

FREE ... But pass it on when you are done

VOL 19 NO 3 March 2012

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

ISSN 1609 - 5014

SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

*Appointed Chaplain General
of the SANDF*




defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

- 4 From the Editor's desk
- 6 Letters to the Editor
- 10 News from abroad
- 12 2012 Opening of Parliament
- 14 Minister Gordhan considers the SANDF in his budget speech
- 
- 16 DOD Signs pact to deepen Maritime cooperation
- 18 Renewed Inter-state dynamism
- 20 SADC Defence Sub-Committee meets
- 21 SA and Turkish Navies strengthen bilateral relations

22 SAAF and Denel Aviation signs MOU

24 Air power excellence of the past year

26 Maritime Committee combats piracy



28 Defence Reserves as a national asset

30 Non-statutory Forces Pension Dispensation update



32 Defence Supply Chain Integration mapping a new way

34 Celebrating Human Rights Day



35 World's largest open water swimming event

36 World TB Day

38 SA Army and Maxi Credit solution helps students

40 Freedom, the drive to create new memories

41 Military Academy appoints a new Dean

42 Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana received his doctorate

STREET ADDRESS

Defence Headquarters
cor Nossob & Boeing St
Erasmuskloof
PRETORIA

POSTAL ADDRESS

SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

TELEPHONE

Tel: (012) 355 6341
Fax: (012) 355 6399
email: sasoldier@mil.za
website: www.dod.mil.za

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

REPRODUCTION, PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION:

Shereno Printers
10 Atlas Road
Dunswart, Boksburg
Tel: (011) 894 4150
Fax: (011) 894 4153
email: nirans@shereno.co.za

2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).

2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
Deputy Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Editorial Staff: Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole
Sgt Elias Mahuma
Cpl Ally Rakoma
Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Text Editor: Mr Eugene Muller

Translation Consultant: Directorate Language Services

Distribution: Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: (012) 355 6341

Layout & Design: Mr Werner van der Westhuizen



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

44 New spiritual leader of the SANDF inaugurated

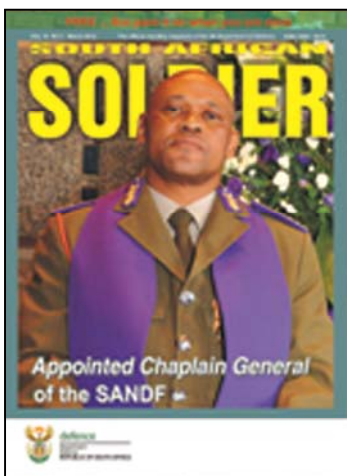
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

- Mr S. Dlamini
(Chairperson)
- Brig Gen X.G. Mabanga
- Cpln M.P.K. Masemola
- Col S.A. Motswadira
- Col M.E. Pheko
- Col S.P. Zeeman
- Cdr C.E. Khumalo
- Lt Col S. Kotane
- Ms N. Pienaar
- Lt S.E. Segone
- Mr L.R.M. Netshirembe
(Secretary)



45

ABOVE: Members of the National Ceremonial Guard (NGC) leading the parade for the State of the Nation Address in Cape Town on 9 February 2012, this annual event marked the official opening of the parliament by the President and Commander-in-Chief, Mr Jacob Zuma. Read about the 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA) on pages 12 to 13. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)



SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER do not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

COPYRIGHT: No article or picture in this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

FRONT COVER: The newly appointed Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen Andrew Jamangile. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.dod.mil.za

from the editor's desk



A bvaho kha munwaleli

It is my pleasure once again, as a loyal messenger, to bring you good, relevant and informative monthly news that matter to you through the SA Soldier.

This month we kick off by reporting back to you on the all important 2012 State of the Nation Address (SONA) by our President and Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma. The event was an opportunity for the President to assess our country's domestic and foreign situation and to outline what we should do to enhance our efforts to achieve a better life for all South Africans. Read all about in pages 12 to 13.

The other news that I personally thought would be of interest to you was the budget speech by the Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan. In his 2012/13 budget speech addressing the cabinet and South Africans in parliament in Cape Town on 22 February 2012 he announced that spending on Defence, Public Order and Safety would grow from R140 billion in 2012/13 to R158 billion in 2014/15. This is good news indeed as this means that as the Defence Force we will be able to execute our constitutional mandate efficiently and effectively as expected. Get the details on pages 14 and 15

On pages 30 to 31, read about the Non-statutory Forces (NSF) pension dispensation, we bring the latest information about this project. Please spread the word about NSF so that as many qualifying beneficiaries as possible are reached.

It is in this month that we commemorate World TB Day. This annual event on 24 March marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch detected the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. Read about this on page 36.

The Editorial Team values you as a reader, it is for this reason that we request you to read and complete the reader's survey on page 47 so that we consistently bring you stories you want to read about.

I hope you will find this edition particularly exciting and informative as it is packed with news and information that impact on us in the different areas of our lives.

Peace be unto you

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor 

Ndi dakalo vhukuma hambe kha nne uwa mushumeli na uwa murumiwa ane a disa mafhungo madifha o livhanyiwaho na vhoiwe vhavhali nga kha ino bugu ya SA Soldier.

Maragaphada kha uno nwedzi wa Thafamuhwe khea, ri ni toolela nga ha mafhugo a vhuthogwa vhukuma a musi Muphuresindende na Muragaphanda wa Muhasho wa Vhupileli na maswole a kale Vho Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma vha tshi vula phalamende. U vutwas ha palamende zwi fha tshipida tshine Muphuresindende vha sumbedza vhadzulapo vha fhano Afrika Tshipembe nyimelo ya shango lashu na hune ro ima hone kha manwe mashango. Zwine vha amba zwi ri tutuwedza uri ri nga itani uri vhatu rothe ri kone u tshila vhutshilo ha khwine. Izwi zwothe zwi kha masiatari 12 uswika kha 13.

Manwe mafhungo ane nda humbula ungari a nga vha a ndeme ndi a Mudzudzanya ngwama, Vho-Pravin Gordhan. Vho-Gordhan musi vhatshi amba nga dzi 22 Luhuli vhe palamendeni ngei Kapa ngaha vhekanyitwa na u avhelwa ha tshelende kha nwaha 2012/13 kha muhasho uno na minwe mihasho vhoi, hu dovha na nyaluso kan u engedziwa ha masheleni u bva kha R140 miliyoni kha uno nwaha uswikela nwaha udaho. Izwi nd mafhung a takadzaho vhukuma ngauri zwi amba uri Muhasho wa Vhupileli na maswole a kale u do kona u ita zwothe zwin wa fanela u ita nga dila ine itelwa zwone u ya nga bugu khulwane ya u vhusa shang la Afrika Tshipembe. Vhalani izwi kha masiatari 14 u swika 15

kha masiatari 30 u swika 31, vhalani ngaha thandela ya phentsheni ya mmbi dza kale dze dza vha dzi si ho mulayoni "Non-statutory Forces (NSF) pension dispensation". Ri vha disela aya mafhungo maswa ngaha thandela iyi. Khumbulo ndi ya uri ni vhudze vhanwe vhatu nga haya mafhugo uri thandela iyi in kon u swikela kha vhothe vha kwameaho.

Kha uno nwedzi ri pemebelela fhungo li elanaho na zwa mutakalo. Kha siatari 36 ri vha disela mafhungo a elanaho na vbulwadze ha Lufhia.

Vhanwali vha ino bugu vha vhoiwa zwi zwa ndeme uri vhavhali vha ino bugu vha ri vhdze zwine vha tama u vhalala zwone, ndi ngazwo ri tshi kho u humble uri vha dadze siatari 47.

Ndi a kholwa vha do wan iyi bugu kha uno nwedzi yo dal nga zwine vha zwoifuna.

Mulalo kha vha iwe nothe.

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Muthusa Munwaleli 

Translation to Luvenda by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe.

Financial misconduct, fruitless and wasteful expenditure can bring the National Defence Force to a halt!



**“Prevention of Irregular and Fruitless Expenditure:
Starts with me”**



defence

Department:
Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HE WILL BE THERE TO FIX IT ALL


In life you must know what you want even if people think you are confused, as long as you know where your destiny is. The important fruit of life is that no matter how many times you try to achieve your goals, do not ever give up because at the end of the day those who thought that you were going down will come to you for advice, and you must give them advice. You have to know that life is what you make for people to see that you are also a human being like them. Martin Luther King once said: "I have a dream" and that dream the people of USA are living at the moment.

There are things in life that can make people think that you are nothing, but they do not know what you want in life, so leave them to think like that. But once you have read their minds about you, rectify those things.

You do not have to care what people are saying about you. They also have hidden skeletons, which if revealed, would be their end. Remember that God is the only judge of your life and He said that He will reveal everything on Judgement Day, that is when everyone is going to be judged, not by those of flesh and blood like us. Jesus loves us all, and He forgives us all, do not worry about human beings. Rather worry about the things that Jesus has brought you to do in life, the good things of eternity. I have made mistakes in my career, but I believe that the one who makes a mistake is the one who rectifies it. People are always looking for your downfall, not forgetting that you also did good to them so that their careers could prosper rapidly. They are the people of the earth and will always look at your bad side.

winning letter

They do not worry me because they are mentally exhausted. They need to repent and be born again and rectify the bad things and keep on trying because the Lord will always assist you and He will speak to you always.

The best way to a good life is to get education on an ongoing basis because in this organisation it is needed even if is only basic education. Education is next to godliness and is the only way that can improve our understanding. As a person you must have your own vision, mission and values to advance your life even if you get interrupted or discouraged or bored, but you must keep on pushing. Bebe Winans once sang Humpty Dumpty, "remember no matter how many times you fall, God Lord Jesus will be there to fix it all if you believe". **Cpl T.M. Dube, 44 Parachute Regiment** 

MAN OF THE MATCH

The Man of the Match is a person nominated after playing well for his or her team. It is an unwritten rule that the Man of the Match must be from the winning team. In order to be nominated as the Man of the Match you must be an outstanding player in scoring goals, distributing balls and preventing the opposition from scoring. You cannot be the Man of the Match if you are not a member of the first eleven in football. Most men of the match are quiet, but good in service delivery. The most important thing about the Man of the Match is that the person should be a well-disciplined person.


While nominating the Man of the Match, decisions can become

unfair owing to the biased way, these are made which demoralises other players. Even in the SANDF we have nominators who are biased, but they are not aware that they are demoralising the entire team. We even have men of the match being nominated even though they are not part of the first eleven, which is a big miracle. Most of the people like to be men of the match, but they are not fit for the game. People who are not fit for the game are chosen owing to biased technical management. In the SANDF we have leaders who lead by popularity, not by reality and they are not aware that they kill the organisation.

Lazy people in a company cannot

be nominated as workers of the month, but it always happen because people leave the core business and jump to perform what is not the core business. Others steal other people's glory by lies to benefit themselves, not knowing that they live a lie because they reflect what they are not. People must learn to earn what they deserve, because not earning it is going to haunt them since they have benefited from what they do not deserve. How can you expect your colleagues to say you are a hard worker when you know very well that you are lazy?

People are good at reaping where they did not plant, which is unfair. It is shocking to see someone fighting for good merits, but knowing quite clearly that he or she does not deserve those good merits. We must be fair to ourselves because it is wrong to reap what you do not deserve. A person can even conclude that his section head hates him or her, but forgetting two plus two is four. Let us change our ways of doing things if we want to be real men of the match.

Let us not steal other people's glory for our own benefit because God hates that and we will stay poor. **Capt P. Mlangeni, 87 Helicopter Flying School, AFB Bloemspuit** 

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten. All letters must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. **Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za.** We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.

PRIZE-GIVING PARADE INSPECTED BY NOTARY UK BENAFACOR

Mr Michael Pinner, the Honorary Secretary of the Seven Seas Club, London, Baxter and Grimshaw Trust, was invited by the Commanding Officer, Cdr Philip Miller, to inspect and address the Sea Cadets of TS Woltemade at their annual prize-giving parade.

The Trust, through Michael, has for several years been associated with TS Woltemade and has provided much needed financial assistance towards providing opportunities for those Sea Cadets whose families may not have been able to meet these commitments. This has assisted in covering their annual fees, camp fees and fire-fighting training. This assistance, along with gifts of equipment that are not available in South Africa, and the prizes, have greatly assisted the functioning of the Unit.

Michael has had an impressive career in Northern Ireland, the London Metro Police, as a Scotland Yard detective, Reserve Force Commissioner, Commanding Officer of an Army Cadet Corps and past president of the Seven Seas Club, London. He has a close relationship with seafarers as he sails his own yacht. The Trust and his interest in assisting the TS Woltemade Sea Cadets was prompted by Cdr William Barker, SA Naval Reserves, as part of a fund-raising appeal several years ago.

He remarked while addressing the Sea Cadets on parade that he was impressed with the large number of active, smartly turned out Sea Cadets on parade as well as the discipline and commitment demonstrated by the Cadets and their instructors. This observation outweighed what he had previously witnessed at Sea Cadet Units in the United Kingdom.

The CO and staff of TS Woltemade and the Sea Cadets could therefore be proud of their achievements knowing that they were assets contributing positively to South Africa's maritime future.

TS Woltemade presented Michael with his own personalised TS Woltemade cap, which he wore with pride during the parade. The Sea Cadets put on an impressive parade and march past and entertained their families and guests with a 3-pounder gun, sword and silent drill displays.

As is tradition at TS Woltemade, those Sea Cadets and Instructors who had excelled during the year were honoured with awards, trophies and

certificates. The adult instructors are drawn from ex SA Navy Full-time members and Reserves, ex Sea Cadets and parents. Without their interest, commitment and skills TS Woltemade would not be able to operate efficiently and provide an employment opportunity. Members of the SA Navy who have played a role in assisting the Unit include, among others, WO2 Shaun "Smiley" Abrahams, WO IC Scala Barracks, CPO Nolan Herne, SAS AMATOLA, AB Theswell Arendse, SAS SALDANHA and SLt Marlon Adams, SA Naval Reserves.

Special mention was made of the services of SLt Lucile Jacobs who

was awarded the Miller Trophy for the adult instructor/officer whose dedication during the year was above the call of duty. Her commitment resulted in the Unit being well administered.

Bravo Zulu to the Seven Seas Club, London, Baxter and Grimshaw Trust, and Mr Pinner for their ongoing support and assistance to the TS Woltemade Sea Cadets.

