

COLONEL BEN STEYN

Colonel Ben Steyn is the Chemical and Biological Defence Advisor to the Surgeon General of the South African Military Health Service.

He is responsible for the development and implementation of policy and guidelines on the defence against chemical and biological weapons and radio-active materials in the South African National Defence Force, the management of research and development in this field as well as the provision of specialist advice on the subject to the South African National defence, other government agencies, such as the Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Department of Foreign Affairs and South African Police Service.

Colonel Steyn has held this position since 1993. He acted as specialist advisor to the South African delegation in negotiations to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention from 1992 to 2001, and still fulfills this role in other activities on the Biological Weapons Convention.

He was involved in the management of the anthrax incidents between October 2001 and January 2002 on a national and local level.

Previously he held various positions in the South African Defence Force since his qualification as a medical practitioner in 1977.

Colonel Steyn is a specialist anaesthetist and still practices anaesthesiology on a part time basis.