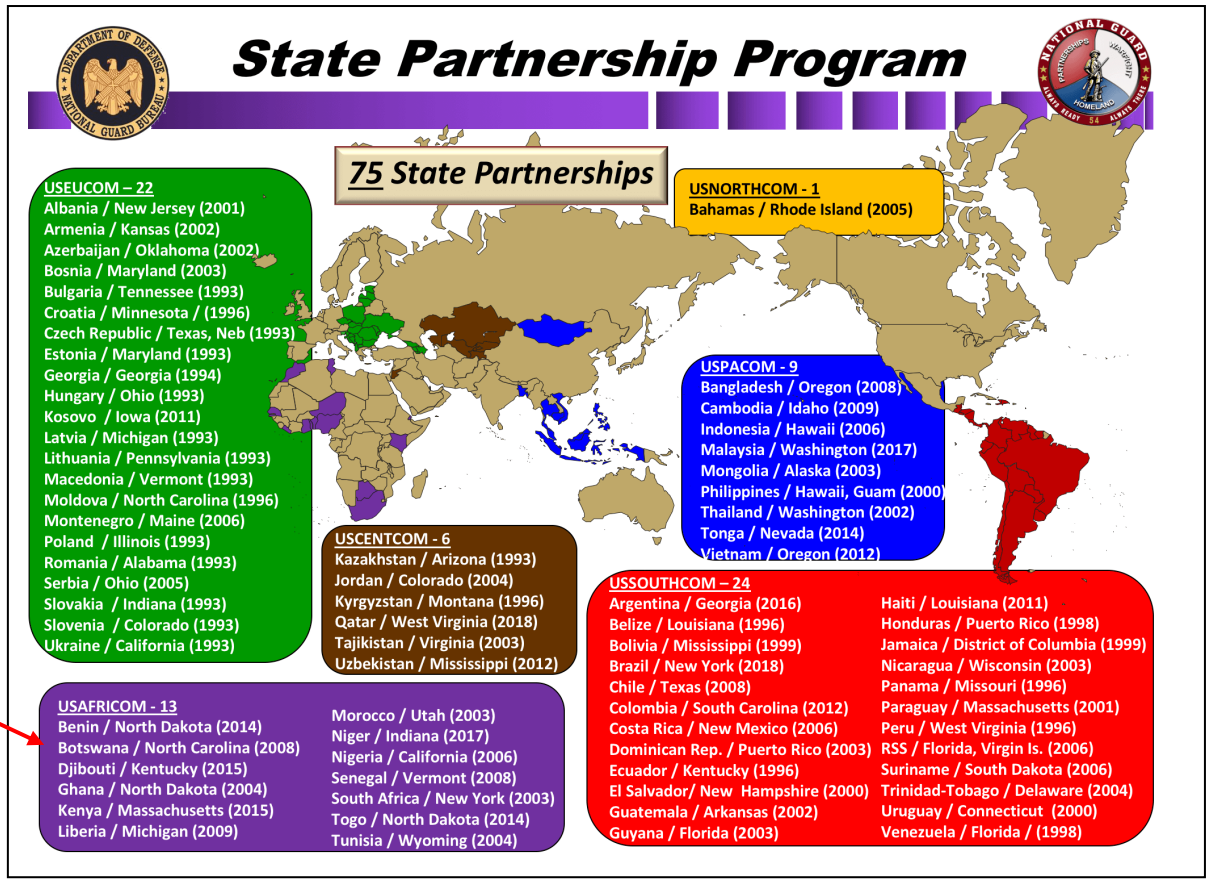
CHAPTER 11

Botswana, Africa

State Partnership Program

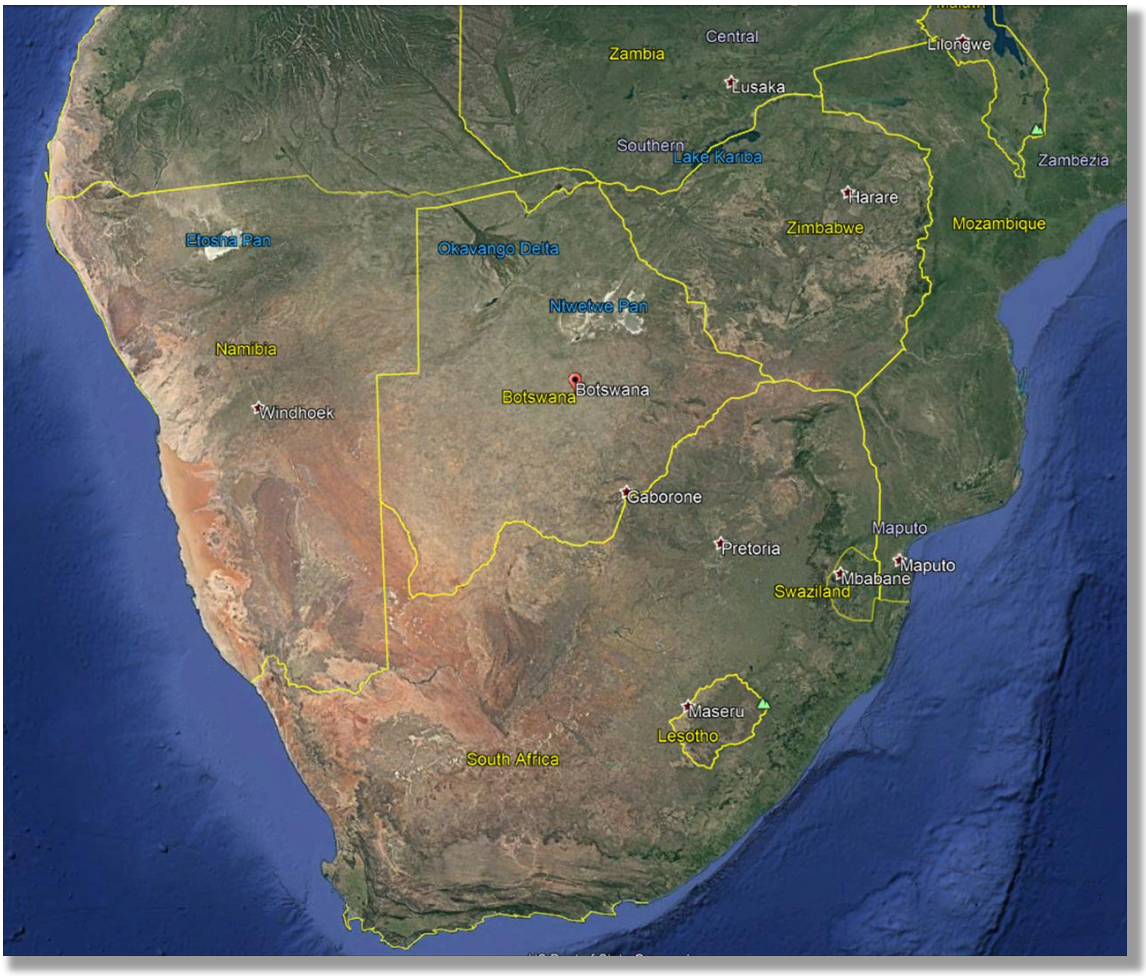


The State Partnership Program has been successfully building relationships for 25 years and now includes 75 partnerships with 81 nations around the globe. SPP links a unique component of the Department of Defense - a state's National Guard - with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutual, beneficial relationship

The SPP evolved from a 1991 U.S. European Command decision to set up the Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with three nations emerging from the former Soviet Bloc and the SPP was born, becoming a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encouraging people-to-people ties at the state level."

This cost-effective program is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the state adjutants general in support of combatant commander and U.S. Chief of Mission security cooperation objectives and Department of Defense policy goals. Through SPP, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements spanning military, government, economic and social spheres.

Summer, 2018 - N.C. National Guard security forces visit Botswana, African Continent



The Botswana Defense Force (BDF) and the North Carolina National Guard have been state partners for 10 years conducting over 70 Army and Air Force engagements in Botswana and in North Carolina.

