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SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER



**2010 SA Navy
Festival**



defence

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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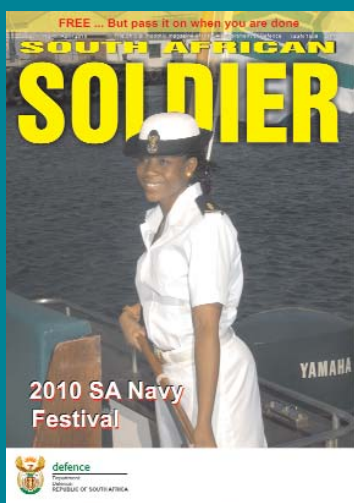
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Above: Airborne Forces surrounding a mock hostage 35-seater bus during the Exercise Young Eagle demonstration at the Air Force Base Bloemspruit, Bloemfontein. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)



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FRONT COVER: A SA Navy Ableseaman in position on board the Admiral's Barge during the Navy festival in Simons Town. Read all about this event on pages 14 and 15. (Photo by Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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

From the Editor's desk



Ovela kumHleli

The Navy Festival draws huge crowds of all ages to witness the coming together of the People's Navy and the people it serves. On page 14 we bring you one of the most important events on the South African Navy's calendar. The festival offered a fun-filled and educational programme to the younger generation with a variety of activities, exhibitions and static displays.

Back to the basics... read all about the SA Army January 2010 MSDS intake. 2 804 newly selected MSDS members reported for Basic Military Training (BMT) at the various SA Army training centres of excellence. Read all about this on page 16

Women are the cornerstones of our society; SA Soldier magazine would not be complete without some focus on women. Read about women who are indeed supportive of their spouses in their responsibility as Warrant Officers. With an unbelievable sense of purpose, an unmistakable passion for her role and a solid sense of what constitutes a remarkable woman in uniform, Lt Col Florence Shaik Latiff is undoubtedly a role model for woman, young and old. Read all about this remarkable woman on page 35.

The need to love and be loved is a thirst that cannot be quenched by substandard actions. Because love makes us happy, it is therefore understandable that if one wants to be happy one must strive to find that which makes one happy. On page 37, meet Maj Lesley Rakhubane who went all out to find his beloved daughter in Zambia after 19 years of separation.

For fear of being blatantly ignorant, one cannot proceed without mentioning the World Soccer spectacular coming to our shores. On page 28 we tell you some facts about our national symbols and our National Anthem. It is important that you know these symbols and their meaning. On page 40 we bring you the news about a week-long integrated training exercise at De Brug military training ground in Bloemfontein held to demonstrate the SA Army's airborne readiness for the FIFA Soccer World Cup.

Did you know that the National Anthem is not just a song for the country, but a prayer too. Therefore it is extremely important that as a South African you should be able to sing and understand our national anthem. On the back (outside) cover we give the lyrics of the anthem, I urge you to try to sing it as a practice run. Remember this anthem is going to be sung everyday before matches begin for the duration of the world soccer cup. Keep this magazine it might be the most resourceful readily available National Anthem hymn.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor 

Umnyanya wamaJoni weManzini udosa abantu abanengi beminyaka yoke ngomqopho wokuhlenganisa kwabantu besijoni semanzini nabantu esibasebenzelako. Ekhasini le-14 sikuthulela umnyanya oqakathekileko erhemeni lamajoni weManzini weSewula Afrika: Umnyanya lo, uthule amahlelo ahlukeneko wokufundisa nokuzijabulisa ebantwini abatjha kanye nemikhangiso.

Nasiqala ekuthomeni, funda kabanzi ngeRherho lamaJoni we Sewula Afrika lokuBandula nokuThuthukisa kwamaKghono kwezamajoni (MSDS) enyangeni kaMhlolanga enyakeni ophezulu (2010), abafundi abayi-2 804 abakhethiweko ukungenela irherhveli, basungule ukuzibandula ngezamajoni eendaweni ezihlukeneko zokuzibandula zamajoni weSewula Afrika. Funda ngokuzeleko ekhasini le-16.

Abomma bayimbokodo yesitjhaba; iphephandaba le-SA Soldier alikaphellele ngaphandle kokumumatha iindaba zabomma. Funda ngokuzeleko ngabomma abasekela amadodabo emsebenzini wabo wobu-Warrant Officer. Ngesizathu esinangazako, ukuthanda umsebenzi wakhe nenqondo eqinileko eveza ukuphumelela komfazi, u-Lt Col Florence Shaik Latiff usibonelo esihle ebafazini abadala nabanqani. Funda ngomfazi umangazako lo ekhasini le-35

Isizathu sokuthanda nokuthandwa sikukoma okusoze kuswe mizamo eminqani. Ngombana ithando lisenza sijabule, kuyazwisiseka bona umuntu ofuna ithando kufanele asebenzise woke amandla ukuthola okusijabulisako. Ekhasini le-37, funda ngo-Majoro Lesley Rakhubane owenze ngakho koke ukufumana umdazanakhe othandekako eZambia emva kokuhlukana iminyaka e-19.

Ngokusaba ukungabi nelemuko, angikwazi ukuragela phambili ngaphandle ngokuveza umdlalo weBhegere yePhasi ozobanjelwa enarheni yeSewula Afrika. Ngibawa ufunde ekhasini le-28, lapho sikuhlathululela ngamatshwayo nengoma yesitjhaba yekhethwapha. Kuqakathekile ukwazi amatshwayo la nokuthi atjhokuthini. Ekhasini le-40 sikuthulela iindaba ngokuzibandula okuhlengeneko okuthethe iweke yoke ekampeni yokuzibandula yamajoni e-De Brug e-Bloemfontein ukukhombisa ukuzilungiselela iBhegere yePhasi majoni wezokuphapha.

Bewazi ukuthi ingoma yesitjhaba ayisingoma nje kodwana mthandazo godu? Ngeqiniso elivezwe ngehlapha, kuqakathekile ukuthi njengomSewula Afrika kufanele wazi ukuvuma nokuzwisisa Ingoma yeSithjhaba. Ekhasini elingemva sikutholele Ingoma yeSithjhaba, ngikuyelelisa bona uzame ukuyivuma ukuzilungiselela imidlalo. Khumbula ukuthi ingoma le izokuvunywa qobelanga phambikobana kusungulwe imihlalo - isikhathi soke semidlalo yeBhegere yePhasi. Bulunga incwadi le, ingakurhelelha khulu ngokuvuma ingoma yesitjhaba ngesikhathi zemidlalo.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Isekela likamHleli 

* Translation - Ukutjhugululwa (isiNdebele) ngoNom. Mandla Mahlangu.



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THE SANDF IS READY TO DEFEND THE 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

In a recent debate with a colleague of mine concerning our role in the provision of security before and primarily during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, I was left aghast by his views that reeked of a lack of confidence in our abilities and the competence of the SANDF in ever being equal to the task. On that very morning I was awoken by an SAFM news bulletin of our Commander-in-Chief expressing his confidence in us. By affirming to the rest of the world that in so far as security was concerned South Africa was more than "prepared", President Jacob Zuma was saying that we (as a component of the security cluster) were more than able and ready to attain our primary objective of defending and protecting the territorial integrity of the Republic and its people during the forthcoming event.

A number of points were highlighted by my colleague, not least his asser-

tion that we were an ill-disciplined force compared to that of a country such as the United States; he hastened to offer the 26 August 2009 labour action by soldiers as a vindication of his belief and he therefore concluded that our competence was questionable. It has to be said that the argument above is specious, and therefore invalid, as the facts speak otherwise. The call for better working conditions and emoluments (however controversial) by troops is no indicator of their competence or ability to do their duty. Thus, if ever their action was to be seen as an indicator of anything, it would be one of a dedicated and able workforce that was being grossly underpaid and therefore unacknowledged.

He further said that the borders of South Africa were "porous" and we could not therefore secure them, which is no doubt true. However, while illegal immigration takes place and is a challenge, nothing short of something like

the Great Wall of China would be needed, manned along its entire length to deal with the problem.

The fact of the matter is that no one state on this earth can ever claim to have achieved completely impervious borders; even my colleague's hallowed USA is not able to stop completely the Cuban, Mexican and other illegal immigrants. South Africa is ably handling this problem as best it can.

We did not discuss all the security issues affecting South Africa, in particular with regard to the FIFA 2010 World Cup. South Africa's track record in successfully hosting events of this nature speaks for itself. In 1995 we succeeded admirably in hosting the Rugby World Cup. In 1996 it was the AFCON Cup. In 2003 at the Wanderers (Johannesburg), we co-hosted the world's fourth largest and most viewed sporting event: the ICC Cricket World Cup and this too we (the security

WE CHOOSE TO BE HERE

The only disability I know in life is bad attitude; it always goes back to how your attitude will determine your altitude.

Where I am now time moves slowly, but yet we are told that time is our biggest enemy. Each drop of my sweat reveals a story known to me and the rate of my heartbeat. Nothing is ever personal because your personality always determines your ability to survive the condition. Your mind has to act as a defence to some decorations consisting of different shapes that are to

hold you back; nothing is ever normal, but it needs your approval in confidence to mature in a thought.

Put your future before everything; secure every shaken heartfelt moment with a brave smile and take this as a structure outlined to you to see yourself through it all. Like a three-wire system to which I now relate myself to build my courage to do better with colours that are to make me strong, yellow and green - earth for a purpose, brown for life to compose and blue for neutral to propose.

These are the safety rules that basic military training taught me each day. I live each day on this earth with a purpose because this earth is a station of endurance, a section that requires discipline. For life to shine bright upon you, you need to compose your actions into a rhythm that humbles you to be responsible and reliable.

There is nothing neutral about pain; you can never get used to it no matter how hard it rains to wash away our sins. The chains of negligence will weigh you down, but if you remain neutral and apply the values of life in the SANDF, no matter how unbearable or painful, you will always stop, find options to evaluate, decide and then go.

This is what I emerged from, namely the basic military training that changed me into a better person and I wish and hope it does the same for you and others to follow. We choose to be uniformed members and we have to live up to what we stand for and carry on with the traditions of the SANDF. **Amn P.M. Mashele, SAAF College**

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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 and double-spaced. 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.

forces) undertook without fail. As recently as last year we hosted the Confederations Cup at which Sepp Blatter awarded South Africa a whopping 7,5 out of 10 for our organisation of the events, with the aspect of security having featured prominently in this. South Africa also hosted the IPL cricket tournament, and this while the 2009 elections were under way. It is also important to note that the latter tournament was moved to South Africa from India precisely because the Indian government felt that it could not guarantee a peaceful tournament and (their own) elections at the same time.

All these and definitely more are achievements on record and are ones for which we have every reason to pat ourselves on the back. So whatever the scepticism and cynicism of others like my colleague, I have every belief that the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup will become and for a long time will remain a mission successfully completed and that we are truly a national defence force that defends and protects the Republic of South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with our Constitution and the principles of international law regulating the use of force.

Therefore, to the sailors of the South

African Navy that navigate and brave the waves and currents of our seas; to the foot soldiers of the SA Army that march in defence of our beautiful land; to the SA Air Force that claims our blue skies along with the secretary bird of our coat of arms and the SA Military Health Service that holds high the red cross that depicts their dedication I say let us once more remind ourselves of our erstwhile Commander-in-Chief's (Mr Thabo Mbeki) proclamation back in 1996 when he called our nation to action and said: Gloria est consequenda - Glory must be sought after. **PO M.T.S. Maepa, Simon's Town** 

GROUNDSMAN IN THE DOD

What comes to mind if you hear the term groundsman? I am sure some of you have positive connotations while others immediately have a negative reaction. Statistics indicate that the groundsmen employed in the DOD number 900 people whose average age is above 50 years. They are predominantly male and on salary levels 1 to 5, although the bulk are employed on salary levels 2 and 3. A large proportion of these employees are illiterate or have low scholastic qualifications.

