Congratulations to our top communicator
We salute our fine communicators

News from Burundi

Forward to the Second Decade of Freedom

Greet 2005 with hope for a better life

Inviting all members to join hands

The SANDF is proud of its men and women

Our soldiers made us proud abroad

Our leaders guided us

Evaluating our defensive tactics

Potent advocates of peace

The SANDF compares with the best in the world

Colet wins top award at international film festival

Taking the AIDS war to the streets

Happy anniversary to the Infantry Corps

A blind officer who sees

SANDF Sports Awards held in Soweto

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FRONT COVER: Mr Essop Pahad, the Minister in the Presidency, and Capt (SAN) Rusty Higgs, SSO Navy Public Relations, who is the proud winner of the National Bua Award, which was presented to him at the Government Communicators’ Awards. Please read more about this phenomenal achievement on page 5.

(Photograph: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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JANUARY 2005 • SA SOLDIER
From the Editor’s desk

Wishing you all a prosperous and successful 2005!

The “News from Burundi”, which our deployed soldiers in Burundi wrote while under the command of Lt Gen Binda, is in honour of the many SANDF members who have given their lives in service to their country and to the people of the Great Lakes region. Communication educates and binds a nation and these articles tell us of the big challenges faced by our deployed soldiers. Please read pages 6 to 9 of the “News from Burundi”, which Lt Gen Binda has dedicated to all AMIB soldiers who fell in the execution of their duties during the period from 2003 to 2004. Each year, during the first week of November, the annual International Competition of Military Documentaries is held in the lovely Italian town of Bracciano, situated near Rome. The COLET Multimedia Section literally stood its ground on foreign soil by winning one of the top five categories in this competition, namely that of Best Film in the Education Category for 2004. Read more about their winning video which Lt Gen Binda has dedicated to all AMIB soldiers who fell in the execution of their duties during the period from 2003 to 2004. Please read more about the SAS MENDI East Coast Imbizo on pages 16 to 18 - The people of the East Coast seized the opportunity that the SA Navy afforded them, when they were shown its latest acquisition, the SAS MENDI.

At the end of last year our SANDF Sports Awards function was held in Soweto to salute our sportsmen and women who have performed exceptionally well in their respective sporting codes. You make us proud! Read more about our sports stars on page 42.

I wish you all a prosperous and successful 2005!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
Compiled by Nomonde Vuthela  
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Capt (SAN) Rusty Higgs, Senior Staff Officer Navy Public Relations, is the proud winner of the National Bua Award, which was presented to him at the Government Communicators' Awards held at Gallagher Estate in Midrand on 3 December 2004. The proud runner-up in the same category was Col Marthie Visser, SSO Communication Strategy, Policy and Planning at Defence Corporate Communication. She shared this position with the Department of Housing. There were over forty entries in this category. The Government Communicators Awards are presented to reward Government communication officers who throughout the year have shown commitment, innovation and excellence in Government communications. The awards were conferred in four categories: The National Bua Award, the Provincial/Local Ubungcweti Award, the National Ubungcweti Award and the Provincial/Local Ubungcweti Award. An Overall Government Communicator of the Year was also selected from all the entries received. The awards are in recognition of good work done between October 2003 and August 2004, irrespective of the communicator's rank, and are a tribute to excellent communicators from all spheres of Government.

An independent panel drawn from representatives of the South African National Editors Forum (Sanef), the National Community Radio Forum (NCRF), the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the Chairperson of the Communicators Portfolio Committee and a provincial representative from the Free State adjudicated on this year’s nominations and entries. The Minister in the Presidency, Mr Essop Pahad, presented the awards.

Speaking to SA SOLDIER, Capt (SAN) Higgs said that receiving the award was a humbling experience because communication in the Department of Defence Force, and in the SA Navy specifically, was a team effort. "We all play 'cogs' in a big engine," he said. "I see myself continuing to contribute as a loyal and patriotic member of the SANDF."

Sharing the same sentiment Col Marthie Visser said that being a runner-up was a big honour because so many people were involved. "This should encourage other communicators in the DOD to be more creative," said Col Visser. "We are still in a transformation phase, so communication is crucial. I would like to see myself getting involved in training communicators so that the Government's messages are communicated properly."

Both Capt (SAN) Higgs and Col Visser were nominated by the Head of Communication, Mr Vuyo Zambodla, in recognition of excellence, support for integrated DOD communication and alignment with the 'message of Government'. Capt (SAN) Higgs joined the SA Navy in 1976 as a midshipman, and won the "Best Midship-man of the Year Award" that year. In 1994 he was selected as the first officer to represent the SA Navy at the Naval Command College of the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. There, among 35 other naval officers, he won the Naval War College 1995 Robert E. Bateman International SA Award. In 1996 he obtained a Masters International Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina University, Rhode Island. Later the same year he was promoted to Captain and reported to Naval Headquarters in Pretoria. Since then his achievements have been many and varied. In January 2003 Capt (SAN) Higgs was appointed as Senior Staff Officer, Naval Public Relations, on the staff of the Chief of the SA Navy responsible for Navy communication strategy. The SA Navy and Capt (SAN) Higgs, in particular, have been outstanding communicators. Capt (SAN) Higgs has ensured that through the SA Navy the media - local, national and international - local and international audiences are constantly aware of the role of the DOD in the daily lives of South Africans, other Africans and the international community.

Col Visser, who is an SA Air Force member, joined the Defence Force in 1974 and integrated into the new SANDF in 1994. Over the past thirty years she has filled various positions in various mustering, including Intelligence, Foreign Relations, Human Resources, Training and Development and in 1993, Corporate Communications. Over the past eleven years she has gained experience and skills in all spheres of corporate communications/public relations. Her career highlights include representing the DOD on the Communications Task Team for the co-ordination of Ten Years of Freedom Celebrations, which was chaired by GCIS in 2004. She also represented the DOD on the 2004 Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Press and Promotions Committee.
Chief of Joint Support, Lt Gen Sipho Binda, was deployed in Burundi for all of 2003 until April 2004. As the Force Commander of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) he was stationed in Bujumbura, Burundi, a country where a lot happens and there is therefore very little time for deployed soldiers to adjust emotionally and otherwise. Lt Gen Binda always encouraged his team to put their experiences down on paper.

He held on to the articles with the intention of having them published and shared with the rest of the South African nation. By their means he intended giving people a glimpse of what our members go through and experience while in deployment abroad.

"I regard myself as a servant and everything that I did, I did with other people, and in the team we had Mozambicans, Ethiopians, and of course the South Africans and a lot of other role players," said Lt Gen Binda, speaking to SA SOLDIER.

"I was in exile for many years and I thought I knew Africa, but this region taught me Africa," he added. "Here was an African mission deployed in a very volatile area tasked with overseeing the process of reconciliation. This is about human aspiration and human suffering."

"It is about people wanting to bring a country together, a country that was torn apart by years and years of ethnic violence between the Hutu and the Tutsi," Lt Gen Binda said. "That human touch of a nation putting its hope on other nations to say: Africa help us. My members were writing down their experiences and putting the articles on the notice-board, but this time I said South Africa must see the level of creativity of our people."

SANDF members deployed in Burundi under the command of Lt Gen Binda wrote the following poetry dubbed 'Letters from Burundi'. This is in honour of the many SANDF members who have given their lives in spirit, physically and mentally to the peacekeeping operations in the Great Lakes Region.

Communication educates and binds a nation and these articles tell us of the big challenges faced by our deployed soldiers.

**Holding ground**

One of the primary tasks of Infantry is to hold ground so that a firm base can be created for further operations. Holding ground can be detrimental to a force, which is not combat ready, in meeting the unexpected contingencies, eg overwhelming firepower. Creativity, innovation and flexibility are factors that are indispensable in such situations. For a deployed force to survive, it must take advantage of the terrain, deploy appropriate Command and Control Intelligence Reconnaissance and Surveillance (C2IRS) assets, be well trained, motivated and have good leadership at all levels.

In June 2003 the above setting was demonstrated in Muyange Demobilisation Centre (DC1) with the first deployment of the RSA contingent in the area. The RSA contingent comprised a platoon of 15 SAI Bn, a troop of Engineers, Battery from the Artillery Regiment, a section from the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) and a logistic unit.

The Air Force was securing our airspace and assisted the RRF with timely deployment.

The staff of the RSA, Mozambican and Ethiopian HQs were in the mission area as part of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB).

The odds were heavily against the deployment of any force in that part of the country, because the political and military environment was not yet stable enough. It was imperative for AMIB to quickly create conditions conducive to the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme. After our thorough assessment of the situation we came to realise that we could not leave things to chance, but that we had actively and decisively to shape events and to be on top of the situation before paralysis through fear and indecision gripped our forces.

The act of deploying at DC1 contributed to the creation of the necessary environment. All fears, anxieties, doubts and misgivings about DC1 were put aside because the deployed force, lead by the RRF, instilled confidence in our minds and created a firm base for the further strengthening of the peace process in Burundi.

The defence of the DC1 against the first and the second attacks convinced everybody that we meant business and that our mission had to be con-
dected without fear or favour. It worked successfully because of good planning, high morale and, above all, the commitment to the goals of AMIB. Therefore the deployment of AMIB and the creation of DC1 were, inter alia, the watershed events in the ever-unfolding drama of Burundi. Bravo glorious AMIB - I dedicate this to all AMIB soldiers who fell in the execution of their duties during the period from 2003 to 2004 - Lt Gen Sipho Binda, the then Force Commander.

Forgotten heroes

We have seen one group arriving and going. We have seen another group arriving and going as well, so the story (or the deployment) goes...

The Field Engineer grouping in AMIB was rapidly deployed at Demobilisation Centre 1 in Muyange from 8 June 2003. We had heard from previous groups how nice Burundi was and that all the facilities were in place for pleasant living. Big were our expectations and bigger was our disappointment when we arrived and saw the place we were going to stay in for the following eight months. On arrival we were attached to work under Maj Meiring, the then Force Commander from 4 Recce and Maj Mathews of the Pathfinders at 44 Parachute Regiment. Our first objective was to establish a good place to live and provide a good clean water supply (and a swimming pool) to the forces deployed here. We established our accommodation in the structure that is now used as the mess area. During those early and lonely days we had to enjoy (rather endure) listening to Sapper Maluleke’s cassette/radio playing Bob Marley songs consistently for about four times a day and for forty days continuously. Not that I am complaining as it got us to be experts on Bob Marley hits.

We then continued with our work by erecting the fence around the base and the ablution facilities and carrying out other basic field engineering tasks, which included a wide range of improvised specialties. We were very glad to receive electricity two months later on the arrival of 4 SAI Bn here (God bless 4 SAI Bn). Since the arrival of 4 SAI Bn we have finally established a good base routine and are patiently waiting for more challenges that the mission can throw at us. I want to close by saying thank you to all the command staff, section leaders and “water guys” for their dedicated hard work all the time we were here. I would also like to mention that the people that need the most recognition and gratitude are the sappers on the ground. Thank you guys for all your hard work and the high quality of service you have rendered to this mission. You are all very special and we appreciate working with people like you - Capt Van Aardt, Engineer Troop Comdr, DC1.

All is well that ends well!

One afternoon at the Palace Base a child was found in the premises and taken to the Military Police (MP). He said that he has been sleeping in the base under cover for some time and was so hungry he could not take it anymore. So he decided to come out in the open to ask for food (he used an overhanging tree branch to climb in and out of the neighbouring Source De Nil hotel premises).

His name was Gerard Gendakumana, all the way from Gitega Province at a village called Bugendana. This was confirmed after I interviewed him in my broken Kiswahili. He said he and his family had been displaced during the fighting that was going on in the country. He had found cover by sleeping at the Palace because he was being harassed on the streets. I tried my luck by calling UNICEF, a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO), for help. Voilaaa! I got help; Jonathan from UNICEF told me what to do.

Gerard was already in his new clothes, donated by our own gendarme (MP) and myself, and was posing for some photos. L Cpl Mabega of the MP and I, and other gendarmes on duty, took Gerard to the centre for displacement persons in Bujumbura, Arche de Noe’, and they promised to trace his family. Voilaaa! On a Sunday morning I was called by WO2 Baloyi to tell me the great news - little Gerard was here to say goodbye, his family had been traced and he would be on his way home on 4 November 2003. He was so happy and had changed a lot compared to the last time I saw him. He gave me a big hug and made me think of just how difficult life was and why such things should happen, but I concluded by saying to myself “only God knows, for He has created the earth and everything in it; He knows who will do what and when”.

Out of pity for all the troubles the young man had gone through, I gave to the centre manager 5 000 FBU and WO2 Baloyi gave 2 500 FBU as a donation for the little boy to take home. Gerard was so grateful he gave each one of us a big hug (for some moment I thought of my two little daughters back home in Souza). The following day Mama Mabega and I took Gerard out for lunch (he told every one I am Baba and L Cpl Mabega is Mama). We treated him to a meal of half a chicken, chips and juice. He was so happy and kept on saying: “Asante Sana” - Maj Lucky Sangweni.

VIP protectors’ chat show

Just before midnight on 10 November 2003 I was awakened by a loud bang coming from the eastern side of Bujumbura’s mountains. There was no doubt in my mind that Bujumbura was again under attack.

As the mortar shells were raining upon the town’s suburbs, I, in my stupor, went for my radio. Channel 6 was as usual still snoring. Quickly, I tuned to Channel 4 and, hey presto, communication was established. Call sign such and such was passing the information over to call sign such and such about where the bombs were falling, from which direction, at what distance and what next. This was done with vivid and accurate descriptions. Indeed, it was real-time intelligence from our front-line troops.

In the midst of the cracking and sparkling of the town’s skies, the voices never, for a moment, missed any flying, walking or driving objects. The reporting was done with such composed voices as to inspire confidence in the listener. I left with no doubt that the situation was under control. Of course, such situations

(Continued on page 8)
invoke some lighter moments. For instance, one guy (a male, of course) was sure that his date with his Creator was coming closer by the minute. Luckily, a soft female voice was heard from another call sign reassuring the guy that there was nothing to fear. These words calmed the nerves of the jittery guy. Is this not the ultimate proof that women can do wonders in times of danger?

The front is for everybody! The VIP protectors contributed in calming the nerves of the listeners and their colleagues. Well done guys! Wow! Unfortunately, the way some of you spend your Leisure Time Utilisation (LTU) does not calm the nerves of your commanders. This must be corrected immediately - Lt Gen Sipho Bindia, the then Force Commander.

Mission Support Unit

The aim of Movement Control in AMIB is to co-ordinate the cost-effective movement of personnel and equipment in and out of Bujumbura to ensure proper utilisation and sustainment in the rendering peace support service to the AMIB.

