



Safety, security and defence

The Department of Safety and Security's strategic plan for 2004 to 2007 lays down four key strategic priorities for the medium term:

- combat organised crime, focusing on drug and firearm trafficking, vehicle theft and hijacking, commercial crime and corruption among public officials
- combat serious and violent crimes through strategies to, among other things, counter the proliferation of firearms, improve safety and security in high-crime areas, combat crimes such as taxi and gang violence and faction fighting, and maintain security at major public events
- reduce the incidence of crimes against women and children, and improve the investigation and prosecution of these crimes

In September 2005, the South African Police Service released the following crime statistics for 2004/05:

- attempted murder decreased by 18,8%
- assault decreased by 4,5%
- common assault decreased by 5,1%
- robbery with aggravating circumstances decreased by 5,5%
- common robbery decreased by 5,3%
- burglary at residential premises decreased by 8,1%
- theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles decreased by 5,3%
- theft from motor vehicles decreased by 14%
- stock-theft decreased by 21,2%
- illegal possession of firearms and ammunition decreased by 8,3%
- drug-related crimes increased by 33,5%
- car hijackings decreased by 9,9%
- shoplifting decreased by 7,9%
- commercial crime decreased by 3,8%
- murder decreased by 5,6%
- rape increased by 4%.

- improve the services provided by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in general.

Reducing crime

The total staff establishment of the SAPS on 15 August 2005 was 148 113 members. Some 11 000 trainees were allocated for the 2005/06 financial year, while 4 410 recruits reported for basic training in July 2005. The remaining recruits were expected to commence basic training in January 2006.

Government has expanded the number of police areas for focused multidisciplinary interventions from 63 to 69.

By May 2005, all of the top 200 criminals identified earlier by the SAPS had been arrested.

In reducing crime levels by between 7% and 10% per year, the socio-demographic profiling for 148 priority police-station areas had been completed by June 2005. Action plans aimed at addressing the social causes of crime were developed for 116 priority police stations responsible for combating 50% of all contact crime in South Africa.

Firearms control

The Firearms Control Act, 2000 and the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2003 intend to help the SAPS prevent the

Number of guns recovered: January – June 2005

Province	Quantity
Gauteng	32 014
Western Cape	18 021
KwaZulu-Natal	14 532
Free State	9 092
Eastern Cape	9 057
North West	4 354
Northern Cape	2 675
Limpopo	2 747
Mpumalanga	2 139

Source: South African Police Service

proliferation of illegal firearms and remove them from society, as well as to control legally owned firearms.

The Firearms Control Act, 2000 came into effect on 1 July 2004. People seeking firearm licences are compelled to undergo a competency test before being granted a licence.

In November 2004, the Minister of Safety and Security, Mr Charles Nqakula, declared a firearm amnesty for people in possession of illegal firearms and ammunition. In terms of the amnesty, as defined in Section 138 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, illegal firearms and ammunition had to be surrendered at police stations nationwide from 1 January to 31 March 2005.

By 31 March 2005, some 46 190 firearms had been recovered, of which 14 987 illegal and 22 520 legally licensed firearms were voluntarily handed over, and 8 683 confiscated by the SAPS.

The minister extended the amnesty period to 30 June 2005.

By 30 June 2005, 94 631 guns and 1 764 246 rounds of ammunition had been surrendered to the police.

Crime intelligence

Between 21 May 2004 and the end of January 2005, the police arrested the following number of suspects in the 63 priority areas:

- murder: 2 317
- rape: 3 942
- robbery: 4 687.

Further, 278 organised crime leaders and 896 runners were arrested on charges relating to organised crime. Following the arrest of those criminals, more information came to light implicating accomplices. Consequently, the police netted a total of 3 810 suspects in connection with organised crime.

Community involvement

Crime prevention in South Africa is based on the principles of community policing, that is, partnerships between the



The South African Police Service has made significant strides to address the matter of gender balance in the service. By mid-2005, the contingent of female members stood at 28,6%. This is the highest representation of females in any police service in the world. Additionally, 17% of the Senior Management Service is female.

community and the SAPS. Partnerships between police officers (who are appointed as sector managers) and communities strengthen existing community police fora.

Sector policing was introduced in 2002/03 to increase the visibility and accessibility of police officers, particularly in areas that have limited infrastructure and high levels of crime. By mid-2005, 81 sectors had been established and were operationalised at 30 police stations.

Building for security

- Community safety centres (CSCs) bring all relevant departments under one roof, including the SAPS and the departments of justice, correctional services, health and social development. The focus is on deep rural and informal settlements. The first CSC was opened at Tembalethu near George in the Western Cape in 2000. In 2004/05, two more CSCs were completed – at Tshidilamolomo in North West at a cost of R8,5 million and at Galeshewe in the Northern Cape at a cost of R35 million.
- In 2002/03, a three-year plan was developed to provide victim-friendly facilities for handling violent crimes such as rape and domestic abuse. By mid-2005, 227 such



In terms of the firearms control legislation, 510 non-official firearm institutions, 144 shooting ranges and 158 training-providers had been accredited by the South African Police Service by June 2005. A total of 3 788 applications for the renewal of firearm licences, permits and authorisations were received.

facilities had been established at police stations. An additional 150 such facilities were expected to be established in 2005/06. The SAPS Victim Support Programme has been reviewed to ensure that SAPS training and guidelines support the Service Charter for Victims of Crime in South Africa.