Should anyone feel called to assist the Sea Cadets at TS Woltemade please contact the Commanding Officer, Cdr Philip Miller, on 083 658 1666 or fishtrader@iafrica.co.za. Lt Cdr Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves 



ABOVE: PO Jean Jacobs receives one of his trophies from Mr Michael Pinner, the Honorary Secretary of the Seven Seas Club, London, Baxter and Grimshaw Trust. (PO Jacobs received the RGF Toms Trophy for overall attendance, the Amy Edwards Shield for the best Coxswain of a sailing dinghy and the Gordon-Rae Trophy as the best Cadet instructor.)

ABOVE: SLt (SCC) Lucile Jacobs, who was awarded the Miller Trophy for the adult instructor/officer whose dedication during the year was above the call of duty, shares a smile with two of her sons, Mid Damien Pitcher and PO Jean Jacobs.

THE INSTITUTE OF HOPE

Standing up tall facing the South like the Union Buildings.

Spreading its arms like ears of a charging bull elephant.

Flags flying up like the handkerchiefs of passengers of a leaving train.

Speaking words of wisdom to the friends and relatives.

Learners are looking up to you in hope. To show them the way to success.

The institute of hope!

It brings hope to the current leaders.

It brings hope to the leaders of tomorrow.

It brings hope to the entire Msawawa.

It brings hope to the SANDF.

It brings hope to the African Continent.

The institute of hope!

The institute that creates Facilitators.

The institute that creates Assessors.

The institute that creates Moderators.

The institute that creates Designers.

The institute of researchers.

The institute of benchmarkers.

The institute of hope!

Who is your creator?

Who is your inventor?

Where is he now?

Why did he think about you?

Why did he think about creating you?

The institute of hope!

You are the spear of the President.

You are the spear of the leaders.

You are the spear of the commanders.

You are the spear of the followers.

The institute of hope!

To the state you bring hope.

To the leaders you bring hope.

To the facilitators you bring sleepless nights.

To the learners you bring Portfolios of every day.

To some members you bring promotions.

To others you are the motivator

The institute of hope!

You sharpen soldiers to face the world.

You sharpen soldiers for the outside environment.

You sharpen them for the changing world.

You enlighten them about technology.

You will be known and respected by the world. The institute of hope!

Don't forget you are on the racetrack.

Don't forget to keep yourself fit for the race.

Don't forget to stretch your strides to win the race.

Don't forget you are among the champions.

Don't forget you have courage to win the race.

The institute of hope!

Those who come to you become confused at first.

Some want to quit some to stay.

But they will be encouraged to carry on.

This train is carrying members to New York City.

Some to Competent City but don't ask me where competent city is.

I only know New York in America.

The institute of hope!

Notional hours will derail you.

Credits will confuse you.

Unit Standards will amuse you.

Terms will add the pain.

Duration will strip you into parts.

Don't worry they will re-arrange you.

The institute of hope.

You are water when they are thirsty.

You are food when they are hungry.

You are the shelter to tired man.

You are the Social Worker to the frustrated.

You make sure everybody is Competent at the end.

We salute you! We salute you! We salute you!

The institute of hope! WO1 G. Joni,

COLET 



The College for Education and Technology (COLET).

FRIDAY THE 13TH GETTING A NEW MEANING


On Friday the 13th of January 2012, normally a day viewed with superstition, a group of members dressed in tekkies, gumboots and wide-rimmed hats, and armed with brooms, rakes, forks, saws and edge-cutters were ready to tackle Dequar Road in Pretoria.

At 08:00 this group was addressed by Maj Gen Les Rudman, the Deputy Chief of the SA Army, who thanked them for their positive approach to this working day, and work they did.

Shrubs were pruned, grass cut, papers picked up and the area bordering the houses in Second Street were cleaned as criminals had previously hidden in the bushes. At some stage Maj Gen Rudman passed a group of women trying to pull up a weed in the tarred road and, gentlemen that he was, he bent down to pull it out.

Some members worked, some supervised and some looked pretty, but all in all the area was cleaned up and more than a hundred black bags filled

with rubbish were collected. When the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Vusi Masondo, returned from leave on 16 January 2012 he received a wonderful surprise ...

Maj Gen Rudman encouraged all the members to continue to clean the areas where they worked, including their offices, and we hope that the owners of the homes in the military area keep the area clean from now on. **Maj Merle Meyer, Communication Officer SA Army** 

IF

Thank you for the hard work in 2011.
We salute you for a job well done.

If you break something - fix it.

If you can't - ask for help.

If it is not your business - don't interfere.

If not invited - don't bother.

If it does not belong to you - leave it.

If you borrow something - bring it back.

If you hurt someone - learn to apologise.

If you can't arrive - inform in time.


If you can't keep a promise - don't make one.

If you can't do it yourself - ask someone else.

If you open something - close it later.

If you like something - ask for it.

If you can't get it - forget about it.

If all about does not bother you - don't mind. Cpl M. Guduza, 5 SAI Bn 


REBUILDING THE SACB

The SA Corps of Bandsmen (SACB) is a small corps with a small number of musicians and a handful of non-musicians involved in administration and logistics.

After integration we experienced many challenges with regard to courses, promotions and posts, and these had financial implications.

Along the way processes were manipulated and policies not followed properly. It is therefore not surprising to me that some of us cry foul and others moan when the winds of change blow onto these shores. A few months back more than 20 musicians got promoted. Members are sent on courses; suddenly there are changes and movements because there have been delays that I think were caused on purpose.

Now, as human beings, soldiers and musicians, let us work together and rectify the errors that occurred before and avoid repeating them. Let us communicate regularly and constructively with each other at all levels. We have to do things right now without fear or favour. We have to stop complaining while doing nothing.

Comfort zones have a tendency to make people resist change because of the fear of the unknown, but let us try and accept change from now on because it is part of our lives as soldiers. **S Sgt L.B.T. Ndlovu, National Ceremonial Guard** 

TRIBUTE TO A SA RADIO PIONEER

Col H.L.L. (Bert) Howes, who died on 2 December 2011 at the age of 96, was the Director of Signals during the late 1960s. His career in radio communications began early. In 1934, the 19-year-old Bert Howes climbed Table Mountain in Cape Town with his homemade 56 Mc transmitter and receiver strapped to his chest. From that lofty vantage point he made contact with the few radio amateurs around South Africa's "Mother City" equipped to operate at such high frequencies.

Two years later he and his radio equipment went even higher - in the cockpit of a Puss Moth biplane being flown by Maj C.W. Meredith, Chief of Staff at Cape Command and later an Air Vice-Marshal in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The occasion was the South African Grand Prix and Bert Howes's very high frequency (VHF) wireless provided a solution to the communication problems around the circuit by acting as the airborne relay for the two stations situated at the extremities of the track. This was probably the first air-to-ground contact on VHF in Africa and the young Howes (amateur call sign ZS1AL) was well on his way to a career as a signaller in the South African Army.

His actual military career had started some three years before when, as a boy soldier, his prowess with a rifle saw him rapidly promoted to Lance Corporal in the "Dukes", the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles, one of the city's oldest Citizen Force battalions. His skill with wireless saw him transferred to the South African Corps of Signals in November 1936 and, soon after, he was sent to the Military College in Pretoria to be trained on the Army's latest acquisition, the Wireless Set No 1. Then, in 1938, he was commissioned as 2Lt in the South African Corps of Signallers (SACS) and was posted to 3 Brigade Signal Company stationed in Cape Town.

At the outbreak of World War II Bert Howes was the Wireless Officer in 10 Brigade Signal Company and he




Col H.L.L. (Bert) Howes, VHF Pioneer, 1915-2011.

became heavily involved in training the signallers of 1 SA Brigade then forming for service "up north". War service then took him to East Africa, the Western Desert and back to various training bases in South Africa. Finally, as acting-Major Howes and acting Officer Commanding of 17 Brigade Signal Squadron, he took his unit to Italy as part of the 6th SA Division under the command of Maj Gen Evered Poole CB, CBE, DSO. For that service he was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945.

Col Howes was the Officer Commanding of the School of Signals from 1959 to 1963 and then Director of Signals until 1968. From that post he moved to Witwatersrand Command where he was Second-in-Command and SO2 Logistics. He finally retired from the South African Defence Force in 1980 after 47 years of service. A radio pioneer in every sense of the word, and an avid experimenter on VHF as ZS6HS. Col Howes was truly one of South Africa's most important radio pioneers. **Maj Brian Austin (Ret), SACS from the UK** 

THANK YOU

I just wanted to tell you how awfully good and proud I felt when I got hold of the October and November editions of the *SA Soldier* with the article about the 10th anniversary celebrations of *SA Soldier* in which I appeared. Unbelievable! It strengthens my feeling of belonging to the SANDF and I remembered the ongoing interaction between myself, representing SA Army Communication,

and yourself as an editor and members of your staff on the editorial committee. In this difficult time of transformation with all its related problems you have accommodated my endless requests for articles to be published about the SA Army, and specifically about the Chief of the SA Army. All the best and THANK YOU. **Col Horst Schobesberger, email** 

Nuwe Jaar in die Sudan

Wie het nou kon dink dat ek die woorgang van 'n ou jaar na 'n nuwe jaar in 'n vreemde land sou ervaar en dit in 'n nie-Christelike land.

Normaalweg het ek en my gesin die ou jaar in die huis van die Here afgesluit en die nuwe jaar saam met mede-Christene verwelkom, maar hierdie jaar is dit totaal anders.

So ongeveer 23:30 (SA tyd 22:30) het ek besluit om tot by die Nylrivier wat sowat een kilometer van my huis geleë is te ry. Daar aangekom het ek my motor parker, uitgeklim en al langs die rivier af gedrentel en groepies mense in 'n baie gelukkige luim opgemerk, almal seker maar in afwagting op die aanbreek van die nuwe jaar. Soos dit maar die kultuur en geloof hier is, is mans en vroue afsonderlik in hul eie groepies, tee word in klein glasies hoofsaaklik deur vroue teen 'n minimale bedrag voorsien en almal smul baie lekker en tydsaam daaraan. Daar word gesels, gelag en hier en daar vang ek darem so 'n woord aangesien ek nou self besig is om darem net die basiese taalgebruik aan te leer. Ten minste kan ek darem nou al die volledige alfabet met sy 28 letters opsê en skryf, en o ja, mens skryf van regs na links en daar is geen hoof- of kleinletters nie.

New Year in the Sudan

Who would have imagined that I would experience the transition from the old year to the new in a strange country, and a non-Christian one at that? Normally my family and I would end the old year in church and welcome in the new year with fellow Christians, but this year was totally different. At about 23:30 (SA time 22:30) I decided to drive to the Nile River, which was a kilometre from my house. When I arrived there I parked my car, got out, and strolled along the river. I noticed small groups of people in a happy mood, probably awaiting the new year. Reflecting the culture and beliefs here the men and women were in separate little groups. Tea was served by the women in small glasses for a minimal amount and the people enjoyed a long, leisurely tea-drinking session. They chatted and laughed and here and there I recognised a word as I was busy learning the basic vocabulary. At least I can by now say and write the full alphabet with its 28 letters, and oh yes, one writes from right to left and there are no capital or small letters.

While I walked along the river absorbed in my own thoughts and noticing that in spite of their poverty

Terwyl ek al verder langs die rivier met my eie gedagtes afdwaal en telkemale oplet dat ten spyte van die meeste Sudanese se armoede hulle tog 'n baie vriendelike en gasvrye nasie is, breek die nuwe jaar uiteindelik in Sudan aan. Onmiddellik kom ek tot stilstand en aanskou hier en verder langs die Nyl af klappers met verskillende kleure wat die lug in opgeskiet word, mense spring op, omhels/groet mekaar en die enigste woord wat ek kon aflei, is "Ah Salaam Aleikom" wat beteken "May God be upon you". 'n Paar motors en selfs "tuk tuks" (driewielmotorfietse) blaas op hul toeters en mense is vrolik.

Met heimwee het ek vir 'n hele paar minute alles dopgehou, en gewonder hoe dit moontlik is dat hierdie mense met 'n glasier warm tee in die effense warm weer hulle so kan geniet terwyl oor 'n uur ons mense in Suid-Afrika die nuwe jaar gaan begroet met die misbruik van drank en dwelms en die reeds hoë syfers in padongelukke, verbroekelde huwelike en gesinsgeweld wat verder gaan styg.

Later besluit ek om maar huiswaarts te keer en besef die leemte in my hart: ek mis my vrou, kinders, familie, vriende en kollegas, maar wat kon ek doen, dit was trouens my keuse. Met


most Sudanese were a friendly and hospitable people, the new year finally arrived in the Sudan. I stopped at once and saw fireworks going off into the air in various colours both close by and further down the river. People jumped up, embraced and greeted each other, the only word I could make out was "Ah Shalaam Aleikom", which means "May God be upon you". A few cars and even "tuk tuks" (three-wheeled motorbikes) hooted and people were cheerful.

With a feeling of homesickness I watched everything for a while and wondered how it was possible that these people could enjoy themselves as much with a glass of hot tea in the mild weather, while an hour later our people in South Africa would be welcoming the new year with ever increasing alcohol and drug abuse and, as always high road accident figures, broken marriages and domestic violence. Later I decided to turn my steps homeward and felt the emptiness in my heart. I was missing my wife, children, family, friends and colleagues, but what could I do, it was after all my choice.

When I arrived home there were only a few minutes left before the commencement of the new year in

my tuiskoms was dit slegs nog 'n paar minute oor voor die nuwe jaar in Suid-Afrika sou aanbreek en ek gebruik vinnig die tyd om 'n teksboodskap of twee te lees, en die een wat my opgeval het, is die volgende: "Voorspoedige Nuwe Jaar SA styl: Mag goeie geluk jou bekruipe en vreugde jou aanval! Mag jou ongeluk gehijack word. Mag jou teespoed beroof word. Mag jou bekommernisse verdwyn soos 'n BMW in Soweto! Ek stuur die boodskap 'n paar minute te vroeg net in geval my foon voor 00:00 gesteel word".


Is dit nie tragies om bogenoemde boodskap te ontvang nie, nie 'n boodskap wat ons almal oor 'n nuwe SA gedroom het nie? Om te dink hier was ek weg van my huis vir amper twee ure met 'n motorhuis, kombuis en agterdeur wat oopgestaan het en ek het geen rede tot paniek gehad nie.