The main purpose of Movement Control is to control the movement of stores and equipment in order to ease the functioning of the Mission Support Unit (MSU). The proper or efficient functioning of the MSU is a positive contributing factor towards the achievement of the targeted goals in the peace support operation process. A Movement Control meeting is held on a weekly basis (Fridays) so that all aspects of importance can be addressed or brought to the attention of the Force Structure Element (FSE) commanders. During these meetings the following aspects are discussed Pax in/out lists, flight schedules, convoys to the Demobilisation Centre, backlogging of equipment to the RSA, the Field Post Office and possible decisions about and solutions to problems with the mentioned aspects are provided. The Pax in lists are obtained and confirmed in time so that the commander of the Base Support Unit (BSU) can be informed during the movement control meeting on how many members will need accommodation. This gives him enough time to make the necessary arrangements for members sleeping over and visitors. The Pax out list is also important to ensure that transport arrangements and loading of equipment are co-ordinated and confirmed. The contribution of the Maritime Air Operational Team (MAOT) in providing the Movement Control Commander with flight schedules on time is of importance as the flight timings are also made known to all the FSEs during the Movement Control conference. The movement of the logistical convoy to the Demobilisation Centre is also discussed.

The backloading of equipment to the RSA is also co-ordinated and authority given during this conference. Arrangements with the handling of the Field Post Office are also discussed, the procedure for sending and receipt of parcels is explained to the FSE commanders. The end product with the functioning of the MSU serves as a catalyst in the management process within the AMIB elements - Maj D. Khumalo, Capt M.N. Ngqobe and Capt V.Z. Ngcobo.

The Big Tree

I can’t tell your age
Cause your skin is hardened
And your wrinkled face
Leaves no tell-tales

Your thick stem and roots
Buoyed by the soil watered
By tears and blood of your kindred
Sustain the hope and wishes of Burundi

Your evergreen leaves
Buffeted by the Lake Tanganyika breeze
Throughout the times and climes of Burundi
Flap and clap for the dawn
Of the new sun rising above the mountains

Yes, Ruvagasore, the Hero of Burundi,
And thousands and thousands
Whose blood and tears flowed into the Lake
Wait in their quiet graves and mountain tops
For the shining stars and moon
Faintly appearing above the hills and dark forests of Burundi

SAPSD and AMIB found palatial comfort
Under your cool shaded spot
You continued to be an umbrella
Of robust and peaceful discourse
Yes, Big Tree, you were our Parliament
Urakoze! Big Tree!

Blessed is the hand that gives

I would like to salute the members of 4 SAI Bn and those who were attached to 4 SAI Bn during this call in Africa by their noble duty of feeding and clothing the needy and innocent children on Christmas Day, 25 December 2003.

For you, and all members who have donated to make this day a success, under the lead of Chaplain Blom of 4 SAI Bn and Maj B. Klaasin, Second in Command, your support will be unforgettable to those innocent and needy children of Buramata (Burundi,
Sharing a message

Allow me to greet you personally as the readers of SA SOLDIER and to share with you what God is doing here in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Kindu area.

On 31 October 2004 when our incoming contingent had a joint service with the outgoing contingent God spoke to us and said the following through our spiritual leaders here in the deployed areas. Let me share the message with you, as it was from Isaiah 43:1-2. I would group the message into three categories, viz to the outgoing contingent and the incoming contingent, as well as the conclusion to those in South Africa.

To the outgoing contingent - God said: "Do not be afraid, I have called you by name, you have been mine, you went through deep waters and great troubles, I was there with you from the beginning of your six months in the deployment area. You went through rivers of difficulty and you were not drowned, why? You walked through the fire of oppression, eg of emotion and stress. You were not burned up. The flames of fire did not consume you, why? Because the Lord your God, your Saviour, the Holy One of Israel is always with you. Now you are going back home to face another situation; be prepared and always trust in the Lord when you face difficult situations. To those who succeed by being faithful to God, to their spouses, children and their work, may the good God bless them so that they can be strong and keep it up. For those who did not make it, may God help them also and bless them and keep them so that they can make it in future.

To the incoming contingent - God said: "When" you pass through... not "If" you pass through. It shows that you are definitely going to pass through those three difficulties for the next six months from this day until the end of the operation. Be ready not to be swallowed by deep waters that may come to you and rivers that may come forcefully to you. Lean on God and He will show a way out. To those who are called there will be emanating heat that can leave you with wounds in the spirit. Sometimes the heat may seem unbearable, but please do not run away from faith. Do not give up your faith. Do not throw away your faith. When you go through fire do not forget God’s promises. Do not forget to pray. God promises to be with you and surely He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Conclusion - Allow me to redirect this message to you my fellow South Africans, beloved ones, our parents and our kids if you too might be facing one of the above problematic situations or all of them. Let me tell you there is hope in God. If faced with a situation, always try by all means to remember the third verse from the book of Jeremiah where God says: "Call unto Me and I will answer" - surely He will answer.

Keep on praying for us to be strong in the Lord as we meet daily at 18:30 and, if possible, join us from the distance by also praying with us that we may not slide back and become the victim of the devil, but that instead we may press on towards the goal. May God bless you until we meet again in the next issue of SA SOLDIER. Remember, our prayers are proved effective by the fruit they bear in our lives - Cpl J.L. Boase, JSB Wonderboom (presently attached to 5 SAI Bn).
**Tribute to our fallen heroine**

Born in the Vaal Triangle on 25 April 1962 and passed away on 21 September 2004, the late Capt Bonita Mlangeni was a soldier, nurse, AIDS councillor, mother, sister, friend and motivator. She was always thankful, but as soon as she learned about the social, political or military struggle in her leadership, she became critical. Her motivational speech and belief in justice enabled her to look at civilians’ and soldiers’ lives without any prejudice. For those who were motivated, advised, counseled, nursed and supported by her are leading a bright wonderful and happy life with their families at present.

She also pleaded for peace with the military and now through integration review, integration reborn, integration rejuvenated and integration recreated, a young military democracy was attained. The late Capt Mlangeni will be remembered by many Vaal residents, Lenz, Doornkop in Johannesburg, AMHU Gauteng, SAMHS and 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria as a Samaritan woman of ethics, armed with social, political, military, revolutionary and visionary lyrics.

The late Capt Mlangeni met her untimely death when much of her was still expected. She was a well-known leader with the ability to articulate the aspirations of Africans and with the capacity to identify possibilities inherent in any form of class struggle.

She deserves posthumous national and military awards for her total commitment as a community builder. May her soul rest in peace and may the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit be with her now and forever more. Amen!

* Video cassettes on her funeral service are available - Please contact Sgt T.D. Makiti on 084 785 0123 or 011-212 5612 -Sgt (Pastor) T.D. Makiti, Lenz.

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**Paying tribute to a fallen young lion**

Saturday 6 November 2004 brought many of us together to uMlazi to pay homage to a young lion, a comrade, a friend, an outstanding and brilliant officer. Terence Linda Mlangeni had succumbed to an illness that had plagued him for some time, on Wednesday, 27 October 2004. He passed away at 1 Military Hospital. As it happened that fateful day was his 37th birthday.

The late Col Mlangeni was born on 27 October 1967 at Clermont Township in Durban. He was the only son of Thula Mlangeni. He started his schooling at the Roman Catholic Mission School in Clermont. For his secondary education he was enrolled at Dlangezwa High School.

The late Col Terence Linda Mlangeni.

During the 80s, at the height of the political repressions, states of emergencies and the brutal slaughter of our masses by the apartheid government and its puppet councillors, the late Col Mlangeni was forced into struggle in his early youth. Mkhari, as he was popularly known, became embroiled in the day-to-day skirmishes against apartheid forces in the townships, stone and dustbin lid in hand.

The late comrade Or Tambo (ANC President) named the youth of that time "Young Lions." Mkhari was still expected. She was a well-known leader with the ability to lead, but always found herself outgunned by the forces of apartheid. She was a Young Lion to the core. To avoid capture and torture and subsequent death at the hands of the apartheid forces Mkhari left for exile in 1985 with a group of friends.

He joined the Liberation Army, Umkhonto weSizwe (MK), on his arrival in Angola. He did his basic military training at Pango Camp. On completion of this training he completed various advanced military training courses, including the General Commanders Course and Urban Guerrilla Warfare Course.

He was then sent to Yugoslavia to train as a security, intelligence and counter-intelligence officer. He returned from Yugoslavia just on time to be selected for military aviation training in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The group of young aviators was based at Frunze in Kyrgyzstan. He qualified as a Mission Controller.

The late Col Mlangeni returned from exile in 1992. In January 1994 he joined the MK team that set out to lay the foundation for the integration of the SA Air Force. He was appointed as a Captain in the SA Air Force on integrating. He was posted to Lowveld Airspace Control Sector where he completed his bridging training and tour as a Junior Mission Controller.

In 1997 he was posted to Bushveld Airspace Control Sector (BACS) where he served in different capacities. He was the Officer Commanding of BACS at the time of his untimely death.

In remembering this brave and outstanding soldier we must accord him his rightful place in the history of the SA Air Force, the SANDF and the history of our struggle. The following is part of the eulogy delivered by Ossie Davis at the graveside of Malcolm X, and I thought it was fitting to repeat it for this young prince: "Consigning these mortal remains to earth, the common mother of all, secure in the knowledge that what we place in the ground is no more now a man - but a seed - which after the winter of our discontent, will come forth again to meet us. And we will know him then for what he was and is - a Prince - our own black shining Prince! - who didn't hesitate to die, because he loved us so." - Col Tsoku M. Khumalo, SSO Strat Plan AF Office.
Reserve Force member studying at the Military Academy

Lt Michael Huxtable.

With the Faculty of Military Science of the Military Academy in Saldanha Bay opening its doors to a wider group of people who are keen to study at the institution, many previously excluded groups have gained access to tertiary studies.

Among the groups who were previously not allowed access to the Academy were troops, non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and members of the Reserve and Territorial Forces. In 2003 all that changed when it was announced that these groups would now be allowed to apply for studies through the Academy.

The Distance Education Department of the Faculty has been assisting members, who would otherwise not have access to tertiary studies due to deployment obligations and other reasons, to obtain a degree. It is this department that is vital to the success of a Reserve Force member’s studies, as the only way their qualification can be obtained is by correspondence - not many employers will be eager to be without an employee for three years!

The Distance Education Department has arranged for satellite lectures, tests and exams to be written at pre-arranged centres across the country to assist members who are studying through the post.

Lt Michael Huxtable is such a member - in fact, he is the only Reserve Force member to have been admitted to the Military Academy for 2004. It is the first time a Reserve Force member has been allowed this privilege. Serving as an Intelligence Officer at the Light Horse Regiment - a Conventional Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment based in Sandton - Lt Huxtable has just recently completed his first semester, passing all three major first-year subjects (Economics, Military History and Political Science) in his chosen direction: Security and Africa Studies. Says Lt Huxtable: “This is no easy task, as the workload is considerable! I have to manage my time very carefully, balancing it between my civilian career, Reserve Force service, and my studies and being a single dad with two children - not to mention a girlfriend and friends, who have been very supportive. This is something I have always wanted to do, and I am very grateful for the opportunity. The assistance provided by the lecturers, and especially the library staff, is definitely a contributing factor to my success so far.”

Lt Huxtable completed his two-year National Service stint in 1989 after doing the Junior Leader course at the SA Intelligence School in Kimberley in 1988, and served as a staff member of the School after it relocated to Potchefstroom in 1989. He joined the Reserve Force in October 2002, and has not looked back.

The Light Horse Regiment has supported its Intelligence Officer’s efforts by assisting him to obtain the necessary travel allowances to the Academy and by providing valuable advice and insight into the different subjects. “Although I have to use my annual leave in my civilian occupation to attend the orientation weeks, I enjoy them a great deal and always look forward to the next semester. As I work in the advertising industry, I am sure the pressure of constant deadlines has helped me deal with the pressures of my studies. My advice to those members who would also like to study part-time through the Academy is: Work hard from the beginning and don’t get behind!” says Lt Huxtable.

The Distance Education Department of the Military Academy can be contacted at tel no: (022) 702 3022. Together with the Reserve Force, this is a winning recipe!

Develop existing goodwill

Gen Agostinho Fernando Nelumba (SANJAR), the Chief of the Angolan Armed Forces, leads Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, to mount the podium during an official welcoming parade held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 16 November 2004. The aim of his visit was to create another opportunity to explore areas of co-operation between the two armed forces and strengthen military bi-lateral relations. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana)
Review of the first 10 Years of Freedom - South Africa’s first 10 Years of Freedom campaign has been about a decade of growing unity in action, relative peace and stability, making resources in the hands of the State available to uplift disadvantaged South Africans and increased opportunities for building a better South Africa, a better Africa and a better world.

With regard to the Department of Defence I applaud the former Minister of Defence, the late Mr Joe Modise, the former Deputy Minister of Defence, Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, the Deputy Minister of Defence, the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the South African National Defence Force for their contribution to realising our Government’s objectives for the first 10 Years of Freedom campaign, and a decade of the SANDF.

The Second Decade of Freedom - As from February 2005 a new, but related Government campaign will start for the Second Decade of Freedom: ‘Vision 2014’. This will be about consolidating priority areas for progress determined in 2004. With regard to the DOD we should pay specific attention to themes and issues where we can add value.

The Next Five Years - The priorities of Government’s Vision 2014 over the next five years are:

- To strengthen co-operation among economic partners to create work and fight poverty;
- To forge stronger partnerships across all sectors to deal with the fight against crime and corruption, and improving common efforts against priority diseases such as HIV and AIDS;
- To improve our systems of monitoring and evaluation of our projects from national to local level;
- To speed up economic development through skills development and access to services, especially among women and youth, and promote rural development and urban renewal;
- The SAPS will recruit more police and enhanced skills for policing to deal with criminals and crime syndicates and fight corruption;
- To strengthen Africa’s Early Warning Mechanism and dedicate more resources to make sure we contribute more effectively to the efforts of our continent to prevent and urgently resolve conflicts.

Government’s Vision 2014 at a glance

- Reduce unemployment through job creation and skills development;
- Poverty reduction through economic development;
- Provide the skills required by the economy, build capacity and encourage self-employment;
- Ensure that all South Africans, especially those at risk - children, youth, women, the aged, and people with disabilities - are fully able to exercise their constitutional rights and enjoy the full dignity of freedom;
- Compassionate and efficient Government service to the people - the Batho Pele concept;
- Improve the national health profile with specific emphasis on TB, diabetes, malnutrition and maternal deaths, and turn the tide against HIV and AIDS, and reduce road accidents;
- Significantly reduce the number of serious and priority crimes, as well as address the social roots of criminality;
- Position South Africa strategically as an effective force in global relations, with specific emphasis on the poor of the African continent.

Defence and Human Security - My guidelines for the Medium-term Strategic Framework (MTSF) of the DOD were delivered at the September 2004 ‘Budget and Planning Seminar’ as directives for our future work for the year and years to come. The environmental analysis of our regional and global neighbourhoods reveals a number of challenges ranging from poverty, disease and unemployment on the one hand, to threats such as piracy, organised cross-border crime and acts of terror, referred to as ‘New Terrorism’.

