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1st Edition
2005

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Chief of the Air Force farewell message

I am grateful that I can use the recently reinstated Ad Astra as a medium for communicating my final message as Chief of the Air Force to all members of the South African Air Force.

Reflecting on my forty years' service in the Air Force, I can say that I have had some wonderful and satisfying experiences in the air, in staff positions, in command positions and, ultimately, as Chief of the Air Force. It seems like only yesterday that I joined the Air Force Gymnasium and was selected for training as a pilot. I chose to serve in the Permanent Force and had the opportunity to obtain a degree at the Military Academy.

I spent the greater part of my flying career in the flying instructor and fighter lines and I am, to this day, grateful for having had this opportunity. Over the years I developed a great respect for the helicopter, transport and maritime crews who get the added satisfaction - that I never had - of participating in humanitarian operations. I have always admired the role played by the mission controllers during interception and aerial combat sorties, and that played by the ground crews who maintained the aircraft in which I flew. Behind these excellent men and women in the front line there is an equally competent second line of support personnel who have, over the years, done outstanding work behind the scenes.

"I spent the greater part of my flying career in the flying instructor and fighter lines and I am, to this day, grateful for having had this opportunity."

New equipment will soon be added to the inventory of the Air Force. This will pose new challenges that I know everyone is capable of meeting. I really envy the young people of the Air Force, as many excellent opportunities await them in the near future. I sincerely believe in the future of our beautiful country, and that of the Air Force. I believe that Vision 2012 is the right road for the Air Force but, most of all, I believe in the people of the Air Force.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Air Force Board, all directors, officers commanding and warrant officers at all levels, and each and every Air Force member, including the reserve force and civilian members, for their dedication and support during my term of office as Chief of the Air Force. I wish you all the best for the future.

Finally, I wish to say that serving as Chief of the Air Force for 5 years was a privilege, and serving the Air Force, the SANDF and our country was an honour. I thank our Heavenly Father for His protection and guidance over the entire period of 40 years that I spent in the Air Force and for granting me the privilege of being part of this wonderful organisation. May God bless all of you.

(R.J. BEUKES)
CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE: LIEUTENANT GENERAL



dear
Ad Astra
reader



PLEASE TAKE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR SAAF MAGAZINE AND SUPPORT US IN SERVING YOU AND THE AIR FORCE WITH PRIDE

To all the contributors: a heartfelt THANK YOU! We were amazed by the influx of articles we received. Please note that some articles may have to be kept over from edition to edition, depending, of course, on the number of articles that we can accommodate in each edition. Please do not let this stop you - keep sending them in.

The Ad Astra is making good progress with the establishment of a permanent editorial team and we hope that this will be realised in the near future. At this stage a few volunteers are putting the magazine together and for this we are very thankful.

By this time all the New Year's resolutions that you made have most probably flown out the window, but please keep us supplied with interesting stories and all your doings and other happenings.

The Head of Communications (HOC) of the DOD, Mr Zambodla, has appointed a task team to research and compile standardised guidelines for the management and co-ordination of periodicals in the DOD. This will have a direct influence on the content and layout of the Services' magazines. The corporate image of the Public Service, the DOD and the respective Services will have to be reflected in the periodicals in future.

This will definitely be the start of a new era in the Military Corporate Communication industry. We will keep you informed of all future changes and challenges in this functional domain. Do regular checks on the intranet - lots of changes are on the way. 2005 will be the year of communication in the SAAF.

To General Beukes: We thank you for your years of service and the way in which you have led us in the last five years. You and your wife are role models for the younger and older Air Force generations. We wish you and Mrs Beukes good health and prosperity. God bless you and your family for the future.

My personal thanks to all our dedicated readers; we appreciate your support. 🌍

Acting Editor, Lt Col Frans Schoombee - Acting SSO Corporate Communication.

Officer Commanding AFB Bloemspruit looks into the future



Col Z.F. Msimang, OC Air Force Base Bloemspruit

It is extremely humbling to be entrusted with the responsibility of commanding the effort of AFB Bloemspruit (AFB BSPT) to conform with the SAAF's Vision 2012 Transformational Strategy in every respect. As we strive for Helicopter Excellence at Bloemspruit, we know that this task can only be achieved if all the people serving on the Base adhere to the ethical compass and serve with honour, patriotism, loyalty and dignity.

A special word of gratitude goes out to the previous OC AFB BSPT, Col R.C. Johnsson, for having laid down an extremely solid foundation, which has determined the way forward. He ensured that we spent as much time as possible going through all the processes in great detail. This will benefit, firstly, the Base, which he cared for so much and, secondly, me, to gain greater perspective of the roles and responsibilities of this office in fulfilling its core functions and overcoming the challenges that still lie before us at AFB BSPT.

My message to both Defence Act and Public Service Act personnel serving at AFB BSPT is very simple - WE ARE GOING BACK TO THE BASICS - and that is in every aspect of our business. Our task requires a high-performance team that will work as a collective, a family marching to the same drum, a team whose members support each other in word and deed and work through disagreements with openness and humour. It is

my intention to ensure that the leaders at various levels have an understanding of emotional intelligence. Such leaders will be able to maximise the buy-in to the organisation's overall long-term goals and strategy.

Uniformed members need to understand that we are first and foremost soldiers and that discipline is non-negotiable. The Base has all the ingredients to make it the unit of excellence in the SANDF. It is only through standing together that we can achieve our shared vision: "Ex unitate pax" - through unity to peace.

I will be striving to ensure that the FSEs on the base are firmly pulled back into the folds of AFB BSPT and that the Command and Control responsibilities and affiliations between the Base, the FSEs and the System Groups are clearly defined and sanitised. 

Air Force Reserve recruits train

by Col L. Weyer

The Air Force Reserve (AFR) attracts three groups of people: those with previous military experience in the regular force, members of the non-statutory forces and those without any military experience. All members of the AFR need to have the basic regimental skills demanded of a soldier, and therefore need to undergo some form of training. The airman/airwoman who has exited the SAAF less than ten years before is currently not required to do any additional training. All other new volunteers, irrespective of military background, have to undergo an induction course where the required regimental skills are taught.

The curriculum for an AFR member is similar to that of the Regular Force candidate officer. The course extends over a period of eight weeks. Director Air Force Reserve (DAFR), in consultation with Director Education, Training & Development (DETD), decided to split the course into two phases of four weeks each to accommodate potential members who are still in full-time employment elsewhere. The first phase concentrates largely on personal conduct, wearing of uniform and parade ground training, but a PT period is a daily feature. Students undergo eight theoretical and three



Air Force Reserve students during practical drill

drill and physical fitness evaluations.

22 volunteers, with an average age of 37,4 years, reported for the first phase which commenced on 8 November 2004 at the AF Gymnasium. Members were treated as normal recruits and had to live in, stand for inspection and were granted visitation passes after the first two weeks. They were required to participate in sport; softball and swimming proved popular.