Defence

The mission of the Department of Defence is to defend and protect South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people.

The department, under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, participates in various initiatives to secure peace and stability on the continent.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is an all-volunteer force consisting of a regular force core and a reserve force.

In addition to military matters, the Department of Defence is involved in search-and-rescue operations, hydrography and securing national key points.

Uniformed members of the SANDF have the right to join trade unions. They may not, however, go on strike or picket.

Border control and security

In keeping with the Department of Defence's strategy for a phased withdrawal from internal security to external peace-support operations and the rejuvenation of the SANDF, the process to transfer functions and personnel from the

Government has started establishing and maintaining centres for homeless children in big cities throughout the country. Three such centres have been launched in Gauteng and the Western Cape.

These centres provide homeless children with shelter, food and various social service programmes, including sports activities, education and arts programmes.



SANDF to the SAPS's Protection and Security Division was underway by mid-2005.

This forms part of the phasing out of the commando system by closing down 183 commando units by 2009. At least 17 units had been closed down by the end of March 2005 and 55 units are expected to be closed down by 2006.

This process is intended to release SANDF forces to pursue government's regional and continental obligations to peace support, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Peace support

Members of the SANDF have been deployed in Africa to contribute to peacekeeping, democracy and capacity-building efforts.

The biggest deployment of SANDF personnel has been to the Democratic Republic of Congo, where by mid-2005 1 347 personnel were stationed. They perform duties ranging from emergency work and integration and training to infantry battalion duties.

The next biggest deployment is in Burundi where SANDF personnel have been active since August 2004. The majority of the personnel formed part of the United Nations contingent. The remainder of the SANDF group performs VIP-protection duties as part of an African Union mission.

In 2005, some 277 SANDF personnel were deployed to Sudan, partly as military observers and partly as an infantry protector company.



The Department of Defence's Youth Foundation Training Programme is a critical vehicle to ensure continuous supply of competent specialists such as engineers, pilots, doctors and navy combat officers, among others. During 2005/06, the Department of Defence spent R11 million on 225 learners registered with the programme.

By September 2005, some 883 members had completed the programme since 2001. A total of 715 new members were appointed in the Department of Defence.

Requirement of main equipment

The SANDF's core capabilities will be maintained to allow it to execute its mandate and play a meaningful role in peace missions. The procurement of corvettes, submarines, helicopters and fighter and trainer aircraft will go a long way in ensuring credible defence capabilities.

South Africa is on track in building and re-equipping the SANDF for both its primary and secondary roles. Over the last five years, the SANDF has been building and equipping the SA Air Force and the SA Navy. The focus is now on the modernisation of armaments and equipment for landward defence.

The development of the Rooivalk combat helicopter progressed well and it was envisaged that the first helicopters would be deployed in peace missions during the second half of 2005.

Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armcor)

Armcor's primary function is to acquire defence products and services for the SANDF, and to co-manage, with the Department of Defence, the development of technologies for future weapon systems and products. It also manages the disposal of excess, forfeited, redundant or surplus defence material for the SANDF and subsidiary companies, which directly support defence technology and acquisition strategies.

Armcor provides the department with tender-board functions, project security and arms-control compliance assurance.

Denel Group of South Africa

Denel is a profit-driven company wholly owned by the State. Fifty-one percent of its airmotive division, however, is owned by France's Turbomeca. It is recognised as a world leader in artillery systems.

On 15 December 2004, government signed a declaration of intent with Airbus Military, the European consortium for the development of the A400M multirole military transport craft.

The A400M programme is aimed at boosting the revitalisation of the South African aerospace sector, which possesses knowledge, experience and capability in aircraft design, manufacturing, support and maintenance.

South Africa is expected to deliver between eight and 14 aircraft on completion as the programme matures between 2010 and 2014.

Through offset deals, Denel supplies aerostructures for Gripen and Hawk aircraft to BAE Systems and Saab. It has started licensed manufacturing of the Agusta A119 Koala helicopters for AgustaWestland and provides parts to the Boeing Company.

Intelligence services

South Africa has two civilian intelligence structures: the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the South African Secret Service (SASS).

The NIA's mission is to provide government with domestic intelligence and counter-intelligence. The NIA's mandate has been divided into seven areas of interest: counter-intelligence, political intelligence, economic intelligence, border intelligence, terrorism, organised crime and corruption.

The SASS is South Africa's foreign-intelligence capacity. Executive control is exercised by a civilian ministry and a Cabinet committee.

The objective of the SASS is to forewarn, inform and advise government on real and potential threats to South Africa's security, and on socio-economic opportunities for the country.