Most of these employees have been in the service of the DOD for the greater part of their adult lives, and most will retire on salary levels 2 or 3.

Wide consultation with these employees has revealed the following information:

Many of them could no longer per-

form the strenuous tasks due to their health and age.


Many have never received any training (formal or informal) during all their years of service. The neglect of this occupational group is an indictment of all of us who have not attempted to better their situation.

Training opportunities do exist for this occupation. Short courses have been designed by various education, training and development (ETD) providers to accommodate even those employees who are illiterate, and include the following subjects:

- What makes a garden beautiful?
- Basic concepts of design and design principles.
- Soil types and site preparation.
- Planting trees, shrubs and ground cover.

- Construction of simple garden features.
- Using garden equipment.
- Weeding and applying pesticides.
- Turning soil and composting.
- Water-wise gardening.
- Indigenous and exotic plants.

SAQA and the Skills Levy Act clearly state that the employer has to spend at least one per cent of ETD funds on personnel. Courses are practically orientated and cost between R1 000 and R2 000. It is high time that this vulnerable group of people get a fair portion of the budget.

Let's make an effort to identify suitable training for our groundsmen and make an investment in their careers, which will also be to the benefit of the DOD at large. **Mr E. Badenhorst, Pretoria** 

JOURNEY THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET

As a Bible teacher, I feel it is my priestly duty to give this message about the eyes of God. Furthermore we, the teachers, will be more strictly judged. We are working with a precious material: the mind of a child of God. We are making impressions on the mind of a child of God which time will never erase. We must be patient with slow learners, even those who refuse to learn. I cannot be silent for the sake of the children of God.

2nd Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of God range throughout the whole earth to

strengthen the hearts of those who are fully committed in him." Zechariah 4:10: "For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of God, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth." And Revelation 5:6.

This message will help the children of God in the SANDF to grow up to be more like Christ. When the church is faithfully putting forth the Word of God something happens to its members, a genuine faith like that one of Timothy, Paul and even

men from African soil, such as Nicholas Bhengu and William Duma who were a capital letter L, ie they were vertically right with God and horizontally right with people. They had a divine plumb line (the nature and righteousness of God). The Bible warns us that we will by no means enter the Kingdom of God if our righteousness does not exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees. God did not create any of us to be average; we were created to excel. It is

>> on page 8

>> from page 7

important to see ourselves as God sees us.

Number 7 means perfection; that is why God provided the Hebrew nation with seven types of food that they would enjoy after possessing the Promised Land (Deut 8:8). For us to enjoy God's best we must know about God's seven eyes, i.e. to have the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When the Israelites were eating manna, God was preparing them for good things. If we see ourselves as God sees us, we are champions, not chameleons, victors not victims. We do not fight for victory; we fight the victory won on Calvary by the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.

1. Spirit of Grace: we are not saved by doing good works, but for the purpose of doing good works. Grace is given even though you do not deserve it. The grace of God is for everyone who comes to Jesus, including the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans, and the Chief of

Services, higher echelons and all soldiers. There is a verse in the Bible (Rom 13) about respect for authority. All authority comes from God and God has placed some in a position of authority. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted. If we, the Christians in the SANDF, do not pray for the above-mentioned people, it is a rebellion against God. Rebellion against God is as sinful as witchcraft and stubbornness is as bad as idolatry (1 Samuel 15:23).

2. Spirit of Life: (John 1:12)

3. Spirit of Glory: When people say bad things because you are a follower of Christ, then you are happy; the Spirit of glory is with you. If there are unexpected potholes on the road to heaven, the Holy Spirit acts as your shock absorber.

4. Spirit of Truth: the Holy Spirit reveals things when people are ready to receive. This world is filled with people who are living false lives, wearing

masks of pretence and hiding things. Those who are filled with the Spirit of Truth are to live the life of truth. The Holy Spirit is a confronter, not a coward. Welcome the Spirit of Truth into every room in your house.

5. Spirit of Supplication: He is a spirit of prayer. Each time we sense the desire to pray, it is the Holy Spirit giving that desire. If you frequently think about someone, do not keep thinking, but pray. We must be more sensitive to the Spirit of supplication.

6. Spirit of Adoption: we are to have ways and traits like God. His character is to be duplicated in us (John 14:9).

7. Spirit of Holiness: Our God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. "Be holy for I am holy," says the Lord.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Sgt Zuko Livingstone Ntshongwana, Air Force Base Durban 

WELL DONE TO THE SANDF SERVICE COMMISSION


I ran out of words when I heard the news on SABC Radio from our Commander-in-Chief (President Jacob Zuma). I was so excited because we suffered for a very long time with little pay in the SANDF. But we still go and deploy to protect our country and the SADC countries.

We never gave up hope that one day someone would look at our problems.

When soldiers were doing the toyi-toyi it was bad for us, but that was our last hope that maybe someone would come to our rescue. We had to show the whole country that we were suffering because if you do not cry, people think that you are OK. But mostly I would like to thank the Commission and Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, to our Commander-in-Chief for not hesi-

tating to take action after the Commission's report. To Judge Lebotsang Bosielo, I say well done.

To my fellow soldiers, I say get your R4s and protect this country with pride and high morale. Soldiers can now have a better life after a long battle.

I salute you all. **Cpl L.B Mudau, AFB Makhado** 

QUITTERS ARE LOSERS

Every perfect gift cometh from the Lord; He is the one who started the good work in your life. The Psalmist says: "Where will my help come from; my help cometh from the Lord. When nothing is making sense in your life, when everything is bad call upon the Lord. You might be discouraged or depressed. Confess these words and surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore.

You cannot quit your marriage.

You cannot quit your job.

You cannot quit your business.

Challenges are there for a short

time, not permanently.

You cannot quit now.

Allow no provision for failure in your life.

All you need to do is just to reposition yourself.


In a soccer game when a team wants to win the coach repositions them in the right way.

Hang around people that are positive. You need to hear words that are positive to motivate you.

There was a woman who had a problem with the issue of blood for 12 years. She heard that Jesus healed and therefore repositioned herself. She touched

the hem of the garment of Jesus and the flow of blood stopped.

When you hear that somebody loves you, you want to look nice at all times. Never fight battles that you cannot win. If you hear that you have been gossiped about and want to quit in life, never allows criticism to make you quit. Look what people say about you. Is it true or false? If it is true, start working on your weaknesses.

Critics are unpaid labourers who help us pave our way. Never quit in life. Be strong, courageous and confident in everything that you do. **Chaplain Brenda Siqaza** 

GOODBYE SERGEANT MAJOR

The recent approval of the extended Warrant Officer ranks by the Minister must surely have been welcomed as it gives the satisfaction that warrant officers' salaries can actually increase as they are promoted into more senior positions. It is, however, unfortunate that the traditional and historical form of address for the Army and Air Force warrant officer, "Sergeant Major", will become a battle victim, and that their form of address must now be "Warrant", a la SA Navy. It is especially unfortunate when General Regulations Chapter IV Regulation 1(2), makes specific provision that "each rank referred to in subregulation (1) shall also include every other alternative nomenclature of such rank which may, with regard to military tradition, be used in respect of a particular Arm of the Force or corps of the SA Defence Force".


This means that the traditional rank titles of Sergeant Major, Bombardier, Lance Bombardier, Gunner, Sapper, Signaller, Rifleman, Scout and Trooper remained acceptable nomenclature to be used because of the military tradition surrounding them. The same provision is given in Chapter XIX regulation 3(4). The latter chapter refers to combat service. Considering that the official title for the lowest Army rank is that of private, are we now going to do away with the corps specific nomenclature that has been used for years? So how historical and traditional is the Sergeant Major? In the 16th century, the sergeant major was a general officer who commanded an army's infantry, and ranked about third in an army's command structure; he also acted as a sort of chief of staff to the army's commander as the chief administrative officer. In the 17th century, sergeant

majors appeared in individual regiments as field officers, third in command of their regiments (after their colonels and lieutenant colonels, with a role similar to that of the older, army-level sergeant majors, but on a smaller scale). The older position became known as a sergeant major general to distinguish it. Over time, the sergeant was dropped from both titles, giving rise to the modern ranks of major and major general. The full title of sergeant major fell out of use until the latter part of the 18th century when it began to be applied to the senior non-commissioned officer of an infantry battalion or cavalry regiment.

The first official United States use of the term was in 1776, when a sergeant major was appointed to the headquarters of each infantry battalion of the Continental Army. In 1920, with the standardisation of the army's enlisted pay grades, it ceased to be a title of rank or grade. However, it survived as the job title of the senior NCO of a battalion, and was re-introduced as a rank in 1958 when Congress authorised the E-8 and E-9 pay grades. The appointment of Sergeant Major of the Army was created in 1966, and Command Sergeant Majors got separate insignia in 1968. The US Marine Corps got its first sergeant major in 1801. This was originally a solitary post, similar to the modern Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, but by 1899 there were five of them. The title was abolished in 1946, but reintroduced as a rank in 1954. The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957.

The British use of the term Sergeant Major was formalised in 1797, when the sergeant major was added to the battalion or regimental staff. When chevrons were introduced as badges of rank, he wore

four, later under a crown. In 1813 cavalry regiments introduced the Troop Sergeant Major to replace the Quartermaster as the senior NCO of a troop; this required the existing position to be explicitly redesignated as the Regimental Sergeant Major. Later, the rise of the squadron as the principal sub-regimental unit saw the corresponding introduction of the Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM). The infantry, however, hung on to the undifferentiated, one-per-battalion sergeant major until the eve of the First World War, when the introduction of the Company Sergeant Major forced them to adopt the RSM title as well. In 1881, the cavalry RSM and infantry Sergeant Major were among a number of senior non-commissioned positions that were confirmed with a Royal Warrant, making them warrant officers. This was extended and rationalised in 1915, with the introduction of the new ranks of Warrant Officer Class I (WOI) and Warrant Officer Class II (WOII). The RSM became an appointment of the former, CSM and SSM of the latter. South Africa's 1957 Defence Act and the accompanying General Regulations were closely modelled on the British Army Act, this being the reason for South Africa having the ranks of WOI and WOII, and the appointments of RSM, and later Sgt Maj of the Army, Command Sgt Maj, Brigade Sgt Maj, Division Sgt Maj, etc. Surely the form of address "Sergeant Major" could have been kept?

When speaking to an Army member, "Warrant" just does not have the same ring to it! Sergeant Major greetings. **WO1 Simon Olley, 1 Provost Regiment, Reserve Force - MP Division** 

CORPORATE DRESS AND BEHAVIOUR

Enough has been said and written about corporate dress: the codes of conduct and dress regulations are clear on the matter. A new tendency has, however, emerged: the wearing of hats and caps of all sizes, colours and proportions at the office. Custom has it that men should remove their headgear when entering a building. The original purpose of wearing hats was to protect the wearer from the sun and other weather conditions. In view of this it could be considered inappropriate for

men to keep their headgear on after entering the workplace. Women should give careful consideration to the selection of hats and caps. Such items should complement their clothing. No item of clothing should carry slogans, derogatory words or large brand names.