From a South African perspective, however, the single biggest threat to peace and security in the SADC region and Africa as a whole is poverty. Addressing the problems caused by poverty is the cornerstone of the concept of ‘Human Security’ - redefining the concept of defence from having been an instrument of aggression to become an instrument for the protection of human life. This understanding has been introduced into the SADC and the African Union as a concept to shape the strategic planning of the region and the continent.

As we prepare for the years ahead I appeal to all leaders and managers in the DOD to plan and influence planning with a view to understanding that we have to be aligned with a broader Government plan, a regional African agenda and remain internationally competitive. I wish you all a productive and spiritually fulfilling year.

Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.
Minister of Defence
As we enter 2005 I am reminded of the words of a philosopher who said that life was characterised by farewells and hellos. Like a newborn baby who has to say farewell to the warm womb of its mother and hello to a seemingly hostile and harsh world, we human beings generally hate farewells because they take us away from someone, or something that we are familiar with. We also do not like hellos as they introduce us to unfamiliar people or situations. It is therefore understandable that we are filled with trepidation as 2004 ends and the New Year comes storming in. Whether the previous year was fruitful or not, the wise thing to do at this time would be to assess the gains and the negatives of the passing year to ensure that things are better in the New Year. The cure for anxiety about the future is not nostalgia for the past, and neither will constant regret and self-flagellation about what could have been make things better.

There is no doubt that security issues in 2005 are going to remain a key challenge, as they have been in 2004. The news headlines in 2004 were dominated by the wars that continue to haunt the world and make the lives of millions of people a nightmare. The invasion of Iraq by some powers under the pretext of the so-called “war on terror”, has, according to observers, claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, mostly innocent women and children. A tit for tat situation that has been going on in the Holy Land for years continues to claim the lives of both Palestinians and Israelis seemingly with no end in sight.

Closer to home on the African continent we have witnessed contrasting situations. In Burundi, while some militant groups have refused to sign the agreement that would lead to democratic elections to end the civil strife in that country, we have on the other hand seen the level of violence going down drastically. We can thank the role played by our Government and by members of the Department of Defence in that country for the improved situation. The same applies to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There was a time when the truce was in danger of breaking up, but through the intervention of our President and Government, the situation was salvaged. Our soldiers in that country, who are under the overall command of the United Nations (UN), were able to intervene decisively in the eastern part of the DRC during the time of crisis earlier last year and prevent further carnage.

While we can pat ourselves on the back for a job well done in the Great Lakes region, trouble has flared in Ivory Coast and in the Darfur region in Sudan where thousands of people have lost their lives. We may have to brace ourselves for possible commitment in these new hotspots of conflict. This possible deployment should be seen in a positive light by all our people. It would demonstrate the trust and confidence that the UN and the African Union (AU) have in South Africa. It would also show our commitment to the creation of a peaceful world.

2004 was the Tenth Year of our Democracy and the SANDF participated with aplomb in the planning for this and in national celebrations in Pretoria. The celebrations followed the trouble-free elections that we had for the third time in national elections in Pretoria. The celebrations followed the trouble-free elections that we had for the third time running. In addition to this achievement South Africa was elected to the African Union Peace and Security Council, which will oversee the formation of the first African Standby Force. We also had the honour of being chosen to host the Pan-African Parliament.

The President has declared the next ten years a decade of delivery to the people of this country. This delivery includes the total transformation of our society. Since I was appointed Deputy Minister, I have made it my mission to orientate myself with the functions and challenges of the DOD by visiting a number of military bases and meeting with the Chiefs of the various services. One of the observations that I made during these engagements was the minimal transformation that has taken place over the past ten years. This is both in terms of systems and representivity. I also became aware of the plight of unemployed military veterans, especially members of former Non-statutory Forces.

I have committed myself to taking the transformation of the DOD a step forward. I have also set service delivery to military veterans as one of my priorities. As I am not a superman who can perform miracles, I am counting on each woman and man in the department to assist me in achieving a meaningful transformation of the DOD. No one should feel threatened by transformation, but we must all realise that it is in the interests of our country and of all members of the DOD, both Black and White, that we achieve transformation. Failure in this respect may lead to the racial polarisation and conflict that we see unfolding in a number of countries.

As the Tenth Year of our Democracy has passed, let us all join hands to greet the New Year with hope for a better life for all. Happy New Year!

Mr Mluleki George
Deputy Minister of Defence
Inviting all members to join hands

would like to welcome everyone in this year 2005. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season, whether you were at work or on leave. I would like to believe that each and every one of you is ready for the implementation of the new plans. The first decade of our liberation has passed with many celebrations that took place in different parts of the country in the past year.

The year 2004, which coincided with the South African National Election was the year in which all South Africans celebrated their first Ten Years of Freedom. The Department of Defence was indeed proud to be part of the Government celebrations of the past decade through the achievements and the remarkable milestones realised by the DOD. This year 2005 is the year in which we should look forward to finding better ways of tackling the challenges ahead of us. We need to evaluate all our achievements and address our weak points by reviewing our strategic plans.

It would be wise to start by being committed to our plans for even better achievements and not wait for another ten years. We all know that the primary role of the DOD is to defend and protect the Republic of South Africa against any military threat. We are also to render services in support of, and in co-operation with, other State departments as our secondary role. The successful defence of South Africa’s sovereignty and territorial integrity against potential external aggression or threat, the deployment of forces that are to enhance the regional stability and to support other departments in protecting the well-being of the country’s people and its resources can only be fully realised if we commit to our plans and execute their programmes.

In order to achieve our goals and objectives, it is essential that strategies and processes be formulated and used as guidelines in our daily tasks. Let us portray the organisation as a true asset to the Government of the day. We must be the trusted support system to the Government and its priorities. We must ensure that the DOD is organised, equipped, prepared and funded in accordance with its needs. The DOD policies, strategies and plans must ensure that the effective, economical and efficient allocation and control of resources are correctly implemented. These scarce DOD resources must be managed in the most productive and economical manner.

Our combat support force must be prepared and ready for effective response at any given moment. The training, high morale and mission readiness required must be maintained. The successful transformation of the DOD is essential to ensure alignment with Government policies. We should focus on issues, such as the strategy HR2010 and to allow the MSDS to rejuvenate the DOD HR composition as a transformation issue. Communication should play a vital role in terms of formulating the entire communication strategy in the department. We should be in a position to focus and interpret our short and long-term strategies.

As head of this Department, Accounting Officer and the Principal Adviser to the Minister of Defence, I have emphasised the importance of transformation in our country and civil/military relations in the DOD. We should always acknowledge the existing structures, responsibilities and relationships that are necessary to secure democratic civil/military relations. Civil/military relations are a hierarchy of authority between the executive, parliament, and the armed forces, and, of the civil supremacy overall. An example of this is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces who has the overall command of his forces.

On this note I would like to invite all of you to join hands with me in building and turning this department into what it is supposed to be. I have all the confidence that by the end of this year a lot will be achieved. Therefore I urge all members to set their goals and objectives, big and small, as long as you are guided by the overall departmental goals and objectives to achieve something that will matter to the department.

Mr January Masilela
Secretary for Defence
The SANDF is proud of its men and women

I

The year 2004 has been an outstanding and a very successful year. The SANDF proudly participated in our nation’s Ten Years of Freedom celebrations. The celebrations provided excellent opportunities for the SANDF to interact with ordinary South Africans and it was rewarding to see how they identified with our members in uniform.

Thank you to those members inside and outside the country who have set an example of good conduct by upholding the standards of discipline, morale and esprit de corps. You have earned the respect of our people.

I expect all SANDF members to consistently implement the Code of Conduct. The Code serves as a basis for good discipline and captures the shared values of the SANDF. Those members who do not conform to the Code are denting the professional image of our National Defence Force and will therefore be dealt with by the full force of the law. During 2004 the SANDF has made excellent progress in many fields of operation. Our personnel who are deployed in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Liberia and the Sudan have done outstanding work. As a result, the United Nations and the African Union have great confidence in the capabilities of our soldiers as a peacekeeping force.

At regional level the SANDF has continued which allowed young, fit, military skills development system to be directly benefited from Exercise MEDIN. Communities of Limpopo Province between RSA and USA forces.

A multinational exercise was conducted off the Cape coast and in July last year a joint training exercise with France was started. The SANDF$'s Reserve Force is in the process of rearming and will therefore be able to deploy our personnel as peacekeepers. The Reserve Force will have to be restructured. The SANDF urgently needs a strong reliable Reserve Force to enhance Regular Force deployments and this is now receiving attention. The Reserve Force is in the process of restructuring and the recruitment of matriculants countrywide has already started.

In conclusion, the SANDF is well aware that the HIV/AIDS pandemic can cause the loss of continuity at command level and within the ranks, and lead to the reduction of military preparedness and loss of productivity. I want to assure you that the management and prevention of HIV/AIDS, through Masambabisane and Project Phidisa, receiving a high priority. Please support your colleagues, friends or any person you know who might be ill with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work throughout 2004. Your loyalty has made it possible to succeed. The SANDF is proud of its men and women and will continue to expect only the best of you. Enjoy a prosperous New Year.

Gen Siphiwe Nyanda.
The people of the East Coast were thoroughly entertained by the opportunity that the SA Navy afforded them, when they were shown the latest acquisition, the SAS MENDI. This maiden visit enhanced the experience of the ship’s company as the ship entered various ports, as each port had its unique characteristics and challenges. The ship also introduced some of the latest stealth and propulsion technology.

On 31 October 2004 the SA Navy’s fourth Valour class corvette, the SAS MENDI, commenced its East Coast tour from Simon’s Town. The SA Navy decided that, prior to the fitting of her combat suite, the SAS MENDI would deploy along the East Coast to allow the media, the public and port authorities to become acquainted with the Valour class vessels. The deployment presented an opportunity for the SA Navy to host various functions in the visited ports. The code name of the operation was UMBONISO, which in Xhosa means ‘to show’.

The preparations for sailing began with both watches ensuring that the whole ship’s company was present. At 16:00 pre-sailing preparations were conducted to make sure the ship was safe and ready to sail. The ship then assumed combat state 4 (maneuvering stations). The ship’s company displayed teamwork as they secured the various areas in which they worked.

On the morning of 3 November we were up early preparing to go alongside in East London harbour at 08:00. At 07:10 the harbour pilot came on board to assist Capt (SAN) Kevin Packer, the Officer Commanding SAS MENDI, to get the ship safely alongside. The ship was welcomed by a live band performance by the Hudson Park Primary School brass band. At 12:00 the ship was opened to the public. About 1 125 visitors toured the SAS MENDI. The public was quite thrilled with the ship and some said she was a real beauty. A little boy boarded the ship and of every officer he saw in uniform he asked: “Are you the captain?” A lieutenant had to explain to him that the captain was unavailable, but that the boy could sit in the captain’s chair on the bridge. This made the little boy glow with excitement. This was just one example of how the SA Navy made some people’s dreams come true.

A competition was run on the Algoa FM radio station, in which the listeners called in and had to answer an easy question about the SA Navy.

SAS MENDI arrived in Durban to a warm reception from the city. Over 6 000 people visited the ship on the weekend in Durban and 1 125 visited the ship in East London.
This gave them a chance to win a VIP day cruise on board the patrol corvette. The winners in this competition were Ms Trish Beale and Mr J. Smit. The SAS MENDI ship’s caps sold out like hot cakes, because every visitor wanted to take home a souvenir of the vessel. At 18:30 the ship’s company started preparing for a cocktail party, which was held for the Eastern Cape Premier, the Speaker of the Legislature and members of the Executive Council (the Provincial Cabinet). Although it was raining, about 140 guests arrived and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. R Adm Philip Schöultz, Chief Director Maritime Strategy, and R Adm (JG) George Mphafi, the then Chief of Fleet Staff, hosted the function. R Adm Schöultz officially welcomed all the guests, whereafter the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Mrs Nosimo Balindlela, bestowed these words of wisdom on everyone present at the cocktail function: “The round dots in my face signify a lot of things in our culture, such as the rondavel: it is round, a pillar of strength, we go around it and the earth is round. But most important of all is the navel, as all life begins there. The umbilical cord is where the life of a newborn child starts. When he or she is a young man or a big girl, people will ask them where their umbilical cords are buried and they will say they are buried way back in my history. It simply means what goes around must come around. So this SAS MENDI’s visit to East London is also an umbilical cord of the SS MENDI which sank in 1917. Mrs Balindlela continued: ‘It came to tie the history of the two ships together; the SS MENDI went around (away) and now the SAS MENDI came (comes around). I am sure this is a historical moment for all the relatives of those who lost their lives on the SS MENDI. I am honoured that the SAS MENDI is visiting East London before any other place. The people of the Eastern Cape would like to take this opportunity to welcome SAS MENDI to this province. I wish to thank the honourable naval officers who arranged for the Cabinet Ministers to hold their Cabinet Meeting on board the SAS MENDI, as it has a symbolic significance to all of us.”

Mrs Nosimo Balindlela, the Premier of the Eastern Cape (right), held a historic provincial cabinet meeting on board the SAS MENDI, off the East London coast, during the ship’s maiden eastern coast tour.

**The Sinking of the Mendi**

An extract from: *The Sinking of the Mendi* by S.E.K. Mqhayi

**Original Version**

Awu! Zaf’iint’ ezinkulu ze Afrika.
Isindiwile neqanawu yada yaziya,
Kwaf’ amakhaliipa, anafi-nankosi,
Agazi lithetha kwiNkosi yeenkosi.
Ukufa kwawo kunomvuzo nomvuka;
Ndinga ndingema nawo ngomhla wokuvuka,
Ndingqambe njengomnye osebenzileyo,
Ndikhanye njengomso oqaqambileyo.
Makube njalo!

**English Translation**

Here come the strong men of Africa!
The load was too much for the ship, it sank,
Heroes and the king’s soldiers perished,
Whose blood mattered to the King of kings.
Whose deaths will bear fruit and leave a legacy.
I wish to be counted with them at resurrection,
To be counted among those who sacrificed,
And shine bright like a brighter tomorrow.
So be it!

(Continued on page 18)
On 4 November 2004 at approximately 09:05 Durban SAS MENDI made for the first time her majestic entrance into the port of Durban.

Naval Station Durban is based on Salisbury Island. This unit supports maritime operations on the East Coast. It has an Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV), SAS TEKWANE, four harbour protection boats and the Operational Diving Team East. The port of Durban is situated on the East Coast of Africa, 680 nautical miles north-east of Cape Agulhas.

Durban has become a major city in South Africa and the port is the busiest on the African continent and the biggest in terms of container capacity. Strategically placed on the world’s shipping routes, the port plays a vital role in the life of the city. The port of Durban, being South African’s main general cargo and contained port, handles 31,4 million tons of cargo worth more than R50 billion each year. Forty-four percent of South Africa’s break bulk cargo and 61% of all containerised cargo flow through the port of Durban, and on average 83 000 containers per month are handled at the port of Durban container terminal, the largest in the southern hemisphere. The port of Durban employs 6 000 people, but approximately 30 000 people are directly dependent on the port and its activities. The SAS MENDI’s entry was highlighted by the formation flying of two Oryx helicopters on her port and starboard sides - a BK 117 at her stern. In formation, the IPV SAS TEKWANE was ahead with two harbour protection boats on the port and starboard side completed the entry in formation to ‘N’ shed.