My wens as Militêre Attaché in Sudan vir 2012 is dat ek die militêre verhouding tussen Suid-Afrika en Sudan sal kan uitbrei en bevorder, dat daar vrede, vreugde en ekonomiese voorspoed vir Sudan en vir Suid-Afrika sal wees, dat bogenoemde boodskappe aan die einde van 2012 onvanpas sal wees. **Kol Neville January, militêre attaché, Sudan** 

South Africa and I made use of the time to read a quick text message or two. The one that caught my notice was the following: "A prosperous New Year SA style: May good luck creep up on you and joy overwhelm you! May your misfortune be hijacked. May you be robbed of your adversity. May your worries disappear like a BMW in Soweto! I am sending this a few minutes too early just in case my phone is stolen, that is before 00:00".

Isn't it tragic to receive the above message, not a message that we dreamt about the new SA? To think that here I was away from home for nearly two hours with a garage, kitchen and back door that stood open, yet I had no reason to panic.

My wish in 2012 as Military Attaché to the Sudan is that I will be able to expand and promote military relations between SA and the Sudan, and that there will be peace, joy and economic prosperity for both countries, and that above-mentioned text messages will not apply at the end of 2012. **Col Neville January, Military Attaché, Sudan**

* Translation into English by Eugene Muller.- Ed. 

Peacekeepers help Sudanese in building a school


Leaving our homes on 23 December 2011 was the most painful moment because we knew in a few days it would be Christmas and we would miss our families, cooked meals and festive season fever in South Africa, but then also that overwhelming feeling took over that we were leaving Mzansi for the Sudan not for holidays or a visit, but to assist in maintaining peace in Africa.

Christmas came and went, New Year celebrations came and also went and our high morale remained our best weapon. On 7 January 2012 the Headquarters Platoon of Bravo Company (9 SA Infantry Battalion) acted as a humanitarian escort to a village called Adror and supplied the village with water to build a school for a better future for the children there. The Sudanese people were filled with so much joy and expressed how grateful they were for the presence of the UNAMID force. The joy of knowing we were making a difference in the Sudan filled our hearts. For



Peacekeepers in Darfur, North Sudan, supplying a village with water to build a school.

these people even a drop of water you give them means a lot because water is one of their main challenges. Once again Bravo Company (9 SA Infantry

Battalion) did it and kept the flag of South Africa flying high in Darfur. "EBENHAESER." Lt V. Dzulane, Bravo Company, email 


Goodwill parcel project thanks the sailors

To show appreciation to our soldiers and good ambassadors in the SANDF uniform, over period 28 to 30 January 2012, the Goodwill parcel project (GPP) visited Pemba, Mozambique to show support and to encourage "our sailors" by handing gifts to the crew on board SAS ISANDWLANA.

The South African Navy sailed to Pemba to safe guard the maritime territory against the pirates who have lately been found to be roaming around the Mozambique territorial waters. The Pirates not only threaten the economic wellbeing of this country but South Africa's economic wellbeing is placed at risk by these illegal pirates activity.

In opening of the gift handing ceremony which was held at Pemba Beach hotel, Chief Master Warrant Officer of the SANDF, Victor Kgalandi gave a brief background of how the Goodwill parcel project came about and acknowledged the sponsors.

Lt Gen Derrick Mwebi, Chief of Joint Ops and a GWPP patron, thanked the soldiers for the sterling job they are doing in that country. He encouraged them to continue being good ambassadors of South Africa. The Governor of Pemba, Honourable Governor Eliseu Joaquim Machava addressing the ships company and GWPP guests said he was happy to have the South African soldiers in Pemba and they should feel at home.

Mr Lufuno Netshirembe 



ABOVE: WO2 Bongile Kelepu with his gift

ABOVE: The recipients of the gifts inside the hall in Beach hotel in Pemba.

The Commander-in-Chief reports to the nation

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 9 February 2012 marked the official opening of the parliament by President Jacob Zuma in Cape Town. The event was an opportunity for the President, as Head of State and the Commander-in-Chief of the SA National Defence Force, to assess our country's domestic and foreign situation and to outline what we should do to enhance our efforts to achieve a better life for all our people.

Our men and women in uniform executed their task with plomb and military precision in honour of our Commander-in-Chief. It was a breathtaking sight at the parliamentary precinct when the SANDF members from all arms of services (SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and SA Military Health Service) lined the route to parliament with an assortment of colours as they provided a guard of honour for the Commander-in-Chief.

As it has become customary during the opening of Parliament, the national salute was executed by the National Ceremonial Guard, before the President proceeded to the joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces to address the nation. The firing of the 21 Gun Salute was performed by the Cape Field Artillery, and the SA Air Force's Pilatus PC7 aircraft rendered the fly-past.

In his address, the President outlined the South African historical socio-economic state and the milestone reached in improving such a socio-economic state. He pointed out that government decided to undertake a mid-term review, looking at progress from 2009 priorities. The



ABOVE: The Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, (fifth from the left) taking a salute from members on parade.

priorities listed in the 2009 framework included economic growth, decent work, improved health care, and access to education, the fight against crime, human settlements, energy, water provision, rural development, infrastructure development and social security.

The President highlighted the 2011 international achievement and mentioned that the government policy of better life for all is influenced by South Africa's relation to international obligations. The government hosted a successful international COP17/ UN Climate change conference in

RIGHT: Members of the National Ceremonial Guard leading the parade for the 2012 State of the Nation Address in Cape Town.



ABOVE: An impressive showing of the SA Air Force.



ABOVE: Members of the SA Army march down Adderley Street.



ABOVE: A noble display by the SA Navy.




ABOVE: A stunning performance by SA Military Health Services.

Durban. The African Agenda also remains a key policy focus, with South Africa serving a two-year term on the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council. South Africa also assumed the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security and the Presidential Infrastructure Championship Initiative.

SANDF was a popular attraction, judging by the constant stream of spectators cheering as members from all services marched past in columns

with their respective bands in perfect tune, all the way from Adderley Street to the Castle of Good Hope. Altogether 1020 soldiers representing all four Services of the SANDF, including Defence Reserves, as well as military bands formed part of the important occasion in our national life.

During the debriefing session, Col Mbuyiselo Mongo, the OC of ASB Western Cape and Chief Executor for the Parade thanked all members

involved and the planning team for successful mission accomplished. "I am pleased to say that it was an impressive showing of the SANDF, the parade was well executed and triggered a lot of interest from our young nationals and the entire South African citizenry", he said. 

Minister Gordhan considers the SANDF in his budget

Article by L Cpl Lebogang Ramaboea, Ad Astra Magazine
Photos: courtesy of GCIS

The Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, announced in parliament during his 2012/13 budget speech in Cape Town on 22 February 2012 that spending on defence, public order and safety would grow from R140 billion in 2012/13 to R158 billion in 2014/15.

The minister told parliament that the funds were provided for the Defence Force to increase personnel deployment for border protection. The budget included R700 million in 2012/2013 to recapitalise Denel Aero-structures.

According to the minister's speech last year, an additional R1.3 billion in 2011/12, rising to R2 billion in 2013/14, would bring total expenditure on defence and state security to R38.4 billion next year, rising to R43.9 billion the following year.

Minister Gordhan said the new system would require funding over and above current budget allocations to public health. He added: "Funding options include an increase in the VAT rate, a payroll tax on employers, a surcharge on the taxable income of individuals or some combination of the above."

"This budget has been crafted at a challenging but hopeful time. We have to say to our people that economic uncertainty will be with us for some time, yet we have a programme of economic change that can steadily roll back unemployment, poverty and inequality. We have



Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan flanked by the SA Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus addresses the pre-budget speech media briefing held at the Imbizo Media centre in Cape Town.

demonstrated excellent resilience during the post-2008 crisis. We now need to introduce a new dynamism among all South Africans. We are mindful that these increases may need to be reassessed if inflation continues to rise", Minister Gordhan told parliament.

He said South African finances were in good health, and a wide range of government programmes and policies had come under scrutiny in the past year in respect of job creation. He stated: "At this time last year, funding was allocated to the new Jobs' Fund, aimed at supporting innovative public or private sector projects with the

potential to create sustainable job opportunities. He said that in that regard his department released a discussion paper proposing a youth employment initiative last year.

He warned that in the next 10 years there could be a further risk to the global economic system. He pointed out that the government was of the opinion that the country could not wait for Europe's recovery, as it was expected to do that which was in line with the nation's own strength, and capabilities and find its own way through this crisis. The Minister said: "I am sure many have asked the questions about where the money is. We will find the money, and there is



Mr Pravin Gordhan delivering his budget speech to the National Assembly.

money in the system. The orientation of this budget is to say we have money within the system, we will find money. Equally important is that we secure the right kind of value for money."

Minister Gordhan acknowledged that South Africa had challenges, but the country was capable of overcoming them. He said his department would not turn away from its challenges. He said: "We must confront them boldly, and with hope. In harnessing all the resources at our disposal, we have to do more, with less; we have to work smarter and harder. South Africans must focus on their strengths and opportunities to identify and activate the levers of economic and social change at our disposal. Fraud and corruption will be combated through changes to procurement policies and

practices and tough enforcement of the law."


He added said: "Our new story, our period of transition, is about building modern infrastructure, a vibrant economy, a decent quality of life for all, reduced poverty, decent employment opportunities. It is a story that must be written by all of us, not just by the government, business, or unions, but by all of us, South Africans, from all corners of this country."

He added that dealing with unemployment was the centrepiece of his department's approach to reducing poverty, but that was not the only measure. He said president Zuma had given the challenge to write a new story about South Africa – the story of how, working together as South Africans we could

drive back unemployment and reduce economic inequality and poverty.

The Minister said: "The legacy of our past is not only that of difficulty and despair. We can draw pride from the celebration of the ANC's centenary, and build on this past to get things done today."

This was the third budget by the minister under the presidency of the Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Jacob Zuma. He said the year's budget had to meet the challenges that the president had set out for his ministry to accelerate growth, expand investment, support economic development and confront poverty and inequality as was stated in his 2012 State of the Nation Address on 9 February.

In his address, President Zuma said, "Although jobs grew rapidly during the boom from 2003 to 2008, unemployment did not fall below 20%. Employment received another setback in the recession of 2009. Fortunately, government entered the 2008-2009 recessions with healthy public finances, and a comparatively low level of debt. The solution for the country, therefore, is higher growth and job creation to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty and inequality." 

DOD signs pact to deepen maritime cooperation

**Article and Photos by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

On 05 to 07 February 2012, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Honourable Lindiwe Sisulu accompanied by her delegation that included the Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu, visited Tanzania as a guest of the Tanzanian Minister of Defence and National Service, Honourable Hussein Mwinyi.

The aim of the visit was to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tanzania and Mozambique on maritime security. The MOU sought to strengthen and enhance the already existing good relations between the two countries. The visit included a briefing on the Tanzanian National Service and related matters and visits to historical places in Zanzibar to obtain a better idea of Tanzania.

On 07 February 2012, the DOD signed the tripartite pact with Tanzania and Mozambique on maritime security cooperation in a move designed to enhance collective efforts in fighting piracy, drug trafficking and other criminal activities and to allow the free flow of goods along the east coast of Africa from Tanzania, Mozambique through to South Africa. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Tanzanian President, Hon Jokaya Kikwete and accompanied by his Vice President Hon Gharib Mohamed Bilal.

The MOU not only

underscores the strong trilateral ties that South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique have built up over

the years but also formalises the maritime relations that the three countries share. The MOU will

BELOW: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu signing the tripartite pact with Tanzania and Mozambique on maritime security.



Above: After the signing ceremony fltr: Mr Felipe Nyusi, Mozambican Minister of Defence, Mr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Tanzanian Vice President, Mr Jokaya Kikwete, Tanzanian President, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, SA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Mr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Tanzanian Minister of Defence and National Service.



ABOVE: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu during the signing of a tripartite maritime cooperation pact in Dar-es-Salaam, together with the President of Tanzania, Mr Jokaya Kikwete (on her left) and the Vice President, Mr Gharib Mohamed Bilal (on her extreme left) and the Tanzanian Minister of Defence and National Service, Mr Hussein Mwinyi (on her right).

exercises and operations aimed at searching and interdicting bases of pirates and any other illegal activities in the territorial waters.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, President Kikwete extended his appreciation to President Jacob Zuma and his counterpart President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, for working together in combating piracy in the southern tip of the Indian Ocean. He said “we will do everything possible to support our forces in combating the scourge of piracy effectively and to keep our seas safe”.

Delivering her speech Minister Sisulu said that the three countries have taken a lead in implementing the

also provide for an expanded scope of cooperation between the three countries, including working together in securing territorial waters of each respective country, maritime safety and security, as well as maritime

research, development, education and training.

Also, the MOU gives an opportunity for the three countries sending members to participate in the combined maritime

maritime strategy endorsed by SADC to keep our seas free from piracy.

Under the terms of the MOU, this gives right to the three Defence Forces to among other things patrol, search

and arrest, seize and undertake hot pursuit operations on any maritime crime suspect or piracy. Currently the SA frigate, SAS Mendi is deployed along Mozambican channel to combat piracy activities. 



ABOVE: The South African delegation visited a memorial for former slaves in Zanzibar.

Renewed dynamism in Inter-state Defence and Security

By **Cpl Ally Rakoma**

Photos: **Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela**

At the turn of the new millennium, our continent and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region made a historic choice for change, inspired by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African leaders. NEPAD became the strategic blueprint for Africa's transformation and flagship programme of the African Union (AU).


On 20 January 2012 the RSA Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, hosted the SADC Extraordinary Session of the Inter-state Defence and Security meeting which was attended by the SADC Ministers, Chiefs of Defence Forces, Director-Generals and key stakeholders in the sphere of the security cluster in Sandton.

The meeting offered a platform for deeper reflection on peace and security across the region and continent, as well as governance, human rights, the rule of law, and economic and social development. It was an occasion for stocktaking of actions to advance Africa's priorities and for the AU to consider the future while working on the present challenges of peace and security.