Course spirit was excellent and members who attended agreed that it was a worthwhile experience and they are looking forward to the second phase, commencing on 14 February 2005, when they will learn musketry skills and master the slow-march and other ceremonial drills. 🌐

JARIC reaching out a helping hand

Information by JARIC

The Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (JARIC) recently donated food, clothes, children's books and toys to the Centurion Child and Family Care Society. The items were donated in an effort to make the festive season more joyous and comfortable for the less privileged. The then Officer Commanding JARIC, Col Bill de Pinho, said the unit was committed to being actively involved in the community and assisting those less fortunate where possible. This was the second donation handed to the Centurion Child and Family Care Society this year. The donation was received by Nina de Caires and Helena Klopper on behalf of the society at JARIC, AFB Waterkloof, on 08 December 2004. JARIC has also donated books to the Paul Jungnickel Home and the Gunners and Engineers Village at Irene over the past few months. 🌐



Col Bill de Pinho with the Centurion Child and Family Care Society members



ABET Group

Air Force Base Overberg **cultural** day

by WO2 E. Hill

AFB Overberg held a cultural day on Friday 26 November 2004 under the leadership of Maj Gina Joubert. The concert consisted of the following programme:

The ABET group, 19 adult learners under the leadership of WO2 Erna Hill, opened the event with an educational item.

Next was an array of African cultures. Xhosa, depicted by Sgt Mayoyo, Zulu - Cpl Mhlongo, Pedi - Cpl Dikgale, Tswana - Amn Babedi, entertained the audience with traditional songs and dances. We were informed about different traditions, rituals and customs.



Members portraying African cultures

The third item was one on Asian culture, presented by Cpl Gertse. We were entertained by and enlightened with Asian music, dress and beliefs.



Colourful "Kaapse Klopse", with singing and dancing

The fourth item concerned the Coloured people. They came dressed colourfully as the "Kaapse Klopse", with singing and dancing. A poem about the typical lifestyle of the Coloureds was recited. Capt Jones presented a paper on the different origins of the Coloureds, namely Khoisan, Grieqwa, Malaysian, "Orlamse" Coloureds and the Rehobots.

Next Wo2 Pentelbury portrayed an English pub scene with two friends having an in-depth conversation in song.

The Afrikaner culture was the last item on the programme. Ms Lina van der Berg portrayed the different forms of the Afrikaner culture by wearing different hats.



WO2 Pentelbury portraying an English pub scene

The successful event ended with all the participants taking hands and singing "Shosholoza". 🌐



Ms Lina van der Berg portraying an aspect of Afrikaner culture

The Hawk

Information supplied with the consent of SALVO Magazine

"There was, therefore, a requirement for a jet training aircraft that was closer to the fighter in its performance and handling than the Impala aircraft."

lead-in fighter

The avionics test and demonstration programme for the first Hawk lead-in fighter trainers of the first production standard aircraft began on 4 February 2005 at the Test Flight and Development Centre at AFB Overberg. The final assembly will take place in March 2005 at Denel and the aircraft is due to be delivered in mid-2005, with all aircraft due to be



The Hawk during test flights at Air Force Base Overberg

ready by the middle of 2006. Why the need for a lead-in fighter trainer?

By the late 1990s it became evident that the Impalas were reaching the end of their operational lives, and the introduction of the Pilatus PC-7 Mk 2 Astra had also changed the training requirements of the SAAF. Prospective fighter pilots no longer had to undergo transition from the piston engine, "tail-dragger" Harvard to a turbine-powered aircraft en route to their future fighter aircraft. There was, therefore, a requirement for a jet training aircraft that was closer to the fighter in its performance and handling than the Impala.

Also, once a new fighter aircraft entered service, the pilots were going to move from a "glass cockpit" primary trainer to a "glass cockpit" fighter, and that demanded a modern cockpit environment in the advanced trainer.

The Hawks will replace the Aermacchi MB-32b Impala Mk 1 jet-trainer and the single-seat Mk 2 lead-in fighter/light-attack aircraft. The Impala Mk 1 entered SAAF service in 1966, replacing the Vampire in the jet-trainer role. The Mk 2 followed in 1974 to serve as a lead-in fighter on which pilots could gain experience before converting to the Mirage III and Mirage F-1 fighters. The Mk 2 also proved to be a tough light-attack aircraft.

The Hawk was selected after an extended selection process, partly on the basis of performance and long-term supportability, and partly on the basis of the industrial participation considerations that formed a key element of the overall selection process.

A very similar process was followed by the Royal Australian Air Force, which also selected the Hawk to replace its MB-32bs as the "lead-in fighter" for its F/A-18, after primary training on the Pilatus PC-9. The NATO flying-training centre in Canada also selected the Hawk for a fighter-training aircraft as the next step after its PC-9. More recently, the Royal Air Force, the Indian Air Force and the Bahrain Air Force have also selected the Hawk for much the same role.

trainer



The BAE Systems Hawk 120 that will replace the Impala



BAE Systems began developing the Hawk 120 in the mid-1990s to meet an expected requirement from air forces for an aircraft to provide an advanced weapons-systems training capability for fighter and strike pilots and their navigator/weapons-systems operators. This required higher performance, different handling characteristics, and a more advanced and comprehensive avionics suite than is needed in a straightforward jet trainer.

Among the changes were a longer nose to accommodate avionics and sensors, a larger wing with a combat flap setting to broaden the aircraft's speed and manoeuvrability profile, wingtip missile stations for weapons in the Sidewinder class, and the fitting of the more powerful Rolls-Royce / Turbomeca Adour Mk871 engine. Avionics changes included incorporating a ring-laser gyro-inertial platform, an air-data sensor, a head-up display, a weapons-aiming computer, a colour multi-function display and a serial database to integrate the system. The Hawk 120 is also fitted

with a forward-looking infrared sensor for enhanced night and poor visibility operations, and a radar-warning receiver and a chaff / flare-dispensing system for self-protection.

The operational Test and Evaluation of the Hawk is scheduled to take place in September 2005. The Hawk will be formally taken into service with 85 Combat Flying School at AFB Makhado from the first quarter of 2006, and will be used primarily to prepare pilots for the new Gripen multi-role fighter. The Hawks will also be used to keep fighter pilots current on fast jets while they are in other posts. Their inherent capabilities will also allow the Hawks to be used for some operational missions, such as border patrol and tactical reconnaissance in relatively low-threat environments, freeing the Gripen fighters to focus on missions that demand their full range of capabilities. 🌐

"The Hawks will also be used to keep fighter pilots current on fast jets while they are in other posts"

Unveiling vintage Planetarium

by Maj J. Christie



Photographed at the opening of the SA Air Force Planetarium, from left to right: Col Kobus Butler, Officer Commanding Air Force Base Ysterplaat, Mr Chris Teale, resident museologist, the Chief of the Air Force, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, and the assistant curator, Ms Tammy Park

On 13 October 2004 the Chief of the South African Air Force, Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, officially opened the 1923 Spitz A1 planetarium at the SAAF Museum, Air Force Base Ysterplaat. This particular instrument has an out - of - the - ordinary

heritage. It was one of 40 constructed and one of only three remaining in the world. It is also the only one still operational. It was used during the Second World War by the Royal Navy at Gordon's Bay where navigators were trained in what is known as astral navigation. After the war it was transferred to 80 Air Navigation School (ANS) at CFS Langebaanweg, where it was utilised in the training of pilots and navigators.