At the channel entrance eighty learners from Springfield Primary School formed a single file by waving mini South African flags and cheering as the SAS MENDI sailed past. The National Ports Authority tug continuously sounded the foghorn and sprayed water on the SAS MENDI. As she approached her berth at ‘N’ shed passenger terminal she was greeted by the pulsating beat of the Army Support Base Band and the war cries of Zulu dancers. The learners waving the flags at the harbour channel joined in formation to cheer the SAS MENDI as she tied up alongside. In order to encourage the youth and provide an incentive to journalism students, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Durban Institute of Technology ran internal competitions: with prizes were a trip out to sea. The idea was prompted by the SA Navy. Six students were given the opportunity.

The Officer Commanding of SAS MENDI was presented with the crest from the Officer Commanding 15 Squadron, Lt Col Chris Opperman. He in turn presented a crest to Lt Col Opperman at a cocktail function on board the SAS MENDI. When the ship had berthed a framed aerial photograph of the SAS MENDI entering Durban at 09:00 on 4 November 2004 was taken and presented to Capt (SAN) Packer by Mr James Graham, MD NATCOM Electronics (Pty) Ltd.

On 10 November 2004 members of the SAS MENDI ship’s company volunteered to lay a wreath at New Brighton in Port Elizabeth to pay their respect to those who lost their lives with the sinking of the troopship, SS MENDI, in 1917. The ceremony ended with a minute of silence. At 18:00 the SAS MENDI departed for Simon’s Town were friends and families were anxiously waiting to welcome their loved ones on 12 November 2004.
The SA Army reaffirmed once more its commitment to training and preparing combat-ready landward forces through EXERCISE SEBOKA, which was held over the period 15 to 29 October 2004, at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla. The exercise focused on the combat activities of a motorised infantry battalion in the African battle space, without the support of armour and medium artillery. It also highlighted the importance of airborne forces within an external peace support deployment and demonstrated the necessity of combat service support to sustain such operations.

The objective of the exercise was to evaluate our defensive tactics, techniques and procedures applicable during a full-scale conventional war in defence of our country, but with the ability to adapt rapidly to the changing conditions and requirements of peace support operations. For the first time since EXERCISE SEBOKA, we had a Regular Force component and a Reserve Force company participating, and their operational capabilities were also evaluated by the same criteria as the Regular Force. This will create a firm base upon which the SA Army can emerge as "a well-oiled and tough fighting machine" to carry out its mission with a great sense of pride.

25 October 2004 was an open day for EXERCISE SEBOKA. Dignitaries who graced the occasion with their presence included the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, members of the Council for the Support of National Defence and the military diplomatic community, as well as learners of the Executive National Security Programme.

Speaking at the event Lt Gen Shoke said that the complex of the African battle space in the context of peace support operations is mainly characterised by non-negotiable terrain features for mechanised forces and light armed militia with no reliance on armour or technologically advanced equipment. The SA Army must be equally prepared for the challenge by having the physical capability to operate in these adverse conditions with the necessary mental and psychological attitude.

"It is against this background that through EXERCISE SEBOKA the forces gathered here will be demonstrating combat activities and capabilities of a motorised infantry battalion within the context of the African battle space without any support from armour and medium artillery. The exercise will also showcase the rapid reaction capability of the airborne forces to achieve an element of surprise, even in difficult terrain," concluded Lt Gen Shoke.

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Middle: WO1 Eddie Sykes, the Sergeant Major of the SA Army, and Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General, with the Reserve Force members who participated in EXERCISE SEBOKA.
Potent advocates of peace

By Col Thys Eagar (Ret)
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The annual memorial service to commemorate all soldiers who died and were disabled in the service of their country was as usual held at the Wall of Remembrance at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Sunday 14 November 2004 at 11:00. At this Memorial Service various communities, military veterans' associations and representatives of foreign countries also remembered the families of those who never returned, and of course those men and women who were disabled on active service. Col (Rev) John Mohapi of the Chaplain General's office officiated. The SA National Ceremonial Guard Band was in attendance. The service was preceded by music provided by the band and the posting of sentries from Pretoria Regiment, a Reserve Force unit, as has been the custom for many years. This Regiment celebrated its 90th birthday in 2003! This day in November is the major memorial service held in most countries throughout the world. It is held annually on the Sunday nearest 11 November (Armistice Day) and this is then known as Remembrance Sunday. In brief, the history of this Day of Remembrance is that the armistice to end what was known as the Great War (1914/1918), which was also referred to by some as "The War to End all Wars", was signed in the early hours of 11 November 1918. All firing then ceased at the 11th hour (11:00) of that day.

All the countries of the British Commonwealth then decided to commemorate the end of this war by holding memorial services at 11:00 on the 11th day of the 11th month of every year. This day then became known as Armistice Day. The tradition of observing silence was initiated by the well-known South African, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. The day was first observed in our country on 14 December 1918 in Cape Town, and has since then been observed throughout the world at all memorial services.

We will remember them

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

On 11 November 2004 it was 86 years since the guns fell silent on the carnage of mud and blood that was the Western Front. It was the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

But in time, all free nations of the world adopted the custom of commemorating their fallen of all wars on 11 November. It was for that reason that seventeen wreaths were laid at the Wall of Remembrance, the memorial stone and training obelisk in Bloemfontein to remember our fallen heroes.

Brig Gen McGill Alexander, the Master Paratrooper of the SANDF, was the honorary functionary at the wreath laying ceremony at 44 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein.

In his speech Brig Gen Alexander said that we commemorate the deaths of our fellow soldiers. We do so because we understand what they went through. We know their feelings, their fears, their longings, their hopes and their heartaches before they died.

"Politicians, not soldiers, declare war and commit troops to conflict. We simply carry out orders in what they perceive to be the defence of our country and our freedom. Why would we want to start a war?" said Brig Gen Alexander.
Rewarding military members

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

The SANDF has committed itself to rewarding exceptional deeds of bravery, outstanding combat leadership in the field, ingenuity in the handling of personnel, weaponry or equipment, courage, skill, distinguished conduct, meritorious service and the utmost devotion to duty. It is against this background that the annual Chief of the SANDF’s Medal Parade, which serves as a very special opportunity to reward outstanding leaders and soldiers, was held at the Armscor Sports Grounds in Pretoria on 22 October 2004.

In ancient history reference is made to awards to the heroes and victors in war. Bravery, courage, loyalty and excellent service are some of the characteristics that have remained imperative for soldiers throughout centuries of human combat. Medals originated as a form of personal decoration intended as visible marks of favour or as rewards for service rendered.

Even today a serviceman does not boast about his services or exploits. By looking at the ribbons he or she wears on the chest, the wearer’s history, his or her bravery, merit and loyalty become evident. While addressing the parade Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, said that it was a calling to be a soldier/sailor as, without commitment, it is impossible to serve one’s country under extremely difficult circumstances, to leave loved ones behind and to risk one’s life if commanded to do so.

"The SANDF can never remunerate its members enough for the sacrifices made to ensure national, regional, and continental peace and stability. This decoration or medal is a visible mark of favour; wear it with the dignity and pride it deserves. To the families and friends of the recipients on parade, congratulations and thank you for all the sacrifices you have made to support our members in serving their country," Gen Nyanda said.

Gen Nyanda also paid tribute to Brig Gen Larry Joseph, who was awarded a Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service posthumously. He added that the SANDF would remember Brig Gen Joseph as a leader who led by example and thanked his family for attending the parade. The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion with their presence.

ENSP certificate ceremony

Fltr, back: A representative of Social Development, R Adm (JG) Brian Donkin (Commandant of the SA National Defence College), Gen Siphiwe Nyanda (the Chief of the SANDF), Mrs Collette Donkin, Lekau Mokoena (Managing Director of the Gaabmotho Cultural Village) and Mr Molelo Musi (Chief Director Comm Social Development and a ENSP 10/04 student) posing with the children from Gaabmotho Cultural Village in Hebron situated in the far eastern region of North West. They entertained the members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) and invited guests with their traditional songs and dances during the end of programme function and certificate ceremony. Gen Nyanda presented the certificates to the ENSP 10/04 members at the certificate ceremony held at the SA Army College on 18 November 2004. (Photo: F Sgt David Nontshongwana)
The SANDF compares with the best in the world

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt Howard Mokhuoua

The mammoth task of integration, the institution of new rank insignia, a new medal series and the new emblem of the SANDF, the spectacularly successful inauguration parades and displays for our Commanders in Chief, present and former, the adoption of the Codes of Conduct, the dramatic rescue of the flood victims in Mozambique, the creation of the Secretariat of Defence and the acquisition of the new equipment to modernise the SA Air Force and the SA Navy, were cited as the milestones of the SANDF over the last ten years and the DOD in general by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, during his gala evening held at Misty Hills in Randburg on 19 November 2004.

Gen Nyanda added that from time to time dramatic and negative events take place, which affect the image of the SANDF and detract from the major achievements we have scored. Sometimes wild and untested statements are made about the transformation in the SANDF and the DOD, even from people who should know better.

“The integration process was supposed to ameliorate the situation to a degree, but requirements for preparation and training of the former liberation members from guerilla to conventional mode were always going to take time. The physical impact on particularly the middle management, given numbers, members and levels education was not significant. Concurrent with any and all transformation exercises, the SANDF is also still expected to deliver on its mandate. It therefore is not expected to engage in activities that affect its readiness so adversely as to be unable to carry out its constitutional mandate. Preservation of expertise, skills and knowledge is therefore cardinal to any plans for transformation, of which integration is also a part,” added Gen Nyanda.

He also mentioned that correct observations and criticism are often made about the middle management of the SANDF being too white. But most criticism about the pace of change fails to take account of the historical reality of the legal and public service constraints faced by the department, such as the lack of an exit mechanism, and the kind of institution that the SANDF is.

The SANDF, though, is a distinct part of the DOD. It is a unique military institution with a life and character of its own. All sovereign states have this military institution as an institution of state. Our Constitution establishes the SANDF as a military institution that runs along military lines as a disciplined force under the command of military practitioners. The SANDF, according to the Constitution, is responsible for the safeguarding of the sovereign territorial integrity of the country and the defence of the sovereignty of the state.

“In the end it is the people of South Africa, the Government which we serve, and the region where we are deployed and those we work with in the pursuit of peace who can best evaluate us and our performance. The United Nations at least has made it very clear. The SANDF compares with the best in the world. This was its verdict when after three years of scepticism and hesitation - it looked over the mission that we had established against great odds. The verdict of the international community, which seeks the presence of the SANDF whenever deployments in trouble spots are sought, is clear: we are there among the best,” Gen Nyanda added.

Gen Nyanda also paid tribute to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, who has steered the SA Air Force remarkably well towards greater efficiency, effectiveness and representivity, who is retiring. At the end of February 2005, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johan Retief, who has so ably navigated the SA Navy for the past four years through stormy waters, and taken into service the magnificent corvettes, is also retiring. He described both Chiefs as competent, disciplined, loyal and transformational leaders, who have served our country well.

The gala evening was characterised by much glamour, glitter and aplomb. Mr Don Laka and the Navy Band made sure that Gen Nyanda and his guests displayed their hidden talents and showed that they could really let their hair down. The Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Thabang Makwetla, Ambassador George Nene, top leadership of the DOD/SANDF, public opinion makers and business people were among the dignitaries that graced the occasion with their presence.
Thanking our ambassadors

By PO Dennis Ndaba
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Every member with a South African flag on his or her uniform represents our country, our nation and the SANDF. Therefore, members of the Joint Operations Division are of the opinion that the service they render elevates each and every one to be an ambassador for South Africa. Being an ambassador means doing things for the good of the country in the public domain.

The Joint Operations Division held a medal parade at Swartkop Park in Pretoria on 26 November 2004. In his address Maj Gen Dlambulo Tshiki, the Acting Chief of Joint Operations, said that in 2004 South Africa has been celebrating Ten Tears of Democracy, and the SANDF typifies this new order and spirit of reconciliation and transformation. He added: "The strides we have made over the last ten years would not have been possible if the SANDF had not been a professional force. The main ingredients for our success are a clear vision, determined leadership and a disciplined force, well supported by the Government that believes in it and its role in supporting a new democracy and African Renaissance."

He also mentioned that after five years of participating in peacekeeping operations, South Africa deployed more than 2 800 personnel on the African continent and that our National Defence Force is a key player in the promotion of peace, stability and democratic transformation in Africa.

Maj Gen Tshiki congratulated the men and women on parade on displaying integrity and reminded them that apart from pride in receiving a medal or commendation is the testimony that they are prepared to accept total responsibility for their actions. In this regard he spoke of a general climate where "blame shifting becomes an easy way out of acceptance of responsibility."
By Karel van der Merwe, SANDF COLET

Each year, during the first week of November, the annual International Competition of Military Documentaries is held in the lovely Italian town of Bracciano, situated near Rome.

The Italian Association "Eserciti e Popoli" (Armed Forces and People), a non-profit organisation, organised this competition to form part of its 15th International Film Festival. The competition strives to contribute to the promotion and knowledge of the culture, art, civilisation and fundamental values of the people that armed forces from across the world must defend and safeguard.

The "Eserciti e Popoli" Festival is a cultural event that differs significantly from the glitter and frivolity of other film festivals. It does not have commercial aims, it does not have to launch or sell films and it does not have to provide publicity for actors with interviews and photographs. Its only aim is to disseminate knowledge about armies, their functions and their historical and social role.

Through the retrospective exhibition of films and documentaries it compares the past with the present, history with current affairs. It tries to explain why certain facts have occurred and what is and what has been, especially during the most difficult times, the relationship between people and the army.

The military documentary competition grants the opportunity to assess, from a technical point of view, the genre of film-making in the different countries. It offers the general public an inside view of the armed forces, of their life, of their history, of how they prepare to perform their tasks, as well as their activities for safeguarding peace and human rights in so many parts of the world.

2004 was the first time in the history of this international competition that the television unit of the South African National Defence Force College of Educational Technology (SANDF COLET) had the opportunity to enter this contest.

The core function of COLET is to provide military professional Educational Training and Development capabilities for the DOD by enhancing Education Training and Development (ETD) Quality Enablement and, in particular, the competence of DOD facilitators. To achieve this, COLET offers extensive consultations on the entire ETD process to its clients. This ETD process is used to determine the learning needs of the client and also how to address these needs.

In 2003 SANDF COLET decided to produce an educational animation video that explains the various phases or steps involved in the ETD process in a user-friendly manner. This multimedia product also had to serve as an important training aid during consultations and presentations. The COLET Multimedia Section consequently produced the educational animation video - "Partners in Competence" - in 2003 to explain the principles of ETD to its viewers.