These latest missions to Botswana are part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program or "SPP." SPP is in its 25th year of existence and the program has conducted thousands of National Guard and partner state engagements across the globe. The program now has 74 partnerships with countries throughout the world.

The N.C. Guard has two state partnerships; Botswana and Moldova. Moldova is a small eastern European country between Ukraine and Romania and has been partners with the N.C. National Guard for 22 years.

The Botswana Defense Force (BDF) is the military of Botswana. It was formed in 1977 and the commander-in-chief is the President of Botswana. The main force is the army; there is also an air wing, but no sea-going navy, although there is a river contingent attached to the ground forces, with 10 Panther airboats & 2 Boston Whaler Raider class vessels.

July 2018 - North Carolina Air National Guard

Earlier that summer, members of North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing Security Forces travelled to Botswana, Africa, in late June, to work side-by-side with their Botswana Defense Air Force counterparts in support of the National Guard's State Partnership Program, established by the Department of Defense.

145th Airlift Wing Security Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Barringer, left, and Staff Sgt. Eric Stitt, second from right, pose for a picture with their Botswana Defense Force counterparts. North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing Security Forces travelled to Botswana, Africa, in late June 2018, to work side-by-side with their Botswana Defense Air Force (BDF).

In these photos, BDF Airfield Security explains how they conduct entry point security operations.

"It was great working with the BDF Air Force," said 145th Airlift Wing's Staff Sgt. Eric Stitt, a five-year veteran of the Wing's Security Force. "They were eager to work and learn best practices from our team and we learned a few things ourselves."

North Carolina's Air National Guard's Security Forces are charged with protecting and defending the 145th Airlift Wing's air base, at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. They also have similar capabilities as Army Military Police and frequently interact and collaborate with local, state and federal law enforcement.

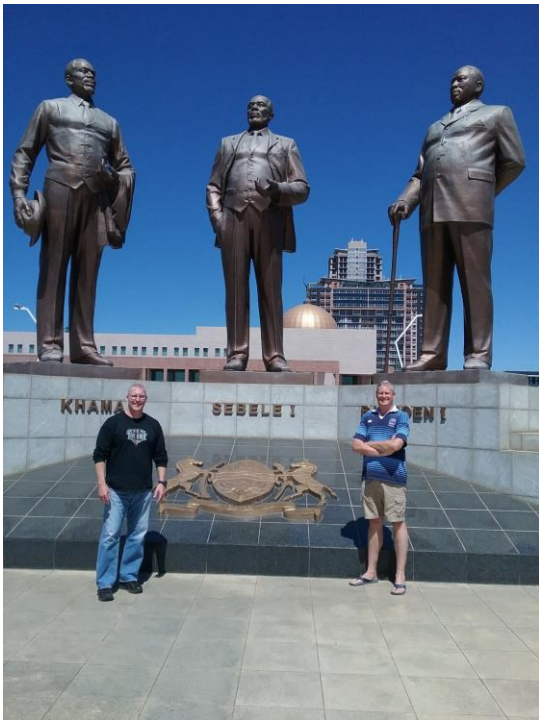
"I have one overseas deployment to the U.A.E. in 2015, and this is my first SPP mission," said Stitt. "While in Botswana we'd have morning classroom sessions and then move to the airfield to execute what was discussed in class. It was a great experience."

"NCNG Botswana SPP engagements will only increase over the next 24 months," said Sgt. 1st Class James Andrews, NC National Guard's SPP coordinator. "The level of professionalism and pride in their [BDF] defense mission is clearly visible. Our strong relationship and ability to learn from each other's forces is what makes this program successful."

This particular SPP engagement is a starting point to build on in anticipation for a larger AFRICOM sponsored multi-state exercise in 2019 called Upward Minuteman 2019.

