

## **THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF COMMANDANTS**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Working visit of the Chair, African Conference of Commandants, Major General Andrew Gutti to Southern Africa, 14-19 November 2011**

As per decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> African Conference of Commandants (ACoC) held in Jinja, Uganda from 1-4 November 2011, Major General Andrew Gutti, Chair of the ACoC travelled to Southern African with a view of popularising the ACoC. Colonel Stephen Oluka travelled with him.

The broad objective of Major General Andrew Gutti's participation in a working visit to Southern Africa was to popularise ACoC and seek the support of the Southern African Development Community. The working visit was scheduled to be undertaken in South Africa and Botswana from 14 March to 19 March 2011.

A second objective of the visit was to discuss the 2011 ACoC workplan and review progress on preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> ACoC which will be held in Botswana in November 2011. The proposed outcome of the visit was a clear understanding of the pertinent activities that have to be implemented to ensure concrete progress and relevance of the ACoC.

#### **Visit of the 4<sup>th</sup> ACoC Chair to the Botswana Defence Command and Staff College Gaborone on 17 Mar 2011.**

Maj Gen Andrew Gutti the Commandant of the Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC), Kimaka- Jinja Uganda who is the current chairman of ACoC and his delegation comprising of the Head ACoC Secretariat Mr Henri Bushoff and the Head of the Writing Team (HOWT) SCSC who was also the 4<sup>th</sup> ACoC Coordinator, Col Stephen Oluka were received at the Botswana Defence Command and Staff College (BDCSC) on Thur 17 Mar 2011 by the Acting Comdt Col Joseph Seelo who proceeded to introduce members of his team including Col DK Mokgwathi the Chief Instructor Air Operations and Col Christopher Ferguson a member of the Directing Staff. The visiting delegation was ushered into the college boardroom and taken through a presentation on the college profile

The meeting discussed matters arising from the updates of the Ag Comdt BDCSC on the preparations of the 5<sup>th</sup> ACoC as guided by a checklist issued by Mr Boshoff which was a defacto roadmap that needed to be followed and accomplished to guarantee success of the 5<sup>th</sup> ACoC and agreed on the following:

- All events in the roadmap were discussed and relevant corrections/ amendments made.
- These events were found to be very useful and required to be adhered to.
- The BDCSC had covered a lot of ground in all aspects of preparations including the funding and the earmarking of the venue for the conference.
- Mr Boshoff promised to attach one member of the ACoC Secretariat to the planning team in Gaborone in the run up to the conference to help oversee the final preparations.

**Visit of the 4<sup>th</sup> ACoC Chair to the SADC Secretariat Gaborone, Botswana on Wednesday 16 Mar 2011.**

Maj Gen Andrew Gutti, the Commandant of the Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC), Jinja Uganda, who is also the current Chair of African Conference of Commandants (ACoC) and his delegation were received by Mr Haretsebe Mahosi the Head of the Civilian Component at the SADC Planelm.

Discussions and clarifications on issues raised were conducted earnestly and by the end of it members were in unison on the following:

- That ACoC was in no way an interference into the already existing efforts.
- That ACoC was a very important milestone in addressing African conflicts.
- That it deserved support.
- That more efforts be put in place to explain this new mechanism to all stakeholders so that a common understanding of its aims, objectives and aspirations are well understood.

**ACoC Secretariat, Pretoria  
09 May 2011**