This video promotes the SANDF COLET - the only ETD practitioner provider in the SA DOD which is accredited by SAQA - as an elite SANDF institution. It was therefore the logical choice to enter this video into the 2004 military documentary competition in Italy.

The competition was as tough as ever, with a total of 26 countries participating in the contest. COLET, however, literally stood its ground on foreign soil by winning one of the top five categories in this competition, namely that of Best Film in the Education Category for 2004. Delegates from COLET attended this year’s festival in Italy to represent this elite institution.
during the competition and at the awards ceremony. COLET was presented with the Bowl of Italian Navy General Staff for its winning entry. Suffice to say that COLET is indeed proud of this great achievement by its Multimedia Section. Having established itself over the past few years as a professional and competent Joint Training subdivision, COLET and its personnel truly are your partners in improving competence.

According to the COLET delegates who attended the event the international Competition of Military Documentaries definitely plays a significant role in terms of staying abreast with the latest storytelling techniques employed in the video production industry today. It also is an important forum by means of which we all can stay informed about the latest technology employed in this process.

"Partners in Competence" in Italy

By Col Marthie Visser

The Department of Defence delegation which attended the 15th International Military Film Festival consisted of Col Marthie Visser (the then Acting Director Defence Corporate Communication), Mr Enoch Mkhwanazi (Defence TV), Mr Deon Roux (COLET) and Mr Herman Thulare (COLET).

During the official opening of the competition, held at the Italian Defence Force's Cavalry School, Gen Giorgio Zucchetti (Ret), the Chairperson of the organising committee, referred to the event as "a festival with a noticeable international relevance, supported by the President of the Italian Republic, by the General Staff of the Italian Armed Forces and by the participation of so many delegations worldwide".

Interest in this festival has grown over the past years and has since spread over national and international borders. Gen Zucchetti added that the event has established itself "as an occasion for the exchange of experiences among the different military cinemas to show the history and traditions of the armies, their relationships with their own national societies, problems with recruitment, training systems and the operational activities involving humanitarian aid and peacekeeping carried out over the past few years in high-risk areas in several regions of the world".

Defence forces from 26 countries participated in this festival or competition. Delegations from 22 of the 26 countries attended the festival. Participating defence forces included: Turkey, Russia, Romania, Croatia, Switzerland, China, Korea, Canada, Pakistan, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Brazil, the USA, Finland, Germany and Austria. South Africa was the only country from the African continent that participated in the festival.

The DOD entered three productions, namely a corporate video production entitled: "Decade of Defence in Democracy" highlighting the DOD’s achievements and milestones over the past ten years, as well as two productions of the SANDF COLET entitled "Anyone of Us" and "Partners in Competence" respectively.

The competition was tough and this made the task of the panel of judges in selecting the best entries a very difficult one. The competition was concluded on 12 November 2004 and the results were eagerly awaited by all the delegations present.

The awards ceremony was presented on 13 November 2004 at the Italian Defence Artillery School. The DOD Team was delighted to receive the award for the best entry in the Training and Education category entitled "Partners in Competence". The production is an educational animation video that explains the principles of Education, Training and Development (ETD) to viewers. This video also promotes COLET as the SANDF institution with ETD as its primary focus.

Mr Karel van der Merwe from COLET produced the video. He is a producer, writer and director at COLET and has been writing, producing and directing educational and corporate videos since 1994.

Switzerland received the award as the overall winner with its entry "The Swiss Air Force" covering air operations by the Swiss Air Force.

The opportunity was well utilised to benchmark the writing and producing of audio-visual material and the technical aspects involved, eg sound and special effects. New relationships were built between defence forces and many ideas were exchanged with regard to these aspects and themes or topics for future productions. The exposure of members from the DOD’s audio-visual community to this very high level of expertise and professionalism is regarded as extremely valuable in enhancing their own capabilidade, innovativeness and creativity in developing products of equal standard for the DOD.
Taking the AIDS war to the streets

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Leonard Xaba

I am going to work and I am in a great hurry, said a Pretoria citizen as he agitatedly rushed off, making his way past SANDF members from Poyntons Building in Central Pretoria when they tried to educate him on AIDS. I understood perfectly how he felt, because discussing HIV/AIDS first thing in the morning is just no way to start one’s day, but it was World AIDS Day, a day on which to make an impact, and members of the SANDF were making the necessary noise.

Organised into twelve groups of eight persons each, members working at the Poyntons Building took to the streets of Central Pretoria to spread the message of 1 December 2004, World AIDS Day. They set off early in the morning to catch the morning rush and reach as many people as possible before they hide behind their office doors.

The SA SOLDIER team joined “Group 8” as they did work of a different kind that meaningful morning. Desperate times call for desperate measures and South Africans have run out of time as far as the AIDS pandemic is concerned, so off into the streets we went.

Members of “Group 8” under the leadership of Dlozi Phyllimon Msiza were Phillip Tsoari, Mpumelelo Success Ngeza, Benita Pull, Gloria Motsuenyane, Angy Molefe, Lydia Stevens and Antoinette le Roux. I mention them all by name, because little in the world surpasses what they did that morning.

The existence of HIV/AIDS has become common knowledge among South Africans because everybody on the streets seemed to be aware of it, but it is the part of this war against the disease that requires us to stay alert that “Group 8” was emphasising that morning. We may have been received differently by different individuals, but the important thing to mention is that everybody was reacting to the theme of this international day of celebration and the stark reality of the issue at hand.

Walking with this group of people ready to take on the world just to make a small contribution to the nation’s battle against HIV/AIDS was awe-inspiring.

People in the streets were geared up; everybody we came across knew that it was World AIDS Day. The surprise they were confronted with was a group of people with red ribbons and wanting to chat a little about HIV/AIDS. Booklets, pamphlets, red ribbons and condoms were handed out.

As I tagged along mesmerised by the whole event, I remember feeling strangely liberated; it was as though I was watching something finally happen, for real. There was something re-assuring about walking the streets, and educating people about HIV/AIDS. The group had no special programme, or any particular order of doing things and it presented no speeches - AIDS was being discussed as the common phenomenon it is.

HIV/AIDS is everyone’s problem and it is going to take a concerted effort to fight it. Members who took to the streets to educate people on AIDS risked imposing on people, not out of a lack of respect but on account of their determination to fight AIDS at all costs.

Let us unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We can clearly no longer afford to pass the buck.
Plain sailing

Fltr: Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, WO1 Jakes Jacobs, Sergeant Major of the SANDF, Col Christo van Wyk, the Officer Commanding of the School of Engineers, and Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, the Chief of the SANDF, sailing on a ferry on the Vaal River during their official visit to the School of Engineers in Kroonstad on 17 November 2004. The aim of the visit was to be informed about the military engineering training.

(Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)
Too many cooks spice up a broth! - At least that is what I picked up at the Inter Departmental Potjiekos Day held at Gerotec on 5 November 2004. There was chopping, shredding, mixing and throwing into the *potjie* and in an instant lids-on then lids-off.

The annual Inter Departmental Potjiekos Day originated in the eighties and has become quite an event where people come together, eat, drink and relax. There was so much food: *pojie* stands everywhere, charcoal smoke in the air and an open fire for those who had brought the ever Proudly South African three-legged *potjie*.

Cooking is a skill, but even more so an art. One little wrong ingredient will destroy the entire dish, too much time on the stove could be disastrous, as is too short a time. A stir too many or the direction in which you stirred can also destroy the airflow in the dish, and of course paprika and peri-peri are two different things, the list goes on.

Not to mention the fact that one’s attention span and ability to focus is less than 100% after a few cold beverages under the warm African sun, with courtesy from South African Breweries. Really, cooking is a delicate measure.

Therefore the wise thing to do is always to limit the number of people preparing a dish. This was not the case at this particular *potjiekos*; it seemed as though the more the helping hands the merrier, but the end result had to be good, without compromise.

Now, if you can get people who work together to cook a meal as a group and produce a delicious menu where nothing went wrong, that is team building, and if people go back for seconds it doesn’t get better than that. That is what the Inter Departmental *Potjiekos* Day is all about - teamwork.

Hosted by Armscor this year the event also seeks to promote good relations between the DOD and other organisations.

Gerotek, the venue provided, had appropriate outdoor facilities, many trees and lots of space, giving the event the necessary “fun” feeling. Participants were in-groups and had set up little tents that were sprawled all over the lawn.

Speaking to SA SOLDIER Mr Leon van Niekerk, Armscor Internal Auditor and Chairperson of the Organising Committee for the Inter Departmental *Potjiekos* Day, said the day was organised to network, but basically to have fun.

Also present and having a wonderful time was the DOD Inter Departmental *Potjiekos* Day representative, Mr Louis Nagel from the Financial Management Division, and he commented that the event was a good way for DOD officials to get to know each other outside of the office environment. This event, he said, also provided a great opportunity to mix with members from other Government departments, parastatals and private businesses.

This event originated as a competition between Security Services, including Armscor and the previous Infoplan (now called SITA). Currently added to the original group are the National Treasury, the Auditor General, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Labour.

“This is a way of building esprit de corps within the finance environment by getting the people out of the office to mix with people from other Government departments,” added Mr Nagel.

To make the *potjiekos* even more exiting a cooking competition is run annually for the best groups. They can win trophies for the best dishes prepared in the following categories: white/red meat, poultry, seafood and venison, including a team spirit trophy. The Budget Management (SAMHS) won the team spirit trophy last year.

Of the total of 97 *potjies* the DOD entered 28 *potjies*. The Secretariat for Defence (Financial Management Division team) walked away with the red meat, poultry and seafood trophies.

Tina du Plessis and Cathy Schubart represented the Secretariat for Defence (Financial Management Division).
Rewarded for an excellent job

The Airborne Africa 2004 Champions, a five-man team from 44 Parachute Regiment in Bloemfontein, received an early Christmas present from the SA Army Foundation when they were given a holiday voucher to visit any place of their choice with their partners.

On 18 November 2004 they had the privilege of meeting the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda, and Brig Gen McGill Alexander, the Master Paratrooper of the SANDF, who presented them with medals and congratulated them on a job well done.

"We are all going to Seapoint in Cape Town from 16 to 20 December 2004 to enjoy this holiday, because we deserve it," said Lt Hendrik Tigele, the team leader.

(Article by Lebohang Letaoana)


Tell Africa of our aviation heritage

By Lt Zola Nombida,
Corp Comm Officer SAAF Museum

The members on the African Intelligence Course from Defence Intelligence College visited the Air Force Museum on 26 October 2004.

The Course was attended by 25 members from sixteen different African States, viz Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The course members were given a briefing on the history of the SA Air Force and the Air Force Museum.

After the briefing members were accompanied on a tour of the museum.

At the museum visitors are exposed to the role played by the SANDF, the SA Air Force and the processes involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations.

In essence the tour was informative and enjoyable for the members.

They were fascinated by the aviation history of the SA Air Force, while others were moved by pictures taken during the Mozambique flood relief operation in 2000.

It is on occasions like these that our African colleagues get to appreciate the efforts made by the SANDF to make Africa safe for a prosperous future.

Water jump

Participants being picked up after enjoying awesome water jumps. On 12 November 2004, Rustfontein Dam near Bloemfontein was the place to be if you were an adrenaline junkie. 44 Parachute Regiment hosted this annual event and invited other units to participate in the water jumps. Maj Izak van Rooyen, the Officer Commanding of the Parachute Training Wing, said the aim of this event was to prepare and equip airborne soldiers with the necessary skills for water jumping. Most of the participants were from the Reserve Force.

(Photos: Cpl Leonard Xaba)
The Samil turns 25

By Lebohang Letaoana

The DOD Technical Service Unit hosted the 25th anniversary of the Samil vehicle range in Pretoria on 20 October 2004. It was a collaboration between the Support Vehicles Team of Armscor, the SA Army, the Samil Main Contractor and the Samil Dealer Network.

Although formal developments of the Samil began in 1979, the vehicle’s origins date back to 1974, when the Armament Corporation conducted various feasibility studies on the incorporation of a higher percentage of local content in trucks used by the South African Defence Force. Armscor’s intention was not only to increase South Africa’s self-sufficiency in this regard, but also to ensure maximum logistic support benefits for the Defence Force’s vehicles.

The Samil vehicle range, which consisted of Samil 20s, 50s, and 100s was equipped with mine protected and soft skin cabs, and more than 70 different types of superstructure were developed and fitted to satisfy the user requirements of the Defence Force. The process to renew the SA Army’s equipment has started and a request for offers has already been sent out for a new Infantry Combat Vehicle System and a new Support Vehicle System. This Support Vehicle System will eventually replace the SAMIL range of Vehicles currently in service with the SANDF,” said Mr Deon Smith, General Manager Acquisition of Armscor.

There is currently no formal phasing out plan for the Samil vehicle range and it is expected that Samil vehicles will remain in service for the next ten years.

Col Poerie van Wyk, SA Army Senior Staff Officer Technical Services, sitting on top of a Samil 100.
Happy anniversary to the Infantry Corps

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

It was fifty years ago that the Infantry Corps was established on 22 January 1954. The Formation started the year of its 50th celebrations with a memorial and dedication service at Fort Klapperkop in Pretoria, where the fallen Infantry were honoured. The next occasion for celebration was an Infantry Industry Symposium, which was held at 44 Parachute Regiment at Tempe in Bloemfontein on 11 and 12 November 2004. On the evening of 12 November the Corps members hosted a function at 1 SA Infantry Battalion for all infantry and invited guests. The aim of the Industry Symposium was to introduce the latest technologies and gadgets to the senior members of the DOD. The symposium was opened by Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde, the GOC SA Army Infantry Formation. "It gives me great pleasure to welcome the captains of industry to the 50th anniversary of the Infantry Corps. I have no doubt in my mind that this symposium will provide the Infantry Formation command cadre the opportunity to interact and network one-on-one with the Defence Industry and the organisations that provide the Infantry with the necessary expertise and technology to maintain its fighting capability," said Maj Gen Nkabinde. Companies such as Denel, ADS, New African Ventures, IST, FUCHS Electronics, Gallic Equipment, Naschem, Grintech, Defencetek and Land System OMC had the opportunity to make their presentations and display some of their equipment to the delegation. Addressing the delegates at the function Maj Gen Nkabinde said the Infantry Corps has further played a pivotal role in the guaranteeing of the safe passage of all aspects leading to a decade of democracy. The SANDF, also celebrating 10 years of existence, had bonded together through the achievements of the units and members of the Infantry Corps. The Infantry, focused on the task at hand, helped to integrate and transform not only the Infantry Corps, but also the SA Army for good measure. The challenges that the Infantry Corps faced over decades are not different from the challenges it faces today. Yet all the time the Infantry Corps proves its tenacity to function optimally with minimal resources at its disposal.