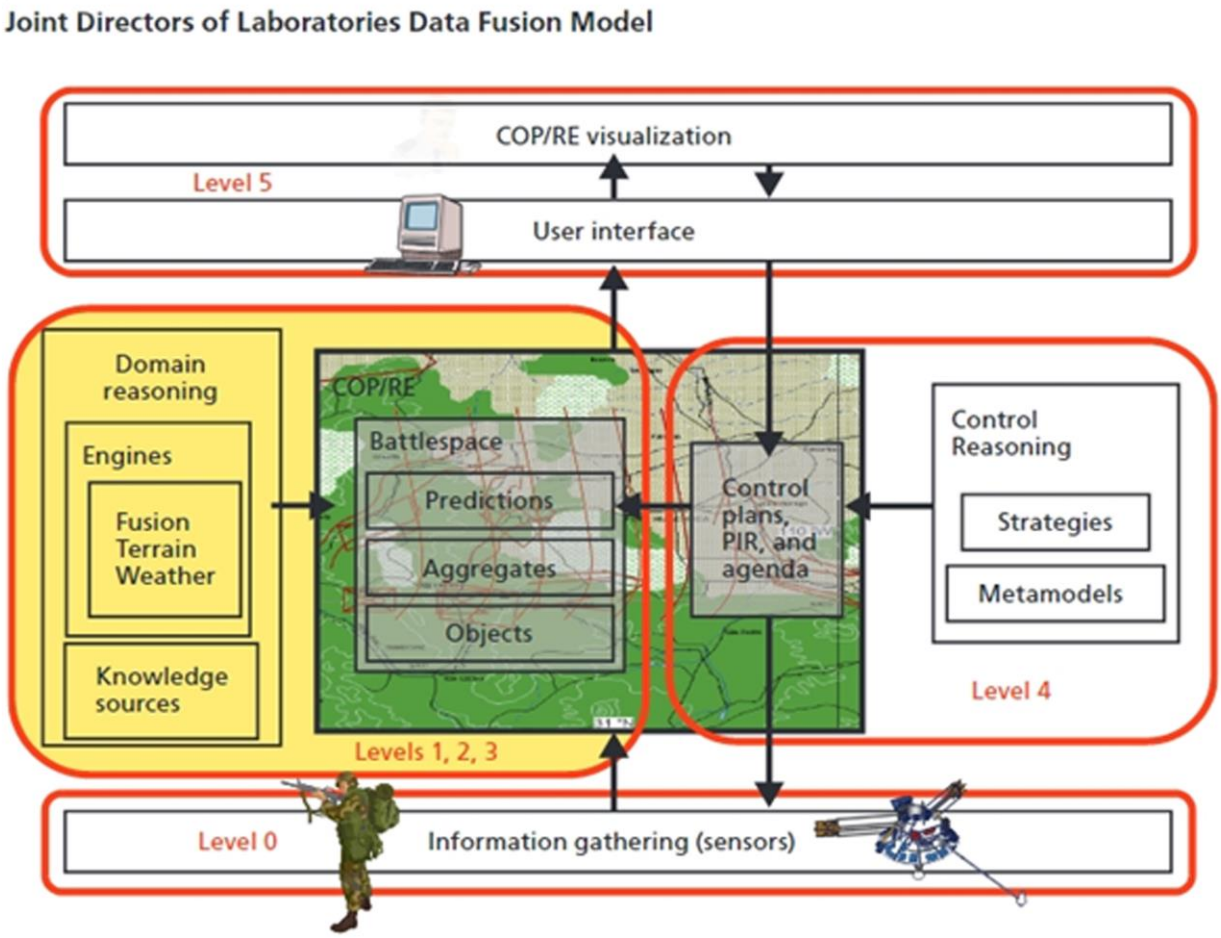
September 14, 2019 – Intelligence Fusion Training

