioned above;
• Participated in dozens of local shows and events to promote the unit, the Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, the Reserve Force and the SANDF;
• Presented participative lectures and exercises with local schools to stimulate interest among the youth;
• Assisted units from other corps to conduct their exercises or training by providing the required communications support;
• Participated in joint operations with the SA Police Service; and
• Participated in the distance training project.

The future is here! Mobile communication centre detached under command of Lt Col Fred Mentz, OC 23 Signal Unit to 7 Group Ex Quo Vadis IV, December 2004.

R13 Distance Training 2005

The CMIS Reserve Force distance training programme got off the ground this year under the leadership and guidance of the School of Signals and 6 Signal Regiment. ‘R13’, the one qualification that every signaller must have, was chosen for the purposes of this pilot project.

This course was by no means conducted without hiccups - in fact ‘serious challenges’ may be a more apt description! However, the dogged per-
severance (and patience of Lt Col Bobby Eckersley at the School of Signals) have started to bear fruit, as 42 members of 7 Signal Group completed their final exam on 9 September 2005.

Getting this far required an exceptional effort on the part of 7 Signal Group signal instructors, S Sgt Sechaba Mphou and Sgt Johan Buitendach, in particular.

Challenges and obstacles

Obstacle No 1 - the three letter abbreviation that has become a four letter word - (beware of the ‘R18’ age restriction on this one!): ‘VSP’.

This abbreviation for ‘Voluntary Severance Package’ is used to describe a specific category of individuals - previous SANDF employees who, when offered the proverbial carrot, have agreed to leave under a particular set of conditions. For the Reserve Force, the offending condition is the 30-day a year restriction that is placed on such members’ utilisation.

Why an organisation battling for the survival of its critically important reserve component would impose such a limitation on itself is not clear. Individuals who possess the knowledge and skills required to equip the next generation of signallers are in desperately short supply.

A fundamental requirement of a voluntary system is flexibility - it must take into account the fluctuating availability of members. One of the most frustrating barriers that commanding officers face is when the only capable, available member for a specific task is ‘VSP’.

S Sgt Mphou, for example is a qualified signaller, an excellent instructor, a natural leader, and 7 Signal Group’s course leader for the R13 distance training programme. To the unit, and every recruit that has been brought on strength, S Sgt Mphou is worth his weight in gold. As luck would have it, S Sgt Mphou is (that dirty word again) a VSP.

Fortunately, the unwavering persistence of (among others) our Director, CMIS Reserve Force, Brig Gen Dennis Jelliman and the intervention of our Chief, Maj Gen Ashwin Hurribunce, the ‘age restriction’ on the term VSP can now be downgraded to PG13.

Challenge No 2 - perhaps the most critical challenge that 7 Signal Group has been grappling with for over a decade now, is the serious lack of management personnel. At unit level this simply means: ‘we need officers, desperately!’

Officers are often privileged to have demanding full-time ‘civilian’ careers. This, coupled with factors such as lack of meaningful exercises and an oversupply of bureaucratic nonsense, is possibly the biggest hurdle in obtaining and retaining officers.

Transformation

7 Signal Group’s progress in becoming a transformed Reserve Force unit is remarkable. While the key posts of the OC, 2IC and (acting) RSM are all still occupied by white males, the leader group as a whole is more than 60% black and includes two females. When considering the entire unit strength, the picture is even more encouraging with 85% of all members being black.

This trend is also extended to Item 10 (salary) expenditure. Overall man-day expenditure in the late 1990s was relatively low; however an estimated 60% of the total spent went to management, ie the then white leader group who were keeping the unit afloat.

The current picture is very different - as depicted in the graph below. 89% of Item 10 cost for the current financial year relates to members in the rank of Sgt and below and has been incurred primarily for training purposes, ie in preparing for the future rather than sustaining the present.

In closing, I wish to challenge the black officers out there who have left the SANDF in pursuit of greater things in the private sector to follow the example of Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves, and other white officers who find themselves in similar circumstances, and plough something back! (‘Parkie?’)