When 80 ANS relocated to Cape Town International Airport during the early 1970s, the planetarium was also relocated and was housed in a specially constructed building. When the decision was taken to move 35 Squadron and 80 ANS back to Air Force Base Ysterplaat the planetarium was brought to the SA Air Force Museum and, after some two years of hard work, was reassembled and restored back to pristine condition. Although the GPS has replaced the need for astral navigation, it will still be utilised by instructors of 80 ANS, which presents survival-training courses for aircrews. 🌐

Honorary COLONELS BID CAF Farewell

Article by Col L. Weyer

The SAAF Honorary Colonels formally bade Lt Gen Roelf Beukes, Chief of the Air Force, farewell at a luncheon in the Erasmus Castle at Armscor after the Air Force Day parade on 01 February 2005. The Honorary Colonels presented CAF with a portrait of himself by Gareth Loubser. Col Basil Hersov (Hon Col 21 Sqn), the Doyen of the Honorary Colonels, thanked Lt Gen Beukes for his frank but friendly approach towards the Honorary Colonels as a group. He further wished Lt Gen Beukes everything of the best for the future. On the same occasion, CAF designate, Maj Gen Carlo Gagiano, was congratulated on his appointment.

Col Basil Hersov also introduced four new Honorary Colonels of SAAF Units to CAF. Their appointment was recently approved by the Minister of Defence. The four new Honorary



Back row (fltr) Hon Cols Tungay (87 Heli FS), Colesky (111 Sqn), Nestadt (Air Command), Van der Vyver (60 Sqn), Holmner (17 Sqn), Kieviet (101 Sqn), Dries (85 Combat FS), Murray (15 Sqn), Cooke (2 Sqn), Searll (35 Sqn), McLachlan (MDW), Nomvete (28 Sqn). Front Row (fltr) Hon Col Takalo (AF Col), Maj Gen Gagiano, CAF Designate, Hon Col Hersov (21 Sqn), Lt Gen Beukes, CAF, Hon Cols Haywood (44 Sqn), Thomo (68 AS), Mhinga (AF Gym)

Colonels attended their first formal function as CAF guests of the Air Force Day parade at Bay's Hill on 01 February 2005. 🌐



by WO2 A. Barnard

Air Force day 2005

On 1 February 2005 the South African Air Force celebrated the 85th Anniversary of its existence. The Chief of the Air Force, Lt Gen R.J. Beukes, said in his speech:

"The landscape in which the South African Air Force is expected to operate has changed dramatically over the years and especially so in the last 10 years.

"The Air Force itself has evolved from a force that almost exclusively operated internally in support of the South African Police Service and other state departments during the nineties, to one which today is required to deploy to all parts of the continent and beyond. The African continent with its vast distances and varied climatic conditions places huge demands on man and machine alike. Shortly it will be required of the Air Force to operate side by side with other air forces that are contributing to the African Standby Force. This task will undoubtedly pose exciting challenges such as the necessity of achieving interoperability and finding a common doctrine."

The South African Air Force has never shied away from any challenge and is looking forward to these new challenges. This was a day of excellence as the achievements in 2004 by Directorates, Bases, Squadrons, Units and Sections were celebrated. The top achievers were as follows:

- * Co-operation trophy for the unit that excelled in inter-departmental co-operation and providing assistance to the South African Police Service: Air Force Command Post.
- * The Royal Air Force Training Trophy: Air Force College.
- * Fire and Rescue Service: AFB Overberg.
- * Protection Squadron: 505 Squadron, AFB Ysterplaat.
- * Air Force Reserve Squadron: 111 Squadron, AFB Waterkloof.

- * Supporting Unit: SAAF Band.
- * Air Servicing Unit: 6 Air Servicing Unit, AFB Bloemspruit.
- * System Support Directorate: Directorate Technical Support Services.
- * Operational Support Unit: Joint Air Reconnaissance and Intelligence Centre.
- * SAAF Training Unit: 80 Air Navigation School.
- * Flying Unit: 28 Squadron, AFB Waterkloof.
- * SAAF Base of the Year: AFB Ysterplaat.

The Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General S. Nyanda, SSA, SBS, CLS, DMG, MMS, MMM, presented the Sword of Peace to the Director of the Directorate Helicopter Systems, Brig Gen H.T. Paine, SM, MMM.

The South African Air Force Prestige Unit Award was presented to 28 Squadron, AFB Waterkloof and it was received by Col G.S. Steenkamp, SM, MMM. Lt Gen Roelf Beukes received the Good Service Medal for 40 years of efficient service. That was the last time that Lt Gen Beukes would officiate at an Air Force Day parade as his term of office expires on 28 February 2005.

It was a sad moment as the Impala Fighter aircraft and the Allouette Helicopter dressed the clear blue sky for the very last time at an Air Force Day parade. The aircraft, the pilots and their ground crews have given many years of dedicated service. Both aircraft types are to be withdrawn from SAAF Operational use at the end of 2005. It was a proud moment when the colours were marched past the spectators. Guests then socialised on the grounds of the majestic General's House which celebrated its centenary in 2003.

It was indeed a day of celebration, a day of farewells and a day to stand tall and be proud. 🌐



Air Force Day 2005

Achievements for 2004 of Directorates, Bases, Squadrons, Units and Sections



Back row from left to right: Maj Y. Olivier, Best Protection Squadron; Capt M.J. Pienaar, Best General Support Unit; Lt Col C.J. Heyman, Best Air Servicing Unit; Wo1 C.D.A.S. Meyer, Best Fire Section; Col J.C.J. Butler, Best Air Force Base; Lt Col R.J. Mossom, Best Flying Unit; Col C.H.K. de Pinho, Best Ops Support Unit; Lt Col G.J. van der Merwe, Best Training Unit
Front row from left to right: Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, Royal Air Force Training Award; Brig Gen P. Burger, SAPS Co-operation Award; Brig Gen H.T. Paine, Sword of Peace Award; Gen S. Nyanda, CSANDF; Lt Gen R.J. Beukes, CAF; Col G.S. Steenkamp, Best Flying Unit; Brig Gen K.F. Ehmke, Best Directorate

PROFICIENCY BADGE FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL

by Lt Col J.L. Steyn.



The Inspector General's Insignia is a badge that is awarded to personnel from IG DOD and the IGs of the different arms of service who are proficient with regard to academic achievements and practical experiences.

The minimum standards that were set are proficiency in and completion of the following:

- Public Finance Management Act course.
- Treasury Regulations course.
- Internal Auditors course.
- Total Quality Management System/SAEF/TQM.
- Two written audit reports that are of an acceptable standard.

Personnel must have been at least one year in the post.

The Inspector General's Insignia consists of three parts:

- The Golden Sword is a symbol of military power and represents justice and military honour.
- The Golden Fasces is composed of a military axe, which symbolises the execution of military duty, enclosed in a bundle of wooden rods tied together with a strap. It was historically a symbol of the authority of Roman magistrates and today represents civil authority.
- The Silver or Chromed Protea Leaf Wreath ties the sword and fasces together and is a symbol of academic and intellectual achievement.

The motto of the Inspectorate is *Vigilans*, which is a Latin word denoting the quality and character of being watchful, vigilant, alert and circumspect in closely monitoring a situation. The colours of the Inspectorate are black, gold and silver. Gold represents elevation of mind, silver represents sincerity and black represents constancy.