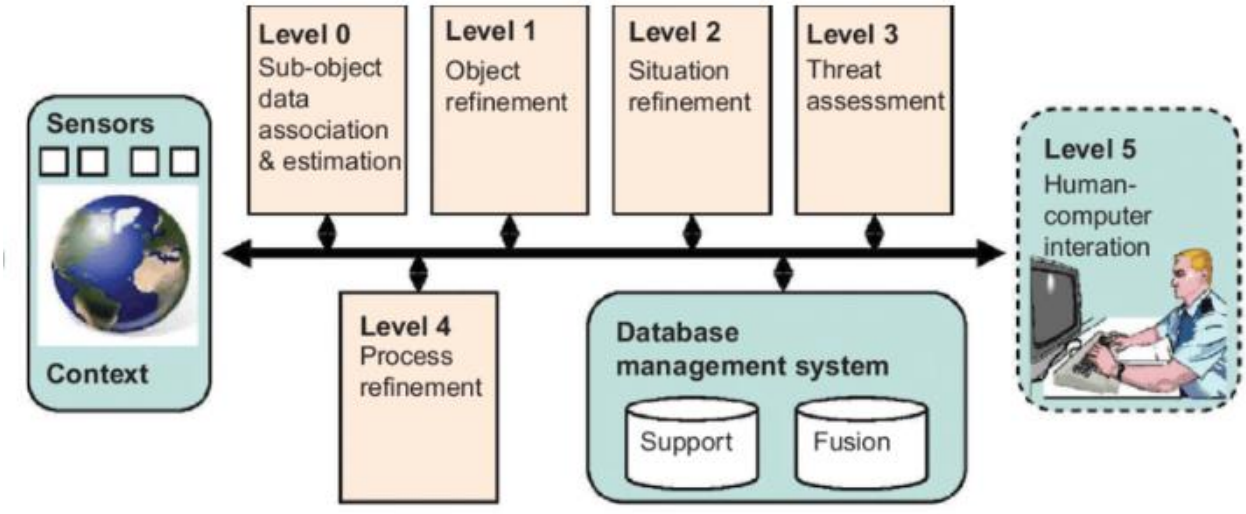
Major Neil Edgar and another member of the North Carolina National Guard went to Africa to work with the Botswana Defense Forces (BDF) Intelligence Officers. They helped facilitate training on the modern-day concept of “Intelligence Fusion”.



As the U.S. military transforms to an information-based force, it will need processes and methods to collect, combine, and utilize the intelligence that is generated by its assets. The process known as *fusion* will play an important role in determining whether this intelligence is used in the most beneficial manner. The process of fusion, combining pieces of information to produce higher-quality information, knowledge, and understanding, is often poorly represented in constructive models and simulations that are used to analyze intelligence issues. This report describes one approach to capturing the fusion process in a constructive simulation, providing detailed examples to aid in further development and instantiation. The sequential fusion method in intended to determine whether separate intelligence observations are close enough geographically, have consistently identified the same battlefield entity, and contain high-quality information, all of which must be considered before fusion of intelligence can occur. The fusion process described in this report is, for the most part, an implicit representation of the generation of battlefield intelligence and can be used in a constructive simulation or fusion model to better understand the dynamics of intelligence-gathering systems and their effect on intelligence metrics.

In the hostile, complex, and chaotic counterinsurgency environment, people can support the government and the insurgency to varying degrees at the same time — and be similarly resentful of both. Identifying all but the unequivocally irredeemable as an "enemy" and labeling anyone wearing a government uniform as a "friend" not only creates a false paradigm of human identity, but it also artificially bounds the U.S. military's options for influencing a population during a counterinsurgency operation. Analyzing complex environments, such as Iraq or Afghanistan, through simplified approaches that incorporated color-coding and enforced a strict division of analytic specialties lead analysts to make unhelpful and logically unsound assumptions about human identity. Color-coded, enemy-centric analyses also reinforced the inaccurate and unhelpful notion that the enemy and society are separate constructs in the counterinsurgency environment, or separate subsystems (or groups) within a larger societal system. On the contrary, what is needed is an all-source, holistic, fused approach to analysis that takes into account sociocultural ambiguities. “Intelligence Fusion” proposes a paradigm shift in how intelligence is combined for analysis and how the product of that analysis can provide a more complete picture of counterinsurgency operations for commanders and other decisionmakers. The concept of behavioral intelligence analysis discards the old method of color-coding in favor of a spectrum of hostility. In other words, analysts would work from the assumption that all actors might have the capacity to behave in a way that is more or less conducive to the U.S. military's objectives in a conflict.