Infantry School upholds family ties

It is not without reason that Infantry School earned the name "Centre of Excellence". The school excels in training footsloggers for the SANDF, but also makes time available to develop its members socially and educationally.

Celebrating the International Year of the Family is but one pointer to the holistic approach of Infantry School in Oudtshoorn to empower its members.

On 1 October 2004 the school launched a family sports day on the premises of Infantry School. Instrumental in organising this family day was the Second in Command of the unit, Lt Col W.J. de Bruin, Chaplain (Dr) David Maasdorp, the Social Work Officer, Capt Monica Sityata, and the Communication Officer, Lt Lulamile Ntuli.

After weeks of preparation, staff members and their families assembled at the sports grounds for this occasion. The sports day was duly opened by the Acting Officer Commanding, Lt Col Deon van der Horst, on behalf of Col Xolani Mankayi, who was out of town on duty.

The Chaplain addressed the parents on "How to raise children successfully". Thereafter the crowd was entertained by dancers.

The RSM, WO1 Jock Botes, and WO1 Cassie Coetzee took the families on a "big walk". The crowd also participated in various sports items, which they enjoyed very much.

While members were busy with various sports items, WO1 Durell Marx and his team were busy preparing for the hungry and tired bodies. Members were well served, which helped them to recuperate their tired bodies and to relax. The day ended with gifts being given to the winning team of the day.

Although there was only one winning team, all participants are in fact winners, because the spirit that prevailed during the day was characterised by a deep sense of gratitude and fellowship among the members of Infantry School. (Article by Cpln (Dr) David Maasdorp)
looked at the job description in the advert and I strongly felt that it was something to which I could contribute positively,” said Ms Dudu Mutloane, the new Chief Director Financial Services (Financial Management Division), speaking to SA SOLDIER on her successful application and appointment thereafter.

“Throughout my life and my academic career I have always been a person who has been striving to achieve much more than what I had. With the opportunities that the Government has given us, and with transformation on the national agenda I find myself wanting to contribute," said Ms Mutloane.

Ms Mutloane has been tasked to lead the Chief Directorate in a strategic way, ensuring compliance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), take control of the audit process, as well as to look at risk management and loss systems.

“This is a completely new environment to me. I have been mainly in the banking industry so Defence is very new. The terminology and the language is new, but financial principles are universal,” she said.

“I have never worked in an environment where I have had to ensure compliance with the Public Finance Management Act before. That is one of the new things that I have to fully get up to speed with,” Ms Mutloane continued. “I am going to look at the systems and procedures that are in place and see how they can be improved for us to achieve the strategic objectives of my directorate.”

She has worked mainly in the banking industry, where at one point she handled a portfolio of clients worth approximately R4 billion in the Corporate Division; she also looked at softer issues pertaining to her clients. She later moved to the Retail Finance Division within the same bank. She also worked for the Currency Management Division of the Reserve Bank where she looked after all seven branches of the bank spread across the country.

“New challenges and an enabling environment inspire me to think and come up with new ideas and ways of doing things,” she added. “In the private sector I have been involved mainly in credit management, risk management, compliance and audit. I was an articled clerk with Deloitte and Touche, one of the big firms in the country, and I am bringing with me all that experience,” Ms Mutloane said, revealing her capabilities.

Ms Mutloane has a B.Com Degree and she majored in accounting, auditing taxation and financial management. She then went on to do an MBL (Master of Business Leadership with Unisa).

“I started working as a temporary cashier earning about fifty rands per week and I have worked myself up through life. I have pushed myself with the support of my family, friends and my husband,” she said. “I am not a person who gives up easily.”

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**Clients of Service Corps excel**

Fezile Moses and Mpofu Sabate joined the Service Corps’ Regional Office Port Elizabeth in February 2000. Fezile did a Garment-making and a Code 10 Driver’s Course in East Londen by using opportunities provided by the Service Corps. Mpofu did a Business Management and Human Resources Course at the Academy of Learning.

In January 2002 after Fezile and Mpofu had completed their courses, the Service Corps’ Regional Office in Port Elizabeth arranged for them to join the "Working for Water” Project in Port Elizabeth where they both worked as contractors. They worked as eliminators of invasive alien vegetation between January and April 2002 when their contract expired.

Fezile established a Closed Corporation (CC) in June 2003, called Momotheka (which means smile) Enviro Chain Saws. As the head of this CC, he worked to eliminate alien vegetation. In June 2004 he received his first contract with "Work for Water”. Fezile employed nine people, including Mpofu as the project co-ordinator. They are currently busy with the elimination of alien vegetation for "Work for Water” in Port Elizabeth. This project with “Work for Water” is of an ongoing nature.

The Service Corps’ Regional Office Port Elizabeth is proud to be associated with Fezile and Mpofu and is glad that the Service Corps could have been of some assistance in their careers. We wish them well with their success so far and hope that Momotheka Enviro Chain Saws CC will go from strength to strength. (Article by Maj M. van Staden, Service Corps’ Regional Office PE)
Taking great leaps

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

Ms Reshma Mathura is the new Director Financial Control Services in the Financial Management Division of the Defence Force. She was previously with the South African Police Service (SAPS) where she worked as a Deputy Director. Ms Mathura has now been performing in her new post since 1 August 2004.

Basically what Ms Mathura does as Director Financial Control Services is risk management, audit report management and compliance management. Speaking to SA SOLDIER the 27-year old Chartered Accountant (CA) expressed excitement about the challenges in her new environment. “It is all so different, but it is a challenge,” she said assertively.

“I come from a purely financial and auditing background. At the SAPS I was in internal auditing specifically and I have now jumped to financial management. The focus on financial management is very different in Defence,” she added.

“The management style in Defence itself is very different and so is the culture; other than merely adjusting to the work you must also adjust to the mindset of the organisation,” she added. “I think the biggest challenge for me so far has been learning the ranks.”

“Apart from that it is going very well. I have a lot of support - my Chief Financial Officer has been very supportive, and even the staff have been extremely helpful and have endeavoured to guide me,” she said.

With reference to her age she remarked: “So far I have not had a problem, not directly anyway, nobody has ever questioned my judgement because of my age.” Why the Defence Force I asked” and she replied: “You know, when you go for an interview you get that vibe. It is just something you get at an interview. Well, I opted for the Defence job over others,” she revealed. “It is not easy going. It is something where you can make a difference, it gives me great pleasure, I enjoy what I do and can always go home feeling and saying that I have learnt something today,” said Ms Mathura. “What inspires me is success and achievement. I would like to make a successful career in Government.”

She matriculated in 1994 at Tongaat Secondary School in KwaZulu-Natal, then did her B.Com at the University at Natal. “I am not one of those high fliers. I have never really been good academically, I have just been an average student,” she claimed.

For personal reasons Ms Mathura continued to do her degree part-time together with her articles. She then obtained her B.Com and went on to do her Honours. She obtained her CA qualifications last year. Sporting a red dot on her forehead just between her eyes, Ms Mathura explained to me that she was a Hindu, and according to custom married women wear the red mark as a symbol of their married state. “It is my culture and is something I like sharing with everybody and my husband likes to see me with my red dot,” she elaborated.

“My parents always told me to finish my studies and then get married, but life does not always work out the way you planned,” she added.

Ms Mathura has been married for four years to Sagren Munsami. “My husband has been my rock and my parents my inspiration,” she concluded.

Donation for persons with disabilities

A cheque of R5 182-60 was handed to Mr R.S.E. Erasmus, CEP of the Curamus Association, at the SA Air Force HQ Unit on 15 October 2004. It was an absolute honour and privilege to celebrate ten years of service of persons living with disabilities.

“Thank you once again to the SA Air Force HQ Unit and Corporate Communication members for your support of persons living with disabilities over the years. Without your generous contributions we would never have been able to create awareness among the public and make this project the success it is. Every cent received will go directly to somebody living with a disability. The continuous support of the SA Air Force HQ Unit Corporate Communication members ensures that more people learn about our very important function within the community,” Mr Erasmus concluded.

The members of Corporate Communication Section at the SA Air Force HQ Unit wish to thank all the individuals who assisted and supported with Casual Day activities. Judging by the support received, it is clear that there are many individuals willing to support the people living with disabilities. (Article by Maj Mogorosi Morake, Corp Comm Officer SAAF HQ Unit)
Maj Gen A.C. Hurribunce, Chief of Command and Management Information Systems Division, congratulates the following four PSAP members on parade, fltr: Mrs L.E. Elf, Mr R.G. Mmisi, Mrs K.L. Moalusi and Mr B.K. Mosala. (Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

Our nation depends on strong families

Maj Gen A.C. Hurribunce, Chief of Command and Management Information Systems Division, together with Brig Gen A.R. Cumming and Brig Gen M.S. Brazzoli, presented medals to uniformed and PSAP members during a medal parade held at Military Base Wonderboom on 3 November 2004. The medals were awarded to members for good services rendered. In his address Maj Gen Hurribunce said that the nation was dependent on strong families. He told the recipients that they should wear their medals with pride, and in this way also honour their families. He stated that medals should not be worn just to be seen by others, but that the recipients should strive to live according to the Code of Conduct and that honour, integrity, courage and dignity should be part of their lives at work, as well as at home. He emphasised that the conduct of members in the normal course of their daily routine should always reflect the fact that they have deserved to be awarded these medals. Maj Gen Hurribunce thanked the family members of all the recipients for their support and said that a stable family was essential to the stability of our nation.

(Article by Lt Col Hettie Cronje, SO1 Corp Comm CMIS Div)
The Service Corps Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) has realised the importance of computer training and it is currently training people for the International Computer Driving License (ICDL), a certificate that states what the holder can do. The ICDL is an internationally recognised outcomes based qualification that serves as proof of one’s ability to use a computer and its most important applications.

CAT has been presenting the course since October 2002 in an attempt to keep abreast of a technologically constantly advancing world. The ICDL is regarded as the benchmark of performance that large multinational companies expect of employees. The ICDL is offered and recognised in over 135 countries.

The ICDL Trainer and Chief Instructor at CAT, S Sgt Teresa Kunz, explained to SA SOLDIER that the course covers seven Microsoft modules, varying from basic concepts of information technology, using a PC and managing files, word processing, spreadsheets, database, presentation and information communication.

"The word driving has so many meanings and this is about driving (operating) the computer," said S Sgt Kunz. "Worldwide there are now hundreds and hundreds of training centres in different countries that now present the course as the standard for basic end user qualifications."

"We know exactly what a person is able to do when he has this qualification," said S Sgt Kunz. She added that the ICDL increases career opportunities and also allows mobility within business and across work environments.

The DOD, by sending personnel on this course, is in actual fact enhancing the productivity of the employees and thereby improving chances of employment. "The Service Corps usually only trains people either exiting from the SANDF or being transferred to other Government departments, but at this stage we have opened this course to all serving DOD members because we have a shortage of clients," said S Sgt Kunz.

"We have had a very good pass rate. Only one or two have been sent back to their home units, either because of a personal request or because of policy," she said.

The course is seven weeks (maximum time allowed) long. Some people are able to complete the course in two weeks. "It is up to the individual - you work at your own pace. We are not working according to a block programme," she said. Each class consists of twelve students and an instructor.

The course is managed in conjunction with the German Department of Defence, which provided the cost for ICDL registration fees from October 2002 until the end of 2004. It is the sole sponsor of the equipment, such as 60% of the computers, server, network components, training and test software. The contract between the South African and the German DOD has also resulted in the provision of a German Advisory Group, which consists one Officer and four Sergeant Majors, who specialise in the directions: motor mechanic, electronic, welding, fitting and turning and in computing. Oberfeldwebel (German rank) Christian-Wilhelm Fischer is the German Advisor in the Computer Section. His task is to choose the equipment which is needed in the Computer Section and bought by the German funds to administrate and keep the network and server running, as well as to manage the section with S Sgt Kunz and to support the CAT if help is needed. He is also the ICDL Test Supervisor of the CAT.

The CAT will not continue with the ICDL Course, but will offer an accredited course according to the National Qualification Framework (NQF) as soon as the CAT will be accredited by SAQA.
Clergy visit the fleet

Article and photo by Able Seaman Jacqueline Pietbooi, MSD student in Simon’s Town

Altogether 52 clergymen and women, including members of the Naval Chaplain Advisory Board and the Security Services Christian Advisory Board, paid a visit to the SA Navy on 20 October 2004. The former Chaplain General, Ambassador F. Gqiba, and Adm J. Mudimu, our new Chief of the SA Navy (the then Chief of Naval Staff), developed the idea of inviting various church leaders to visit the SA Navy. The aim of the visit was to inform the clergy about the SA Navy so that they could go back to their communities and spread the word.

The clergy were chosen because of the leadership role they play within the communities they serve. Clergy are religious and spiritual leaders, teachers and interpreters of their traditions and faith. When not conducting worship services, clergy organise, supervise, and lead religious education programmes for their congregations.

R Adm (JG) M.H. Magalefa, the Director Navy Review Co-ordination and Implementation, said that they had invited various groups such as businessmen, politicians and now church leaders to expose them to the Navy. They wish to invite more groups from now until April 2005. Other ways of introducing the SA Navy to the people are the tours that the Public Relations Department conducts, as well as the setting up of displays and entertaining communities with performances by the SA Navy Band. The Band has just completed a tour to Kimberley and Bloemfontein - areas where the people did not know much about the SA Navy.

The visit started at Waterfall Barracks, where Capt L. Msengana welcomed everybody. They mingled and enjoyed stand-easy (morning tea). Thereafter, the group visited the Diving Centre. There they were briefed by the Officer-in-Charge, Commander Shaun de Boer. They also saw the enablement-training divers do some strenuous exercises in the rain. Rev M. Makumsha commented that he wanted to be a diver so that he could trade in his “round belly for rock hard abs”.

After that, Capt Roger Allingham, Senior Staff Officer Fleet Plans, gave a briefing about the role the SA Navy plays in protecting South African maritime interests.

A trip to sea on board the SAS ISAAC DYOBHA was, despite the pouring rain, enjoyed by all. Some had never sailed before and described it as an unforgettable experience. Last but not least was the tour on the SAS MENDI, one of the four new Valour class patrol corvettes.

Bishop A. Hefkie of the Methodist Church of South Africa said that he had gained a lot of knowledge concerning the SA Navy and that he would impart it to his clergy and his church’s youth.

Capt Allingham and Lt Cdr Victor Jack facilitated the visit and did an excellent job. R Adm (JG) Magalefa also thanked all involved. He specifically mentioned the galley staff of Waterfall Barracks for the excellent stand-easy and the Naval Base Simon’s Town Wardroom for preparing a wonderful lunch.
Sergeant Major modified a mower

It is not exactly all people who, after completing their normal daily tasks, sit and do nothing. Some go the extra mile to improve the situation in their workplaces and do something extra out of their own pockets. WO2 Dries Brummer is one of these people. Having been at 4 SAI Bn for a long time and being mainly involved in the maintenance side of the unit, he saw an opportunity to modify one of the unit’s kudu mowers - “boskapper”. The operator of the mower can now, as a result of the modifications of WO2 Brummer, sit and operate the mower with little or no physical effort. Mobility is thus improved and the mower now covers a large area in a short time. WO2 Brummer did not tamper with the Kudu’s original operating system, but only added the rear mobile end. By converting an old tractor’s seat, fitting it with an axle and two wheels, aligning the mower and extending a towing arm, which was then attached or hooked to the rear of the mower. It all started when WO2 Brummer saw his men struggling to get the job done because the other machinery was either in for service or repairs. After a few hours and much labour spent on the mower, a replacement for the unserviceable machines was born. 4 SAI Bn is very grateful to you, “Oom Dries”, keep up the good work.