A second tendency, especially amongst younger employees, is the constant listening to ipods and other electronic devices, such as cellphones, by means of earpieces. Over and above the

danger of possible damage to your hearing, this behaviour does not belong in the workplace. It is a major frustration to others who have to speak louder to get the attention of listeners, and ringing phones are left unanswered. Singing along out loud to tunes while walking in the corridors or in open plan offices is disturbing.

Let's all work together to create a pleasant working environment. **Mr E. Badenhorst, Pretoria** 

121 SA INFANTRY BATTALION CONQUERS NORTH DARFUR


121 SA Infantry Battalion has once again established itself as a force to be reckoned with. The logistical nightmare did not stand in the way of its operational success. UNAMID spoke of a force of outstanding calibre, and it could not have been otherwise with our commander who has already commanded four external missions. He achieved top honours from the international community. He appeared three times on the front cover of the DCR (UN version of SA Soldier). He wandered through the valley of death with most of the notorious rebel leaders, such as Peter Karim (DRC 2006) and General Nkunda (DRC 2007), and stayed with rebels in a camp in Burundi in 2003/4, eg in the Sudan with Col Sharief in 2008/9. The local communities just have the highest praise for his interaction with them and for his caring nature.

This is a tribute to one of our top



121 Battalion leader group with rebel leaders.

commanders in the RSA, someone who has decorations and operational experience second to none. Here in Darfur the battalion is respected and it is remarkable that all three bases where 121 Bn have deployed appeared on the same day in the local newspapers and in France with nothing but compliments for outstanding performance - the result of training hard and fighting well.

New York also praised the efforts of 121 Bn of Mtumatuba. General Nkabinde has made a good move by appointing our commander and the results speak for themselves. 121 Bn made the country proud - this achievement in only three months into the mission. Amabutho greetings from the warriors in the Sudan. **Capt A.P. Jewell, email **

PHYSICAL TRAINING, SPORT AND RECREATION PERSPECTIVE

I am convinced that the conditions of our existence play an important role in influencing our way of thinking. The negative incidents that are reported about serving members have certain causes. Whenever these negative tendencies occur they are not necessarily identical at all places and times, but they will happen. These tendencies are therefore the result of the conditions under which the members operate. They are sometimes expressed through accidents. However, it is only a matter of discovering those aspects and removing the conditions that give rise to them.

Karl Marx said: "The source of human satisfaction and fulfilment is in the work itself". From that perspective, a person expresses his or her personality in good service. When such service satisfies his or her needs and can be appreciated by other people, a person will experience deep satisfaction in the work. Finally, the work is a satisfying activity and a person will experience deep fulfilment in his or her work. If a person cannot derive satisfaction from his or her work, he or she is actually cut off from

his or her real self and true nature. Since work is a social activity, a person ends up being cut off from colleagues.

Ultimately, the person experiences feelings of misery rather than well-being and that is the beginning of boredom. Consequently, a person will only feel at home when he or she is off duty, and that can amount to absenteeism. Self-interest also becomes more important than the organisational goals. As a result, the person will seek satisfaction from leisure activities. Some people become the consumers of industrial entertainment to satisfy the appetitive part of their soul (desire for food, drink, sex) and the sum total of these can also amount to substance abuse. Drinking, sleeping and eating are considered as basic needs, which are also equivalent to animal functions. Therefore, if they overrule people it would also mean that the people are descending to the animal level. Others engage in extra-mural activities such as physical training, sport and recreation in pursuit of fulfilment to satisfy the spirited part of their soul that loves honour and victory.

Nevertheless, the affected members have an ability to rise above the forces of blind causal determinism. As human beings we have the ability to control the influence of the environment and our emotions. Circumstances may act upon us, but they do not determine how we must respond because we remain responsible for choosing our own response. We are vested with the capability to direct and steer our own course in life in accordance with the norms and values of the society - something the animals are incapable of doing since they are trapped by the forces of instinct and habit. Therefore we cannot blame the situation in which we find ourselves because we have the ability to behave differently and to use our mental powers to the fullest in order to change the conditions of our existence.


Having looked at the conditions of existence that have pushed a person to seek satisfaction from leisure activities it is clear that a change in our way of living will definitely effect changes in our behavioural patterns.

Fitness, which is the product of

STAFF MEMBERS APPLAUDED

My family and I are grateful for what you have done for us. Our dear brothers and sisters, we extend our sincere appreciation for your contributions and support to your fellow soldiers on local and external deployments. We would not be what we are if it were not for you! Although it is a blessing for me to deploy here in the Sudan, we struggled at first to cope with the living conditions. But now I am coping because the local market is selling mainly local Muslim food. I am impressed by what I receive from home. I am able to sustain myself a little bit for now and my nights are peaceful indeed! Lenz MSO support efforts are a symbol of love, hope and sacrifice, and you will reap a positive result at the end of the day! I really honour you; you have delivered me from an untenable situation and done me proud, because this festive season will be special for me. There is no great difference between me and you guys back home; you made my Sudan starvation a lot easier and my deployment very interesting indeed! That which strives to rise

physical training, sport and recreation (PTSR) activities, is a condition that entails striving for optimal quality of life in all its spheres, including socially, mentally, psychologically, physically and spiritually. Over and above this, fitness enhances the production capability of members, which also amounts to the ability to complete daily tasks efficiently.


It is for this reason that PTSR activities have been identified as one of the capabilities of OP MISTRAL XIV to be exploited in order to enhance the will of the members to sustain their operational capability in the theatre of operations. However, sporting activities are organised in conjunction with the United Nations forces, so these sporting activities are also an opportunity to improve relationships with the external actors in the mission area, thus improving social contacts and serving as a common ground for the growth and facilitation of cultural co-operation among the forces deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. **Capt T. Ngwane, PTSR Co-ordinator OP MISTRAL XIV** 

will be lifted up! "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." It is very true! Dynamite comes in small packages; that's how I can describe the Lenz MSO's capacity! Together at Lenz we can achieve a lot more unity in theory and in practice. I therefore challenge each one of us to strive truly for that. Without doubt, I strongly believe we are more than capable of achieving that! But we can achieve that through more love for one another! Lenz MSO and Lenz Sickbay staff members covered a lot of ground in supporting me out here in the Sudan; your empowerment was critical for my survival! Thank you for your unconditional love, thus ensuring that I received a quality and healthy deployment lifestyle!

I thank you once again for opening your hearts to my family and myself. We urge you to continue to show your unconditional love and good care of others as well! You knew from experience that good nutrition and a balanced diet were the key to good soldiering, and it is also our right and responsibility; and I am not afraid to tackle issues affecting me head-on, but politicians and soldiers become evasive when they are cornered! This may be seen when you approach them about critical local and external deployments UN/RSA (MOU) in which it is stipulated that I qualify for a full meal three times daily, but instead I spend more than half of my allowance on buying food from home and locally. They make harsh laws against you, which proves to me that they are less concerned about us than their policies! Today, as I speak, despite the lack of resources, the poor food supply, allowances for the festive season and similar occasions, flight schedules and landing rights challenges that we encounter here around the Sudan, I am proud that there is not a single Lenz MSO and Lenz sickbay staff member on deployment that needs any support and assistance. My gratitude goes to you, my comrades, who have responded positively to my urgent call for assistance, and our Commission in Defence, the RSA and the United Nations resolve all our deployment's outstanding challenges in the Sudan! It is such a poignant and significant moment indeed for the UN/RSA stakeholders who draft policies, especially in the Sudan. It has taken two big organisations a long time now to get to this critical point (mission and combat

readiness). It is a big military risk indeed, but we recognise that without you we would not be who we are, what we are and where we are. Finally, there is cause for our celebration! I was very impressed by the Lenz MSO when he posted me goodwill groceries from home; you have shown what you are capable of in terms of deployment support, so you need to maintain that record from now on!

If my memory serves me well, it was not the first time, but since local and external deployments started, you have done it for everybody in the office! We had endless telephonic communication as well. Lenz MSO members are also working hard to improve our military career qualities and, as one big family, that is paying dividends indeed. I also know how tough it is with MSO Lenz office duties, but I promise that on my return home I will create a healthy environment that would be of great benefit to our office. As you know I am a workaholic kind of soldier! I want to say again that I am very proud of your efforts and I hope you have done me together with my family and friends proud! This letter of appreciation is very important in the Lenz MSO's history. We all reflect on the world-class medical role we played, and the important role we continue to play in the development of our Department is acknowledged. The gains we have made before and after SANDF integration are recognised! We have a lot to celebrate as Lenz MSO and much more to be proud of, and I am very confident that we are succeeding in our vision, mission and our goal, and I would also like to encourage my fellow soldiers to participate actively in managerial, planning and decision-making processes that will contribute towards improving accessibility.

This letter of appreciation and acknowledgement is a small token of my appreciation, and thank you for all your efforts and sacrifices, and it is my sincere wish and hope that the UN/RSA MOU will in this regard be sympathetic to the countless challenges in our deployments. Blessed is the hand that gives, more than the one that takes. May God the Father sustain you now and forever more. Amen. "TAMAAM-TAMAAM" "SHUKRAN"! **S Sgt T.D. Makiti, AMHU Gauteng, currently in the Sudan with 121 SAI Bn** 

AIDS (GOOD-BYE, GOOD-BYE)

*When I didn't care
I lost my friends
I was so alone
Where are people?
People who were there
Where are people that I've known?
Because my life ends
But I don't care ...*

*When I didn't care
I began hearing the heaven bell
My world is gonna tear
All my memories that wanna sell
My life to buy my death
But I don't care ...*

*I began to be weak
I began to sweat
And I couldn't forget that week.
Everybody begins to forget
That I was dying
That I was dying
They don't know death fades
Step by step my memories
And I was infected by AIDS
And I needed them.*

*I wanted to say goodbye
To all the people who weren't there
I couldn't get by
To reach so far
I could see the blue sky
But I ain't gonna see
The shining star
Goodbye ... Goodbye.*


Lt Pogiso Peter Tlhabanelo, 121 SAI Bn, deployed in Kutum (Sudan) 

CHANGE OF COMMAND IN DRC



Fitr: Col M. Ngculu (incoming NCC), Lt M. Babulali (PA), Lt G. Phunge (PA) and B.S. Modisane (outgoing NCC).

An indoor change of command parade of the National Contingent Command-ers (OP MISTRAL XIV) took place at the Aviation Section on 22 January 2010. Col B.S. Modisane

handed over command to Col M. Ngculu. The day was also characterised by sporting events. This was the mechanism offered to members to participate. 


