

# Meet our first ever woman in command at sea

The SA Navy has announced the appointment of its first ever woman in command at sea. She is Sub-Lieutenant Latha Starling, who has been appointed Officer Commanding of SAS TEKWANE, the inshore patrol vessel (IPV) currently based in Durban.

Born in Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal and schooled at Bolverton Secondary School, Sub-Lieutenant Starling joined the SA Navy in 1997. After completing two years at the Military Academy in Saldanha she completed her Combat Officer's Qualifying Part 1 Course in 2000.

Following sea-time in the mine countermeasures vessel, SAS UMZ-IMKULU, and the combat support vessel, SAS DRAKENSBERG, she completed her Astro-Navigation Course in 2002. Thereafter she completed her Bridge Watchkeeping Qualification and commenced IPV training.

In 2004 she spent time in the IPV's SAS TERN and SAS TEKWANE as

First Lieutenant. She was appointed in command at a change of command ceremony held in Durban on 20 May 2005. According to a Navy spokesperson, this is yet another example of

women being appointed to key command positions throughout the SA Navy, both ashore and at sea. **(Article issued by the Department of Public Relations: SA Navy)** 



**Sub-Lieutenant Latha Starling. (Photo: WO1 Manny Gounden)**