(Article by S Sgt Mike Malaza, SO3 Comm 4 SAI Bn)
The South African Army Foundation

By Maj Elize Lizamore, PRO and Comm Officer SA Army Foundation

The past couple of months in the history of the SA Army Foundation were very exciting. The SA Army Foundation welcomed its new general manager, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, in April 2004, and also appointed its new financial manager, Ms Jabu Mogadime.

The SA Army Foundation held an emotionally charged farewell function for Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano, the then Chief of the SA Army and Controlling Authority of the Fund, in July 2004 when he retired from service. We at the SA Army Foundation are pleased to congratulate and indeed welcome Lt Gen Solly Shoke as the new Chief of the SA Army. Lt Gen Shoke in his new role as the Chief of the SA Army will also be the new Controlling Authority of the SA Army Foundation.

Honest to its mission of serving its members in a true spirit of Batho Pele, the SA Army Foundation sees itself playing a supportive role in improving the quality of life in the Army environment. It is for this reason that various and diverse activities are supported and indeed sponsored nationally. To illustrate our role in this regard, we have highlighted some of the activities. A successful soccer tournament was held at the Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane. The SA Army Foundation awarded trophies and medals to the winners. Then there was the annual WO’s and NCO’s Competition held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg over the period 1 to 4 September 2003. This prestigious event was sponsored by the Foundation. The competition consisted of six categories: fitness, shooting, drill, neatness, military knowledge and an orientation exercise, where the rank groupings of lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants and warrant officers competed against each other. The Training Formation was the overall winner with three winners out of the five categories.

The SA Army Foundation has been associated with the Military Academy since its inception. It is with pride that the Foundation supports excellence by rewarding the best performing learner. Among these was the recipient of the Best Student Award of the Military Academy, our very own Maj Gen Johan Jooste, the current Chairperson of the Board of Control of the SA Army Foundation. The student who excelled most during his four years of studies at the Military Academy and who was awarded the prize at the end of 2003 was Capt J.D Quma. Capt Justice Quma averaged an academic result of 67% and an average of 83% for physical fitness. Capt Quma is originally from 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom. He was a very well mannered and disciplined student, who passed his weekly inspections with flying colours. Capt Justice Quma has a passion for soccer and when he has any spare time he either participates in the...
sport, or is an enthusiastic spectator. It is a privilege and honour for the SA Army Foundation to be associated with the Military Academy, where the cream of South African soldiers are bred. The SA Army Foundation will once again be present in person to reward the best performing learner of the Military Academy for 2004. Good luck to all the students!

At the annual National Day for Persons with Disabilities, the SA Army Foundation also offered a helping hand to people with disabilities who serve in the Department of Defence. The SA Army Foundation is committed to enhancing the lives of all its members and supports all members, regardless of creed, gender or religion. The Directorate of Equal Opportunities and Gender Issues acted as hosts at the Waterkloof Air Force Base where the SA Army Foundation handed out T-shirts to the participants. It was with gratitude and appreciation that the Foundation could be part of this well organised and purposeful event under the baton of Maj Gen Jackie Sedibe, the Chief Director Equal Opportunities.

Another opportunity where the SA Army Foundation supported its members was in Bloemfontein. Altogether 37 of the choir members of ASB Bloemfontein received new uniforms, sponsored by the Foundation, in the colours of the cheetahs. The choir performs at various events such as medal parades, National Women’s Day and choir festivals. The most recent competition in which the choir participated was at the Central Park Shopping Mall in Bloemfontein from 21 to 22 October 2004. Pride and confidence is evident during performances of the choir and the Foundation is honoured to be associated with GOC, Brig Gen M.M. Moadira, and his special unit.

It was Napoleon who said: "An army marches on its stomach". True to this statement, the SA Army Foundation extended its support even further by assisting Provost School on 14 May 2004 in sponsoring their "Potjiekos" competition. This competition was held to equip the Provost School with new up-to-date lecturing facilities and to renovate lecture rooms.

Sponsorships of the SA Army Foundation are approved by its Board of Control. Criteria for sponsorships are mainly based on the following guidelines:

- During February of each year:
  - Sponsorships of units according to an annual sponsorship plan.
  - A reserve to be utilised for unforeseen and deserving exigencies.
  - The Board of Control must authorise ad hoc sponsorships in deserving cases.
- The following factors are considered by the Board of Control when approving requests:
  - Only for benefits that the State does not provide, eg recreational or social.
  - Must be marketing related to promote the image of the SA Army and the SA Army Foundation. The sponsorship must be well published or advertised.
  - Groups rather than individuals should benefit.
  - The amount approved will be based on the number of members of the SA Army Foundation in the units and the support and assistance that the unit gives to the SA Army Foundation.
  - Material goods, eg soccer jerseys, rather than cash may be provided.
  - No private organisations may be sponsored.
- The SA Army Foundation offers various products, services and benefits to its members at affordable rates, such as group life assurance for a member at R15-00 premium per month for R10 000 life or disability cover. For a minimum premium of R30-00 per month a member and his or her spouse receive life or disability cover for R20 000 (R10 000 for a member and R10 000 for a spouse). For further information contact the SA Army Foundation at tel no: (012) 673 9440/1 or visit the website at: www.armyfoundation.co.za or contact your local SA Army Foundation representative.

For more than a decade the SA Army Foundation’s membership fee has remained at R5-00 per month. As From January 2005, membership fees will be increased to R10-00 per month. The increase is due to the ever rising cost of living and inflation. Membership fees still remain good value for money and provide access for members to many cost-effective and affordable products, services and benefits.

The SA Army Foundation’s Head Office is situated in Savannah Park in Clubview, Centurion, just off the Old Johannesburg Road, and was originally the first Wierda Bridge Police Station. The site belonged to a farmer, Mr Henricus Lorentz in the early 1900s. The SAPS occupied the premises until 1985 when the station moved to its current premises. The SA Army Foundation is there to assist and lend a helping hand to all its members, their families and relatives in order to build a better future and to enhance the quality of lives of all by being committed to the true spirit of Batho Pele.
Celebrating International Children's Day

3 November 2004 was a special day for the children of the AFM Revival Centre attached to a church in Atteridgeville. It was International Children’s Day and they enjoyed every minute of it with the military HIV/AIDS Care Group of Poyntons Building.

Part of our 2004 annual programme was to pay a courtesy visit to a children's home to celebrate International Children’s Day. The chosen place was the AFM Revival Centre. The church and the women of the ministry have three day care centres in the area. The centres accommodate underprivileged children, including some HIV/AIDS infected children that have nowhere else to go.

Apart from the smaller children, the women also take care of a number of older children who lost their parents in the pandemic or some other illness. Mrs Josephine Ndala, the wife of the Pastor, admits that it is difficult to cope with the increasing demands and needs of the children. The children waited patiently for the group to arrive. They enjoyed being fed and spoiled throughout the morning.

The Care Group wants to thank all members who were so kind to donate clothing and toys for the children. They were well appreciated.

The older children from the nearby attached day care centre were so proud to sing the National Anthem and some of their other songs for the visitors. The most sick child was the most lively and friendly and enjoyed every minute of the visit. She is a two-year old, who falls down after every second step, but laughter and fun was her game of the day. Her teenage mother who came to visit while the group was giving breakfast to the children clearly relaxed the strain on her face with a big smile, although she had been infected and was having to cope with this small bundle of joy while being unemployed. Luckily for her and the many other women who are in the same position is that there are still caring people in the community. The Poyntons Care Group would like to encourage other units to get involved in their communities to make a positive contribution in the fight against this deadly pandemic. (Article by Maj F. Ricketts, CJTRG)

Ho! Ho! Ho!

By Nomonde Vuthela

Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

It is always such a pleasure to be around children because they really know how to get down and celebrate life. With kids fun is fun and the Christmas party held by the SA Air Force HQ Unit at 68 Air School Sports Grounds in honour of every parentless child, put big smiles on many small faces.

One child fell, but as soon as the pounding music came on all was forgotten and it was party time.

This was the kind of function where the clown was the disc jockey (DJ) - spinning the turntables and performing tricks every now and then, much to the delight of the invited small guests.

Traditionally every year the SA Air Force HQ Unit holds a special Christmas tree party for children in need. This year seventy children from the Louis Botha Children’s Home were invited to come along and share in the Christmas spirit of giving.

There were jumping castles, presents for everybody, a braai and lots of food, with Father Christmas making a special appearance as the guest of honour - all the way from the North Pole.

“So many children do not have a Dad or a Mom and the unit members felt that if we could get sponsors then we could have a day for the children,” said WO2 Hester Steenkamp, the Chairperson SAAF HQ Unit Christmas Tree Function, to SA SOLDIER.

“This is the highest point on our calendar and we would like to call upon every person in the SA Air Force to do more and reach out to children.”

The Christmas Tree Function Committee would like to encourage other units to get involved in their communities to make a positive contribution in the fight against this deadly pandemic. (Article by Maj F. Ricketts, CJTRG)
Extend a helping hand

The Social Committee of the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing donated clothes to the Salvation Army in Pretoria West on behalf of the members of the unit at the end of last year.

This donation forms part of the impact of the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing on its society project. "The only way we can show that we care is by giving, because speeches are simply not enough," said one of the members of the social committee.

The saddest fact is that all such institutions can only make ends meet by obtaining donations in any form.

The staff of the Salvation Army expressed their gratitude for the kind gesture of the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing.

(Article by Capt B.S. Nobanda, Corp Comm Officer AF MDW)

"Voet van Afrika" Marathon

By Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for "Voet van Afrika" Marathon

Athletes experienced a marathon, a cross-country and a mountain climbing race all in one when they competed in the "Voet van Afrika" Marathon. Four races were presented over the weekend of 8 and 9 October 2004, including a 4 km fun run on 8 October, an evening event for the family. The 10 km race had a similar profile to its "big brother", the marathon. It was run partly through fynbos and through the farmlands in the district. The 21.1 km half-marathon was previously a women's race only, but is now an open race. As a half-marathon, it rightfully deserves to be counted as one of the best races in South Africa. The 42.2 km race is a cross-country run, mountain climb and marathon all in one. The mountain track is narrow, uneven and exhausting. The relief on reaching the summit is short-lived, followed as it is by a knee-jarring descent on to the tar road with little hills that seem to be never-ending, calling on all your reserves of energy and will. "It is here that the race is won or lost." This is the "Voet", not a race for the faint-hearted or personal best times. But with the spectacular views, the fynbos and the unrivalled Southern Cape hospitality, it was well worth the effort. The "Voet van Afrika" Marathon is the biggest event in the Western Cape and Bredasdorp in particular. There were approximately 3 500 competitors taking part in the 4 km, 10 km, 21.1 km and 42.2 km races. The Test Flying and Development Centre played a key role regarding facilities on the track and at the finish. Altogether 1 800 athletes completed the 21,1 km and 42,2 km race. Altogether forty runners of the SANDF completed the race, including athletes of the Reserve Force. In the 42.2 km race, the first SANDF athlete to cross the finish line was S Sgt Wellington Tshingane from GSB PE (AMHU). His overall position was 41st (±900 athletes) in a time of 03:07:57. In the second position was S Sgt Andre Japhta from AFB Langebaanweg with a time of 03:12:27 and overall 53rd position. Sgt Cecil Honiball of TFDC was third with a time of 03:15:19 and overall 62nd position. In the 10 km race the first SANDF athlete to cross the finish line was Sgt Efese Peter from 6 SAI Bn. His overall position out of ± 928 runners was 135th in a time of 01:37:00. The first woman for the SANDF was Janet du Plooy of Western Province Athletic Club (Simon's Town Naval Base) in a time of 01:43:13. In the second position was F Sgt M. Franse from TFDC with a time of 02:02:00. In the 10 km race the first SANDF athlete to cross the finish line was Sgt Efese Peter from 6 SAI Bn. His overall position out of 1 000 competitors was 32nd in a time of 36 min 25 sec. In the second position was WO2 Bramville Jefferies from AFB Ysterplaat with a time of 49 min 22 sec and overall 41st position. The first SA Air Force woman was Mrs F.N. Farao from AFB Langebaan in a time of 61 min and 31 sec. The headwinds on the day of the race and light rain forced the athletes to run slower times than expected, especially in the 42.2 km race, which was run partly on gravel roads. The SANDF had a special stand at the Bredasdorp Sports Grounds where all the families and friends of the runners got together to watch the race as the runners entered the stadium. Col Zirk Lourens who completed his first "Voet van Afrika" Marathon (42,2 km) in a time of 03:44:00 and who finished in the 194th position also liaised with the management of the "Voet van Afrika" Marathon to give the SANDF maximum exposure.

Runners carefully watching their steps.

(Article by Capt B.S. Nobanda, Corp Comm Officer AF MDW)
On 24 November 2004 the SANDF hosted the annual Sports Awards ceremony at the Ubuntu Kraal in Soweto to salute the sportsmen and women of the DOD who have performed exceptionally well in their respective sporting codes.

The guests were welcomed by the Director of Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (PTSR), Brig Gen Lindile Yam. "A function such as this one today is certainly a highlight on our sports calendar, and those being recognised today deserve it all and more. However, let us not forget all those other faithful and loyal members of our sports clubs and organisations who participate on a regular basis for the pure enjoyment that they get out of it. They are indeed the backbone of our sports disciplines, and without them we would not be able to fly our flags as high as we do," said Brig Gen Yam.

The awards were divided into fourteen categories and Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Surgeon General and the Chief Functionary representing the Chief of the SANDF, handed over the awards. He was assisted by Brig Gen Yam.

Altogether 25 Special Merit Awards in Team Sports Codes and Individual Sports Codes were awarded. Maj A.J. Kok from SAMHS Training Formation was chosen as the Veteran Sportsman in Individual Sports Codes for karate, while the Veteran Sportswoman in Individual Sports Codes was Maj D. Heymans from 3 Military Hospital for athletics. The Sportsperson with Disabilities was S Sgt J.S.S. de Beer from 1 Military Hospital for table tennis. The Sports Administrator was Col (Rev) M. Cornelissen, the Chaplain General, for rugby. The Sports Official in Team Sports Codes was WO1 E.C. Daniels from GSB Younghfield for rugby. The Sports Official in Individual Sports Codes was Maj M.J. Masondo from AFB Bloemspuit for athletics. The Sportsman in Team Sports Codes was Cdr J. Martin from Naval Base Simon’s Town for sailing. The Sportswoman in Team Sports Codes was L Cpl L. du Pisanie from 1 Tank Regiment for rugby. The Sportsman in Individual Sports Codes was F Sgt D.F. van Tonder from 1 Air Supply Unit for pistol shooting. The Sportswoman in Individual Sports Codes was Lt Cdr Henriëtte Möller from Fleet Command HQ Unit for judo/kurash. Rugby was voted as the Sports Code of the Year, based on the evaluation system used by the SANDF PTSR Advisory Board.

