Nearly one in ten SA

soldiers has HIV

The South African army Tuesday

said 8.5 percent of the country’s

79,200 soldiers have HIV/

AIDS, angrily dismissing claims

of a higher prevalence rate. The

surgeon general of the South

African National Defence Force,

Vejay Ramlakan said a study conducted

in 2012 “showed a prevalence

rate of 8.5 per cent compared

to the national prevalence

rate of about 19 percent”. “This

is in stark contrast to claims by

some academics the last few

years that the HIV and AIDS

infection rate among soldiers

is as high as 28 percent,” said a

statement. South Africa has no

law barring infected people from

serving in the army. *(AFP)*