The joint directors for laboratories data-fusion model.

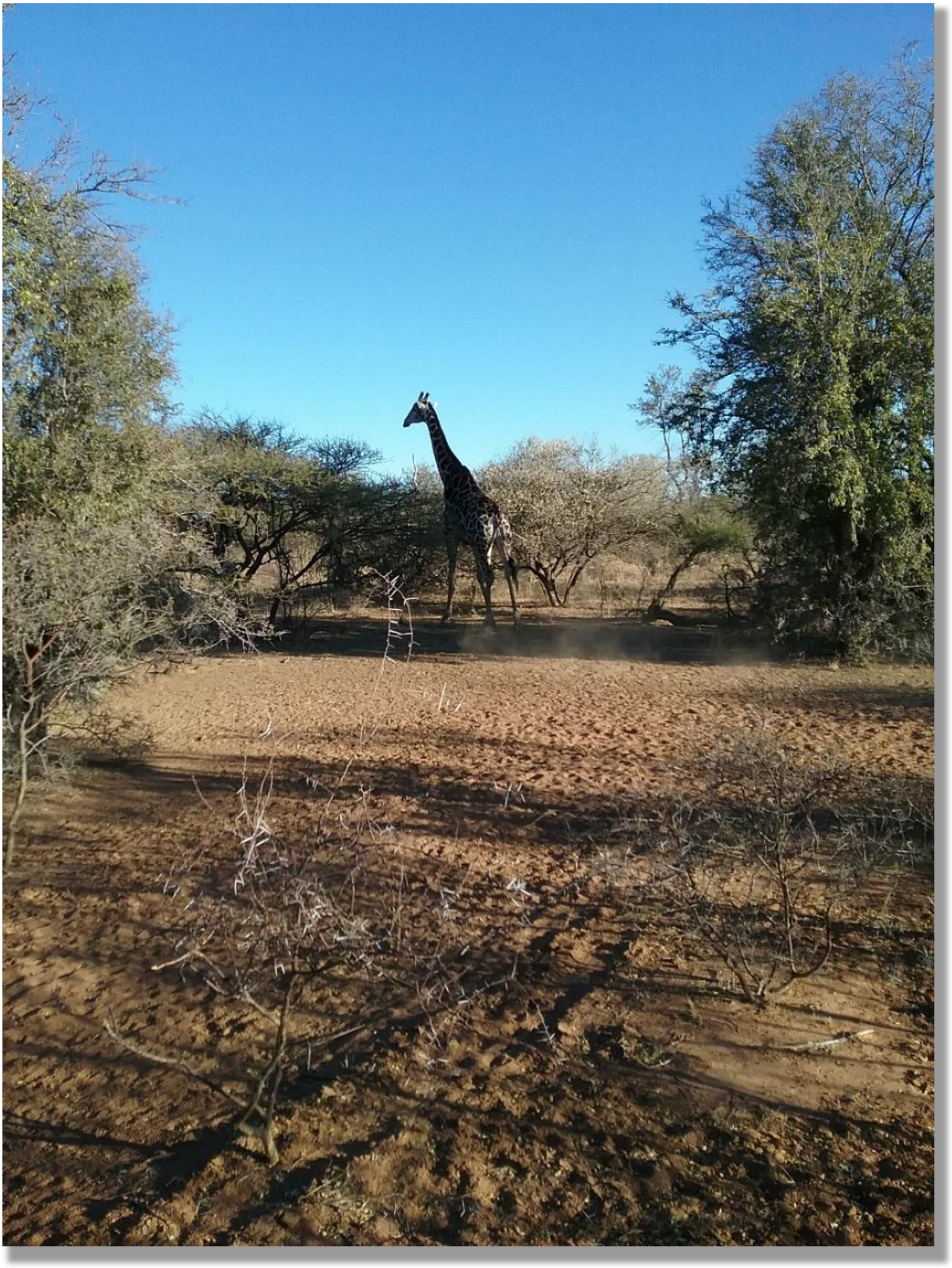
It was a productive trip and a great cultural experience as well. A trip to Botswana to support the SPP has long been on his military bucket list and he hopes to return again.