New Year - New Beginnings

at Air Force Base Bloemspruit

21 January 2005 marked yet another milestone in the South African Air Force (SAAF) when, at Air Force Base (AFB) Bloemspruit, change of command of the base and four of its units took place.

Col Z.F. Msimang took over command of the base from Col R.C. Johnsson, Lt Col M.J. Bates was handed the command of 16 Squadron (Sqn) by Lt Col K.L. Reynolds, Lt Col L.J. van Niekerk took over command of 6 Air Servicing Unit (ASU) from Lt Col C.J. Heymon, whilst Lt Col J.M. Mohoasa took over the command of 504 Sqn from Lt Col V. Dolo. Also interesting was that, on the same parade, Col Msimang handed the command of 87 Heli Flying School to Lt Col K.L. Reynolds.

Gracing the occasion was our first lady, Mrs Zanele Mbeki, and the Premier of the Free State, Ms Beatrice Marshoff. The flypast by various helicopters and the performance by the SA Air Force Band added lustre and splendour to the parade.

The first black Officer Commanding of AFB Bloemspruit, Colonel Zimpande Fabian Msimang, was born on 01 September 1960 in Johannesburg. He left the RSA at the age of 6 months with his family, and went into exile. He completed high school in India in 1978. He assisted in opening the African National Congress Development Centre in Tanzania. In 1984 he joined the South African Congress of Trade Unions. In 1985 Col Msimang joined Umkhonto weSizwe (MK). He participated in various capacities within the MK structures.

From 1987 till 1991 he was part of the MK contingent sent to the USSR, Frunze Air Force Academy in Kyrgyzstan, to prepare for conventional warfare. The qualification achieved at Frunze is equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in Military Science. He flew the Mi 8 transport helicopter and the Mi 25 helicopter gunship. He obtained a diploma in Commander and Tactics of Aviation. In 1992 he was appointed the Chief of Training and Personnel



The newly appointed Officer Commanding Air Force Base Bloemspruit - Col Zimpande Fabian Msimang

at the MK training camp in Mgagao, Iringa, in Tanzania.

He integrated in 1994 and did his JCSS in Zimbabwe. He later joined 22 Squadron in Cape Town. He did his helicopter conversion onto the Allouette III and, later on, his Oryx conversion course. In 1999 he was transferred to the Directorate of Helicopter Systems as a Staff Officer. In 2000 he was assigned onto the Augusta A109 LUH project in Italy as Assistant Project Officer and in 2002 he completed the Italian Air Force Senior Staff Course. In 2003 he became the Officer Commanding 87 Helicopter Flying School and also did some modules at Joint Staff Course at the SA War College. In 2004 he took part in the SAAF's assistance to the Mozambique election as a Mobile Air Operations Team Commander.



Lt Col K.L. Reynolds, the new OC of 87 Helicopter FS

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Leigh Reynolds was born on 13 November 1956 in Eshowe. He matriculated in 1974 at Welkom High School and joined the SA Air Force in 1975.

He was selected for Pupil Pilot's Course 2/76, obtaining wings in 1977. He commenced his helicopter flying career at 87 Heli Flying School in 1979, followed by a 4-year tour of duty flying the Alouette III at 16 Squadron AFB Port Elizabeth. He qualified as a Harvard Instructor in April 1988, followed by 3-year tour of duty as an Instructor at Central Flying School Dunnottar. He then returned for a second tour of duty at 16 Squadron in 1987, flying Pumas and Alouette IIIs. With the closure of 16 Squadron in December 1990, he was posted to 87 Helicopter Flying School as an Instructor, occupying various posts including that of 2IC and Training Officer on the Rooivalk Project in January. He also served at 17 Squadron as an Oryx Pilot and later on as an Instructor. With the re-activation of 16 Squadron at AFB Bloemspruit in January 1999, he was assigned to the post of 2IC and Training Officer, responsible for the implementation of the Rooivalk Training System at AFB Bloemspruit. He was later appointed as Officer Commanding 16 Squadron (2002-2004).



The OC of 16 Squadron, Lt Col M.J. Bates

The Officer Commanding 16 Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jonathan Bates, was born on 27 July 1961 in Stilfontein. He matriculated at Hoërskool Stilfontein in 1979, whereafter he joined the SAAF in 1980. Initially he joined as a national serviceman, but was selected to do pilot training in August of the same year. He received his wings in December 1983 after qualifying on Impalas at Langebaanweg.

He served as a fighter pilot at 4 Sqn, stationed then at Lanseria. He also served at 8 Sqn as an Impala pilot (1986-1989). After qualifying as an Instructor at Dunnottar in 1989 he was posted to Langebaanweg where he served as an Instructor on Impala Mk Is. He was also a member of the famous Silver Falcon aerobatic team. His helicopter career started in 1993 when he completed his initial Helicopter Conversion Course at 87 Helicopter Flying School. He served as a qualified Puma and Oryx pilot at 22 Sqn in Cape Town, Instructor at 87 Heli Flying School and later as the second-in-command of the unit. In 1999 he was sent to 16 Sqn as part of the initial 6 pilots undergoing Rooivalk training. This member is one of only two SAAF pilots qualified in all aspects of the Rooivalk. He also successfully completed the Senior Management Development programme as well as the Senior Command and Staff Course at SAAF College in 2001.



Lt Col L.J. van Niekerk is the new OC at 6 Air Servicing Unit

Lieutenant Colonel Louis Johannes van Niekerk, the new Officer Commanding 6 Air Servicing Unit (ASU), was born on 16 November 1963 in Bethlehem. He matriculated in 1981 at Ficksburg Technical High School. He then joined the SA Air Force as an apprentice Aircraft Mechanic. He received his National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in 1987. He did his Officer forming course and became a Technical Officer in 1988. He served in the following posts: Squadron Logistics Officer at 7 Squadron at Air Force Base Langebaanweg, Base Aircraft Servicing Officer Air Force Base Bloemspruit (1992-1995), Base Logistics Efficiency Officer Air Force Base Hoedspruit (1996-1998), Staff Officer, firstly at Directorate Engineering and then at Directorate Education, Training and Development until 2003. During 2004 he completed the Joint Senior Command and Staff Course at the South African National War College. He successfully completed the programme in Engineering Management and Certificate in Logistics at the University of Pretoria and is currently in his final year of a Btech Industrial Engineering degree.

Lieutenant Colonel Joel Mbuso Mohoasa was born on 11 November 1973 at Umlazi Township in Durban. He attended secondary school at Mabuya in Benoni, Davyton. During the 80s he left the RSA to acquire military training. While in exile he joined the liberation army of the ANC, MK, in Angola. In 1989 he was deployed to the office of the Chief Representative of the ANC in Zambia as Emigration Officer at the Zambian Airport. In 1994 he integrated into the SANDF as a member of the SA Air Force Protection Services. After completing his Military Orientation and Officer Forming courses he also completed the Regimental Instructors Course at the Air Force Gymnasium in 1996. He served as Protection Ops Officer 516 Squadron, Officer Commanding 502 Squadron, SO Ceremonial SAAF HQ and Training Co-coordinator Air Force Gymnasium. He was appointed as the new Officer Commanding 506 Squadron, AFB Bloemspruit, with effect from 01 January 2005.



