



ARMS PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

Transparency, Accountability and the Rule of Law

South African Air Force

(Summary of the evidence of the South African Air Force officials)

1. Major General Malinga (Deputy Chief of the South African Air Force)

Major General Gerald Malinga, the Deputy Chief of the South African Air Force (SAAF) will give a broad overview of the mandate of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) as encapsulated in section 200(2) of the Constitution of 1996 and the functions of the SANDF set out in section 227(1) of the 1993 Constitution. In his testimony, he will give historical background of the SAAF, including when it was formed, and then proceed to deal with the capabilities the SAAF had before the SDPPs, when those systems were acquired, the countries from which they were purchased, and when they were phased out. He will deal with budget cuts that occurred in the early 1990s and post 1994 and the impact this had on the SAAF resulting in the need to rejuvenate the equipment. In his evidence, Maj Gen Malinga will also make reference to the White Paper on the National Defence for the Republic and to the Defence Review of 1998. He will also elaborate on the Defence Strategic Objectives, Force Design, Force Design Options in so far as they relate to the SAAF. The greater part of Maj Gen Malinga's testimony will focus on the rationale for the Strategic Defence Procurement Packages and the training philosophy of the SAAF which seems to have informed the decisions with regard to the aircrafts to be acquired, including helicopters.

2. Brigadier General John William Bayne (Director Combat Systems: SAAF)

Brig Gen Bayne will give detail on the three tier combat training system of the SAAF and how it was implemented in practice prior to the acquisition of the SDPPs. He will allude to the ageing fleets of aircraft that the SAAF had in the mid-nineties and the debates that ensued over the replacement of these systems. Brig Gen Bayne will elaborate on the need to maintain the capabilities in a relatively peaceful environment. He will also focus on the processes that culminated in the decision by Cabinet in December 1999 to conclude agreements for the supply of the Lead-in-

Fighter Trainer (24 Hawk Mk 120) and the Advanced Light Fighter Aircraft (26 Gripen Aircraft) with BAE and BAE and SAAB respectively. In his testimony, Brig Gen Bayne will deal at length with the role and capabilities of these aircrafts. Greater part of his evidence will shed light on how these aircraft systems are utilised, personnel operating and maintaining these systems and the accidents and incidents that have occurred in respect of these aircrafts.

3. Brigadier General Pieter Burger (Director Helicopter Systems: SAAF)

Brig Gen Burger will set out the history of the SAAF Helicopter system, when the first helicopter squadron was formed and the types of helicopters it had on its inventory prior to the SDPPs and the purpose for which these systems were acquired. He will delve on the requirement for and description of the Light Utility Helicopters (LUH), the processes that ensued to satisfy this requirement, for example, staff targets staff requirements etc. The greater part of Brig Gen Burger's testimony will focus on the roles and capabilities of the LUH, accidents involving this system that have occurred since its delivery, the exercises and operations in which the system was deployed and the current status of the helicopters. With regard to utilisation, Brig Gen Burger's evidence will shed light on the number of hours the LUH has flown, the operating costs and personnel, both air and ground crew, trained to operate and maintain the system.

4. Colonel Frank Kevin Sargent Viljoen (Col SANDF Reserve: SAAF and Project Officer for the Agusta A109 Light Utility Helicopter Project)

Col Viljoen will give an overview on the state of the Alouette III helicopters in the 1990s (these helicopters were replaced with the Agusta helicopters which were purchased as part of the SDPPs), when this system was acquired. He will deal in great detail with the acquisition process that the SAAF embarked upon to replace the Alouette, the companies that tendered to supply helicopters to South Africa, the type of engines offered by the tenderers for this capability. Col Viljoen will also touch on his stint at Agusta Helicopter facility in Italy between May 2000 and December 2003, during which time the "project engineering process" was concluded.



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South African Navy

Admiral Derek John Christian

Admiral Christian will present visuals of the equipment that the South African Navy had prior to the SDPPs and those that were acquired pursuant to the SDPPs. He will demonstrate the differences between these capabilities.