While good black talent is undoubtedly filtering through the ranks in the Reserve Force system, the process is too slow. More black role models are required and they are required now if we are to overcome the “Irish Coffee Syndrome” (a term borrowed from my Regular Force colleague, Lt Col Ben van Zijl) by 2015.
An investigation into the causes of absenteeism in the DOD

By Lt Col Pierre de Wit, SO1 Leave
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

As in almost all organisations, management is confronted with the day-to-day problem of absenteeism of employees. Absenteeism of employees, scheduled or unscheduled, for a short or long period, legitimate or without acceptable reasons, remains a problem in most organisations. About a third of organisations keep proper records of absenteeism. The impact of absenteeism on an organisation (the cost, measurement, managing, control and benchmarking it against other similar organisations) is not always considered or implemented.

What is absenteeism?

Absenteeism can be defined as a habit of employees to be absent from their place of work, either legitimately or unsanctioned, a situation that is disruptive and a failure for an organisation.

Management and Control

Absenteeism of workers in any organisation must be effectively managed and controlled. It has an influence on the direct and indirect costs of an organisation, which has an influence on the product or service rendered by the organisation. The responsibility for effectively managing and controlling absenteeism of workers in an organisation lies with top management. The absence of workers must be monitored. Accurate record keeping of absenteeism is important in order to determine potential absenteeism trends. Management and control plans to decrease absenteeism among workers can be implemented by top management.

Extent of absenteeism in the DOD

The extent of absenteeism in the Public Service, with specific reference to personnel in the Department of Defence (DOD), is frequently under the spotlight.

Since 1999 the DOD has received negative audit reports on absenteeism, especially leave and sick leave. During 2003 specific concerns were noted by the Auditor General regarding the application and management of sick leave. In the newspaper, Beeld, articles were published with headings such as “Aptenure by aan Maandagseikle” and “Weermag verloor oor troepe se siektes”.

The following questions were raised as a result of these negative Auditor General reports and newspaper articles:
Table 1.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am committed to my work</td>
<td>5,58%</td>
<td>2,54%</td>
<td>91,89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I experience job satisfaction</td>
<td>16,46%</td>
<td>14,53%</td>
<td>69,01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I perform routine work</td>
<td>14,95%</td>
<td>12,69%</td>
<td>72,36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have poor working conditions</td>
<td>56,33%</td>
<td>16,99%</td>
<td>26,68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My work environment is unsafe</td>
<td>63,49%</td>
<td>14,52%</td>
<td>21,98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am overloaded with work</td>
<td>50,31%</td>
<td>19,15%</td>
<td>30,15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worry over career and promotional prospects</td>
<td>18,10%</td>
<td>11,17%</td>
<td>70,73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I experience stress in my work</td>
<td>38,24%</td>
<td>18,46%</td>
<td>43,33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My GOC/Manager controls and manages absence very well</td>
<td>19,21%</td>
<td>24,40%</td>
<td>56,39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I accept my sick leave as an entitlement to my service conditions</td>
<td>18,91%</td>
<td>16,95%</td>
<td>64,15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I am absent from work, it is due to illness or an injury</td>
<td>12,07%</td>
<td>7,76%</td>
<td>80,17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I am absent from work, it is due to family responsibilities</td>
<td>27,80%</td>
<td>16,23%</td>
<td>55,96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I experience travel problems in reporting for work</td>
<td>72,65%</td>
<td>8,53%</td>
<td>18,82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I am absent from work, it is due to hangover or alcohol abuse</td>
<td>92,18%</td>
<td>3,47%</td>
<td>4,35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I am absent from work, it is due to problems in my marriage</td>
<td>84,82%</td>
<td>8,43%</td>
<td>6,75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I am absent from work, it is due to financial problems</td>
<td>79,28%</td>
<td>7,27%</td>
<td>12,40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the service that is provided by the HR Support Satellite wrt leave administration</td>
<td>21,25%</td>
<td>21,46%</td>
<td>57,29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.1

- What is the status of absenteeism in the DOD?
- What are the causes of absenteeism in the DOD?
- What can be done to curb absenteeism in the DOD?