Delivering her opening remarks during the high-level meeting, Minister

Sisulu said that the meeting was being held in preparation for the AU Summit to be held in Addis Ababa. Ms Sisulu carried a message of renewed dynamism among African stakeholders and subregions and said that good governance in an atmosphere of peace and security was vital to sustaining Africa's development. She said that today was indeed a different world. Minister Sisulu said: "As it turns out, our premier institution of African solidarity and unity, the AU, faces immense new challenges. It is no accident that we have gathered here so early in the new year to reflect on the concerns we have about the future of the AU, in particular its efforts to

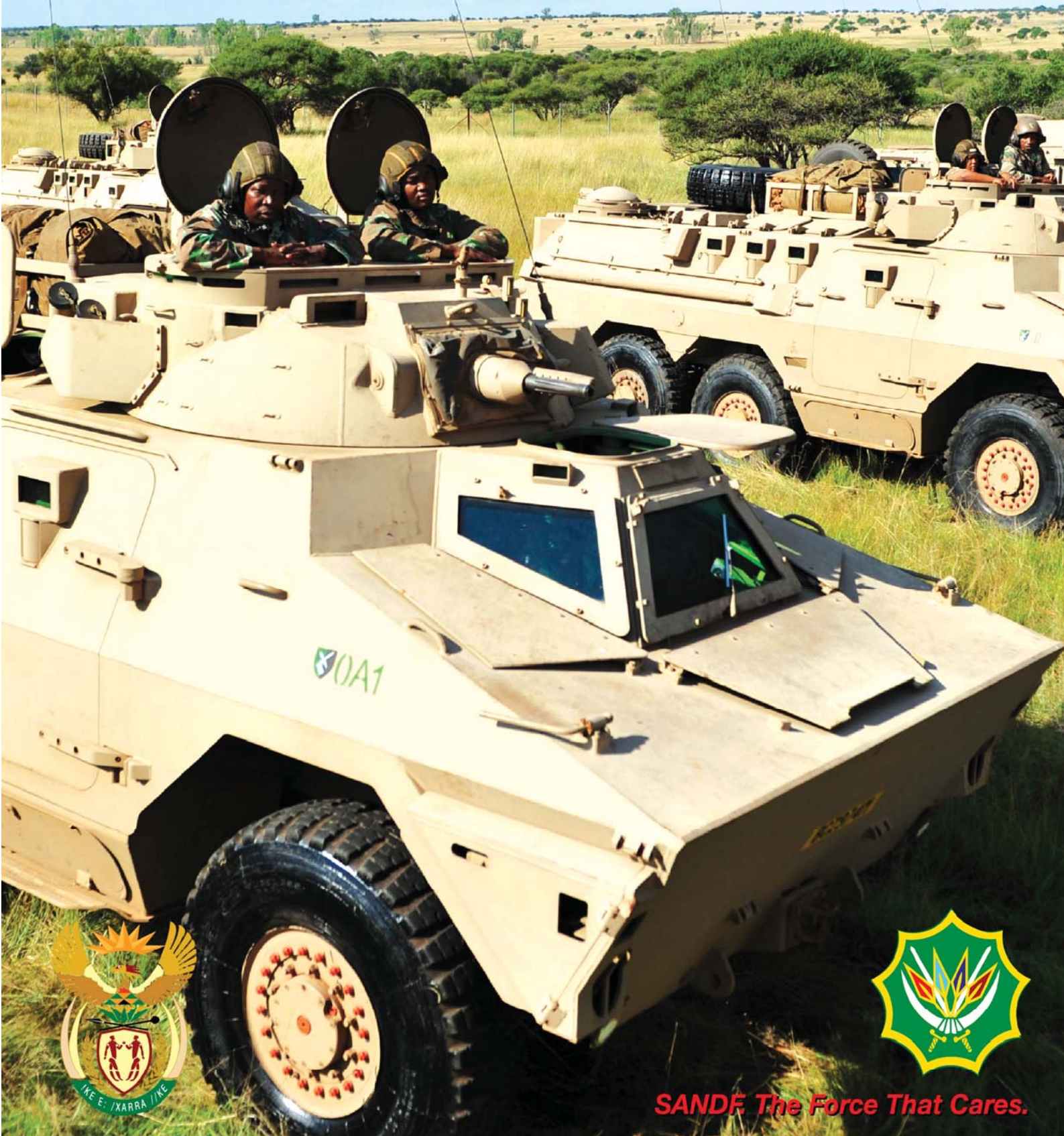
develop potent instruments for peace and security, notably the African Standby Force."

In closing, the minister said that commitment to the African Agenda and its associated programmes as pursued by the AU remained solid and our history as a region attested to this. She said: "Yet indeed such a commitment should not be taken lightly and this is the profound message we should consistently convey to the AU Commission. Our commitment to see the African Standby Force becoming operational will not be shaken and I am convinced we remain on course." 



The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, encouraging the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States to commit to the African Agenda and its associated programmes during the meeting in Johannesburg.

Protecting Our Borders.



SANDEF The Force That Cares.

SADC Defence Sub Committee meets

**Article and Photos by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole**

On 20 December 2011, South Africa hosted the Southern African development community (SADC) Defence Sub Committee Extraordinary meeting which was attended by SADC Chiefs of Defence Forces and their representatives at farm Inn Hotel in Pretoria.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of continued conflict on the continent, despite the tremendous strides made towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in the continent.

In this respect the meeting noted the declarations adopted by the 275th meeting Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the extraordinary session of the assembly of the unions held on 26 April and 25 May 2011 respectively stressing amongst others the need for renewed efforts towards the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as peace building.

In this meeting delegates reviewed the status of operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF) and identified the steps to be taken towards the achievement of objectives set in the relevant AU decisions and policy documents.

The deliberations of the day were informed by the decisions of the 8th meeting of the African Chiefs of Defence Staff and heads of Security and Safety Services held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, among other things the report of the 5th ordinary meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Security and Safety regarding the progress made in the operation of the ASF.

The Extraordinary DSC was convined



Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke addressing the Extraordinary SADC Defence Sub Committee at Farm Inn Hotel, Pretoria.

to note and consider the Addis Ababa declarations and the contents therein with a view to come up with a SADC position and common understanding on the issues and be able to advise the other organ structures appropriately.


This gathering afforded them the opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the establishments of the ASF as articulated in the PSC. The chairperson of the commission and the updates provided by the regional Standby force.

In this respect they recognised the tremendous efforts made by all concerned towards the development of the ASF at the regional and continental levels.

At the same time they acknowledged that there is still a long way to go to achieve the objective of fully operationalising the ASF, which is an important component of the APSA. Against this background they stressed

the need for all concerned at national, regional and continental levels to intensify efforts aimed at making the ASF fully operational and to ensure that the continent is adequately equipped to meet the daunting challenges of peace, security and stability.

Key concerns issues discussed at the meeting was the establishment of the ASF continental logistics base in Douala, Cameroon, the planned AMANI AFRICA II cycle activities, and the proposal to establish a maritime information and coordination cell.

They also recognised the need for the member states to contribute more significantly to the AU peace support operations and more generally the efforts geared towards the prevention, management and resolution of conflict as well as peace building. 

SA and Turkish Navies strengthen bilateral relations

By **LS Nkululeko Zulu**
Photos: **CPO Mesengo Mbiza**

A framework agreement for potential bilateral cooperation between the South African and Turkish navies was discussed when Commander of the Turkish Navy, Admiral Murat Bilgel visited South Africa as an official guest of Chief of the Navy (C Navy), V Admiral Johannes Mudimu from 23-26 January 2012.

Admiral Bilgel was accompanied by a delegation consisting of his wife Mrs B. Bilgel, Capt Nihat Karacaoğlu and Cdr Yüksel Can. The Turkish Defence Attaché, Col Erdogan Alp escorted Adm Bilgel. Their visit schedule included a sight seeing tour.


Admiral Bilgel's first port-of-call after a grueling seven hour flight from Istanbul to OR Tambo International Airport was an courtesy visit to the Turkish ambassador to South Africa,

Mr Vakur Gökdenizler. After his visit to the ambassador, he visited the Chief of South African Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu at the SA Navy Headquarters (SAN HQ). The two Admirals discussed possible future engagements between the two navies. The two chiefs gave a brief presentation on how their navies operated. The objective of the presentations was to establish how South African and Turkish navies could create a relationship based on mutual needs that would necessitate bilateral cooperation. Proceedings at Navy Headquarters were concluded by lunch and then the Turkish delegates paid a courtesy call to the Chief of the SANDF (C SANDF) at Army Headquarters who was represented by A/C SANDF Lt Gen Masondo. The two counterparts discussed the similarities and challenges between the Defence Forces and then exchanged gifts to mark the occasion.

No tour of Gauteng would be complete

without a visit to historic sites of in Soweto. The delegates familiarised themselves with our heritage by visiting the Mandela Family Museum and then the Hector Pietersen Museum before dining at the famous Wandies in Soweto.

During the second leg of their visit they stayed at luxurious Ivory Tree Game Lodge where they experienced true African natural beauty. At the lodge the delegates enjoyed both evening and morning Game drives in which they saw four of the big five. After an exhilarating experience of being one with nature, the delegates visited the Western Cape. This was the final leg of their visit. In the Western Cape province they had an opportunity to visit Naval Base Simon's Town.

This visit was a the first of its kind between the two navies. It was instrumental to paving the way for deeper ties between the two countries. 



Dignataries (in front: Seated). fltr: V Adm Mudimu and Adm Bilgel. (Back: standing) fltr: R Adm Teuteberg, Col Alp, Capt Karacaoğlu, Cdr Can and R Adm Higgs.

SAAF and Denel Aviation sign a Memorandum of Understanding

By Brig Gen Piet Van Zyl
Photos: WO2 David Nomtshongwana

On Friday 17 February 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Chief of the South African Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, and the Chief Executive Officer of Denel Aviation, Mr Mike Kgobe, at Air Force Base Waterkloof.

The primary focus of the MOU was to establish synergy between the SAAF and Denel Aviation with the purpose of eliminating unnecessary duplication of specialised aviation support structures relating to transformation, consolidation and retention of scarce skills and facilities, the creation of selected integrated management structures,

The SA Air Force's drive towards cost-effective support of its diverse fleet and Denel Aviation's continued effort to be a sustainable and economically viable commercial enterprise find mutual support in the scope of this MOU.



ABOVE: The Chief of the Air Force Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (on the right) and the Chief Executive Officer of Denel Aviation, Mr Mike Kgobe (on the left) signing a memorandum of understanding between the SAAF and Denel.



ABOVE: Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the Air Force (on the right) and Mr Mike Kgobe, the Chief Executive Officer of Denel Aviation, exchanging the signed Memorandum of Understanding.

and the meaningful consolidation of Maintenance and Repair Organisation (MRO) operations to boost sustainability and aircraft availability.

The MOU created the framework for the optimisation of support in both organisations. The SA Air Force's drive towards cost-effective support of its diverse fleet of aircraft and Denel Aviation's continued effort to



ABOVE: Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano addressing the combined delegation the between the SAAF and Denel Aviation group at the AFB Waterkloof.

be a sustainable, economically viable commercial enterprise, find mutual support in the scope of this MOU.


Lt Gen Gagiano said that the South Africa Air Force had a major role to play in assisting local players to become internationally competitive. "Collaboration is a key factor in achieving this as it increases flexibility and capabilities. By developing a closer partnership with Denel Aviation we have already enhanced skills and knowledge within both organisations. Our agreement with Denel Aviation is therefore a strategic one because it will allow both parties to increase their expertise and knowledge base", declared Lt Gen Gagiano.

Severe constraints on the SAAF operating budget and an increasing demand for mission-ready air power assets forced the SAAF to fundamentally review its organic support capabilities and refine its business processes. At the same

time Denel Aviation, as the Original Equipment Manufacturer and Design Authority of the Oryx and Rooivalk helicopter systems, fulfils a unique strategic position in the SA Air Force's support philosophy. Government has confirmed the national strategic importance of Denel as a major element of the local Defence industry and has directed that the substantial overlap of aviation support capacity between the SAAF and Denel Aviation be critically reviewed and wasteful duplication eliminated.

The collaboration envisaged by this MOU will further promote the development and transfer of skills and a greater flow of knowledge and know-how between the organisations. Mr. Mike Kgobe said that the SAAF and Denel Aviation partnership came at an opportune time when the industry was experiencing shortage of skills and engaged in cost-saving drive due to the recession. "We are already

seeing significant benefits as a direct result of the collaboration. Our close proximity to the SAAF not only means that we can attend to problems timeously but we also have the flexibility of redirecting resources thereby impacting positively on our productivity and performance", said Mr Kgobe.

Based on the significant successes achieved with the operation of a SAAF-Denel Aviation C-130 MRO at AFB Waterkloof and taking advantage of the provisions of the MOU for closer integration of support capabilities between the two organisations, a process to expand the current C-130 MRO to include the deeper-level maintenance and repair of the Casa 212 and Cessna Caravan fleets was started. The multi-type air transport MRO would be presented to the media during a facility demonstration and walkthrough on 23 March 2012 at AFB Waterkloof as a practical expression of the intent and purpose of the MOU. 

Looking at air power excellence of the past year

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: WO2 David
Nomtshongwana and Sgt Elias
Mahuma

The South African Air Force (SAAF) has distinguished itself in hosting a number of productive exercises during the past year. That was according to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, during the annual Air Force Day parade held at AFB Swartkop on 27 January 2012.

Lt Gen Gagiano was addressing members of the SAAF from different units and squadrons present, including colleagues for their contribution to the success of the Service in 2011.

Lt Gen Gagiano said: "Let me be the first to acknowledge the commitment and hard work that made these achievements possible and all those who were involved. In keeping with its name, Exercise Winter Solstice was executed in the Eastern Cape in extreme winter conditions to demonstrate the SAAF's combat readiness. Nine Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries participated in Exercise Blue Cluster, which produced a valuable new joint disaster relief and humanitarian assistance doctrine. We also participated in two productive electronic warfare exercises where the Rooivalk contributed 300 hours of valuable air support to the SA Army during Exercise Ndlovu. During the past year, the SAAF participated significantly in the peace support initiatives of the Government.

"The most recent of these operations took place during December 2011 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and comprised the provision of wide-ranging air support for the national elections there, where approximately 660 hours were flown for this purpose by the SAAF in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Besides

In keeping with its name, Exercise Winter Solstice was executed in the Eastern Cape in extreme winter conditions to demonstrate the SAAF's combat readiness.