Lt Col J. M. Mohoasa was appointed the new OC of 506 Squadron, Air Force Base Bloemspruit

Air Extravaganza at Air Force Base Ysterplaat



everyone!

I am no fundi, but I could only watch in awe at such aviation marvels not easily found anywhere else in the world. The three Cheetah fighter aircraft from 2 Squadron (AFB Makhado) performed an aerial dog-fight several times during the airshow, the graceful Shackleton taxied right past the crowd line and the giant Russian Kamov with counter-rotating blades showed off its ability to carry huge quantities of water in the bambi bucket for forest fire-fighting and heavy lifting. A fly-by, compliments of kulula.com (a Boeing 737), inbound to Cape Town International airport nearby, really excited the crowd, but the show-stopper of the day was the outstanding flying display by the C-130.



The Shackleton will always be in a class of its own



Other aircraft also featured were the BAE Buccaneers, Thunder City, with two different English Electric Lightnings (single and dual-seat), a new look Hawker Hunter in yellow and the YAK 18T (now branded by Pharos Medical Scheme). There were also thrilling YAK 55 aerobatics by Mark Hensman, three ship YAK 52s, including my favourite, the Oryx Helicopters. The Sasol Tiger Jet formation aerobatic team left the crowd speechless with its close formation displays, and Etienne Potgieter flying for the last time after a 20-year display career in a Cheetah C in South African Colours...

AFB Ysterplaat's Air Extravaganza took place from 3 to 5 December 2004, accommodating 40 000 spectators. Some of the most magnificent aircraft in the world were on display, either undertaking aerobatic manoeuvres and showing off their power and strength or on static display. Most of the hangers were filled with current SAAF inventory, SAAF Museum types, civilian aircraft and helicopters. Then there were also motor vehicles and the usual flea market. And let us not forget the abundance of entertainment provided for the much younger generation in the form of a theme park, which meant a great family outing for



"...an Airshow to be remembered..." says African Pilot Magazine, and most, if not all, spectators will agree.

Air Show 2004

extravaganza

by Sgt Maxie MacMavis

Air Force Base Ysterplaat



The main sponsors were Wesbank and Sasol fuels, which included the colourful Wesbank parachutists who were dropped, together with various others, at the beginning of each day from a SAAF TP DC-3 at 12 000 feet, which allowed them a minute of free-fall time.

Spectators were kept informed at all times by Brian Emmenis and his broadcast team, consisting of Kevin Woolacott and reporter Andrew Blake.

This wonderful extravaganza would not have been possible without Lt Col Pete Smith (main show organiser) and his dedicated team, the fire-and-rescue services, including the SAAF ATC team which, together with Cape Town International ATCs, had the difficult task of controlling the traffic while keeping the air show alive at all times. The Ysterplaat air extravaganza was done in true SAAF style, showing off the rich aviation heritage and continuously broadening aviation awareness - now that's Proudly South African! 🌐



New Leadership

- Air Force Base Langebaanweg -

by Brig Gen P.N. Sibiya

Recently a colleague, Brig Gen R.D.J. Penhall, said that he endorsed the leadership guru's quest for excellence in recommending and ensuring that change is an effective method of renewal. In essence therefore, the change of command parade held at AFB Langebaanweg on 9 December 2001 was to ensure a renewal of leadership by handing over the tenure of authority or command. On this occasion history was made when the base witnessed a change of command parade involving three commanders: Col J.W. van Zyl handed over command of AFB Langebaanweg to Col T.M. Khumalo; Col C. Stroebel handed over command of Central

Flying School, Langebaanweg, to Col G.C.L. Barr, whilst Lt Col N. Swart accepted Command of 526 Squadron. Col Khumalo becomes the first black officer to command AFB Langebaanweg.

The core business of AFB Langebaanweg is flying training. Col T.M. Khumalo and Col G.C.L. Barr will be responsible for this in future. They will have to prepare flying crews for the SAAF in the roles that the government requires us to fulfill. Fortunately the base has very professional and loyal members. Proper guidance and leadership will mould this team into an even more capable and professional system that will reap the fruit of loyal and excellent service.

Officer Commanding Air Force Base Langebaanweg

The new Officer Commanding Air Force Base Langebaanweg, Col Tsoku Mooipati Khumalo, was born in Soweto on 8 August 1964. He spent his young life growing up between Soweto and Osizweni in Newcastle. He left the country early in 1983 and matriculated at SOMAFCO, the ANC School in Morogoro, Tanzania. He joined MK in 1985. After his military training in Ethiopia he went to Angola and became a member of the Caculama (Barney Molokoane) Camp Commissariat. In 1987 he was among a second group of MK operatives sent to the USSR to study military aviation at the Frunze Military Aviation College in Tokmak, Kyrgyzstan. It is at Tokmak where he did his basic military jet flying on the AERO L 39. Col Khumalo integrated into the South African Air Force as a Captain in 1994. He was sent to Langebaanweg Central Flying School where he completed his ground school phase. During his flying career he has been privileged to fly the Impala at 85 Combat Flying School at AFB Hoedspruit, and the Cessna 208 Caravan at 41 Squadron at Air Force Base Waterkloof. In 2003 he attended and completed the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme at the SA

National War College and was appointed as Senior Staff Officer Strategic Planning at Directorate Air



Col T.M. Khumalo

OC CFS Langebaanweg

Col G.C.L. Barr was born in Vryheid on 23 June 1959. He matriculated from Michaelhouse in 1976. He joined the SA Air Force in 1979 and received his wings on the Alouette III in 1981. In 1989 he completed the Instructor's Course at Central Flying School, Dunnottar. In 1999 he was appointed Officer Commanding 15 Squadron.



Col G.C.L. Barr

Having completed a four-year tour at 15 Squadron, he was then appointed Officer Commanding Forward Air Command Post, Durban, in 2003, and Acting Officer Commanding AFB Durban, and Acting Air Wing Commander for the duration of 2004. He also served as a pilot at 19 Squadron and 22 Squadron. Col Barr also completed the following courses: Senior Command and Staff Course at the South African Air Force College; Military Management course in 1996; Inaugural course on the Legal Aspects of Military Peacekeeping Operations held at the Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island, USA, in October 1997; the International Military Law course on the Law of Armed Conflict, at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy, in April 1998, and the Air Operations Law Course in Pretoria in August 1998.

OC 526 Squadron

The newly appointed OC 526 Squadron, Lt Col N. Swart, joined the Army (9 SAI BN) in 1988, and moved over to the SAAF in 1990. He served at various units, which include AFB Ysterplaat, 68 Air School, Defence Headquarters, AF Gymnasium and AF Headquarters. He has been the Officer Commanding of 506 Squadron (AFB Bloemspruit), as well as of 525 Squadron at AFB Overberg. 🌐



Lt Col N. Swart

AFB OVERBERG HANDING AND TAKING OVER PARADE

by WO2 E. Hill

Col O.C. Steenkamp, SM, MMM, officially handed over command to Col T. Cross on 21 January 2005 during a prestige parade held at AFB Overberg.