**Recommendations**

The following recommendations were made on the basis of these results:

- The working conditions of members and employees should be investigated. 16,46% of respondents indicated that they did not experience job satisfaction and 14,53% of respondents remained neutral regarding the statement 'I experience job satisfaction'.
- The recommendation above is further supported by the fact that 72,36% of respondents indicated that they performed routine work and 30,15% of respondents indicated that they were overloaded with work.
- The improvement of working conditions of members and employees should be investigated. 26,68% of respondents indicated that they had poor working conditions and 16,99% of respondents remained neutral regarding the statement 'I have poor working conditions'.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in the workplace is the responsibility of the State. An investigation should be conducted to ensure that OHS standards, as prescribed by law, are adhered to. 21,98% of respondents indicated that their work environment was unsafe and 14,52% remained neutral.
- A visible plan to address the promotions and careers of all members and employees in the DOD should be made available by career managers. 70,73% of respondents indicated that they worried about career and promotional prospects, and 11,17% of respondents remained neutral regarding the statement 'I worry over career and promotional prospects'.
- Every member and employee in the DOD should be medically examined by a medical health care professional or medical practitioner once a year to determine each member's and employee's health status. The submission of this medical report could be made compulsory. The medical status of members and employees should contribute towards better service delivery and operational readiness in the DOD, as each member's and employee's health status would be readily available.
- SAMHS should implement stress relief programmes in the DOD as 43,33% of respondents indicated that they experienced stress at work, and 18,46% of respondents remain neutral regarding the statement 'I experience stress in my work'.
- The management and control of absence of members and employees in the DOD are the responsibility of every supervisor. Every supervisor with the subordinates under his or her command and control should be held responsible (Continued on page 44)
The Sergeant Major of the SA Army and the rest of the Army’s Sergeant Majors belonging to the Sergeant Major’s Fund honour and celebrate this year’s theme with family members, friends, disabled children, and teachers and WO1 Snyders shared in the moment of her joy. Her father, WO1 Venter, and her mother, Mrs Venter, her classmates. The presentation was done by 46 SA Brigade Sergeant Major Snyders and Chaplain Johnson. Cpln Johnson delivered a special message in which he assured her and her classmates that they are not disabled, but differently able, people who have different ways and needs to pursue the same goals and successes in life as others. This statement made a positive impression on the learners of Hope School and the principal, Mr G. Viljoen. Chaplain Johnson was then invited by the principal to speak at other events of the school.

WO1 Snyders handed over the computer on behalf of the Sergeant Major of the SA Army, WO1 E.W. Sykes, and the other contributing Army Sergeant Majors to Velia Venter, who was overwhelmed when she received it with tears of joy and happiness. Her father, WO1 Venter, and mother, Mrs Venter, her classmates, teachers and WO1 Snyders shared in her joy.

WO1 Snyders mentioned in his message that Sergeant Majors are called the fathers and mothers of all men and women in the SA Army. They care for all soldiers in the SA Army and the SANDF as a whole. Sergeant Majors are mechanics and human specialists, eg they are human beings in military uniform who accept and take responsibility for the personal, emotional and physical needs of their men and women. They distinguish the men and women from the boys and girls and make them soldiers.

He assured the learners that the SA Army, and more especially the Sergeant Majors, do care for all their members and families with special abilities and needs.

The school principal thanked the Sergeant Majors of the SA Army delegation for the interest and empathy shown of their members in visiting their school. He said that he was happy to see that strong men could also get tears in their eyes at special moments like these, which led to a counter-comment from WO1 Snyders that soldiers never cry, but they are also human beings and only sweat at times.
Playing volleyball **in Namibia**

**By Capt Pine Pienaar, member of the SA Men’s Volleyball Team**

The CISM ESALO Volleyball Tournament started off with three training camps, two in Bloemfontein and the third one in Pretoria a week before the tournament. The training groups went through a fitness test at the Free State Sport Science Institute (FSSSI).

The tests were relevant to the sporting code and the reports are a true reflection of the profile of a volleyball player.