UNITY IN DIVERSITY

*Unified in Diversity.
That's what people today should be.
Humans embracing harmony and happiness.
Hope that flowers from the seed,
That will allow us all to prosper.*

*Why does colour or race matter?
Why not join together, instead of being scrambled and scattered?
Why can't we just not plainly see,
The unity in diversity?*


*People will be people all the same,
And under the setting sun,
Nothing may ever change,*

*But I am here to take a stand,
To show the world how to finally be,*

*Unified in Diversity.
Lt P.P. Tlhabanelo, 121 SAI Bn, deployed in Kutum (Sudan)* 


PRINCESSES HIV AND AIDS ... SPEAKING

*Mankind, you know me as HIV and AIDS ...
With all due respect
I really don't care about your philosophical
Blah blah blah about me
Who does man say my ancestors are
Leave that crap to the proud lineage of predators
Edges sharper than the most courageous of swords
Deadly teeth more ferocious
Than the fury of a hundred lions a-gathered
Hark! Hark!
Mankind didst compose an ode to glorify me
It was thus rendered by his and her waists, a-rolling
Yet my prowess and strength to farther lands is yet unsung
I have killed men the number of a desert sand dune and a-half
I am so happy mankind is yet this ignorant
In methods of exterminating me*

*Ha! Ha! Let's sit and take this deep-throated laugh
For it enlivens my soul
Why can't man heed my several warnings
He knows full well that I am a descendant of trouble.
Why can't sleeping plagues lie
I am also sweet. Keep off me and free you go
Do sterilise sharp iron objects
Unsafe sex seduces me. I warn, keep a faithful partner
Be sure you and you alone
Use that barbed and cutting equipment
Have I advised on blood transfusion?
A man friend of mine asked if I used mosquitoes as agents
I left that to his silly brain to answer and answer it did
Man! Man! Man! Keep off me for I am disciplined dynamite ... Lt P.P. Tlhabanelo, 121 SAI Bn, deployed in Kutum (Sudan)* 

ERRATA


Please note! The photo published in the March edition on p 15 was of a Warrior-class strike craft and not a River-class mine hunter.

The photo published in the same edition on p 21 is of a GV6 - 155 mm howitzer and not a GV5 as mentioned. 

SIMPLY THE BEST SAMHS MEMBERS

SAMHS personnel in the Sudan began their exciting peacekeeping mission by taking the oath "so help us God" to face their deployment challenges. The MTG Commander, Lt Col S.M. Erasmus, as the mother figure and MTG WO, WO1 M.A. Chidi as the father figure, together with their richly talented medical personnel, will be the centre of medical attention and professionalism for the duration of their deployment in the Sudan, and so should they be. MTG have played their card (vital medical role) in preparation for the deployment at De Brug, and they have to do the same here in the Sudan. MTG's aim is to reach their set goal, which will feature world-class medical service delivery. Anything beyond that will be a bonus, and UNAMID, RSA and the Sudanese showed a lot of confidence in MTG. MTG's world-class medical cover for the UNAMID personnel remains to be noticed, but it will be a massive disap-

pointment for UNAMID, RSA, the Sudanese and the rest of the world if they fail. MTG is in the Sudan, so there is hope for their peacekeeping assignment. So, no matter what their challenges are UNAMID members and Sudanese have at least something to build on in terms of professional medical support. MTG's plea is that UNAMID's members take this crop of MTG masters seriously, give them every support they deserve, and use their leadership and authority to nurture them. Thinking far back to previous SAMHS members, we'll notice how much they have progressed in their peacekeeping mission assignments. They also have done a wonderful job over the years. The present MTG in Darfur, as incoming SAMHS and RSA ambassadors, cannot afford to lose ground. Current MTG shining stars are highly disciplined, professional and go the extra mile in helping their fellow UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur. The RSA contin-

gent is more than aware that the world is watching them in terms of plans in place for world-class medical service delivery for the next few months. Hats off to the rest of the UNAMID forces around the globe. The RSA contingent (121 SAI Bn) in Darfur are holding on for their term of duty in Darfur; that is the kind of peacekeeping approach we need most. In conclusion, God our Creator always knows where we are, there is no place where He does not see our needs, hear and answer our prayers. Let us be of good courage, and God will strengthen the hearts of all who trust and hope in Him. His arms never tire of holding and protecting His children. Go for it SAMHS ambassadors, keep UNAMID, RSA, Africa and the whole world's flags flying as high as possible - receive God's abundant blessings now and forever more. Amen! **S Sgt T.D. Makiti, AMHU Gauteng, currently deployed in the Sudan with 121 SAI Bn** 

A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS

Allow me an opportunity to register my word of appreciation to God Almighty and the SANDF, who has blessed me with another external deployment. I am a diehard SANDF/SAMHS member (OECF Area Military health Unit Gauteng) and I welcome each and every deployment as a gift and a golden opportunity from God and my DOD. My family and I know for a fact that God cannot do things the wrong way, and again, my wife and children back home, a big happy family, do not believe that there's anything malicious about my soldiering assignments!

We have also realised that there are some "prophets of doom" with some questions and some remarks criticizing me, but at the same time they are also caught up in poverty, and this reflects reality. My family life has been blessed with challenges from which we learned to be strong, and we have taken them to God in prayer. My family is currently leading a balanced lifestyle! Right now my family and relatives are complimenting me on a job well done and making their life a little bit easier in terms of a better social

lifestyle for them. Our marriage is approaching its 20th anniversary, which will be celebrated mid 2010 according to our wish and God's plan and approval.

We are an ordinary family leading a simple religious life instilled by God's values. We place importance in religion, fairness and transparency, and we believe in advancing ourselves in that regard. My family are patient and kind and they taught me to persevere and make positive decisions. They always encourage me to develop myself through my external deployment experience, to study further and to grab each opportunity that comes my way.

The children are fond of saying "Daddy" to me. I always remember to make the SANDF part of our family as we have been part and parcel of the Army since 1987. Pray about all, live within your means and nobody but nobody will ever make you happy except God, yourself and the SANDF!

Currently I am enjoying a very good deployment here in the Sudan with very kind and professional 121 SAI Bn soldiers, one of whom is one of my military mentors and I feel honoured to be

associated with such professional and distinguished SANDF peacekeeping heroes and heroines. My wish is that my whole deployment period should be a series of positive events guided by Almighty God.

After my six months' deployment I will spoil my family, but for now I have decided to give my undivided attention to my deployment duties and God will do the rest in terms of family protection, promotions, career development and courses, to mention but a few. I soon realised that I had too much time on my hands back home and I had always toyed with the idea of deploying externally and making a success of it.

Forgive our non-stop complaining about everything in general as we also forgive those who trespass against us. Nobody is perfect, but we all strive for perfection. May God Almighty bless every member of the UNAMID/SANDF, my family members back home and our country at large! **S Sgt T.D. Makiti, currently in the Sudan with 121 SAI Bn**

** Letter shortened - Ed.* 

The People's Navy showing its might

Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

“Africa yearns and deserve to redeem her glory, and once more be a pioneer in the many fields of human endeavour”, says Dr Nelson Mandela.

On 01 March 2010, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, held a briefing chaired by Brig Gen Marthie Visser, the Director Corporate Communication to members of the press during a media day on board the SAS Amatola at the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town. The aim of the media briefing was to inform the South African nation and the world on Exercise Good Hope IV to be conducted in the seas and skies surrounding Cape Town between the South African Navy and elements of the SA Air Force and the German Navy and Air Force.

"The German Navy is in South Africa to take part in Exercise Good Hope IV and to share its experience of



LS Clinton Pillay, the SAS Mendi Electronic Warfare Operator, addressing the learners who were eager to know about the SAS Mendi.

hosting the Soccer World Cup. It would inform the SANDF of any dangers to be on the alert for", said V Adm Mudimu. He also pointed out that the SANDF needed to enhance and maintain its defence capabilities and the SA Navy

needed to continuously test and sharpen its skills to achieve this.

He added that the SA Navy drew inspiration from Exercise Golfinho, a multinational peacekeeping exercise that was conducted in South Africa in September 2009. "Exercise Good Hope IV is also aimed at gaining awareness of the Maritime threats. We need to enable a coalition of nations, Police and civilian components to develop integration and cooperative skills. I want to assure you that South Africa's waters and our land are safe," said V Adm Mudimu.

V Adm Wolfgang Nolting, the Chief of the German Navy, outlined the fact that all countries faced the challenges of piracy and terrorism. "It was important for our navies and navies from different countries to get together to learn to communicate properly and understand each other, so that the world would be a more peaceful place," he said.

Exercise Good Hope IV is the fourth exercise to be conducted in South African waters between the two coun-



Fitr: Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, the Chief Director Air Policy and Plans, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, the German Ambassador, Dieter Haller, V Adm Wolfgang Nolting, the Chief of the German Navy and Lt Gen Kreuzinger Janik, the Chief of the German Air Force during the media day on board the SAS AMATOLA.





ANTI-PIRACY: Members of the SA Navy Maritime Reaction Squadron moving on to engage “the aggressive pirates on a ship”.

tries. It is also the largest undertaken by the Bundeswehr outside of its NATO obligations. The "theatre of operations" is around Cape Town and some manoeuvres were conducted at the Overberg Military Test Area near Bredasdorp and Arniston/Waenhuiskrans. Some of the exercises included live missile and gun firings, anti-submarine warfare with mock torpedo attacks, anti-aircraft drills, fleetwork, station-keeping and other maritime security and safety disciplines.

Members of the media accompanied by the SA Navy liaison officers were taken out to sea on the SAS Amatola so that the two navies could display their capabilities. The vessels that participated in the exercise were two South African frigates, the SAS Amatola and the SAS Spioenkop, the sub marine SAS Queen Modjadji I and two German frigates, the FGS Brandenburg and the FGS Niedersachsen.

Speaking to SA Soldier R Adm (JG) Rusty Higgs, the Flag Officer Fleet elaborated that Exercise Good Hope IV would help to hone the SA Navy skills in numerous maritime disciplines. "The exercise is of a higher level of complexity. This has been the most complex intervention exercise in which SA Navy has participated; we find it of great strategic value as we bring out the newly acquired frigates and submarines to the highest level of operation," said R Adm (JG) Higgs.


"The meaning of life is not what happens to people, it's what happens

between people", these wise words by Dr Martha Beck came to mind when the SA Soldier team headed to Simon's Town to witness the SA Navy Festival 2010 held over the period 05 to 07 March 2010.

This event draws huge crowds of all ages. Much to the delight of onlookers as some stared in amazement, they witnessed the coming together of the People's Navy and the people it serves. At night the SA Navy's top brass, invited guests and the public were royally entertained by the SA Navy Band with their world-class music performance at a concert held at the Selborne Dry Dock.

The festival offered a fun-filled and educational programme to the younger generation with a variety of activities, exhibitions and static displays. On

Saturday, the People's Navy celebrated its freedom of Entry to Simon's Town with a Parade. The parade also featured the Sea Cadets and members of the visiting German Navy marching down the main road.

The Councillor of Simon's Town, Ms Alderman Nicky Holdernis, welcomed the People's Navy to Simon's Town. Replying to what was said by the Councillor, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Mudimu, said: "The SA Navy is proud that the honour of the Right of Freedom of Entry into Simon's Town was bestowed on the SA Navy and it is therefore important that on a regular basis we exercise this right in full pomp and ceremony with our swords drawn, our flags flying and drums beating." 



Alderman Nicky Holdernis, representing the Executive Mayor of the Cape Town Metropolitan addressing members on parade, while V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, looks on.

Back to basics... Boots and overalls!!!

Article and Photographs by: Major
Thérèse Bester (SA Army Corporate
Communication)

The South African Army (SA Army) is offering young South African citizens between the ages of 18 and 22 (the maximum entry requirement for graduates is 26 years) an opportunity to serve in uniform over a two year period through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

During the January 2010 SA Army intake, 2 804 newly selected MSDS members reported for Basic Military Training (BMT) at the various SA Army training centres of excellence. 860 Members reported at 3 South African Infantry Battalion (3 SAI Bn).

During the intake week, the recruits go through a Current Health Assessment (CHA) and medical confirmation. Recruits may proceed with BMT after successfully passing the medical evaluation.

