

# Inspector General of SAMHS awarded

By Lebohlang Letaoana

Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Inspector General of SAMHS, Brig Gen Rupert Cloete, and his team were awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certificate at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 12 April 2006 by the CEO and President of SABS, Mr Martin Kuscus.

They received the certificate ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Systems in respect of Provision of Service to good Corporate Governance through risk based internal auditing in Pursuit of Military Health Excellence. The ISO 9001:2000 is an international quality standard, regulated by the International Organisation for Standardisation.

The SABS is the custodian for the ISO standards in Southern Africa and has incorporated the ISO 9000 family standards in the South African National Standards (SANS). ISO 9001 specifies requirements for a quality management system in which an organisation demonstrates its ability to provide products or services that fulfil customer and applicable regulatory requirements and aims to enhance customer satisfaction.

The Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, who was the main functionary, said he was proud of the Inspector General of SAMHS and his team because they showed commitment even when times were tough: "This presentation (of the certificate) does not mean that your work has



**Fitr: Inspector General of SAMHS, Brig Gen Rupert Cloete, accepts the certificate from the CEO and President of SABS, Mr Martin Kuscus, while the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan looks on.**

stopped; there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done," he said. The CEO of SABS said it was a good experience to work with the SAMHS and encourage the other Services to participate in the near future. The IG SAMHS is the second component of the SANDF, after the IG DOD received ISO 9001:2000 accreditation on 17 December 2002, to receive ISO 9001:2000 accreditation from the SABS. During 2003 the IG SAMHS began implementing a quality management system based on the ISO 9001:2000 quality standard. This decision was taken to support the Inspectorate's mission to provide the SAMHS with an independent, objective assurance and

consulting internal audit service. In August 2005 the IG SAMHS officially approached the SABS with a view to being evaluated for possible ISO 9001:2000 accreditation. In October 2005 the SABS conducted the formal assessment. The IG SAMHS achieved the rare honour of successfully completing the assessment, with no findings to clear before the results had to be presented to the SABS Accreditation Board.

In March 2006 the IG SAMHS application was presented to the SABS Accreditation Board, which approved the accreditation of the SANS ISO 9000:2000 certification to the IG SAMHS. 