Col Steenkamp joined the SAAF in 1968 and qualified as a navigator in December 1969. During his flying career he accumulated 5 200 flying hours, primarily in the transport and fighter-bomber roles, and with maritime functions as a secondary role. Highlights of his career were being appointed as Staff Officer Navigation Services at SAAF Headquarters, Officer Commanding 80 Air Navigation School, Senior Staff Officer Operations at Southern Air Force Command Post at Silvermine and Officer Commanding Air Force Base Overberg.

Col Steenkamp was Officer Commanding from January 2000 to December 2004. During this time the base was awarded various commendations.

Col Cross joined the SANDF in 1975 and completed his basic training at 1 SA Infantry Battalion Tempe. He started flying training on Harvards in September 1976 and received wings in December 1977.

He completed his test pilot course as top student at the National Test Pilot School. In 1990 he was appointed as test pilot at Denel on the Rooivalk programme. He has been involved in the programme ever since. During 2003 he was posted to Directorate Air Force Acquisition as Chief Project Officer Helicopter Programmes. This entailed control and management of the Rooivalk, Augusta A-109, Lynx and Oryx upgrades. Col Cross has flown over 45 different types of aircraft during his career and accumulated over 5 600 flying hours. It is with fond memories that the base says goodbye to Col Steenkamp and welcomes Col "Chippy" Cross, and we look forward to sharing many successes with him in the future. 🌐



Col T. Cross on the podium with Col O.C. Steenkamp



Leadership & Teamwork



by Brig Gen W.S. Mbambo

"TOGETHER WE WILL
MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

As the new Officer Commanding AFB Waterkloof, I consider it essential to have an open-hearted discussion with the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and fellow workers with regard to my opinion on and attitude towards military leadership values, the response we ought to make to the call to serve our country, transformation and the essence of teamwork in our work environment.

Leadership

The greatest, but as yet overlooked, catastrophe facing us today is the acute shortage of sound and responsible leaders in positions of authority. Countless incidents in history, and indeed in our time, as a result of which lives have been wasted, bear witness to the fact that leadership responsibilities are often grossly compromised and neglected. In the unique positions we occupy in the military and, in particular, at AFB Waterkloof, we as leaders are charged with the serious responsibility of making decisions about people's lives and a wide range of highly valued public assets.

I have a very high regard for soldiers who demonstrate their integrity, honesty and courage in everything they say and do. One thing I do not tolerate is having officers and non-commissioned officers in positions of authority who do not have the courage to speak out when decisions with negative implications have to be made. Likewise, I am not impressed by individuals who simply do not take action because they are afraid of making mistakes. I am open to listening to views and

inputs while in the process of seeking solutions to problems relating to the base, but once I have made a decision on a matter, all discussions end and everyone must co-operate to carry out the decision.

Ours is a Calling

I have witnessed lawyers representing the allegedly guilty in court trials, fiercely exchanging legal blows in an attempt to prove the innocence of their clients. I have never, however, heard of a lawyer who volunteered to submit to the death penalty on behalf of his/her client if such an outcome were inevitable. The military profession is unique among all other professions because, ***if need be, we as soldiers will lay down our lives in defence of our fellow men and women and the citizens of this country.*** This honourable character trait, which is unique to the military profession, should guide our daily conduct, whether we are in uniform or not. As soldiers we should have our honour and our sense of duty firmly embedded in our hearts, and we should never relinquish these values, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. We must remember that we have been called upon to serve and not to be served!

Transformation

I would like to believe that the issue of transformation in our organisation is an open secret. My position on and my beliefs regarding this issue are very clear, uncontroversial and in line with the

transformation strategy of the SAAF's Vision 2012 in all respects.

We, as members of AFB Waterkloof, are expected and obliged to support the efforts of the Air Force leadership in realising these objectives. The process of transformation is a necessary step in creating a competent, rejuvenated, sustainable, representative, skilled and united human resource component. Our endeavours and efforts must be focused to ensure that we do not become hindrances in this process, but rather facilitators and custodians of the future of our Air Force.

Essence of Teamwork

How can the eyes say to the legs "We do not need you"? Indeed, how can a head say to an ear "I am more valuable than you, I do not need you and I can do without you"? The members of a human body, although different from one another in structure and function, are inextricably interlinked and give the body a unique shape and unique abilities. I believe the same is true of individuals who work together successfully in a team. If we at AFB Waterkloof wish to achieve our vision of **"making support excellence a reality"**, all the units and FSEs of AFB Waterkloof will need to work together as a team towards a common objective without undermining one another, and understand each other's unique roles and functions. It is my dream to establish a spirit of true teamwork and mutual understanding. This does not apply only to my squadron or my unit - it also applies to our base, our Air Force, our Defence Force and, most importantly, our country! Let us roll up our sleeves and serve our country. 🌐



the joy of Christmas

by Maj M.P. Morake

The South African Air Force Headquarters Unit (SAAF HQ Unit) brought the joy of Christmas to the prison children in Pretoria Central Prison and the orphaned and abused youngsters of the Louis Botha Children's Home. Although these children are cared for, it goes without saying that they sometimes do not enjoy the comforts of life like other children, and for this reason SAAF HQ Unit members decided to dedicate a special Christmas function to them.

On 2 December 2004 the members of SAAF HQ Unit presented the children in Pretoria Central Prison with gifts. The mood was sad and solemn as we looked at these small children, knowing that their mothers were behind bars. However, the expression on the children's faces as they opened their gifts brought joy to all present. WO2 G.S. Molepo said, "This day makes me happy and I thank Mr Aman Khan, Mr Mark Pero and ABSA Bank for sponsoring us with R7 000,00 for this noble cause."

The following day, about seventy orphaned, abused and abandoned children from the Louis Botha Children's Home were treated to an unforgettable Christmas party by the SAAF HQU members at 68 Air School sports ground, in Lyttleton. The children were entertained with lunch, music and gifts. Father Christmas's dramatic arrival and the puppet show were the highlights of the day. For most, if not all of the children, this was an experience that had them shouting with joy.

The chief organiser, WO2 H. Steenkamp, said, "The Christmas party was intended to get these children out of the orphanages and shelters and to show them love." SAAF HQU members must be saluted because they have made it their



Mr A. Khan from ABSA, Mr H. Coetzee - Head of Families, Correctional Centre, Maj M.P. Morake, Ms M. Manyapye - Section Head for Babies, Maj I.L. Jones, Maj W. Nhlapo, Mrs L. Masango - Senior Correctional Official, WO1 C. Ferreira and WO2 G.S. Molepo (in front)



Capt J.P. Fourie and children from the Louis Botha Home

annual tradition to hold a Christmas party for the children who have to spend their festive season in Pretoria Central Prison or the orphanage. 🌐

REDEPLOYMENT OF SANDF MEMBERS TO THE SA POLICE SERVICE



SANDF members are referred to Bulletin No 88/04 Parts 1 & 2 dated 25 November 2004 for redeployment of SANDF members to the SAPS.



1 Air Service Unit

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

Information supplied by 1 Air Service Unit

A Change of Command Parade at 1 Air Service Unit (1 ASU) took place on 21 January 2005 at AFB Waterkloof.

Col Jan Visser handed over the command of 1 ASU to Col Tony Visser. Col Jan Visser was transferred to a post at Air Command, while Col Tony Visser was transferred from Air Command to take up the post as Officer Commanding of 1 ASU.