ABOVE: The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, hands over the SAAF Prestige Trophy to Col Kenneth Petso, whose AFB Langebaanweg unit scooped the best overall results in all areas during the annual SAAF Day Parade, while the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, looks on.

this, our helicopters flew some 300 hours and the C130 flew 167 hours in support of the United Nations (UN) in the DRC, while the C47's and the Lynx helicopters continued to support the SA Navy in the Mozambique Channel in international anti-piracy operations. Furthermore, some 36 tons of humanitarian freight was delivered

to Somalia by C130 aircraft, while the SAAF was deployed in theatre for possible assistance required during the elections in Uganda and hostilities in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire."

It was the first time in the history of the SAAF annual anniversary celebrations that the 2012 event did not



ABOVE: The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (sixth from left), and the Deputy Chief of the SA Air Force, Maj Gen Gerald Malinga (middle), with the recipients during the SA Air Force Prestige Gala Evening held at SAAF HQ Unit.

have a fly-past, except the two Agusta LUH A109 helicopters that trailed the National and the SAAF flags beneath them respectively, which were used for the salute flight over the parade. The fly-past, which usually concludes the proceedings of the day, includes the aircraft from all SAAF squadrons to showcase the air power capabilities of the SAAF.

“The statement in today’s parade I make is that if the balance between the human resources budget and operating budget is not corrected, very few aircraft will fly,” said Lt Gen Gagiano, conveying the key message of sustainment of air power capability in a declining budget.

Meanwhile the Chief of the SAAF has acknowledged the role played by unassuming SAAF backroom personnel from various units and squadrons whose loyal, consistent and reliable daily contributions have led to the achievement of the SAAF mandate last year, which included the handing over of various awards, the rewarding of outstanding accomplishments by units, bases and directorates within the Service.

For these reasons, AFB Langebaanweg emerged the best overall achiever and was presented with the Prestige Award on the day of the parade by Mr Jeff Radebe, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, who represented the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, who was away on official duty.

These awards are aimed at recognising top SAAF achievers as well as celebrating the diverse talents of its members during the past year. The Inspector General of the SA Air Force, Brig Gen Siphon Mashobane, was also part of the inspection team. The method used for the decision was based on the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model, which also identifies areas for improvement.

Winners

Safety, Health, Environment and Quality Management (SHEQ) Award went to the 87 Helicopter Flying School for having excelled in implementing effective SHEQ requirements in the SAAF.

Best managed and client orientated mess in the SAAF Award went to the Junior’s Mess AFB Langebaanweg for their outstanding customer relations within the SAAF.

SAAF Aviation Safety Award went to the AFB Langebaanweg for their application of the most effective aviation safety programmes in their projects.

Royal Air Force Training Award went to the Central Flying School (AFB Langebaanweg) for the improved training and efficiency in the SAAF through trainers’ innovative ideas.

Best Fire and Rescue Service Award went to the AFB Langebaanweg.

Best Reserve Squadron Award went to 110 Squadron (AFB Ysterplaat) for

demonstrating flexibility in providing an ongoing service.

Best Supporting Unit Award went to the SAAF HQ Unit.


Best Air Servicing Unit Award was awarded to 6 Air Servicing Unit for rendering support for the squadrons while keeping the aircraft serviceable and up in the air.

Best System Group Directorate: Aviation Safety Directorate for its role within the Air Command with regard to the management, direction and support given to the bases and units, including squadrons in their respective environments.

Operations Support Unit of the Year: Bushveld Airspace Sector Control Centre for providing aid for the people of South Africa in support of internal and external peace operations.

SAAF Training Unit of the Year: 80 Air Navigation School for the best training and being the backbone of all the successes of the SAAF for the year 2011.

Best Flying Unit: 35 Squadron (AFB Ysterplaat) for raising flying standards within the SAAF units and squadrons.

Sword of Peace Award went to 28 Squadron (AFB Waterkloof) for exceptional achievements in humanitarian services, which resulted in good relations being fostered between the units and their civilian communities. 

Standing Maritime Committee Combats Piracy

By **Bibi Sibanyoni**

Photos: **Sgt Elias Mahuma**

“Piracy in recent times has become rampant in our waters; cooperation among the SADC Countries has become an absolute necessity. As SADC Countries we need to improvise new strategies and tighten existing measures to combat this criminal activities in our seas”, said the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Solly Shoke during the opening of the 18th meeting of the standing maritime committee of the inter-state Defence and Security Committee that was held on 22 February 2012 at the Elangeni Hotel conference centre in Durban.

The SADC chief of navies meet annually in February to evaluate on progress made from the previous meeting and set out a new mandate for the year ahead. The theme for this year’s SMC was ‘Initiative to secure the regions maritime interests’. SADC acknowledged the need for structured continental and regional collaboration to address the matters of maritime security and governance.

The meeting was attended by 10 of the SMC members being Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In his opening address General Shoke emphasised the importance of guarding our seas in order to sustain economic growth. He encouraged cooperation between these countries to combat piracy. “I hope in these two days you will draw a tight strategy to



General Solly Shoke, Chief of the SANDF addressing members of the SMC and members of the media in the opening.

enhance measures of patrol in our seas”, said the Chief of the SANDF.

Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy (SAN) echoed Gen Shoke’s words, “It is important that we guard our waters and preserve it for the future generations as 90% of the trade in the world is at sea. In deed we will be drawing policies to combat issues of maritime crime at sea such as drugs, human trafficking, dumping amongst others”. He further stated that cooperation amongst other military services was needed as most of the crimes originated on land before going to sea, however the region was safe as members of the navies and coast guards of the region

were ready to protect the territorial sovereignty of SADC countries.

In addition Vice Admiral Mudimu urged the countries to benchmark with each other. “South Africa is attempting to build the Mozambican navy by providing training hence there are currently Mozambican personnel training in our country”, said Admiral Mudimu.

He highlighted the challenges and success the SADC region faced and said that the region was prepared, the people were ready and committed, and the only shortcoming was the lack of assets. The main weakness of the region was the capability to repair and build ships in between the



Middle: Vice Adimiral Johannes Mudimo, Chief of the SA Navy flanked by navy delegates from Mozambique on his left and Malawi on his right during the press conference..


countries”, said the Chief of South African Navy.

He mentioned the successful participation of SA Navy vessels namely SAS Drankesburg, SAS Mendi and SAS Charlotte Maxeke in EXERCISE GOOD TIDINGS on Lake Malawi in September 2011 and in October 2011. A search and rescue exercise was held in the Tanzanian waters together with the navies of Kenya and Mozambique in which

Tanzanian forces arrested seven pirates.

During the press conference the media asked of a prosecution system for these pirates and Maj Gen Saidi Shabani Omar commander of the Tanzanian navy responded by saying “whoever controls the sea controls the world, if this is left this means pirates will control the sea and therefore the world. As it was still a challenge to prosecute piracy in

other countries, in Tanzania pirates are given life sentences”.

After all the issues raised during the press conference, it was clear that a strategic work group be developed and members of States should nominate members for such a work group which will focus closely on piracy. The strategic work group should then meet in South Africa during the month of August 2012 in order to ensure that all naval components are addressed. 



A group photo of the delegates, including the Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke (SA Army uniform in the front row, centre, and on his right, Vice Adimiral Johannes Mudimo, Chief of the SA Navy. Also in the photo are the chiefs of navies from the SADC countries.

Supporting Defence Reserves as a national asset

By **Cpl Ally Rakoma**
Photos: **Sgt Elias Mahuma**

The Defence Reserve Division led by Maj Gen Roy Andersen hosted a three-day Reserve Force strategic work session at the Saint George Hotel in Pretoria from 16 to 18 February 2012. The theme of the work session was: "Building a Future SANDF Reserve Component for 2030".

The aim of the work session was to develop a sustainable plan to accelerate the revitalisation of the SANDF reserves, service system model and utilisation and to enhance the contribution of this component to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Defence (DOD).

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu identified the revitalisation of the SANDF Reserve Force as a ministerial priority. As confirmed in the Defence budget vote debate during March 2011, she reaffirmed the importance of this capability to government.

V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy in his keynote address on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF highlighted that the SANDF Reserves plays an important and influential role as some of them are employers in their private capacity as South African citizens indeed. When the need arise not only do they enhance the operational outputs of the SANDF, but also provide the capacity of force expansion in times of turmoil.

He reflected on many highlights accomplished to date with the assistance of Defence Reserve on external

The work session aimed at developing a sustainable plan to accelerate the revitalisation of the SANDF reserves and the utilisation of the service system model to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Department of Defence.

peacekeeping operations, in protecting key installations, our borders, 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, or efforts of nation building in post conflict, reconstruction and development. He further mentioned that the Defence Reserve's diverse and unique skills were the cornerstone of what the SANDF is and what it does as a National Defence Force in safeguarding South Africa for a better life for all.

On 17 February 2012, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans,

Ms Lindiwe Sisulu attended the work session and it was befitting for Minister Sisulu to describe the SANDF Reserves as a national asset that forms the core of our societal relations and social-military contract.

She reiterated that the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans was inspired by the Reserve Force's current developments. She said that the SANDF Reserves provide a vital link in a diverse spectrum of situations in both military and civilian world.



ABOVE: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu (left) highlighting her key priorities for the Defence Reserves, with Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief of Defence Reserves next to her.



ABOVE: Delegates that attended the SANDF Reserve Force Strategic Work Session at St George's Hotel in Pretoria.



ABOVE: Mr Roelf Meyer, the Chairperson of Defence Review Committee (extreme left) with senior military delegates listening to key issues affecting Defence Reserves.


Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves mentioned that Reserves were efficient to employ. He pointed out that what contributed to the vitality of the Reserves was the University Reserve Training Programme (URTP) and the roll-out of the programme on the campus of the University of Free State and expanding to various universities recruiting capable postgraduates and undergraduates.

Also in attendance to offer significant contributions of civilian, academic and military expertise to the

making of a strengthened Reserve Force were members of the Defence Review Committee, delegates from United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), Tanzania and the President of the International Confederation of Reserve Officers

(CIOR) and Defence Reserves Provincial Liaison Council.

SA Soldier spoke to Commodore Bob Mansergh from the Royal Navy, who mentioned that Reserves were the ambassadors to the public and help create a mutual understanding among the civilian population. He went on to say that reserves could be used as a channel for understanding in both military and civilian situations providing guidance at the forefront of conflicts and problem solving.

Maj Renee Ford, the State Partnership Programme Director, New York National Guard mentioned that Reservists provided a vital link by acting as a channel between military and civilian worlds, as they incorporated their professional abilities in a diverse spectrum of situations contributing greatly to military and civilian occupations. She further explained that the introduction of the Junior Corps of Cadets and mentoring and teaching the youth leadership skills could be a positive feeder system for the Reserves. 



ABOVE: Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, flanked by Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Surgeon General and Acting Chief of Corporate Staff (right) and the host, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief of Defence Reserves at the Work Session.

The Non-statutory Forces Pension Dispensation update

By Kgabo Mashamaite

The Non-statutory Forces (NSF) pension dispensation is currently in full swing, as the Department of Defence (DOD) NSF Project Office in Pretoria continues to receive and process applications.

Invited applications come from the former members or their beneficiaries of the five statutory forces and two liberation armed wing movements or the Non-statutory Forces that were integrated during the formation of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on April 1994.

The Statutory Forces consisted mainly of the former homeland defence forces who were contributing to the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) and stood to receive their benefits on termination of their benefits, while on the other hand the members of the two liberation movements, namely the Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) and the Azanian People's Liberation Movement (APLA) could not contribute to any pension fund.

According to the statistics released to the project office on 14 February 2012 by the Government Pension Administration Agency (GPAA) which provides them with a progress report on a weekly basis, approximately 16085-00 NSF application forms have been received and almost 10599-00 members who exited with a recognised full service received their pensions.

The Project Office added that GPAA was in the process of refunding at least 2872-00 claims of the five percent contribution by members currently serving in the DOD from the two former liberation force movements towards their pension, before the transaction was discontinued, while 1072-00 beneficiaries were already compensated.

Invited applications come from the former members or their beneficiaries of the five statutory forces and two liberation armed wing movements or the Non-statutory Forces that were integrated during the formation of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on April 1994.

At present, the recognition of full NSF service for in-service members stands at 6683-00 while the recalculated additional gratuities paid to exited members is at 3449-00.

Application Process

For members to access their benefits, the following NSF application forms need to be completed and the required supporting documents attached:

- NSF 1** - is printed and issued to the NSF member and he/she completes and attaches supporting documents for example:
- ID copy, his/hers and that of spouse
 - birth certificates of dependants (if any)
 - marriage certificate (if married)
 - decree of divorce (if divorced)
 - Z894 (banking particulars)
 - bank statements (to verify that the account number is correct)

NSF 2 and 3

The NSF application is printed and issued to the beneficiary of a deceased member to complete and attach the supporting documents such as:

- death certificate
- certified ID copy
- Affidavit
- Birth certificates or ID copies of dependants.

After the completion of the application form the beneficiary must submit to the NSF pension project where it will be received, captured, verified, certified and then sent electronically to the pay administrator. The hard copy will be

copied and sent to GPAA where the payment process will be finalised.

The processing of the NSF applications

All applications received by the NSF pension project office are processed, the data being captured, verified and certified before it is submitted to the GPAA for the payment process. If information or documents are missing on the application, a letter is sent to the client's address, requesting the outstanding documents. Only complete applications are forwarded to the agency. The onus is on the client to ensure that he/she submits all the documents that are requested.

Challenges

In order to provide the world class service to clients, The NSF Project Office also encounters various challenges in processing the applications from the pension beneficiaries. Below are some of the challenges the office has to grapple with:

The NSF Project Office has a long list of members that it has not been able to trace owing to incorrect addresses or, the member having relocated he/she forgets to inform the office about the new address.

Another problem is when the application form does not have the NSF date or the capture date is incorrect. In this case the NSF member has to produce the MK or APLA service certificate to confirm

the NSF date and he/she must also be interviewed by the Dispute Resolution Committee in order to corroborate the member's information.

Submitting completed NSF application forms to incorrect and the untraceable addresses by the members is problematic as the NSF Project Office cannot trace such forms and are unable to help members.

