

# Copper theft investigated

Experts have been brought in to find out how 5km of copper wire was stolen over a year

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WORK is still under way at the Silvermine Military Command in Cape Town where investigators are probing cable theft that has crippled the communication network.

Spokesperson for the Department of Defence Brig-Gen Xolani Mabanga said yesterday various experts were involved in the investigation at the facility.

He said it was too early to say when they would conclude the investigation or make preliminary findings.

The probe was more technical, said the department's spokesperson.

Those who were involved in the investigation must be given time to go through all aspects.

The probe comprises people from civil aviation, the defence force, the police and engineers.

The Department of Defence began the investigation following reports that the facility had been stripped of 5km of copper by thieves for a period of more than a year, and has led to the disruption of the facility's communications equipment.

The military command was now using the equipment of a military command in Durban.



REPRIEVE: Simonstown, the home of the SA Navy, has not been affected by the theft of copper wire that has crippled the communications network of the Silvermine Military Command. PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES

The Department of Defence has asked their counterparts from Public Works to fix a fence in the facility.

Thieves cut through the fence when they illegally entered the centre to steal copper.

While the theft had caused a

loss of communication in some directions, there was radio communication for maritime operations and communication

with ships at sea, which were not affected by the theft, the department said earlier.

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