The unit was established in 1920 as the Aircraft and Artillery Depot. After various changes and relocations, 1 ASU was finally relocated to AFB Waterkloof in August 1999 and received its official colours the next month.

1 ASU supports the SA Air Force by servicing and maintaining aircraft, as well as by manufacturing various aircraft spares and components. 



Colonel Jan Visser handed over the command of 1 ASU to Colonel Tony Visser

Rewarded for their

by Capt B.S. Nobanda

efforts

Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing (AF MDW) presented various medals and certificates to its deserving members during a medal parade that was held at the AF MDW parade grounds on 28 October 2004. According to Col C.J. Delpont, Officer Commanding of the MDW, this presentation of medals to deserving recipients who have served and those who continue to serve at AF MDW took place within the context of the celebrations commemorating ten years of freedom and democracy in our country.

"It is indeed so that we celebrate our achievements by awarding these honours today. My sincere appreciation to all levels, each and every Air Force member working at the AF MDW, including Reserve Force and civilian members, for their professionalism, dedication and support during 2004". Brig Gen L. Lombard said that the Air Force belongs to the people of South Africa and he concluded by saying that the AF MDW was proud of its members. 



Brig Gen L. Lombard with the recipients from Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing

In the beginning of 2004 the late Col Terence Mlangeni decided that Bushveld Airspace Control Sector (BACS) must have a ladies' forum to add a feminine touch to the overall management of BACS. Under the guidance of Maj Joan Augustin, the ladies gathered and decided that one of their objectives was to contribute to society. The suggestion to knit teddy bears and hand them over to under-privileged children was met with enthusiasm. All members were asked to participate (even family and friends). Warrant Officer Alta Potgieter took it upon herself to do the liaison work and lead the project. The result: lots of lovely and adorable teddy bears with nowhere to go.

At the Warrant Officers Readiness Forum in November 2004, Sergeant Major of the Air Force (SMAF), WO1 S.J. du Preez informed, the WOs that during a visit by the SANDF Warrant Officers Council to Overberg they had visited the town of Elim, not far from Napier. The small community had made it their responsibility to look after and care for mentally handicapped children from all over. This had grown to such an extent that it had become a major project. A hostel and school had been built and this was named MISPA. WO1 Potgieter told the WOs and ladies of BACS about these unfortunate children; there was a desperate need for toys to keep the young children occupied. It was immediately decided that their teddy bears would bring love and joy to these children.

A request was put forward to SMAF to arrange air transport to Ysterplaat so as to enable the ladies to hand over the teddy bears in person. SMAF took



Children at MISPA

The season of Giving

Bushveld Air Space
Control Sector

Information supplied by
Bushveld Air Space Control Sector



The suggestion to knit teddy bears and hand them over to under-privileged children was met with enthusiasm

up the challenge and the necessary arrangements were made with all relevant parties. The ladies, except for Capt Van Eeden, left for Ysterplaat on the scheduled flight. On arrival at Ysterplaat, Sergeant Jonathan Adonis from AFB Overberg transported them to the Base. WO1 David Brits and WO1 Fred Els and his wife received the ladies and showed them to their accommodation. The following morning, Emile Richter, a guide from the Elim community, took the ladies on an informative tour of the small but historic town. The tour ended at the hostel where the ladies met with the principle, staff and voluntary workers from Germany. Then came the highlight and reason for the visit, the handing over of the toys and sweets donated by BACS. It was an absolute pleasure to see the appreciation and joy of the children. All the hours of hard work put into creating these bears were well worth experiencing the joy of giving. 🌍

SIYANDIZA PARTICIPATION

Air Force Base OVERBERG
Air Force Base LANGEBAAN

Two Air Force bases joined their different displays to achieve a common goal, namely to promote Siyandiza, which is the South African Air Force aviation awareness and youth development programme.

On arrival at the showgrounds the two teams had to drape the camouflage nets and erect their stands. This included the electrical installations and lighting for their displays. The TV's angle had to be changed a few times, the lighting was changed several times and the camouflage nets straightened on various occasions. This was hard work in the hot Overberg weather.

AFB Overberg's main contribution was the Impala simulator. The simulator was developed at the base and consists of the cockpit section of an Impala Mk1 aircraft, modified with some electronics to utilise the original stick throttle lever and various switches. The assistance of a PC running Flight Sim 2002 and a nice big 2 x 2 metre screen completed the "picture" to provide the visitors with the ability to "fly" an Impala MK2, crash it on occasion, but still be able to walk away without a scratch. The children and some moms and dads particularly enjoyed the flying, and not for a moment during the show was the cockpit empty. SAAF members were also available to talk to those who were interested in becoming pilots and explain the school subjects required. Handout brochures regarding the Siyandiza programme were distributed.

The display presented by AFB Langebaanweg (responsible for basic pilot training in the SAAF) covered the various aspects of pilot training. The public was introduced to basic technical information about the Astra Aircraft and its components, as well as radio and radar (ground) technical information. A lot of emphasis was put on live displays, such as the use of videos, rotating beacons, lights and radar domes. The venue was excellent and contributed greatly to the overall success of the agricultural show. 



South African Air Force aviation awareness at Bredasdorp

HELICOPTERS AND VULTURES -

by Lt Col Etienne F. van Blerk

The South African Air Force (SAAF) recently passed an official policy restricting military flights in the proximity of important Cape Griffin vulture colonies in the country.

According to Director Helicopter Systems, Brig Gen Hugh Paine, the Air Force has a history of environmental awareness spanning more than 20 years in training its pilots. This approach is necessary, says Brig Gen Paine, since the SAAF is dependent on specific areas for training pilots to operate over rugged terrain and preparing them for search-and-rescue operations or crime-prevention missions in co-operation with the SA Police Service.

Areas such as the Drakensberg and Magaliesberg are designated as being ecologically sensitive, so that specific procedures have been followed over the years in the training of particularly SAAF helicopter pilots to ensure that environmental disturbance is kept to the minimum.

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



South African
Air Force Fund



ews

by Brig Gen (Ret) C. van Heyningen

To the members of the South African Air Force Fund (SAAF Fund): GREAT NEWS! The Fund is now the proud owner of nine (9) syndication modules, giving thirty-six (36) weeks at a Gold Crown Resort, namely Kruger Park Lodge (KPL). Set on the banks of the Sabie River between

Hazyview and the Kruger National Park, this resort is surrounded by green lawns and lush gardens in a tranquil environment. Plenty of recreational facilities are available to keep holidaymakers busy. Facilities and activities such as tennis, golf, outdoor chess, putt-putt, fishing, swimming pools and a new games pavilion are available on site. Hippos, crocodiles and impala are among the wild life to be seen within the resort. A short drive from the Fund's luxury thatched cottages will bring you to many scenic attractions in the area, including the Blyde River Canyon, God's Window, Pilgrim's Rest and the world-famous Kruger National Park, with the new Phabeni gate a stone's throw away. KPL is 1 km from Hazyview, where the necessary shopping can be done.

SHARING MOUNTAIN AND SKY

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



Following the approach adopted by the SAAF for military aviation in the proximity of important Cape Griffin vulture colonies, EWT wishes to initiate a similar approach with civil aviation. For more information contact: Lt Col E.F. van Blerk at Tel: (012) 312-2613 Fax: 2231 or 083 229-7267. 