Five countries participated in the Tournament held at the Sports Club Windhoek in Namibia from 18 to 25 August 2005: Botswana (men), Lesotho (ladies and men), Namibia (ladies and men), Swaziland (men) and South Africa (ladies and men) teams.

The Deputy Minister of the Namibia Defence Force, Mr Victor Simunja, opened the CISM ESALO Volleyball Tournament while the participants were on parade.

The format of the tournament was a round robin with no semifinal or final matches.

The women’s winning team was Lesotho (Gold), with South Africa as the runner-up (Silver) and Namibia in the third place (Bronze).

The Botswana men’s team walked away with gold medals, with South Africa again receiving silver medals. Namibia came third (Bronze), Swaziland fourth and Lesotho ended fifth.

Two women in the South African team also received individual trophies: for Best Setter (L Cpl Malindi Chiliza from ASB Durban) and for Best Server (Capt Rina Schoonraad from ASB Bloemfontein).

The matches were played in an excellent spirit and in a disciplined manner and contributed to good relations between these countries.

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**Knock out**

**By WO1 Koos Bloem**

**Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana**

L Cpl Gerald Jivuyile Dingiswayo was born in East London on 12 September 1977. He is currently stationed at 6 SA Infantry Battalion in Grahamstown. L Cpl Dingiswayo started his boxing career at the age of twelve. He represented the Modern Boxing Club and the Happy Boy Boxing Club in East London.

He joined the SANDF in 1997 and was then based at Potchefstroom. Sgt Jan Bostander trained him at that stage in his career. WO1 Koos Bloem and Sgt Bostander trained him in preparation for the International Boxing Championships from 1999 to 2005. During 2004 and 2005 L Cpl Loni aided WO1 Bloem and Sgt Bostander as their Assistant Coach.

As a member of the SANDF L Cpl Dingiswayo won the SANDF Boxing Team in South Africa, Croatia, Kenya, Ireland, Italy and the USA CISM Boxing Championships.

In May 2003 he took part in the Northern Gauteng Regional Championships and won the gold medal in the finals. He then represented the Northern Gauteng Boxing team at the Gauteng Championships and won the gold medal in the finals. He was then selected to represent the Gauteng Boxing Team at the National Boxing Championships at Rustenburg over the period 12 to 16 July 2005.

At the National Boxing Championships in July 2005 L Cpl Dingiswayo won the gold medal in the finals. During the run-up to the finals he had to defeat a boxer who had won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games and also the previous 2004 SA Champion, which L Cpl Dingiswayo succeeded in doing. He was selected to represent the National SA Boxing Team in Denmark over the period 23 to 27 November 2005.
Spot the ball competition

Which of the three balls has just been played? Mark your choice (ball) with an “X”. Send your entry (“X” marked) to SA SOLDIER magazine, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001.

First Name: __________________ Surname: __________________
Rank: ______________________ Force No: ________________ Unit: __________________
Postal Address: __________________________________________
Tel/Cell No: ____________________________________________

Rules for the “Spot The Ball” Soccer Competition
1. Only employees of the Department of Defence are allowed to enter.
2. Only original or photocopied entries will be allowed (no faxes or e-mails).
3. One entry per envelope.
4. Entrants will carry postage costs.
5. Employees of Directorate Corporate Communication (SA SOLDIER) and their immediate families are not allowed to enter.
6. Prizes are not redeemable for cash or transferable to another person.
7. The Judges’ decision is final.
8. Entries must be posted to the postal address of SA SOLDIER.
9. No hand delivered entries will be accepted.
10. No late entries will be accepted.
11. Closing date for the competition is Tuesday, 31 January 2006, and the name of the winner will be published in the March 2006 edition of SA SOLDIER.
12. All correct entries will be included in the final draw.
13. The Department of Defence (SA SOLDIER) accepts no responsibility for prizes lost during the process of postal delivery.
14. There will only be one winner.

The winning prize consists of 1 cooler bag, 1 tog bag, 1 back-pack, 1 all-weather jacket, 1 golf shirt and 1 sports cap.

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