The SA Army consists of a combat, a technical as well as a support mustering. The combat mustering includes the Infantry, Engineers, Armour, Artillery, Air Defence Artillery and Intelligence. The technical mustering includes Technical Service, Signals and Ammunition Corps. The support mustering includes Personnel, Logistics, Catering, Military Police and Signals.

At 3 SAI Bn, BMT is presented to recruits who will further their training in the support and technical mustering after successfully completing BMT. During this training, the recruits are exposed to new knowledge and skills in a very well structured and controlled manner to ensure that the purpose of BMT is achieved. The recruits at 3 SAI Bn have been allocated to five different companies that are involved in BMT (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Echo and



Triplets from Fox Trot Company filtr Rct D. van Zyl (Platoon 3), Rct T. van Zyl (Platoon 2) and Rct H. van Zyl (Platoon 1)

Fox Trot Companies).

The recruits selected for the MSDS have no previous military experience and come from different backgrounds and cultures. Training objectives are therefore focussed on instilling basic military skills and fostering a common military culture in which teamwork is of utmost importance. The foundation of military discipline, critical soldier skills and competencies are laid during BMT. The instructors enforce discipline. This contributes to effective teamwork and ensures that training objectives are met.

BMT forms an important building block in training a soldier. It is high intensity training spanning after hours during the week and weekends. Physical fitness forms an integral and important part of this training with fitness standards being raised incrementally.

During the visit to 3 SAI Bn over the period 21 to 25 February 10, the recruits were busy with training in field craft, musketry, buddy aid, daily preparations for inspections, drilling as well as water safety.

An interesting observation was that Fox Trot Company had identical triplets. Their life long dream of joining the SA Army came true. They studied at the Centurion College and completed their N6 and N5 as Mechanical Engineers. They thoroughly enjoy BMT, did not mind being split up and would like to become officers one day. To them getting up early in the morning was a challenge at first and ironing was something new too. They see discipline as an important factor in the life of a soldier. (It is important to note that, twins, triplets, brothers or sisters may never be operationally deployed at the same time.)

Musketry training is an important subject during BMT. Safety is crucial, safety precautions and safe handling rules are conveyed to the recruits. Instruction was given by WO W.F. Beukes, the musketry branch Warrant Officer (WO) and S Sgt H.C. Louw, the musketry branch instructor. Before recruits are given the opportunity to shoot with live rounds, musketry training is presented to them on the FIRST.

The recruits have to obtain a 60% pass mark on the FIRST before moving through to the indoor shooting range. FIRST training is presented to the recruits to give them confidence with the R4 rifle as it simulates real shooting conditions. The purpose of FIRST training is to give the recruits the opportunity to get accustomed to the weapon, to shoot groupings and to practise their firing positions.

During this training, recruits must demonstrate that they are comfortable with the natural alignment of the body and rifle, holding the rifle correctly, aiming, breathing, pulling the trigger, following through and declaring the shot. Once the recruits have shown competency on the FIRST, they may proceed to the indoor shooting range. The indoor shooting range is reinforced with armoured steel walls and roof and at the shooting point a vulcanised rubber block helps to stop the projectiles. This makes the indoor shooting range safe for live firing. The recruits receive 5 rounds each and fire live ammunition for the first time. This helps them to overcome their initial fear and it familiarises them with shooting with live ammunition, before they proceed to the shooting range.

On 24 February 10, Echo Company was deployed at Vooruitzicht Shooting Range for a live firing shooting exercise. Whilst two platoons were busy with shooting, the other two platoons were receiving lectures on Buddy Aid.

During the musketry training, a competition is held within the different platoons of each company to establish who can strip and assemble the rifle in the shortest time. These types of competitions ensure that the recruits become familiar with the working parts of the rifle. It also assists the recruits to assemble and strip the rifle with confidence when cleaning the weapon, or whilst shooting to clear a stoppage.

One of the females of Platoon 4, Rct G.N. de Vos completed her N6 in Business Management at the College of Cape Town prior to her MSDS training. She sees discipline as a very important attribute. It was the first time that she had fired a rifle in the field, but was confident because of the FIRST and indoor musketry training she had received.

Whilst platoon 3 and 4 of Echo Company were busy with the shooting exercise, platoon 1 and 2 of the same Company received lectures in respect of buddy aid. The main purpose of buddy aid is to be able to give life-saving treatment

with limited medical knowledge, with a lot of common sense, with little or no aids and to get your buddy to specialised medical aid while he/she is still alive.

On the morning of 23 Feb 10, Platoon 1 of Bravo Company started with water safety training presented in the swimming pool at the unit. One of the instructors, S Sgt H Schutte explained that the recruits received instruction on the physics of swimming such as water buoyancy, water resistance and propulsion. Combat water safety teaches to the recruits how to survive in life-threatening situations, such as exposure to deep water or falling into a river, dam or a lake whilst busy with


operational exercises or deployment.

According to Major M.B. Fillis, the Company Commander the recruits were initially disorientated in respect of their preparations for inspection, held daily for the duration of the BMT. The instructors, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders set the standard of the inspection and demonstrated to the recruits what is expected of them. During the preparation for inspection, there are both individual and group preparations that have to be attended to.

Recruits are individually responsible for their personal hygiene and general cleanliness required in the military. With group preparation, the recruits that stay in the same bungalow must clean the ablution areas in small-organised teams. This forces the recruits to work together as a team.

After preparing for the inspection for the next day they must manage their own time for study and at 20:45 roll call is held. At 22:00 they have quiet time for their various religions and at 22:15 lights are turned off.

In the morning they rise at 04:45. They have breakfast from 06:00 to 06:30 then it is time for inspection. In accompanying the Platoon Commander during the inspection the pride amongst the recruits after a long night's hard work preparing for it could be sensed. The instructors play a major role when guiding the recruits to practically execute the theory of the various modules. The quality of instruction will in the end determine the degree of confidence the recruits have in demonstrating acquired skills and knowledge. Parade ground drill is one way to develop the individual soldier and instilling a sense of instinctive obedience. This will result in the future soldiers executing orders diligently and in a professional manner.

The end result of BMT is to produce a well-disciplined and well-trained professional soldier by 13 May 2010 to be ready for subsequent corps functional training. This is how most, if not all, military careers started - in boots and overalls. It is a critical phase in which a firm foundation is laid for a future military career - the career of a soldier. This career is a calling requiring commitment, discipline and hard training. And it all starts with basics! 



A proud recruit from Alpha Company during inspection

Advancing national security

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela


Photo: Kgabo Mashamaite

Matters of security have become by far one of the most crucial issues as the world constantly witnesses major catastrophes that compromise humanity. The Executive National Security Programme (ENSP), for example, unreservedly pursues an interest in humanitarian issues to curb unnecessary suffering and strife. The programme, in its 21st year, is faced with the responsibility of creating a platform for nations to find the means to deal with security issues.

The SA National Defence College will give a presentation on security to students on course in various fields. This will run from 18 January to 10 June 2010. Officially opening the programme, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, said: "Interaction between countries is becoming the norm in achieving national security in the regional and continental sphere".

He congratulated the members on their selection for the course and said it would enrich their lives and those of their colleagues. Mr Makwetla urged them to participate in all aspects of the course, and enjoy but never lose sight of their mission as their organisations

were investing heavily in them.

Security during the FIFA 2010 World Cup events will be of the utmost importance as there will be global participation that will require sound security measures. Providing security will require the combination and co-ordination of major state security departments and agencies, including the SANDF and the SA Police Service. The Deputy Minister cited the incident in Angola during the Orange AFCON as very unfortunate. However, South Africans should rest assured, along with visitors, that the country was prepared for such incidents. 



Mr M.N. Aphane, DIRCO, Col P. Lokech, Uganda People's Defence Force, Deputy Director J.T. Tsibogo, Department of Health, Cdr W. Chikukwa, Zimbabwe Defence Force, Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Director M.L. Tiyo, SAPS, Mr K.M. Ntshoso, Armscor, Ms W.C. Grobler, SITA, Director P.G. Aseng, SAPS, Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, Commandant SA National Defence College, Col W.A.F. Jansen, Botswana Defence Force. (Inserted photo: Col C. Obouo, Congo Brazzaville Defence Force.)

Final farewell to an icon

Article and photo by WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban

On 30 January 2010, before sunrise, the SAS TEKWANE commanded by Lt William Ntsibulani took Ms Ela Gandhi and her family to scatter the last remaining ashes of the late Mahatma Gandhi on the waters of the Indian Ocean. The ceremony marked the 62nd anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

After prayers and hymns conducted by Pundit (Hindu Priest) Maharaj, the ashes were immersed off uShaka Marine from SAS TEKWANE. Ms Gandhi, a resident of South Africa and the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, chose to mark the 62nd

anniversary of the death of the father of the Indian nation by scattering his ashes in the Indian Ocean near Durban.

After the ceremony, R Adm Rusty Higgs (Flag Officer Fleet) and Capt (US Navy) James Tranoris were invited by Ms Gandhi to place onto the water a clay lamp with a burning flame, which is a Hindu tradition. Flames and fire are synonymous with the Hindu way of life. It signifies that the departed soul in the next birth (reincarnation) will have light and brightness.

R Adm Higgs addressed the dignitaries and invited guests on board SAS TEKWANE when she came alongside: "The SA Navy is honoured to have been part of this solemn and historic occasion. The SA Navy and the Indian navies have strong ties. Today's event further strengthens the bonds of friendship that exist between our two countries. The history of SA and India is so inextricably intertwined with the humanitarian principles and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela from which we have learned so much. We have witnessed the return to nature of Gandhi's mortal remains,



Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Rusty Higgs, was invited by the granddaughter of the late Mahatma Gandhi, Ms Ela Gandhi, to place the lit clay lamp in the water of the Indian Ocean.

but his teachings will remain immortal". The SA Navy strongly supported this historic and solemn occasion.


Then Capt Tranoris addressed the dignitaries and guests: "I am inspired and honoured to be here today. Mahatma Gandhi is an icon of peace to the entire world. All generations continue to learn about the teachings of this great man and I look forward to telling my children of this day".

On 30 January 1948 as Gandhi was taking a stroll in Delhi after his morning prayers a man fired shots that would end the life of a great soul and, ironically, a champion of non-violence. Gandhi was cremated in Delhi. Mr Sorabhjee Rustomjee, a prominent Durban citizen, negotiated with the Prime Minister of India, Mr Jawaharla Nehru, and Mr Devadas Gandhi (Gandhi's son) for a portion of the ashes to be scattered on the waters off SA. Gandhi spent 21 years in South Africa.

They acceded to his request and he returned to SA with a portion of the

ashes in a silver casket which he presented to Manilal Gandhi, a son of the Mahatma. Some of the ashes were scattered in Blue Lagoon off Durban and the remainder given to Ms Gandhi's family.

At the function, in the presence of dignitaries and guests, Ms Gandhi said: "I am indeed grateful for the tremendous assistance that I have received from the SA Navy's Rear Admiral Rusty Higgs and the Commander of Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sifiso Mkhwanazi, and his naval team. Special mention must be made of Lt William Ntsibulani, the Captain of SAS TEKWANE, and his crew who took us out to sea and returned us safely".

The eternal flame at Gandhi's grave burns brightly in New Delhi, a reminder of the principles of satyagraha (non-violence) and equal rights that he stood for and for which he died. May this flame burn ever brighter so that it may light up this world for us to live in peace. 

Officers ready to acquire multinational operational skills

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

At least 96 international and local military members converged on the South African National War College (SANWC) in Pretoria on 18 January 2010, to attend the ninth edition of the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme (JSCSP 09/2010).