Qualification Criteria

These apply all former MK/APLA members who entered into an employment agreement with the DOD or any other state department, either as Public Service Act personnel (PSAP) members or as Defence Act Personnel (DAP/uniformed) members on 31 March 2002 and for National Intelligence Agency before 31 March

2004 through integration or the normal personnel acquisition processes.

Members who do not qualify


Former members from both the NSF and SF who demobilized and did not take up employment with any state department that participated in the GEPF prior to the scheduled cut-off date for the integration in 31 March 2002.

Current Serving Members

All serving members who are currently receiving the Special Pension will continue to receive it until their exit from the DOD.

The revised Non-statutory Forces pension dispensation was approved by cabinet in November 2010 and the rules were amended to allow implementation in April 2011. The

new revised NSF dispensation takes away the burden to buy back service and provides for total recognition of service from members who joined the Public Service from 1994 onwards and was implemented to recognise former Non-statutory Force service for the provisioning of pension benefits.

NB: As the statistics are being provided by the GPAA to the NSF Project Office on a weekly basis, it could happen that by the time of going to print the information as reflected in the statistics would have changed. For further information regarding the NSF pension dispensation, please contact the Department of Defence (DOD) NSF Project Office in Pretoria on the following contact numbers: (012) 339-5817 / 5818 / 5819. 

UNSUNG HEROES

By *Sgt S.A. Dinga*, email

SAS SALDANHA was recently tasked with the mammoth task of hosting the training and development of the National Youth Service (NYS) programme incumbents. Over 1 000 members took part in the programme. Participants engaged in various learning programmes to help with a holistic development strategy.

Area Military Health Unit Western Cape (AMHU WC) was tasked to provide a 24-hour medical facility that these participants could access for medical care (mainly primary health and emergency care). With support from all levels of management, resources were made available to set up a medical installation for "NYS members".

The daily operational responsibility was handed to the "ops medics" of the unit. Some members were rotated on a monthly basis. The pressure associated with providing health care for the NYS members was a challenge that was met with courage. The "ops medics" who were engaged in the initial phase had to convert some living quarters of the SA Navy into a medical installation. Consultation rooms, an emergency room, overnight observation facilities and other storage spaces had to be carefully planned in the building provided. The exposure to the "NYS clinic" contributed to the development



S Sgt J. du Preez.



Sgt V. Rossouw.



Cpl A. Nkonki.




Cpl K. Moodaley.

of "ops medics" and the acquiring of much needed knowledge. They:

- Had to consult large numbers of patients every day. The estimated average "ops medic" to patient ratio per day was 1:25.
- Interacted with the local clinic and provincial hospital to ensure maximum patient access to various available health services.
- Were introduced to various regimens for the treatment of HIV and AIDS, TB and other diseases.
- Arranged the timeous availability of chronic medication for patients.
- Ensured that patients were transported to the various health care facilities they were referred to.
- Motivated patients that wanted to give up on the programme.

All the above definitely shaped the character and experience of the ops medics involved. The manner

in which they operated the medical installation on a daily basis needs to be commended. They upheld the Surgeon General's motto: "World Class Clinical Service". The SA National Defence Force, the SA Military Health Service and AMHU WC can be proud of these men and women who distinguished themselves as true ambassadors of the organisation. The excellent support of other military health care professionals and support staff eased the pressure. It was a task well executed. Excellent "Ops Medics"!

The NYS "Ops Medic" Team consisted of WO2 A. Modise, S Sgt S. Boyce, S Sgt J. du Preez, S Sgt B. Ryk, S Sgt R. Legodi, S Sgt X. Sam, S Sgt M. Sijaji, Sgt S. Dinga, Sgt V. Rossouw, Sgt Q. Williams, Cpl B. Dyantyi, Cpl K. Moodaley, Cpl A. Nkonki (ECT), L Cpl S. Erasmus (ECT) and L Cpl A. Ngwenyama. 

Defence Supply Chain Integration mapping a new way

By **Bibi Morgets**
Photos: **Sgt Elias Mahuma**

As the year begins, it would be a good principle to reflect on the past year's achievements and a good way to address new strategies for the year ahead. Hence most government and private sectors conduct worksessions in mapping out new and clear guidelines in reaching the targeted goals for the year.

To bring cohesion to the team, Chief Director Materiel Governance a team building exercise was organised.

On 21 to 24 February 2012, the Defence Supply Chain Integration division (DSCI) held its annual work session at the Protea Hotel Umhlanga in Durban. The Head of Defence Supply Chain Integration (HODSCI), Mr Mthobisi Zondi was joined by Chief of Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning (CDPSP), Dr Thobs Gamede during this work session.


Mr Zondi welcomed all the members of his division who attended the work session and proceeded to outline his Strategic guidelines.

Dr Gamede presented the latest Ministerial Priorities and the highlights of the Secretary for Defences's work session and his strategic direction. She emphasised the importance of DSCI's support to the Services and Divisions on Supply Chain governance, risk and compliance to the Public Finance management Act (PFMA) and the Treasury Prescripts. She cautioned the division on the seriousness of the Minister of Defence, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu's call for zero tolerance on fraud and corruption and on a clean audit.

Mr Zondi explained to the attendants that the Defence Supply Chain Integration directorate's primary role

was to provide support to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans (MODMV) and emphasised that it was important that DSCI was aligned with the MoD's priorities. "If we want more resources we need to prove that we can utilise the little resources we have and be productive", said the Head of Defence Supply Chain Integration.

The team was given a chance to ask questions on Dr Gamede's presentation

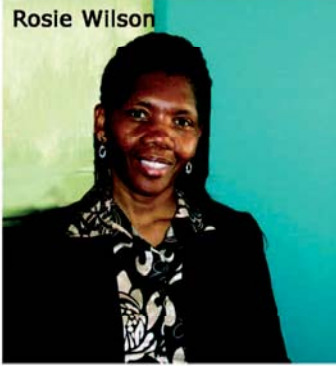
and to raise their risks and challenges of failing to execute their tasks as a result of inappropriate structure, dependence on members of the reserve force call ups and the delay in total functional separation of the Defence Material Division to Defence Supply Chain Integration division. DSCI is currently a sub programme in the office of the Secretary for Defence and awaiting the structural approval from the MODMV. 



ABOVE: Members of the DSCI on a boat cruise during the team building exercise.

ABOVE: Fltr: Chief Director Materiel Governance, Mr Kopano Lebelo, Head of Supply Defence Chain Integration, Mr Thobisi Zondi and Chief Defence Policy and Planning, Dr Thobs Gamede during the opening of the Defence Supply Chain Integration work session.

Rosie Wilson



Do you have a plan to finance your “golden” years?

Because most South Africans will not be able to retire financially independent, many have no other alternative but to continue working well into their retirement, while others may become reliant on friends or family when they reach retirement age.

Sadly, more than 90% of South Africans find themselves in this challenging situation merely because they have not made any financial provision for their retirement, or simply started saving too late. “And, come the eve of their retirement, reality sets in when they do not have sufficient savings to enjoy their retirement,” warns Rosie Wilson, market development manager for Old Mutual.

“The key to an enjoyable retirement is having an effective retirement plan in place and acting upon it – and the sooner you start the better,” Wilson said.

Do you have a proper retirement plan in place? If so, will your funds adequately cover you in old age, or will you have to top up your employer’s pension fund savings?

A few important facts to consider when planning your finances for retirement:

- Your retirement nest egg will have to beat the eroding effects of inflation;
- With advances in medical technology, people on average, live much longer, which means that you may need more money for a comfortable retirement;
- A steep rise in the cost of living would also mean that you may require more money for your retirement;
- Also, if you’ve spent your pension fund benefits each time you’ve changed jobs, you will have to save more.

Retirement planning comprises two phases, namely pre-retirement funding and post retirement income. While pre-retirement funding could include investing in a retirement annuity, unit trust or other investment vehicle, your post-retirement income refers to having your retirement funds managed in such a way that the proceeds can take care of you during your retirement.

Before investing in a retirement annuity, consider how much you can afford to save each month and how long before you reach your retirement age.

Don’t put off saving for your retirement. Speak to your Old Mutual financial adviser or broker today about Max Investments – an investment solution which allows you to do great things. Call 0860 WISDOM or visit www.pretirement.co.za

“It is also advisable to familiarise yourself with the terms and benefits of your employer’s pension fund, because even with 40 years of uninterrupted service, you could experience a significant drop in income at retirement.

An investment in a retirement annuity could also be used to supplement your present pension fund – ensuring you have enough to finance your ‘golden’ years,” Wilson added.

It is in your best interest to consult a financial adviser, or broker. He or she will firstly do a financial needs analysis to assess your needs in the event of retirement, death and disability and thereafter advise you accordingly.

There are many good reasons to invest in a retirement annuity. Apart from being endorsed by Government to help South Africans become financially self-sufficient at retirement, it also helps to instil a culture of saving among the general public.

While your contributions towards a retirement annuity are tax deductible within limits, you cannot access your retirement capital before the age of 55. In addition, your retirement annuity is also protected from creditors in case you are declared insolvent. This means your creditors may not touch your retirement annuity.

Old Mutual offers retirement annuities as well as two preservation funds. Preservation funds are an ideal place to park the proceeds of your employer’s pension or provident fund should you resign or be retrenched.

Old Mutual’s Max Investment Retirement Annuity will enable you to accumulate enough capital before your retirement to support a comfortable lifestyle. From as little as R250 per month, you can start reaping the benefits of compound interest today to design a comfortable retirement for you and/or your spouse tomorrow.

do great things



OLD MUTUAL

Licensed Financial Services Provider

Celebrating Human Rights Day

By Lt Col E.L. Rust, SO1
Research: Chief Directorate
Transformation Management

On 21 March 1960, the police killed 69 people and injured 180 others at Sharpeville. These people refused to carry the hated “dompas” and therefore participated in a protest against the pass laws. Many were shot in the back. The carnage made world headlines. Four days later, the government of the day banned black political organisations. Many leaders were arrested or went into exile ...

During the apartheid era there were human rights abuses by all sides. Human Rights Day is but one step to ensure that the people of South Africa are aware of their human rights. This day was declared International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the United Nations.

One of the biggest challenges facing our new democracy is building a country that is fair to all of its citizens; a country in which all individuals feel and know that they are valued members of society and that they have the rights that:

- Respect human dignity
- Promote human development
- Foster human equality and
- Advance human freedom.

What are human rights? According to the Human Rights Commission of South Africa, human rights are the basic rights that everyone has, simply because they are human.

Are you aware of your human rights? The list of human rights protected in South Africa is contained in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the Constitution. The rights are divided into three categories, namely:

Civil and political rights

- Equality

- Life
- Freedom and security of the person
- Privacy
- Labour rights
- Political rights
- Access to justice
- Just administrative action
- Citizens
- Aliens
- Refugees
- Expression
- The rights of arrested, detained and accused people.

Economic, social and cultural rights

- Employment
- Housing and shelter
- Health
- Food
- Water
- Land
- Social security
- Education
- Freedom of culture, religion and language
- Rights of children and young people.

The right to development, self-determination, peace and a protected environment

- Development
- A protected environment.

What are human rights violations?


If someone ignores or abuses your rights, it is called a violation of those rights.

In South Africa there are institutions referred to as the “protection mechanisms”, which support the “constitutional democracy”, as contained in the Constitution. These institutions strive to uphold the human rights of each individual in this country. The following institutions are involved:



- The Public Protector
- The SA Human Rights Commission
- The Commission on Gender Equality
- Office of the Auditor General
- Independent Electoral Commission
- Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
- Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

Knowing your rights as a citizen of South Africa, it is your duty to make fellow citizens aware of what they are entitled to. Be part of a community that enjoys its human freedom and that promotes human dignity.

* South African Human Rights Commission – head office (011) 484 8300. 

Largest open water swimming event

Article and photos by
LS N.C. ZULU

The Midmar Mile is regarded as the premier event on the Pietermaritzburg calendar and boasts being the largest open water swimming event in the world. The 2012 Midmar Mile swimming competition took place from 11 to 12 February. Over 17 000 swimmers braved the cold water of the Midmar Dam to participate in this annual swimming encounter.

Despite the “not so conducive climatic conditions” thousands of spectators turned up to watch the swimming spectacle, creating a festive vibe. The Company relay race; Non-Company race, the traditional Family relay and the Ironman/ Woman/Biathlon/Disabled race race took place on the first day of 2012 Midmar Mile competition.

Remarkably WO2 Gregory Faure, a submariner who is wheelchair bound, competed in his second Midmar Mile swimming competition and made the unbelievable time of 1:07:00, improving his record of last year by 6 minutes. The inspirational WO2 Faure said he was relieved to get to the finish mark as the conditions were not conducive for a good crossing. He thanked his school mates for assisting him through the competition.


The rest of the SA Navy group who competed in the company relay race was lead by Chief Naval Staff (CNS), R Adm Robert Higgs and included members from Naval Station Durban (NSD) and Naval Station Port Elizabeth (NSPE). R Adm Higgs was the first naval member to finish the race clocking a time of 33:52, a 52 sec off his previous time record last year. After braving the tough swimming conditions CNS had this to say about race “It was very tough condition this year as the damp condition did not help much, but I enjoyed swimming



ABOVE: The SA Navy team that took part in the Company relay event of Midmar Mile.

ABOVE: Capt(SAN) Jacobus Theunissen doing an interview after finishing the 2012 Midmar Mile swimming competition.

my second Midmar Mile and will definitely be back next year”.

The Midmar Mile would not be complete without naval presence in the water safety aspects of the competition with Naval Station Durban (NSD) assisting with water borne safety aspects of Search and Rescue (S&R) and water traffic control. Divers from the Operational Diving Team East (ODTE) and Protection Force of NSD were deployed to ensure overall safety of the international event. 



ABOVE: WO2 Faure and wife Penny Faure after his swim.

World TB Day

By Pte Tumelo Seiso
MSDS Corp Comm Intern

World TB Day is meant to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. One third of the world's population is currently infected with TB. The Stop TB Partnership, which consists of a network of organizations and countries fighting TB, organizes the World TB Day to highlight the scope of the disease and how to prevent and cure it, this day is observed on 24 March.

The annual event on 24 March marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch detected the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. This was a first step towards diagnosing and curing tuberculosis. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is working to cut TB prevalence rates and deaths by half by 2015. Although it is not easy to contain or control the spread of TB, attempts are made to deal with it. Organisations like the WHO help countries, especially in Africa, to limit the spread of TB.

