



Reconciliation and Healing as part of Post Conflict Reconstruction

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Introduction

- ▶ What happens after conflict when
 - ▶ Soldiers pull out and politicians shake hands
- ▶ Who takes the lid of the pressure?
 - ▶ People traumatized, pain, hatred etc
 - ▶ Opposing Forces now one Force
- ▶ How do you deal with it?

Will Discuss

- ▶ What happened and processes followed in SANDF
- ▶ Development of and processes in Africa
- ▶ World Conference for Cpln Gen's of the World on "Reconciliation and Healing as part of Post Conflict Reconstruction
- ▶ Program for Militaries of the World
- ▶ Lessons learned

Process in RSA

- ▶ Started negotiations from middle 80's
- ▶ Realised a Justice and Healing process needed
 - ▶ "absence of war don't constitute peace"
 - ▶ "nobody gets out of war unwounded"
- ▶ TRC established
 - ▶ 22,000 stories
 - ▶ 5,600 people got amnesty
- ▶ Integration process in SANDF of 7 Forces
- ▶ Out of both a number of lessons learnt

First Phase - process in the SANDF

- ▶ Biblical imperative - 2 Cor 5:18
- ▶ Common vision - "Not where you come from that is important but where you are going"
- ▶ Increasing the width of the middle-/common ground
- ▶ Building of integrated SANDF
 - ▶ Lectures on customs, cultures and R&H
 - ▶ Sharing of accommodation
 - ▶ Sport
 - ▶ Games
 - ▶ Sharing of stories
 - ▶ Washing of feet
 - ▶ Memorials

Second phase - Africa

- ▶ 2002 - Peace Keeping/Support operations started
 - ▶ Burundi, DRC, Central African Republic, Sudan
- ▶ No formal plans to ensure reconciliation and healing after elections and withdrawal of Forces
- ▶ Circumstances in countries affected our soldiers

Deployments in Africa

- ▶ Realised as military we had to play a role in Peace Building
- ▶ Started on small scale in helping local communities - rolling over to institutions and leaders
 - ▶ Adopt a child
 - ▶ Support to Schools
 - ▶ Sport teams
 - ▶ Hospitals
 - ▶ Ministers fraternal
 - ▶ Church services
 - ▶ Teaching leaders R&H
 - ▶ Memorial events

Conference with all Faith Groups in SA

- ▶ Decisions
 - ▶ Reconciliation responsibility of faith communities
 - ▶ Ethical guidance responsibility of faith communities
 - ▶ Support to the “hurt” and “wounded” responsibility of faith communities
 - ▶ Faith communities must advise Government on these issues
- ▶ Decision to further develop own SANDF Cpn's programme and a R&H Conference was held in 2008 to determine processes
 - ▶ Malusi Mpumlwana, Era Ghandi, Charles Villa-Vicencio, Michael Lapsley and experts from Rwanda

Next phase – Wider world

- ▶ Host first ever Cpln Gens of World Conference
- ▶ Conference Theme - Reconciliation and Healing as part of Post Conflict Reconstruction
- ▶ Attended by - 101 Cpln Gens from around the World
- ▶ Speakers - Desmond Tutu, Miroslav Volf, Pumla Gobodo - Madikizela, Charles Viila-Vicencio, Michael Lapsley and Military Commanders out of Peace Keeping Operations
- ▶ Developed a program/process to be implemented by peace keeping Forces around the World

Process/model

1. Find one another (Listen)
 - organised events
 - customs, stories, pain, fears
2. Trust one another (Share)
 - sport, dining, church, community activities
3. Journey with one another (Do)
 - do things for others
 - schools, hospitals, graveyards
 - care for those in need
 - memorials

Lessons learnt

- ▶ R&H is a journey (manage as such)
- ▶ Religious imperative is NB for many
- ▶ Understand that restoration is a sign of sincerity
- ▶ People need to be heard
 - ▶ Others tell my story
 - ▶ Media/art
- ▶ Events and places to remember
 - ▶ Memorials

Lessons learned cont'

- ▶ Move away from them and us
- ▶ Decide to
 - ▶ Not close ranks (kudu story)
 - ▶ Not to be bitter
 - ▶ Poison others
 - ▶ Language
 - ▶ Learn to forgive
 - ▶ Yourself
 - ▶ Others

Forgiveness heal both you and the other

- Tutu

- ▶ The weak and the immature cant forgive – forgiveness is for the strong and mature - Ghandi
- ▶ If you get back at somebody you become his slave
 - if you get even with somebody you become his equal
 - if you forgive somebody you become his master- Benjamin Franklin
- ▶ Forgiveness can't change the past but it can change the future - Paul Briscoe

Conclusion

- ▶ Military situation unique
 - ▶ Permanent Force
 - ▶ Went through an organized healing program
 - ▶ Started to move beyond themselves into helping Africa
 - ▶ Conscripts/Freedom fighters
 - ▶ Few via TRC
 - ▶ Most no program or process
- ▶ Unfulfilled dreams/worth by many within present situation
- ▶ Question
 - ▶ How to deal with/help them
 - ▶ Separate or combined programs
 - ▶ Suggested process can help in addressing the issue



▶ COMMENTS/QUESTIONS