The aim of the JSCSP is to prepare selected officers for senior appointments at the operational level of war by developing their command, staff and analytical skills through broadening their professional understanding of joint and multinational operations, defence management and the wider aspects of conflict.

JSCSP is a 44-week residential programme introduced in 2002 through the SA Army College to develop the military officers' multinational operational capabilities. It was relocated to the SANWC in 2004. For a successful candidate to be accepted for this course, the officers (SANDF officers in this case), should at least have qualified or obtained a Senior Management Programme (SMP) qualification and be at the rank level of Lieutenant Colonel and upwards.

These officers are expected to undergo intensive training in modules such as Corporate Management, Security Studies, Joint Warfare and Military Operations.

In his opening address Maj Gen



Maj Gen Mabuza delivering the keynote address during the JSCSP 09/2010 Opening Ceremony at the South African National War College, Pretoria, on 27 January 2010.

Mansred Mabuza, the Training Command General Officer Commanding, said that the JSCSP would require brave men and women to meet the intellectual and emotional challenges to be equipped with the required knowledge, skills and attitudes to face the duties and responsibilities of an operational level Commander or Staff Officer.

"A very long and busy year lies ahead of you and I am convinced that

for the next 44 weeks you will experience an intense personal growth since the JSCSP is a challenging curriculum, and it benchmarks with some of the best in the world. When looking at the structure and content of the Programme, it is important to understand the foundation and reason for existence of this course," Maj Gen Mabuza said as he welcomed the students to the ninth edition of the JSCSP.

Maj Gen Mabuza said that since



The 2009/2010 JSCSP intake. The officers are expected to finish 44 weeks of intense personal growth in modules such as Corporate Management, Security Studies, Joint Warfare and Military Operations.

the dawn of the new democratic order in 1994, South Africa had become a major partner in the regional and international efforts to establish and maintain peace and security through United Nations and African Union missions.

He said these missions were stimulated by the fact that a variety of challenges to international peace and security had arisen, such as the nationalist, ethnic and religious tensions that have manifested themselves in some parts of the continent. These have become more prominent, as economic and natural conditions such as floods and droughts, poor food security and limited work opportunities resulting in the mass migration of refugees and people seeking safety and security across borders.

The above-mentioned conditions he said had heightened human suffering, which required the intervention by the UN and the AU to provide humanitarian aid and peace missions. Maj Gen Mabuza also warned the students to study hard and avoid being returned back to their units or respec-

tive countries as people back there were pinning their hopes on their students' success in the programme.

According to the statistics of the JSCSP 09/2010 intake released by Brig Gen Siphon Mashobane, the SANWC Commandant, at least 88 students are South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members, while the remaining eight members are from countries such as Brazilian, Botswana, Congo, Uganda, India, Egypt, Namibia and Zambia Defence Forces.


Brig Gen Mashobane added that SANDF services and divisions were well represented with the SA Army represented by 40 students, the South African Air Force (SAAF) by 18; the SA Navy 12; the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS) by 12 and as Defence Intelligence (DI) by five students.

Delivering spiritual upliftment to the 09/2010 JSCSP intake, Chaplain (Fr) Michael Phillips equated every military practitioner present with a seedling with potential to become its own unique creation ready to be planted in the darkness of the earth.

"In its uniqueness, the seedlings can

be linked to each individual sitting here today as individuals full of potential, readiness and eagerness to grow and bear fruit. At the initial stage of military training we too were seeds that once planted, were nurtured and cared for and so began to grow. Now we are at various stages of development," Fr Phillips said.

Cpln (Fr) Phillips also prayed for the college to be a fertile soil in which the students could grow to maturity and be a life giving force to themselves, their families, societies and countries at large.

"May the directing staff help you to unravel your full potential so that you may be held and grounded with certainty in your own capabilities and the greatness that lies within you while at the same time you may be flexible to withstand the storms of life that come your way and not breaking under pressure, may you be able to stand in your own sacred space and know you can do it and we can do it together," so pleaded Cpln (Fr) Phillips to the Almighty to help the JSCSP 09/2010 intake. 

The DOD takes corrective measures to achieve a clean audit

By Sam Mkhwanazi, Director Communication Strategy and Content Development in the Secretariat for Defence

Following the appearance of the Department of Defence (DOD) before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on 13 February 2010, media reports have painted a gloomy picture about, among others, the ability of the leadership of the DOD to manage the affairs of the Department, particularly its finances. It has also been alleged that this state of affairs has impacted negatively on the state of readiness of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to defend the country.

While one must concede that the Department has for nine years received qualified reports from the Auditor General due, among others, to weak controls and outdated financial and management systems, it should be noted that since the appointment of the former Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi (now Director General at the Department of Military Veterans) on 26 August 2008, the DOD has done a lot in its quest to achieve a clean bill of health. Furthermore, the ushering in of the new executive authority in the Department has opened space, provided new opportunities and added new impetus for the Department to achieve its objective of a clean audit from the Auditor General.

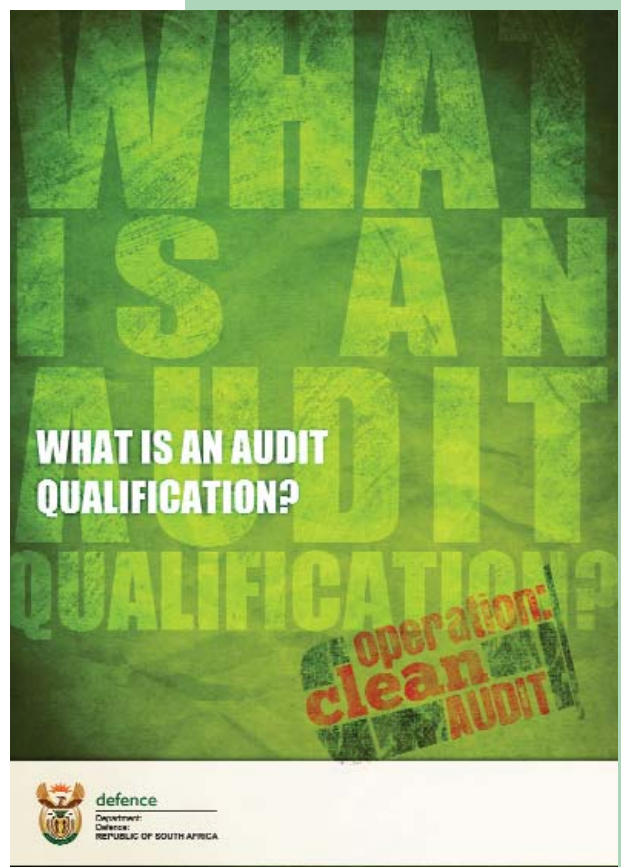
Writing in the Sunday Independent of 14 February 2010 the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms

Lindiwe Sisulu, said: "When I took over as the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the Department had had nine years of qualified reports from the Auditor General, in some years with a record of 16 qualifications. In the past financial year the qualifications were reduced to six under the stewardship of the Acting Secretary for Defence, who took over the running of the Department after the Minister and Deputy Minister resigned in one day and the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, died".

The Public Finance Management Act, No 1 of 1999, requires the DOD to comply with the Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP). The current financial system in the Department does not support the accrual requirements of GRAP as these systems are mainly cash based, old and outdated. Moreover, lack of capacity in key resource areas in the Department has not helped the situation regarding internal controls.

The Department, working with the team of experts under the leadership and guidance of the Minister,

has spent many hours trying to understand the root causes of the qualifications so that it can develop proper systems and policies to stop years of qualifications. To this end, the Department has been developing modern financial and management systems to help build a new department in which financial rules and regulations are central to all procurement processes and expenditure. Moreover, the Department has already put in place concrete and mea-



Operation Clean Audit poster.

surable corrective measures aimed at eradicating qualifications by the Auditor General. Key among these are to present a system upgrade deviation request from the Information Financial Management System Steering Committee, to compile a user asset management plan and develop a DOD asset management plan and move the immovable asset management function from the Department of Public Works to the DOD before the end of 2010.

It is planned that by the end of 2011 the DOD will have completed the process of consolidating the manual and multi-accounting systems into a single Information System platform. This will be followed by the rolling out of the new Integrated Asset Management System (IAMS) in line with National Treasury requirements by the end of 2012.

Furthermore, to ensure that the DOD complies with all necessary financial and treasury regulations, the Minister has said that she will appoint a compliance officer. This will go a long way in addressing the lack of capacity in key resource areas in the Department.

SANDF readiness to defend the country

Turning to assertions that the SANDF is in a shambles, these need to be corrected, as they are not true. South Africans can rest assured that the country is safe. The SANDF is willing, ready and is not only able to execute its constitutional mandate to defend the coun-

try and its people, but is doing so on a continuous basis. Its readiness, professionalism and capability have been displayed time and again, be it in the execution of government ordered commitments, including internal and external deployments or multinational exercises.

The achievements of the SANDF have been recognised and praised at home and abroad. Need we remind the public that during the doctors' strikes in 2009 the military ensured that all South Africans who needed medical assistance in affected hospitals were attended to in compliance with their constitutional rights.


Furthermore, the SANDF has continued to be the most trusted and dependable military force in peace support operations of the African Union and of the United Nations. The people of Burundi and of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) can attest to this as they are today governed by democratically elected governments - thanks to the role that the SANDF has played in assisting the peace processes in these countries.

It is also pleasing to note that in recognition of the SANDF's skills and professionalism, other defence forces around the world continue to come to our shores or to invite the SANDF to their respective countries to engage in multinational exercises. As recently as September 2009, South Africa hosted a first official exercise of SADC countries, Exercise GOLFINHO. Currently, (March 2010) our military is engaged in a multinational exercise, Exercise GOOD

HOPE, in Simon's Town with the German Defence Force, the Bunderswehr.

In the recent past, the SANDF has conducted numerous joint exercises with the South African Police Service to ensure that the country hosts a safe and secure 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament in June this year. Our men and women in uniform are ready to secure our land, skies and seas.

September 2010 will see our men and women in uniform testing their skills against those of their comrades from India and Brazil during Exercise IBSAMAR to be hosted in South Africa. This will be followed by Exercise ATLASUR in Argentina, which will involve forces from South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. These and other exercises the SANDF has been involved in are by no means a sign of a military that is in a shambles. During the same month of September the premier Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) 2010 exhibition will be hosted.

As for the challenges of weak controls, obsolete accounting and management systems and lack of capacity in key resource areas in the Department, the public can take comfort from the words of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans: "We know that South Africans expect nothing else but an efficient Department that gives value for money and operates within financial rules and regulations, and we are committed to achieving that". 

SA Military Police Association


Since the establishment of the SA Military Police Association it has gathered for two very successful meetings, the latest at the Military Police (MP) School in Thaba Tshwane on 3 February 2010.

The SA MP Association is an autonomous body, which is intended to provide a forum for all serving and former MP officials so that they can interact and support each other

in the tradition and culture of the MP. While in the initial stages most support is found to be from the Gauteng area, the association will be organised at national and regional level, and will provide for voluntary association so as to promote pride and camaraderie for the members.

The association will also act and be utilised as a nodal point and source of information for all MP offi-

cials. Any person who has served or is still serving in any form as a MP official within the South African military, regardless of whether in the SA Army, SA Air Force or SA Navy is welcome to join the association.

