

Green Awards in the Department

By Lebohlang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The annual DOD Environmental Awards ceremony certainly belonged to the Army Support Base Potchefstroom as they scooped most of the awards at AFB Ysterplaat on 7 June 2007. This event coincided with National Environmental Week.

The award ceremony visibly recognises and celebrates the achievements in terms of environmental performance of military bases, units, individuals and teams.

ASB Potchefstroom took home the Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management and the Keep eThekweni Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management. They were also the runners-up in the Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency, the National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency, the Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management and the Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness.

"As governmental and public expectations regarding the sustainable management of military impacts on the environment as well as international and national environmental legislative provisions increasingly continues to impact on its core business, the DOD strives to ensure that these expectations are honoured through the incorporation of environmental considerations into its military exercises and operations, thereby ensuring sound environmental performance," said Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, who was the

main functionary at the awards ceremony.

He added: "The integration of environmental issues into all military activities and life cycle management of military equipment supports the principles of efficiency, economy and effectiveness as advocated by the Public Finance Management Act and yields tangible and non-tangible benefits that would ultimately result in ensuring the long-term sustainable utilisation of facilities and equipment."

"The array of projects in the respective individual and team contributions is indeed unique in their achievements. The development of a soldier's field guide for armour training, the co-ordination and management of the Environmental Considerations in Operations project and implementation of water efficiency initiatives all contribute to the environmental performance of this department," concluded Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

Winners

Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency: AFB Langebaanweg
National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency: AFB Ysterplaat
Keep eThekweni Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management: ASB Potchefstroom
Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management: SAS SALDANHA
Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management: ASB Potchefstroom
Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness: Naval Base Simon's Town
SA National Parks Floating Trophy for Military Integrated Environmental Management: AFB Overberg
Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services: Lt Renier van Wyk from AFB Makhado. 



The Officer Commanding of ASB Potchefstroom, Col Phillip van Dyk, and Lt Lorraine Perumaul, an environmental officer at ASB Potchefstroom, displaying their certificates and trophies after the award ceremony.