This day each year is designed to build public awareness of the fact that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world, and causes the deaths of several million people each year, mostly in developing countries. At the time of Koch's announcement in Berlin, TB was raging throughout Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery opened the way towards




diagnosing and curing TB.

In the African region, which accounts for about 12% of the world population, 23% of global TB cases were notified in 2010. TB continues to overburden many families in the African region despite the existence of medicines and other control measures to contain it. Moreover this epidemic has a negative impact on the economy of many African countries.

World TB Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about TB related problems and solutions, and to support worldwide TB control efforts. This, just like any other pandemic, requires a concurrent approach in order to deal with it, as it affects everyone. Most new TB cases are in major emerging economies

like India, China, and South Africa, which have a remarkable history of using innovation to address tough health challenges.

The major problem is outdated tools. TB is preventable and treatable, but the most common TB test is more than 125 years old and misses half the cases. By the time most TB patients are correctly diagnosed and treated, they may have unknowingly infected many others—perpetuating an endless cycle. However, a good way of dealing with the spread of TB is to go for regular TB tests. To ensure that one implements all the necessary safety precautions when coughing, always cover the mouth. A positive aspect is that the illness is totally treatable; however the treatment takes about six months for it to be cured. 



Applications for the 2012 SA Army Foundation and Maxi Credit Solutions “Adopt a Student” Merit Bursaries open 15 March 2012!

IMPORTANT: The Bursary Programme does NOT provide financial study aid to all applicants. Only a maximum of 3 applicants per year will be awarded a bursary based on merit, performance and successfully meeting all the qualifying criteria.

Do you qualify to apply for a bursary on behalf of your child?

- Are you a contributing member to the SA Army Foundation for more than 24 consecutive months?
- Are you currently and actively in the employ of the SANDF?
- Is your combined gross household income less than R15 000 per month?
- Does your child want to study on a fulltime basis?
- Is your child in Grade 12 or First Year at University at the time of applying? Remember, only learners up to the age of 20 can apply.
- Does your child meet the qualifying criteria of their selected course at the Tertiary Institution of their choice?
- Can you provide us with a full breakdown of the costs involved in the Further Studies of your child’s choice?
- Have you checked that you have all the required supporting documents to include with your application?

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS 31 JULY 2012!
NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

Further information and application forms are **ONLY** available at any of the SA Army Foundation’s nationwide offices. Terms and conditions apply.

Army HQ 012-328 2823; Army Gymnasium (Office); ASB Johannesburg 011-2125746; ASB Nelspruit 013-7522711; ASB Port Elizabeth 041-5821151; ASB Youngsfield 021-7871456; Bloemfontein 051-4021781; De Aar Ammu Depot 053-6311869; Defence HQ 012-3555721; Durban (Bluff) 031-4664307; Infantry School 044-2034296; Lohatla 053-3214383; Kimberley 053-8303158; Marievale (Office); Polokwane 015-2993424; Potchefstroom 018-2933805; School of Engineers 056-2124317; SAFI Thaba Tshwane 012-6516388; Tek Base 012-6641716; 2 Fielg Engr Regt 058-3036665; 2 SAI Bn 018-6423886; 3 SAI Bn 053-8303550; 4 SAI bn 013-2432573; 5 SAI Bn 036-6375788; 6 SAI Bn 046-6226115; 7 SAI Bn 015-7810617; 8 SAI Bn 054-3321380; 9 SAI Bn 021-7876295; 10 SAI Bn 018-3861588; 14 SAI Bn 047-5360898; 15 SAI Bn 015-9652024; 21 SAI Bn 011-2125746; 121 SAI Bn 035-5504570

The SA Army and Maxi Credit solution helps students

Article and Photos by Mr Lufuno Netshirembe

For Madiba, one of the most important things is for every person to be educated: "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." – Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

It is with the above influence articulated by our first democratic Commander in Chief and President, that the SA Army and Maxi Credit solution launched adopt a student Bursary programme in July 2011. The objective of this programme is to assist the children of soldiers and army civilian personnel who would not otherwise afford to finance their children's tertiary education due to financial constraints.

The qualifying criteria used to allocate bursary to members was that at least one parent must have contributed a certain amount of money to the Army Foundation for more than 24 consecutive months, the contributing member must be employed by the SANDF, learners to be offered a bursary must not be older than 20 years and in grade 12 at the time of applying; and the bursary must be taken immediately after matriculating (provided they satisfy the minimum entrance requirements of the tertiary institution of their choice). The applicants who met all the criteria were short listed based on a motivational letter explaining why they should be offered this bursary; a recommendation letter from their



ABOVE: Mrs Johanna Nemagovhani with her daughter Zwivhuya Nemagovhani.

school teacher or principal and a letter detailing the bursary recipient's extracurricular activities, cultural or sporting achievements.

The recipient of the bursary does not have to pay back any money paid to him/her after completion of the studies. The bursary will provide 100% for tuition, registration and exam fees. It further provides 100% fees to purchase prescribed books and study material. It pays for an amount equal to the average rate for accommodation in a single room of the educational institution and three meals per day.

After careful deliberation, the bursary committee awarded it to two students from Limpopo province (which is one of the poorest provinces in South Africa), namely Rixongile Albertinah

Makondo (18) and Zwivhuya Nemagovhani (18).

SA Soldier had an exclusive interview with Mrs Johanna Nemagovhani, the mother of Zwivhuya and Cpl Lucky Makondo, father of Rixongile. Mrs Nemagovhani is employed as a hygiene officer at 15 SAI Battalion in Venda and Cpl Makondo is the Charlie Company Clerk at 7 SAI Battalion in Phalaborwa.

Mrs Nemagovhani who joined the Army Foundation around 1995 did not know about the bursary benefit of the Army Foundation, she only became aware of this benefit in 2011 after being told of this benefit by an Army Foundation official. She encouraged her daughter to apply in October and she got the good news that her



ABOVE: Rixongile Makondo at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) at Polokwane Province.

daughter will be given a 100% study bursary in 2012 at any educational tertiary institution of her choice. Zwivhuya who went to school at Mbilwi Secondary School is studying for a BA Maths and physics in the University of Venda. She obtained 73% in Tshivenda (home language), 57% in English (first additional language), 73% in Mathematics, 78% in Life Orientation, 52% in Geography, 49% in Life Sciences and 64% in Physical Sciences.

Asked how she felt about this opportunity Zwivhuaya said she was surprised but happy to get the bursary as she never thought she could be a recipient of this life changing offer but now that she has got this studying opportunity she will not disappoint her parents, SA Army and Maxi Credit solution. Her advice to the pupils in grade 12 was that they should work as hard as they could and never undermine themselves and what they could achieve if given an opportunity.

Cpl Lucky Makondo joined the army foundation in 1992, when he joined he was not fully aware of the benefits except that the foundation

offers excellent death and funeral benefits. Cpl Makondo became aware of the bursary benefit after casually discussing his financial predicament about his second daughter who would be going the tertiary level if she passed grade 12 with the army foundation personnel while he was on course in Oudtshoorn. He was advised to inquire about the bursary, after the inquiry he sent the bursary application form on behalf of his daughter. He was thrilled to receive the good news that his daughter would be receiving a bursary to further her studies in any educational tertiary institution of her choice in 2012. Cpl Makondo encourages all the soldiers like him to join the Army Foundation.

Rixongile went to Hoerskool Frans du Toit and is studying Human Resource Management at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Polokwane Province. Rixongile obtained 68% in Xitsonga (home language), 60% in English (first additional language), 65% in Mathematical literacy, 70%



ABOVE: Rixongile's father, Cpl Lucky Makondo at his office 7 SAI Battalion in Phalaborwa.

in Life Orientation, 42% in Business Studies, 49% in Computer Application Technology and 61% in Tourism. "I am not faced by the tertiary level style of teaching, I have been waiting for this time and I am determined to pass my studies in record time", said Rixongile Makondo.

For those of you (the readers) who are interested in this bursary programme please note that the application forms will be available from the end of April 2012. **For further information on the bursary and other SA Army foundation benefits please contact SA Army foundation Communication Officer, Ms Mari Louise Kaplan: Tel: 012 675 9431. Fax: (012) 654 4554. email: mkaplan@Army-foundation.co.za. Web: www.armyfoundation.co.za** 

FREEDOM, the drive to create new memories

By Cpl Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra Magazine

Photo by WO2 David Nomtshongwana

Lt Lindelani Munzhelele, the second black female in the South African Air Force (SAAF) to qualify as a mission controller at the Air Command's Command and Control has enrolled at Saldahna Military Academy, near Cape Town, where she will be studying full-time towards a bachelor degree in military technology.

Earlier, the 25-year-old Limpopo-born Lt Munzhelele received a Certificate from Rosebank College in project management.

"I don't see why I should not be able to crack the course. I motivated myself and refused to be kept down. Recognising my dim background and being able to adapt easily, has helped me to warm up easily to everyone and try to find what I can learn from him or her", she added.

"I am glad that I am part of the South African Air Force's plan to recruit, produce and retain a fair share of developed women in its core-musterings," said Lt Munzhelele. She was quick to point out that she had programmed her mind to do her best in whatever she does, and never let anything distract her.

Lt Munzhelele has over the last 6 years dedicated herself to command and control issues. She related how difficult it was to grasp everything and how hard work had paid off.

She heard about the SAAF for the first time on Phalaphala radio and when she enquired further, she was told that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) recruitment personnel were around her hometown.

"When asked about what I wanted to become, I told to them that I wanted to become a chemical analyst. I was disappointed when I was told that the

South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) did not offer that course.

Soon she discovered that Denel Aviation had a Youth Foundation Programme which she joined and had the opportunity to upgrade her Maths and other subjects. "Little did I know that the quarters where we were accommodated at, is right next to the O.R. Tambo Airport, seeing aircraft landing and taking off, gave me a dream that I am still chasing even today," she beamed.

She said she proved to herself that nothing was impossible when she excelled in her military career that started in 1995 where she studied and trained in Command and Control ab initio for four months in AFB Hoedspruit.

"Air Traffic Controlling (ATC) was the hardest thing, it was not the work itself, but the fact that one was constantly pulled out of the comfort zone, and the sooner one figured things out, the better for all

concerned", she said. This feeling was brought about when she was sent back to the Bushveld Airspace Control Sector (BACS) for mentorship. At the BACS to practice the theory that she had learned she had to work in different Command and Control sections.

During that period, she went through the selection process, which streamlined members on their specialised field. The following year, she went back to the Command and Control school to start with assistance course which was next phase of her studies followed by a radar operator course. In 2007, she became an Officer Formative course student. The following year (2008), she started mission control training ab initio, which she completed in 2009. It was in this period that she was commissioned as a 2Lt and was officially posted to BACS.

The keen reader and a movie fanatic was raised by a single mother after her parents divorced and her father



Lt Lindelani Munzhelele.


passed on. She reflected on how hard life was growing up in Makhado (a rural village in Venda). "It was very hard to adjust to my mother's 'old-fashioned' way of raising us. What made it worse was the fact that of my other 3 siblings I was the closest to my father. It was a relief when my mother decided to send me to boarding school, but I resented her for sending me away. Ours was not a very good relationship; we found it very hard to connect after death robbed us of our father", she mentioned.

Paullina Muofhe Munzhelele (her mother) used to work as a civilian

clerk at Air Force Base (AFB) Makhado. "My mother and I came a long way in building the mother and daughter relationship that we enjoy today. I am forever thankful for the support I got from my paternal and maternal relatives, they have been a pillar of strength and they have taught me the importance of family", she said.

She related how her uncle who was her role model walked a very long distance to get to her commissioning parade. "I just knew that he walked because he was unemployed, his presence made me promise myself never to disappoint him in any way. He always told me how special and

talented I am, words that I never got to hear from anyone else since my father passed on, that's what drives me to create new memories for myself", she said.

Asked what her message was to her SAAF family she said "I want people back home to see me and see hope, I want them to feel empowered by my achievements and maybe even inspired. Getting a job in urban area does not necessarily mean they must forget where they come from, and it certainly does not mean the end of their financial woes. Have a plan, stick to your goals and embrace change," she concluded. 

The Military Academy appoints a new Dean

By Maj Engela Meintjies (Mil Acad Communication Officer)

Photo: Mr A. Fokkens

The Military Academy announced the appointment of the new dean to head the Faculty of Military Science of the Stellenbosch University with effect from 01 January 2012.

The new dean, Professor Maashutha Samuel Tshehla (41) takes over the reigns from Prof Edna van Harte who retired at the end of 2011.

Prof Tshehla possesses Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Mathematical Science obtained from the then University of the North (Unin) in 1997, BSc Honours Degree in Applied Mathematics in 1999 and a Master of Science Degree in Applied Mathematics in 2001. He further graduated from the University of Cape Town (UCT) with a PhD degree in Industrial Mathematics in 2009. His research interest is Fluid dynamics in the field of Industrial Mathematics.


Prof Tshehla who was born in Tzaneen in Limpopo Province brings with him a load of experience to his new responsibilities. He first cut his teeth into the academic world as a junior lecturer in Applied Mathematics, lecturing in Classical Mathematics at the University of the North until 2001 when he joined the Department of Water Affairs, where he worked as a flood frequency analyst within the Flood Studies Directorate.



Prof Sam Tshehla has been appointed the new Dean of the Faculty of Military Science at the Stellenbosch University with effect from 01 January 2012.

As he continues to distinguish himself and rising to the greater heights in the faculty, his hard work was noticed in 2005 by the management when he was elected the Secundus Dean, the position he held until the end of 2011.

Prof Sam Tshehla as he is affectionately known among his peers and colleagues

at the institution has also been promoted to the rank of an Associate Professor in Mathematics and he will work closely with Col M. Vena, the acting Commandant after the departure of Maj Gen Lindile Yam who is currently General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation. 

Knowledge is extremely important

By L Cpl Lebogang Ramaboea,
Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 David
Nomtshongwana

“Knowledge is very important, because the little knowledge that we have is not good enough to change the current and the future generations. We need to be well informed to learn more,” said Chaplain (Dr) Thabang Johannes Skhosana.