Members that are interested in joining are welcome to visit the website www.militarypolice.co.za or www.militêrepolisie.co.za 

Farewell to a devoted General

Article and photos by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

“For the past 38 years it has been a great honour for me to serve in the SANDF. If I had a chance to do it all over again, I would gladly do so without a moment's hesitation,” said Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg as he bade farewell to the Department he has called home for nearly four decades at a retreat ceremony and farewell parade held at the SA Medical Health Service Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane on 29 January 2010.

Family, friends and colleagues came in numbers to share this special and emotional day with the Chief of Corporate Staff. Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg is leaving the SANDF after a full life of delivering excellent service. During a career spanning more than



Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, bade farewell to the Department he has called home for the past 38 years at a retreat ceremony and farewell parade held at SAMHS Training Formation.

38 years he has distinguished himself as an outstanding soldier and leader whose service to the SANDF and the country has been absolutely invaluable.

He was born on 7 January 1952 in Murraysburg, in the Karoo and matriculated at Paarl Boys High School in 1969. He joined the Defence



Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejay Ramlakan, Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, families, friends and colleagues came to share this special and emotional day with Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, who is leaving the SANDF after a full life of delivering excellent service.



Front, fltr: Maj Gen Vusi Sindane, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg (centre) and Maj Gen Leseni Make, Director Military Health Force Support. Back row: the family of Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, including his mother, Ms Anne van Rensburg, his son, Jean, daughter-in-law, Helga and wife Leoné.

Force in 1970 and was stationed at 1 Maintenance Unit at Lenz. It was during this period that he decided to study medicine and so commenced medical studies at the University of Pretoria.

He joined the ranks of the "Mildents" in 1972, was elected to the House Committee in his third year and became House Chairperson during his fifth year. After completing his degree in 1976 he became a medical officer at 1 Military Hospital. In 1980 he was transferred to the then South African Medical Service Headquarters as the Senior Operational Officer, and during the same year was transferred to the then South West Africa Medical Command, Sector 10, as a medical officer. In 1983 he became the SO2 Medical Training Command.

He was appointed to his first command position in 1986, when he became the Officer Commanding of the then South West Africa Medical Command. In 1989 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and became the General Officer Commanding of 1 Military Hospital. In 1994 he was transferred back to the SAMHS Headquarters as Chief of Staff Planning until he was appointed Chief of Medical Force Application in 1997. On 1 October 2000 he succeeded the

late Lt Gen Themba Masuku, as the Surgeon General of the SANDF, a position he held until 31 July 2005. He was appointed Chief of Corporate Staff on 1 August 2005.


Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg successfully completed all the required military courses, and received the following awards during his career: the Southern Cross Decoration, the Southern Cross Medal, the Military Merit Medal, the Bronze and Silver Good Service Medals and the Knight of CISM. He became a Knight of St John in 2001. In addition he has served in the following international positions during his full and colourful career: President of the International Congress on Military Medicine, President of the South African Society for Aerospace and Environmental Medicine, Chief of Office CISM for Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office (ESALO) and the Chief of Delegation for CISM South Africa.

He has several outside interests, but enjoys spending time working in his rose garden and has a particular interest in sports medicine. He is married to Leoné, and has a son Jean and a daughter Anna-Mari. A family man, who loves to be with people.

In his address he expressed his most sincere gratitude to the command struc-

ture of the SANDF, the Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, for their constancy, wisdom and intuition in exhibiting a kind of leadership that strongly supports the welfare of SANDF members and their swift action in addressing the long-standing challenge of service conditions.

He thanked his family who continue to bring joy to their home and whose examples have provided strength for a lifetime, and for being a solid support system for him throughout his soldiering life. He also expressed his gratitude to previous and current personal staff, namely Col Riana van Emmenis, planner Col Rina Coetzee, driver and protector Kops Sefora and his secretary over many years, Annatjie Visser, for having given him strength to execute his daily duties with great confidence.

"I am leaving as CCS with my head held high knowing that I performed my duties to the best of my ability. I leave this position of my own free will, I am a happy person and I harbour no ill feelings whatsoever. Let us practise the principles of UBUNTU - I am, you are and we are," concluded Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg. 

Security co-operation among SADC states

By Capt (SAN) Lisa Hendricks, SA Defence Attaché to Berlin
 Photo: Hauptgefreiter Erik Herbert (Bundeswehr Operations Command)

The German Government invited a delegation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to visit Berlin, Germany, from 30 November to 2 December 2009.


The aim of the visit was to explore security co-operation among SADC states, broadly focusing on European Union (EU) lessons learnt.

The delegation consisted of a number of high-profile delegates, including Namibian Defence Minister, Maj Gen (Ret) Charles Namoloh, the Chairperson of the Namibian Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Ms Lucia Basson, the Permanent Secretary to the President - Defence, Justice, Security, Mr Augustine Makgonatshotlhe, the Chairperson of the Tanzanian

Committee for Foreign Relations, Defence and Security, Mr Wilson Masilingi, the Chief of Staff Tanzanian People's Defence Forces, Lt Gen Abdulrahman Amir Shimbo, the Chairperson of the Zambian Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Dr Peter Machungwa, South African Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans member, Mr Emmanuel Mlambo, MP, Chief of Joint Operations (DOD RSA), Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, and Chief of Staff of the SADC Brigade, Brig Gen Ntozakhe Bottoman.

The programme started off with a visit to the Bundeswehr (German Defence Force) Operations Command where the group was given a brief insight into the operations the Bundeswehr was currently conducting. Of interest was the command and control structures utilised by deployed forces and the fact that the current mandates for three of the current operations, viz in Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Horn of Africa were due to expire

and had to be renewed before the end of the year. This was followed by a number of opportunities to engage key stakeholders within the German Government where key strategic issues dealing with the security and economic development situation in Southern Africa were discussed. Of key importance was the discussion in relation to the establishment of the Peacekeeping Centre in Harare. This was met with great interest by stakeholders who, after being thoroughly briefed on the initiative, indicated their support.

Asked about the outcome of the visit, Lt Gen Matanzima stated that he felt that this was a very fruitful visit as a number of key strategic issues were highlighted that were felt to be of key importance in the strengthening of security and economic development within the SADC region. After a gruelling programme the visit to Berlin was concluded on 2 December 2009. The group then left for Brussels where they could further engage key stakeholders within the European Union. 



Front row, 4th from the right: Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Operations (DOD RSA), and 6th from the right: Maj Gen (Ret) Charles Namoloh, Namibian Minister of Defence.

SA Air Force School of Cookery

By Harrie Greebe, Ad Astra

Photos: Courtesy of SAAF School of Cookery

An Air Force needs chefs to provide the fuel for the energy of its people. And chefs need training. The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, prefers the SA Air Force School of Cookery as his service provider of choice. Quantity is not what it is all about, however, when it comes to quality cuisine. The SA Air Force School of Cookery prepares meals fit for heads of states.

Although not recognised officially at the time, the first trainee chefs reported to 68 Air School as far back as 1956. They relocated to 73 Air School, currently known as Valhalla Site, and qualified in 1960 under the facilitation of WO1 C.J. Coetzee.

As the need for chefs increased, qualified bakers entered the SAAF as qualified chefs during the 1960s, and by 1968 WO1 Fred Scholl converted a workshop into practical training facilities for chefs.

By March that year Maj A.G. Pieterse founded the SAAF School of Cookery and the first official course in food handling was presented to 48 Air Mechanics.

Over the years the training expanded and, according to Maj Derick Pieterse, Principal of the SA Air Force School of Cookery, the following hospitality training courses are currently presented for the SA Air Force: Recruit Chef, Junior Chef, Advanced Chef and Club Managers. The School can accommodate 24 students at a time on the junior level and 12 on the senior level.

On request, members from other Southern African countries, such as Botswana, Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as members from the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), can join the training programme.


Apart from training, the SAAF School of Cookery caters selectively for VIP occasions and exclusively for the Chief of the SA Air Force's official guest functions.

Maj Pieterse said: "Apparently the Chief of the SA Air Force likes the way

we approach cuisine. We are actually very proud of what we do and our motto is 'We like to set the standard'. We have a niche market where we can accommodate 20 to 30 VIP guests and only focus on certain types of settings, such as a buffet or a sit-down meal."

Cuisine presented by the SA Air Force School of Cookery has a predominantly South African flavour. "If an Italian comes to South Africa, he or she does not want to taste Italian food. That they can do in their own country. Similarly, when I visit Italy I do not want to eat bobotie there; I want to get the flavour of the food of the country I visit," said Maj Pieterse.

F Sgt Stephen Nell, Cooking and Baking Instructor, listed some of the items on the South African oriented menus, such as oven-roasted beef fillet on a bed of roasted garlic and herbed mashed potatoes served with pan-fried green vegetables. Other delectable dishes have tantalised the palates of world leaders, such as smoked carpaccio served with pickled ginger and wasabi oil, poached trout salad with crushed new potatoes and lime mayo, and braised chicken tagine served with nuts and seed couscous salad. Such meals are rounded off with desserts with tantalising names like Amarula and espresso semi-freddo cheesecake, tiramisu coffee sponge sandwich or pavlova with summer berries and mascapone. Yummm ...

Although the SAAF School of Cookery provides an exclusive VIP service to the SA Air Force, the staff frequently assist other culinary units at mass functions such as the music evening at Freedom Park. There is strong camaraderie in the mustering since all the chefs in the SA Air Force started their careers at the SA Air Force School of Cookery, and they enjoy their work. Says F Sgt Nell: "I have been at the School for five years now and I love my work. We all do." 



The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (centre), with the staff of the SA Air Force School of Cookery. Back: F Sgt Stephen Nell, Maj Derick Pieterse, WO1 Ian Stewart and WO2 Tommy Cmauke. Front: Sgt Paul Kabini and F Sgt Yvonne Naudé.

Know and respect our national symbols

By Mandla Mahlangu

As a sovereign and legitimate state the national symbols, including the National Anthem and the National Flag, should be treated with respect. These national symbols are the national heritage and pride of the state, government and citizens. National symbols define the nation. The National Anthem demonstrates the efforts and desire of South Africans to reconcile and to unite as a nation. Not respecting the National Anthem and the National Flag is tantamount to undermining the State and its President, i.e. it is the criminal offence of treason.

It is imperative that all South Africans should be able to sing and understand the National Anthem and colours of our National Flag and other national symbols. The FIFA 2010 World Cup will be hosted in Africa and specifically in South Africa and visitors will want to know about our national symbols and how to sing our National Anthem. As a proud South African you



The country's national animal is the springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*), which is found in the Free State, North West and Karoo up to the west coast.

should be able to explain the meaning of the national symbols and what they stand for.

At least you must know how many colours our flag has and how many languages our National Anthem can be sung in. We must demonstrate to visiting nations during the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup how proud we are of our national symbols. We must display respect for our national symbols. It could be at school, on the playing field, at a taxi rank, shop or tavern.

The following information about our National Anthem and National Flag will help every citizen to have more insight into their history.

National Flag

The National Flag is rectangular and it is one and a half times longer than it is wide. The flag is black, gold, green, white, chilli red and blue. It has a green Y-shaped band that is one fifth as wide as the flag. The central design of the flag, beginning at the flagpole in a V form and flowing into a single horizontal band to the outer edge of the fly can be interpreted as the convergence of diverse elements within South African society taking the road ahead in unity. The flag was adopted on Freedom Day, 27 April 1994, and first flown on 10 May 1994 - the day Mr Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as President.