While the BDF is the military organization of Botswana, one of their primary missions is anti-poaching. Major Edgar shares their passion. It was personally very rewarding to work with the BDF and fine tune their anti-poaching operations.

"Africa is beautiful and the people are an absolute delight", observed Major Edgar. "They are kind, friendly and very soft-spoken."

Rights of Passage – Blending with the Local Culture

While on assignment, his hosts treated him to a short safari. “The African 'bush' is amazing, he said.



Major Edgar was also introduced to the local cuisine – a right of passage for all American soldiers who visit Botswana. The first was the local beer, Chibuku Shake-Shake.

Chibuku is a commercial sorghum beer based on the traditional Umqombothi home-made African beers. The main grains used are malted sorghum and maize but may also contain millet. It was first brewed during the 1950s in Kitwe, Zambia by Max Heinrich, who trained in brewing in Berlin.

The beer has a rather low alcohol content (usually less than 3%) and is known to have a heavy and distinctly sour aroma. In appearance, the beer is opaque and light tan in color. It has a thick, creamy and gritty consistency (from the maize).

Umqombothi is brewed following traditional customs and these vary slightly between regions. The recipe is often passed down through the generations. The beer is traditionally prepared over a fire outside of the house. It then passively cools to ambient temperatures outside the house.

The ingredients used are: equal measures of maize meal, crushed mealie malt (corn malt) and crushed sorghum malt. The maize malt provides a lighter-toned beer with a mellower flavor. The sorghum malt provides a darker beer.

The ingredients are mixed in a cast-iron pot, known as a potjie in South Africa. Four measures of warm water are added. The mixture is left overnight. The mixture starts fermenting and bubbles appear. A sour odor can be detected.

A small portion of the wort is removed and put to one side. The remaining mash is cooked until a crusty sediment forms. This product is known as isidudu and can be eaten as a porridge. When making beer, the isidudu is left to cool for a day.

After the mixture has cooled, it is poured into a large plastic vat. The wort that was set aside is added to the vat. A handful of sorghum malt and a handful of maize malt is added to the vat. The brew is stirred with a traditional stirring spoon called an iphini. The vat is covered with a lid and blanket (to retain heat). The vat is put in a warm place overnight, to encourage fermentation.

The traditional method of testing to see if the brew is ready is to light a match close to the vat. If the match blows out quickly, the brew is ready. If the match remains lit, the brew is not ready. This is because the fermenting mash produces large amounts of carbon dioxide, which does not allow for combustion of the match.

When the brew is ready, the fermented mash is filtered through a large metal strainer, to remove the spent grains. The sediment at the bottom of the vat is known as intshela. The intshela is added to the strained beer, to give extra flavor.

The spent grains are squeezed out and are usually cast onto the ground for chickens. The brewer of the beer traditionally gives thanks to the ancestors while casting the corn.

Once the beer has been strained, it is poured into a large communal drum known as a gogogo. It is ready for sharing with friends and family. When guests arrive at the brewer's home to taste the beer and join in the celebration, they traditionally bring a bottle of brandy, as a symbol of gratitude.

Another main staple in protein starved Africa is prepared in many styles and when in season, is a national delicacy.

Shown here glazed on a bed of millet with a companion glass of warm Chibuku beer, *gonimbrasia belina* are an important source of protein for millions in the region.

CAUTION: You might not want to skip the next section if you do not have a stomach for the exotic!

Dried Mopane Worms - A species of emperor moth which is native to the warmer parts of southern Africa. Its large edible caterpillar, known as the **Madora**, feeds primarily but not exclusively on mopane tree leaves.

Cooking is easy and there are many preparations to choose from – boiled, fried, curried, stewed ….

Harvesting is easy also due to the massive populations following the rainy season.

Preparation, however, is not for the faint hearted as only the outer skin is dried and saved for cooking.

The feeling of wet caterpillar guts squishing through bare toes is an unforgettable part of the harvest.