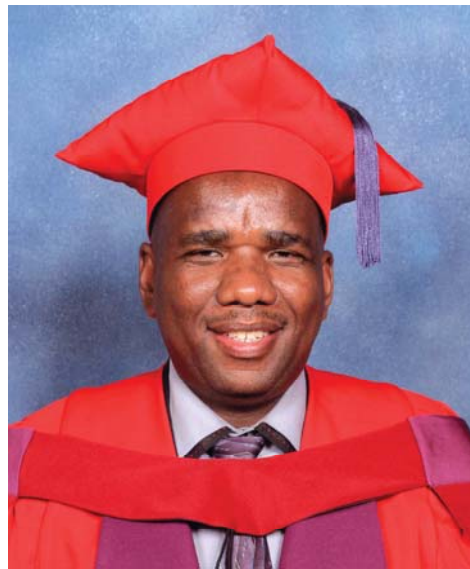
Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana received his doctorate Philosophy at the University of Pretoria on 8 September 2011.

He was born on 17 August 1963 in Zamdela in the Free State. He was born to Dorah and raised by his guardians, Daniel and Elizabeth Skhosana. He grew up with five brothers and one sister, who passed away in December 1998. He attended his primary education at Wolvehook farm school, at the age of 8, in 1972. Thabang completed his formal schooling in 1983 at Nkgopoleng High School in Zamdela.

A year after he finished school he was employed as a laboratory assistant at the Randfontein Estate Gold Mine in 1984. It was in that year that he began to feel convinced that he should leave the laboratory and take up pastoral work. He then enrolled at the Central Bible College in Soshanguve, and in 1989 he was ordained into the priesthood.

Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana, in addition to being a chaplain at the Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing is also a pastor at AFM Breakthrough Tabernacle in Sebokeng, zone 12. As a pastor, he also lectures at the Aucklandpark Theological Seminary. He has also been a minister at AFM Refengkgotso (Deneysville), AFM Tumahole (Parys) and AFM Naledi (in Soweto).

He is no stranger to higher education,



Chaplain (Dr) Thabang Johannes Skhosana.

the PhD came after the foundation that was laid in 1988 when he received his Diploma in Theology from Central Bible College. Next he studied at the University of South Africa (Unisa) his second home, and in 1991 he obtained his Bachelor of Theology from this tertiary institution.

Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana holds the following credentials: Honours Bachelor of Theology, Certificate in adult basic education and training (ABET), Master of Theology from Unisa, Diploma in Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, including a Certificate in Research Capacity Initiative from the South African Netherlands Programme for Advanced Development.

Here follows an exclusive question and answer session with Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana:

Tell us about your thesis what was it all about?

“My thesis was about the unheard stories of Christian women infected and affected by HIV and AIDS and about pastoral care.”

What challenges did you experience during your studies?


“Financial challenges will always be there; discipline is another challenge that people take for granted. Remember with a doctoral or PhD there are no classes, nor will a teacher keep reminding you to finish your work. Discipline is always a challenge, but I overcome it. Prayer helped me a lot whenever I hit a hurdle.”

The paper that you produced to acquire your PhD, how will the SANDF members benefit from it?

“If you are a South African, you know that HIV and AIDS is rife among government employees, especially among the security cluster (the SA Police Service, Correctional Services and South Africa’s military personnel). The rate of infection high and that says to me that the papers I have produced are relevant. As a Pastor I take care of the spiritual well-being of people and I must be able to take care of people who are already infected and affected guided by principles of my religious believe.”

What is your message to Chaplains in the Department of Defence?

“The challenge is very great for us because we are dealing with a complicated generation. We are expected to be relevant and for us to be relevant we need to try to be ahead of the people that we are leading. Education is one of those things that help us to be ahead so that we can come back and minister to people in a relevant manner. My colleagues must never stop acquiring knowledge that is relevant to the generation of today.”

Chaplain (Dr) Skhosana is a family man, married to Pinkie, and together they have a daughter, Lerato. The 20-year-old Lerato is currently doing her second year at CEDA City Campus, where she is studying for her Bachelor’s degree and Business Administration (BBA) diploma. 

SS Mendi commemorated

Article and Photos by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

One of the worst South Africa's military disasters, the sinking of SS Mendi, was commemorated at Ga-Mothaga Recreation Resort in Atteridgeville near Pretoria during the annual Memorial Service presented by the SA Legion, Atteridgeville Branch. The Chiefs of Services and Divisions in the SANDF layed wreaths at a commemoration service.

On 16 January 1917 the SS Mendi troopship sailed from Cape Town en route La Havre, carrying the fifth Battalion of the South African Native Labour Contingent. On board were 805 black privates, 22 white officers and 33 crewmen. On the morning of 21 February 1917 the steamship was rammed by SS Darro. The SS



LEFT: Lt General Themba Nkabinde, Chief of Human Resources laying a wreath on behalf of the C SANDF to commemorate the sinking of SS Mendi.



RIGHT: Maj Gen Aubrey Sedibe places a cross on behalf of the SAMHS during the commemoration of SS Mendi.

Mandela View Free State



SANDF protect our country, what about your family?

We can provide your family with secure homes and environment

Phone us now for a free consultation




E-mail: nusun@telkomsa.net www.mandelaview.co.za

HOTLINE 051 442 2007

Mendi sank within 20 minutes, and 607 black troops, nine white officers and all 33 crewmen died in the icy waters of the English Channel.

One of the legends of the troop's bravery as the ship sank is Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyoba was said to have calmed the panicked men by praying with them. The sinking of SS Mendi is remembered at the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton, England, to those who have no grave but the sea.

There is a plaque at the Delville Wood Museum in France in honour of those who lost their lives when the SS Mendi sank. Furthermore, the SS Mendi Memorial in Avalon Graveyard in Soweto was unveiled by Queen Elisabeth II of England to commemorate this tragic event. The SS Mendi is also honoured by the Modern South African Navy, which has among its fleet the SAS Isaac Dyoba, a warrior class fast attack craft and the SAS Mendi, a valour class frigate.

Like so many other military disasters, the story of SS Mendi is a story of supreme courage in the face of death and the valour shown between brothers towards each other in dire circumstances. The courage displayed by these men has remained a legend in South African Military history. The story of the SS Mendi is a pertinent reminder of the sacrifices made by our people to make the world safe for democracy. 

The new spiritual leader of the SANDF inaugurated

Article and Photos by S Sgt
Lebogang Tlhaole

Members of the Department of Defence, friends and family bade farewell to Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen and welcomed the new Chaplain General of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile at a Handing and Taking over ceremony on 24 February 2012 at St Johns Methodist Church in Thaba Tshwane.

The DOD took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by outgoing Chaplain General in the quest to support the DOD to deliver on its constitutional mandate. The DOD valued his contributions over the past years as a foundation on which



ABOVE: Pastor G. Mahlobo, Chairperson of Religious Advisory Board and Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen praying for blessing on the incoming Chaplain General, Brig Gen Andrew Jamangile.



ABOVE: The Outgoing Chaplain General, Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen delivering his last sermon as the Chaplain General of the SANDF.

part of the Department of Defence. The Chaplains service provides a specialist religious support service to members of the DOD. This service promotes spiritual growth, sustains an ethos of high morality and ethical credibility and spiritually cares for all members and their dependants. The collateral value of religious support and other activities by Chaplains is of value and must be taken into account.

the department built a solid National Defence Force that is fully capable to defend the country's territorial

integrity and its people.

The Chaplains Service forms an integral

Chief of Staff, Joint Operations, Maj Gen Dlambulo Tshiki on behalf of the SANDF commended Brig Gen (Rev)



ABOVE: The outgoing Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen and the incoming Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile arriving at St Johns Methodist Church for the handing and taking over service.

Cornelissen for the sterling job and great example that he had set during his tenure of office as the Chaplain General of the SANDF for the past seven years.

“Brig Gen Cornelissen was always loyal and supportive to the cause and calling of the DOD. He was always actively involved in all the strategic processes and contributed to the overall strategy of the DOD which he did by being an exemplary spiritual guardian. His years of experience added positively to the discussion and planning session”, said Gen Tshiki.

To the newly appointed Spiritual leader




ABOVE: The new spiritual leader of the SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Andrew Jamangile signing the official bible while Brig Gen Cornelissen looks on.

of the SANDF, The Chief of Staff, Joint Operations said that he was convinced that Brig Gen Jamangile would take on the role and responsibility of charting the way forward into new areas of religious expeditions. He urged the General to lead by example and take the Chaplaincy into a new chapter which has to be aligned with the strategic direction of the DOD.

“The chaplains and all the members of the DOD are now part of your flock and you have to equip, train and release your chaplains to care for us, as our spiritual leaders we look up to you. Please build with the building blocks of the past and add new innovative blocks to make this service a continued and desired service that others, world wide, will seek advice and guidance from, said Maj Gen Tshiki.

Brig Gen (Rev) Jamangile as an elder Minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is married with four children. He hails from Aliwal North. Reverend Jamangile holds a higher Diploma in Theology. To date he has served four congregations, Cape Town, St John Adams in Port Elizabeth, Cradock and Zwide in Port Elizabeth.

Since joining the Department of

Defence in 2002 Brig Gen Jamangile has served the SANDF in various capacities, including that of Brigade Chaplain at 46 SA Brigade, Special Forces Brigade Chaplain, SSO Staff Services at Chaplain Service HQ and from 05 December 2005 as Chief of Staff in the Chaplain Generals Division HQ. His record demonstrates his ability and willingness to serve the DOD. 

Soldiering on despite failure

**By Col (Dr) Tobias Masuku:
Chaplain General Division**

“Those who are ready to join hands can overcome the greatest challenges” - Nelson Mandela.

Former President and Commander-in-Chief, Nelson Mandela does not need introduction in addressing the subject of motivating members of this department on success despite life challenges. His aforementioned quote was taken from one of the diaries for this year where there is a different quote at the bottom of every page. These are very intelligent quotes and this one by Dr Mandela was more attractive to me and I personally found it to be appropriate and relevant, focus in this article will be on interpreting this quote from various aspects and also unravel the benefit that the Department of Defence can derive from this wise quote.

Team work was one of Dr Mandela's messages to the people of South Africa. He warned journalists and other people not to credit him alone for his wisdom and political achievements. He always referred to collective efforts, team work whenever he was praised as an individual. This indicates that he valued team work greatly. Although he was in solitary confinement during most of his years as a political prisoner, acknowledging that there were other people around him kept him going. Team spirit kept him going even after his release from prison.

The scriptures also reflected on this

concept of the collective/team spirit. Teamwork is emphasised in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What benefits are there when certain people are individualistic while others are communal or gregarious? Teamwork has more benefits than individual agenda. In the aforementioned scriptural part, it is clearly articulated that the best side between these two areas i.e. individual and team spirit is being part of what Dr Mandela referred to as 'a collective'. The language used to convey this message is "two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one falls down, the other can help him up..." Although his utterances are driven in a sexist language e.g. 'him', his choice of terminology is used inclusively.

Labour movements also spread team spirit messages. It is common to hear them shouting: "Viva! United we stand, divided we fall!" It is common to hear them saying: "An injury to one is an injury to all!". These are all emphasis to the importance of teamwork.


What choices do we make as people of the 21st century between individual and team spirit? There are those who choose an individualistic lifestyle, separating themselves from the team. They don't greet other people, speak with their neighbours or their colleagues at work, don't allow their children to play with others, don't attend other people's functions,



Col (Dr) Tobias Masuku: Chaplain General Division.

lock themselves in their offices most of the time, don't mix easily with their colleagues, don't go to churches or religious gatherings to meet with others.

What is the cause of all these individualistic behaviours? I noted the following causes: Misuse of status brought by educational achievements, misuse of race, gender, wealth, success, positions in society or at work, etc.

From the above deliberations one would deduce that teamwork is better than one. The Department of Defence puts all of us into one pot, one big family which needs team work in order to deliver on our mandate. It is true that "two are better off than one." 

Let us know what you think

WHICH AGE GROUP ARE YOU?

under 20	<input type="checkbox"/>
20-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
30-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
40-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
50-60	<input type="checkbox"/>
60+	<input type="checkbox"/>

TO WHICH SERVICE DO YOU BELONG?

SA Army	<input type="checkbox"/>
SA Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/>
SA Navy	<input type="checkbox"/>
SA Military Health Service	<input type="checkbox"/>

ARE YOU A ...

Uniformed member	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSAP (Public Service Act Personnel)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

IN WHICH RANK GROUP DO YOU FALL?

Non-commissioned Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>
PSAP (Public Service Act Personnel)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHY DO YOU READ SA SOLDIER?

The way it looks attracts me	<input type="checkbox"/>
Its captivating articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wanted to know more about the SANDF	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

HOW REGULARLY DO YOU READ SA SOLDIER?

Every edition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every second edition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than that	<input type="checkbox"/>

What you think and how you feel matters to us. By completing this survey, we are enabled to publish more informative and thought-provoking articles for you.

WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR SA SOLDIER WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?

Keep it for reference purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pass it on to your family/friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pass it on to your colleagues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Throw it away	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

WHICH TYPES OF ARTICLES DO YOU WANT TO READ MORE OR LESS OF?

	More	Less
Bread-and-butter issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operations and exercises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military technology and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education, training and development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about units/bases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Messages from/announcements by the Minister/CSANDF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANDF rendering community services, eg help to flood victims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social responsibility events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Readers' letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertisements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crossword puzzles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING

	Excellent	Good	Poor
Front cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Layout and design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOUR TYPES OF ARTICLES THAT I ENJOY IMMENSELY, ARE

TWO TYPES OF ARTICLES THAT CAN BE ELIMINATED ARE

Thank you for the time that you have taken to complete the survey. Please post or fax your completed form on or before 31 May 2012 to **SA Soldier, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001 or (012) 355 6399.**



MAGNUM[®]
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT™

FIELD TESTED. OPERATOR APPROVED.

[SIDEWINDER HPI — MultiCam[®]]

We built these boots with one goal: enhance the survivability of the world's most elite operators. Now they are the first of their kind—every single component utilizes the genuine Crye Precision MultiCam[®] pattern, and resists the elements with Magnum's unique ion-mask™ technology. These tough, lightweight boots not only support the full weight of an operator and his kit, but are built to withstand the world's most dangerous, rugged, and harsh terrain. You can maintain your covert advantage. We can help. **We are Magnum.**



Sidewinder Desert HPI Spider Tac 8.1 Spec Spider 5.1 Multicam HPI

For stockist visit:
www.magnumboots.com