The Regional Military PTSR Council of the Year was Potchefstroom Region. This was determined by the evaluation system used by the SANDF PTSR Advisory Board.

Paying homage to the recipients Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg said: "You have proved that the SANDF boasts members of superior physical and psychological abilities and talents. You are now regarded as representatives of a professional military force, which commands and deserves international respect, and you need to know that your colleagues in the SANDF are proud of you," said Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

Entertainment was provided by traditional dancers, who kept the audience in stitches with their exotic moves.

They went for gold.

Fltr: Lt Cdr Henriëtte Möller, S Sgt Hansie de Beer and F Sgt D.F. van Tonder.
Historical soccer triumph

The soccer team of Air Force Base Langebaanweg celebrated its victory with great exuberance. The players made history by winning the annual SA Air Force Soccer Championships. Twelve teams participated in the tournament, which was held at Air Force Base Ysterplaat in Cape Town over the period 11 to 15 October 2004. The team from the West Coast, with team captain Lt Nicolas Tshihomu leading from the front, convincingly won the final against Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing from Pretoria 4-1. The goals were scored by Lt Tshihomu (3) and Cpl “Tso” Morolong (1). The team, coached by Lt Riaan Johnson, started the week on a high note by demolishing Air Force Base Overberg from Bredasdorp 7-0. The goals were scored by Lt Tshihomu (3), Sgt Dingela (2), Cpl Mahlangabeza and Cpl Morolong. Further victories over Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria as well as the Air Force Gymnasium ensured a semi-final clash with 68 Air School, which was the tournament favourite. With precise execution of its game plan and excellent all-round performances by veterans, Sgt Shaun Arnolds (37) and Sgt Sputla “2010” Kamana (41), Air Force Base Langebaanweg came out winners against the young guns from Pretoria with a 2-1 victory. This hard fought victory ensured the final showdown with Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing - a match which was won comfortably. At the awards presentation Air Force Base Langebaanweg was awarded the Referee’s Fair Play Trophy and Lt Tshihomu received the Golden Boot Award as the top goal scorer of the tournament with eight goals scored. Topping an excellent performance, Lt Tshihomu, Cpl Morolong, Cpl Nunwana and Cpl Kobo were selected to form part of the SA Air Force Team, with F Sgt Marteno Boltney selected as the team manager.

(Article by Lt Riaan Johnson)

Our soldiers made us proud abroad

By Cpl N.F. Monnye, Fireman GSB Pietersburg, Limpopo

People talk less about good things. I was deployed with fellow South African soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Kindu. I was stationed at Basoko Base over the period 12 November 2003 to 5 May 2004.

I would like to express my humble praise of SA women’s soccer, which made its mark in the history of the SANDF. The women’s soccer team was the first to be formed outside the borders of South Africa. This team distinguished itself and proved that soccer was no longer a male sport only and that no-one is too old to learn. I hope that the destitute community of Kindu misses you, as I do - what you portrayed reflects the highly professional SANDF and also the beautiful rainbow nation of Africa. The team played three games against local teams. They won the first game 1-0 and the second game 3-1 on different occasions. During the last game the stadium was filled with supporters of both teams, particularly the Congolese. By 15:00 both teams were in the field ready for the kick-off. The SA women’s team had only eleven players, with no reserves because of guard and detached duties of the other women. This was a big advantage for the young energetic team of the DRC, known as “Chipolopolo” meaning bullets. Within five minutes Chipolopolo was ahead with two goals. As a coach of the SA women’s team, I had to tell the referee to reduce the time because our players were very tired in that hot weather. When the referee blew the final whistle the score was 5-0 against us. It was very tough. The local radio station, Radio Okapi, broadcast the game. Even though we lost the game, our players were very excited because they played the game irrespective of whatever problems they had. To the women, thanks for your co-operation and participation. You are indeed true ambassadors of South Africa. You made us proud and proved that variety is the spice of life. Again special thanks to Sgt Matsane from 43 Brigade who was always there for us and many others who made the game possible. May God bless you all.
Walking in Parys

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Cpl Leonard Xaba

Everything about Parys, a small town in the Free State, justified why the "INTLABA MKHOSI" a three-day walking event was held there. Running from 14 to 16 October 2004 the walking competition organised to start and finish at the Parys Commando HQ was exactly what the doctor ordered for everybody involved.

The photographer, Cpl Leonard Xaba, and I drove down to cover the event. I should have known when the vegetation changed for the better as we drove towards Parys that I was in for a few pleasant surprises.

First thing in the morning, refreshed, full of zest and ready to do the walk of life, Cpl Xaba and I joined the participants and organisers of the "INTLABA MKHOSI" walking event at the Parys Commando HQ where the majority of participants were billeted.

Spirits were very high when we got there. I believe everybody waking up in that small town rises well. Who would not with birds chirping away bidding the townfolk to wake up and smell the morning air, including this strong odour from the grass that filled the walkers’ canvas tent camp.

The first group of people that we came into contact with was the team from Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. It felt good to see familiar faces from back "home" - we were not lost after all. Immediately after, we came across first timers, the GSB Kroonstad team resting in their tent. Each member was enjoying a plate of "pap and vleis" after the first of the three-day events, a 27.5 km walk.

The weather was really good, the environment was tranquil and welcoming, and the participants were really happy to bring life to Parys. Sport remains a factor that will always bring people together in times of war or peace.

Appointed by the Chief of the SANDF as the Chairperson for the latest official sporting code of the SANDF, Col Wickus van der Linde, spoke to SA SOLDIER and said that the event was basically piggybacking the regional sporting events.

"This is a sport for mass participation in the SANDF," Col Van der Linde said. "We had to get a regional sports body to accept responsibility for the event and North West did. Logistically and for the walking infrastructure (routes) this is the best venue - Parys."

"Unfortunately time was not on our side, we should have started earlier, but the response in the end was excellent," continued Col Van der Linde. "The spirit here is wonderful; the guys are enjoying every minute of what they are doing and I think that as a force preparation sport this is what it is all about," he emphasised.

The only two regions not represented at the walking event were Mpumalanga and Limpopo. Also participating for the first time was the Reserve Force team from the Blouwberg Commando. Taking part as well was Maj Dalene Coetze, the second-in-command of the Two Oceans Commando in Cape Town, who is the first female second-in-command of a Reserve Force infantry unit in the country. "I am very satisfied," confessed Col Van der Linde.

The three beautiful trophies donated by Col Johan Wahl, a Reserve Officer in the Bloemfontein Regional Office, went to the Best Men’s Team - the Free State "A" Team - and the Best Mixed Team - the Free State "B" Team. The last of the three trophies was returned to Col Van der Linde’s office because no female team completed the three days intact.

After walking a total of 87.7 km, 201 walkers out of 236 saw the event to the finish. As Col Van der Linde put it: “May walking continue to bring us together."
n compiling this article I was confronted by the way we implemented integrated waste management (IWM) and what the textbooks referred to as sound IWM.

A textbook version for the definition of IWM can be given as the selection and application of suitable techniques, technologies and management programmes to achieve specific waste management objectives and goals.

The ASB Potchefstroom implemented processes in its Environmental Management Plan to reduce waste taken to the municipal landfill, recycling, training and education through community involved activities, and legal compliance with special consideration of industrial waste management as broad guidelines for IWM.

Waste in a base such as the ASB Potchefstroom is generated at a constant ratio through daily activities. A reduction in the cause and effect of waste are not always possible, but by reusing items rather than dumping them in waste bins proves to be quite a significant contributor to the reduction of waste. Reusing paper, containers and packaging for other purposes reduces waste. However, in a military community consisting of an official base area and a housing area the reduction of waste is not significant enough to reduce the impact on the local landfill. Industrial waste forms a critical part of the daily military activities, especially when workshops and transport areas are present. This aspect of IWM requires specific and sound management processes, including the use of external contractors.

Recycling is another process that significantly reduces waste that ends up on the municipal landfill. ASB Potchefstroom has established a recycling programme that includes the recycling of state paper and normal paper products, plastics and tin. Glass is also collected, but the scale of its collection is notably smaller than the other items mentioned.

Through initiatives and partnerships with industries, such as the Plastics Federation of South Africa (PFSA), ASB Potchefstroom has established three plastic recycling points in key areas, such as the SAMI complex, and in the base itself. Here all forms of plastics are collected and then stored for collection by the industries. Garden waste is dumped on the composting area for later use by ASB Potchefstroom.

Through an active marketing campaign linked to an educational programme many of the goals have been achieved. Signs were placed in the Base to educate and inform people. The personnel are trained to sort waste collected in the Base prior to final trips to the landfill site. The active marketing campaigns include clean-up activities where the military area and part of the main roads of the town are cleaned regularly in an effort to ensure a cleaner, greener, healthier and sustained environment.

The ABET Centre at ASB Potchefstroom presents an active skills and crafts class where reusable and recycled materials are transformed into crafts, such as plastic woven hats, mats, shopping bags, handmade paper and lanterns. Through this programme the members are shown new ways of ensuring a sustainable future.

The biggest notable spin-off is most probably the reduction in the number of trips on a daily basis made by each of the refuse trucks of ASB Potchefstroom. The ASB has two duty trucks which, prior to 2002, on average made three trips each per day to the local landfill. Since 2002 the trips have been reduced to two trips a day for each truck.

This in itself means an average saving of 260 trips per truck per year to the local landfill site. For a 5-ton truck the average weight of waste collected per trip is 2 tons. This in turn results in a reduction of 1 040 tons of waste dumped on the local landfill by ASB Potchefstroom alone.

The active recycling programme ensured a financial return of R7 141-41 to the B-7 account. Altogether 15 666 kg of paper was recycled in 2002. The recycling process and the interaction with the ABET Centre is an activity which can be measured through future successes of the learners to ensure sustainability.
A glance at DOD senior management at the end of our First Decade of Freedom

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Photo caption opposite page: Poster Photo.
Members of the Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC) 2004: fltr, front: Mr B.E. Ramfolo (Chief Acquisition and Procurement), Mr J.L. Gründling (Chief Finance Officer), Mr T.E. Motumi (Chief of Policy and Planning), Mr J.B. Masilela (Secretary for Defence), Gen S. Nyanda (Chief of the SANDF), Lt Gen G.N. Ngwenya (Chief of Joint Operations), Lt Gen S.Z. Shoke (Chief of the SA Army), Lt Gen R.J. Beukes (Chief of the SAAF), V Adm J.R. Retief (Chief SA Navy) and Lt Gen J.L. Jansen van Rensburg (Surgeon General).

Fltr, middle: Dr M. Ledwaba (Chief Director Human Resources Policy and Planning), Maj Gen P.R.F. Sedibe (Chief Director Equal Opportunities), Maj Gen T. Ntsibande (Chief of Logistics), Lt Gen S.Z. Binda (Chief of Joint Support), Lt Gen T.T. Matanzima (Chief of Corporate Staff), Lt Gen M.J. Motau (Chief of Defence Intelligence), R Adm C.H.D. Smart (Chief of Military Legal Services), R Adm R.A.S. Hauter (Chief Director Strategy and Planning), Maj Gen D.M. Mofokeng (Chief Director Corporate Communication) and Maj Gen A.M. Ntshinga (Chief of Joint Training).

Fltr, back: Mr V.B. Zambodla (Head of Communication, Ministry of Defence), Mr N.C. Sendall (Chief Director Defence Policy), Mr A. Visser (Chief Director Strategic Management), Brig Gen V.R. Masondo (PSO Chief of the SANDF), Brig Gen A. Luck (Acting Chief of Human Resource Support), Maj Gen M.K. Mokoena (Chief of the Service Corps), Col (Rev) Z.A. Makalima (Acting Chaplain General), Brig Gen J.M. Ledwaba (Chief of Military Police Agency), Mr P.M. Seboko (Officer Manager of Secretary for Defence, now transferred) and Ms S.B. Rabkin (Special Advisor to the Minister of Defence).

PDSC members who were not present when the photo was taken, shown at the top, fltr: Maj Gen A.C. Hurribunce (Chief Command and Management Information Systems Division), Maj Gen R. Andersen (Chief Defence Reserves), Brig Gen L.S. Mollo (Chief of Human Resource Support), R Adm (JG) G. Mphafi (Chief Director Foreign Relations), WO1 J.J. Jacobs (WO of SANDF), Brig Gen M. Cornelissen (Chaplain General), Maj Gen V.I. Ramlakan (Inspector General DOD), Mr H.S. Thomo (Chief Executive Officer, Armscor) and Mr S.T. Bam (Acting Officer Manager of Secretary for Defence).

The Health Walk

About 1 000 members of the DOD and some learners of local schools gathered at the Thaba Tshwane Town Hall in Pretoria on 1 December 2004 (World Aids Day) for a 5 km health walk. The Surgeon General, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, said the aim of this walk was to raise awareness and to show the people that the DOD take the HIV/AIDS pandemic seriously and that they will try everything in their power to educate, empower and promote a healthy lifestyle for the defence community. The walk took an hour and half, and after that it was time for the celebrations at a fully packed town hall. The SANDF Choir entertained the audience with their sweet voices. “The fight against HIV/AIDS needs us to hold hands together as we have done today. We must be united against this pandemic, support the infected and the affected. Enough is enough, no one will be infected anymore and we will continue to canvas for any trick in the book to prevent infection for those who have not yet been infected,” said Brig Gen A.P. Sedibe, the GOC 1 Military Hospital. There were also speeches from People Living With Aids (PLWA) and Phidisa, one woman who was brave enough to stand in front of the audience was Violet Mongwale from Bophelo Natural Concepts. She was diagnosed HIV in 1992 and in 1996 she was the first person to disclose her status in North West Province. In 1998 she had full-blown AIDS, but she manage to survive after taking ProPhilamune (immune booster medicine). After the trophies and medals were awarded our new Chaplain General Marius Cornelissen delivered his message. “Being HIV Positive does not mean that it is the end of your life. We as a Chaplain Service are committed to assist the infected and affected members of the DOD, who to us forms a relationship that requires an attitude of openness and receptivity to create a greater wholeness in the fight against the HIV pandemic,” concluded Chaplain General Cornelissen. 1 Military Hospital collected R3 500 by selling AIDS ribbons and the money was donated to the hospital’s hospice.
INTEGRITY

Do I...

have what it takes?

abstinence

be faithful to one partner

Six Moral Values

Moral Values empower you for life