The Air Force, assisted by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, has adopted a bold approach to allow for continued use of these areas by both helicopter and vulture

The cottage has three (3) bedrooms. The main bedroom has a queen-size bed and on-suite bathroom. The second bedroom has twin beds and the third bedroom, also with twin beds, is upstairs with an outside balcony. A kitchen for self-catering and a diningroom-lounge are all equipped to satisfy your needs. The cottage is fully air-conditioned and has fans. A television set with SABC/MNET add to the entertainment. A large veranda with an outside braai will give you the pleasure of preparing your meals under the magnificent African skies. The cottage has undercover parking for two motor vehicles.

This resort will offer Air Force Fund members an affordable holiday facility par excellence. Thirty (30) weeks for the rest of 2005 are available Wednesday to Wednesday. For more information and reservations contact the SAAF Fund office at telephone (012) 312 2281, fax (012) 325 6078 or email: affund@absamail.co.za. 

BEST BASIC MILITARY TRAINING COURSE OF 2004

The final passing out parade of the Basic Military Training Course of the year was held at the Air Force Gymnasium on Thursday 25 November 2004. This spectacular parade was held in the evening just after sunset and pyrotechnics such as the 1000 ft flare, trip flare and 2-star instant light was used to light up the parade ground.

The Chief of the South African Air Force (CAF), Lt Gen Beukes, attended the parade accompanied by the Sergeant Major of the Air Force (SMAF), WO1 Du Preez. The Air Force Gymnasium received commendation letters from the CAF and SMAF concerning the passing out parade. 🌐

by Lt L. Greyvenstein



A spectacular sight - an evening parade at Air Force Gymnasium

IT'S AN ORDER by PO Eddie Kgomo

If you think that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is not a Defence Force with Christian morals, you had better think again. The SANDF follows the order or command of Jesus Christ in accordance with what He says in the Bible: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." The South African Air Force (SAAF), in particular, once again proved to be a valuable ally to Mozambique, helping to pick up ballot boxes after the national election that was held on 03 December 2004.

The Mozambique Nampula and Mauri Province roads were damaged by heavy rainfall and ballot boxes would not have been retrieved in time for counting by normal road transport. The SANDF arrived in Pemba, Mozambique, on 04 December 2004 with the mission of providing support. The SAAF's assistance enabled Mozambicans to declare the election free and fair. The SAAF helicopter had to fly approximately ten hours in two days to complete the SANDF mission in Mozambique.

The service rendered by the SANDF in Mozambique serves as a fine example of the Batho Pele principles, which are a commitment to other people. This commitment has echoed through the ages whenever human compassion is shown. WE CARE, WE BELONG, WE SERVE!

The helicopter crew contributed substantial airpower, under the leadership of SAAF pilot Capt Deon Kruger, together with Lt Chris Martin, Sgt Mark Venter and WO1 Birthwell Makosonke Nquma, who was the interpreter. They were assisted by members of the office of the Secretary of Administration in the election: Christina Faque Chongo, Benedict Alberto, Azthalili Faunaie, Joao Pataieo and Sidinio Lindo.

As a result of working closely with these people, one ended up learning Portuguese words like "Boa dia", which means "Good morning". The mission was successfully completed when the SANDF members returned home to their loved ones on Saturday 10 December 2004. 🌐

THE AIR FORCE INTERNET & INTRANET WEB SITES

BY WO2 Wynand Koekemoer (SAAF Webmaster)

In writing this article on the SAAFWeb I decided to start with the questions I get asked most frequently when discussing the Air Force websites with fellow Air Force Members.

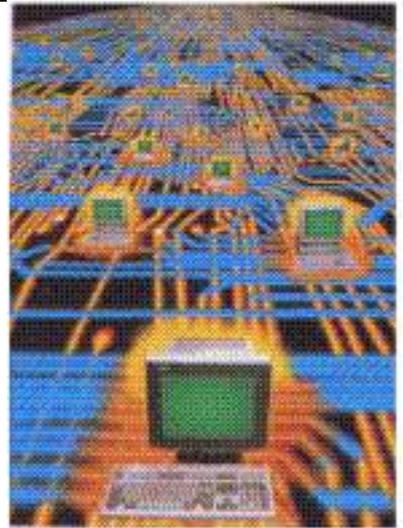
What is the Intranet and Internet, respectively, and is there a difference between them? As their names imply, both these systems are basically computer networks, enabling the flow of information between them. This information can be in various different forms. The most widely known forms are e-mail, file transfers, and websites. The main difference between Internet and Intranet is not what they are, but where they are. Intranets are networks within an organisation. For instance, the DOD network is the Intranet of the SANDF, and this network is shared by the mail system, currently Lotus Notes, the Persol system, the Financial system and many other systems, including the Websites hosted on the SANDF Intranet. The Internet functions the same way, but is open to any computer linked to it across the world. It is the network one uses to send e-mails to friends across the world, download software from sites, "surf" for information and even to do online banking.

What is the SAAFWeb? These are called hypertext pages and provide a means of

displaying basic text and images and, with the addition of other software, more complicated information like video clips. The SAAFWeb is the name of the Air Force Intranet website

where information of corporate communication value for the Air Force is available. On SAAFWeb one can find a short history of the Air Force, information on units and important SAAF Bulletins. These bulletins inform members about important decisions and events affecting them and have information of interest to members of the SAAF. This site will be "mirrored" (copied) to the DOD Internet website early this year. The difference between the SAAF Intranet and the DOD Internet will be that the site on the Internet will not contain links to restricted information for security reasons, and these two will not be linked electronically and will be maintained separately.

What can I do to get involved? Check if the information about your unit is current and inform the design team if something has changed. If you see no information for your unit, urge your Corporate Communication Officer to forward the correct information for publication! 



SAAF contribute to improve facilities at 1 Military Hospital

by Lt Col F. Schoombee

This is not the first time that the South African Air Force (SAAF) has reached out to our very own 1 Military Hospital (1 Mil). On 18 November 2004 a very unique donation was made to the Rehabilitation Unit at 1 Mil Hospital. Mrs Sandra Beukes, spouse of the Chief of the SAAF (CAF), and Mrs Irene Labuschagne, spouse of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Air Command, donated a refrigerator, stove and television set with an antenna to Capt M. Boshiane, the Rehabilitation Unit Manager, as a token of the SAAF Ladies Association's appreciation for all the hard work done and dedication shown by this particular unit during the

rehabilitation of our own Defence Force members. The donated items will assist the unit to enable patients to keep in touch with the reality of their everyday lives. These items form part of their healing process and provide unbelievable personal enrichment value.

Brig Gen A.P. Sedibe, the Officer Commanding 1 Military Hospital, and many other medical personnel, attended the handing-over ceremony.

The SAAF is proud to be associated with providing such a worthy and professional service to its members. 



HUMAN DIGNITY

SERITI SA BOTHO • ISIDIMA SOLUNTU • XINDAHUTI XA YUMUNHU • MENSWAARDIGHEID • ISITHUNZI SOMUNTU • U FUNA SHANGO



Respecting the infinite dignity and worth of all individuals. Treating others the way you would expect to be treated.

Respect • Tolerance • Fairness • Consideration