Colours of the flag

Black - represents the black people
 Gold - for natural resources
 Green - for the land
 White - for White people
 Chilli Red - represents blood
 Blue - open blue sky

The red, white and blue colours were taken from the colours of a Boer Republic. The yellow, black and green were taken

from the African National Congress (ANC). The meaning attached to the colours of the National Flag as outlined above is not official, although they are accepted as such in some quarters. The do's and don'ts are clearly spelled out:

The flag must never:

- Be allowed to touch the ground or floor.
- Be used as a tablecloth or draped in front of a platform.
- Be used to cover a statue, plaque, cornerstone, etc at an unveiling or similar ceremony.
- Be used to start or finish any competition, race or similar event.
- Be manufactured or used as underclothes, bath and floor mats or any similar demeaning application.
- Be used for any commercial advertising in a manner that will distort or show disrespect to the flag.

Traditional rules for handling the flag

There are a number of traditional rules of respect that should be observed



The national bird of South Africa is the blue crane (*Anthropoides paradisia*). The bird is light blue-grey and is a metre tall with a long neck and legs. It is common in the Karoo, but can also be seen in the grasslands of KwaZulu-Natal and the highveld.



NATIONAL FLOWER. The giant or king protea (*Protea cynaroides*) is found in the south-western and southern areas of the Western Cape, from the Cedarberg up to just east of Grahamstown. South Africa's national flower is the largest of the proteas.

when handling or displaying the National Flag:

- The flag should always be hoisted at the start of the working day and lowered again before or at sunset. It is not to remain flying at night unless suitably illuminated. In South Africa, this rule still applies to government-designated flag-stations, while through common usage the flag can be displayed 24 hours a day outside of official stations.
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- Whenever a person sees an official flag hoisting or lowering ceremony in progress, he or she should come to a halt and stand respectfully to attention for the duration. If a hat is worn, it should be removed and the right hand should be placed over the heart in salute. Persons in uniform should salute in the manner prescribed by their service. (The same rules apply when the National Anthem is being played or sung.)
- The flag should never be depicted, displayed or flown upside down. Flying a flag upside down is the traditional sign of surrender! When displayed horizontally, the black triangle should be to your left and the red band uppermost.
- When draped vertically, a flag should not merely be rotated through 90 degrees, but also reversed. In the case of the South African flag, the black triangle must be uppermost and the red band to

your left. (One "reads" a flag like the pages of a book - from top to bottom and from left to right - and after rotation the results should be the same.)

- It is also insulting to display the flag in a frayed or dirty state. The same rule applies to the flagpoles and hal-yards used to hoist the flag - they should always be in a proper state of maintenance.
- The flag may never be defaced by placing slogans or any writing or design directly on the field of the flag.

National Anthem

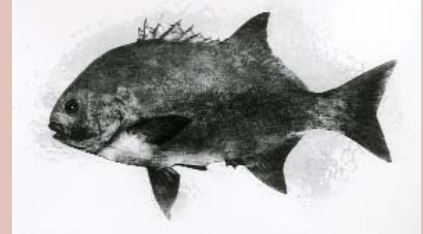
Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Enoch Mankayi Sontonga, a Methodist mission schoolteacher and lay preacher, was born in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape in 1873. Sontonga wrote the first verse and chorus of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika as a hymn for his school choir in 1897. Later in the same year he composed the music. The poet Samuel Mqhayi later added seven additional stanzas in isiXhosa and Moses Mphahlele published the Sesotho version in 1942. The national anthem is sang in isiXhosa and isiZulu for the first stanza, Sesotho the second stanza, Afrikaans the third stanza and English the last stanza.

Sontonga died 100 years ago, aged just 33, and was buried in Braamfontein Cemetery on 19 April 1905. His grave was declared a heritage site in 1996.

Prior to South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, the country's official anthem was Die Stem van Suid Afrika



South Africa's national tree (*Podocarpus latifolius*) is found from Table Mountain along the southern and Eastern Cape coast, in the ravines of the Drakensberg and up to the Soutpansberg and the Blouberg in Limpopo.



South Africa's national fish is the galjoen (*Dichistius capensis*). Galjoen is found along the coast from Namibia to Durban, and nowhere else in the world. It keeps mostly to shallow water and is often found in rough surf, sometimes right next to the shore.

(The Call of South Africa), which was originally a poem written by the Afrikaans poet CJ Langenhoven in 1918. In 1994, the two anthems were amalgamated into one.

The do's

Men must always take off their hats when singing the National Anthem.

Everyone must stand up.


The don'ts

It is unacceptable to sing only one stanza of the National Anthem or in the incorrect order.

National Coat of Arms

The central image of South Africa's Coat of Arms is a secretary bird with uplifted wings and a sun rising above it. Below the bird is the Protea, representing the aesthetic harmony of all cultures and the country flowering as a nation. The ears of wheat are emblems of the fertility of the land, while the tusks of the African elephant symbolise wisdom, steadfastness and strength.

In the centre is a shield signifying the protection of South Africa, and above this are a spear and knobkierie. These assert the defence of peace rather than a posture of war. Within the shield are images of the Khoisan people, the first inhabitants of the land. The figures are derived from images on the Linton Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art. The motto of the coat of arms - !ke e:/xarra//ke - is in the Khoisan language of the /Xam people, and means "diverse people unite", or "people who are different joining together".

* Reference: information and photos: www.southafrica.gov.za 

History made in ABET

By Ms V.M. Sebeho (Senior Personnel Practitioner: ABET)
Photo: WO1 N Klopers

Air Force Base Hoedspruit, in conjunction with Chief Directorate Human Resources Development and SASSETA, hosted an Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) certificate ceremony on 25 February 2010 for 88 learners. This splendid event was held to honour and celebrate those learners that not only optimised the opportunities that were presented to them, but also demonstrated their dedication in obtaining a 100% pass rate. This has never been achieved in any other ABET programme presented in the DOD to date.

The Letlhabile Institute of Management Training was appointed by SASSETA, specifically for the Air Force Base Hoedspruit, as an ABET Service Provider in March 2009, for 100 learners. Training commenced on 25 June 2009.

The smartly dressed learners were very excited to receive their certificates after all their hard work. Attending ABET has not been easy for these learn-

ers especially having spent gruelling hours at work and dealing with a plethora of other responsibilities in their personal lives. These certificates might not mean anything to any of us, but to the recipients it means greater independence and the ability to venture into the unknown. As one learner pointed out: "ABET enabled me to operate an Automatic Teller Machine".


During his sermon, Cpln K.R. Modise emphasised the importance of lifelong learning. They had demonstrated their potential for intellectual growth by achieving these excellent results.

Mr Pillay of Letlhabile praised the learners for their overall behaviour during training. He requested that the DOD continue empowering its people as this would not only benefit them in their workplace, but in their daily lives as well. He also thanked the Officer Commanding, Col M. Matanda, and his staff for their cooperation and support in ensuring that ABET was possible in his Unit.

Ms T. Mabuza from SASSETA indicated that another area of interest as spelt out in the National Skills Development Strategy was to concen-

trate on the adult learners by equipping them with fundamental skills in numeracy and literacy. SASSETA expressed its pride in being associated with the SANDF whose commitment had ensured that skills were offered to the adult learners.

Delivering his keynote address, Chief Director Human Resource Development, Maj Gen Kenny Mokoena, emphasised that the SANDF units must budget for ABET to ensure that their people were afforded the necessary skills and learning opportunities. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) also needs to be implemented as a lot of people have the skills but do not have the qualifications that would enable them to be placed in the right jobs. He promising learners that the discretionary funding of SASSETA would be made available for them to continue with ABET until they reached level 4.

Witnessing the learners receiving their certificates left a lump in one's throat and the emotions were inexplicable. This truly shows that to deny learners opportunities to empower themselves means denying them their basic right to education. 



Middle: seated frltr in South African Air Force uniform: Brig Gen Siphon Mokwena, Maj Gen Kenny Mokoena and Col Mac Matanda with some of the learners and their two facilitators.

Thokozani Yende stole the show

By Amn Tebogo Kekana, *Ad Astra*
Photos: F Sgt Lebo Vaarland

The SA Air Force held its annual Stanley Walters Award evening at the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane on 22 January 2010.

The event honoured the SA Air Force student engineers who had, with State sponsorship, completed the course, as well as those that were still studying different disciplines of engineering.

The Stanley Walters Trophy is given to the best engineering student. It commemorates the life of Stanley Walters who flew during World War I with the Royal Flying Corps in France. He was a fighter pilot and later came to South Africa to join the SA Air Force Special Reserves. Walters was interested in technical development in aviation and, as a result, the Johannesburg branch of the SA Air Force Association, of which he was a member, inaugurated the award in his name shortly before he died at the age of 80 in 1989.


When CO Thokozani Yende, who completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering with an average of 70% (specialising in Aeronautics) was named the best performing student of 2009, he was loudly cheered as he was awarded the Stanley Walters Trophy and a cheque amounting to R1 000. "I am very excited to see my hard work finally paying off. It is my plan to stay in this organisation and plough back the knowledge and skills that I acquired during my four years of tertiary study.

"I want to be actively involved in designing new courses and also assisting those who are struggling in their engineering studies. I regard myself as a nerd, although I have always tried to balance my study and social life. I am very proud of myself and am grateful to the people who stood by me through my study years," said CO Yende.

The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, congratulated the graduates who did well in their studies and encouraged those that were still to qualify to work hard and complete their degrees. He strongly criticized those who were failing dismally and reminded those that did not take their studies seriously of what a privilege it was to be given a chance to study at State expense.

"I am extremely disappointed in the performance of some of our learner

engineers; it seems to me that they do not understand how privileged they are. The only thing you are expected to do, is to study. This is a final warning. Those who do not perform will not go on; either you work or you go back to your units! There is no place for complacency in the SA Air Force," said Lt Gen Gagiano.

Mr Don Johnson, the National Vice-President of the SA Air Force Association (Johannesburg branch), sponsored the event. He said: "All of you have shown your worth; keep on learning and grasp your opportunities to advance as this is to the advantage of the SA Air Force and yourselves. The newly qualified are the successors, the technical descendants and inheritors and projectors of the dream of a pair of bicycle mechanics - the Wright Brothers." 



Fltr: The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, National Vice-President of the SA Air Force Association (Johannesburg branch), Mr Don Johnson, CO Thokozani Yende, winner of the Stanley Walters Trophy, and Honorary Colonel Geoff Earl.

Writing citations for decorations - a guide

By Brig Gen Deon Fourie,
Professor of Strategic Studies
(Ret), University of South Africa

So often you notice that leadership, meritorious conduct, devotion to duty and other achievements by people in the Department of Defence (DOD) have not been recognised. And you wish that something could be done for them.

The most common reasons for non-recognition may be that responsible officers feel unable to write adequate citations. No one teaches us how. Often we are unsure who should write them.

Who can be nominated?

Their Commanding Officers (OCs) may nominate any members of the SANDF for decorations. Anyone can suggest colleagues or subordinates to OCs. Civilian officials of the DOD may also receive Commendation Certificates. Notes listing someone's actions for recognition and reward are a great help to OCs.

What decorations and other awards do we have?

Nkwe ya Gauta - the Golden Leopard (NG), or Nkwe ya Selefera - the Silver Leopard (NS) or Nkwe ya Boronse - the Bronze Leopard (NB) are for bravery in military operations or action against an enemy - eg against armed mutineers, rioters or an enemy in a warlike situation.

For bravery, but insufficient to merit decorations, there are also the

mentions in the despatches sent to the President by the Chief of the SANDF, indicated by a device on a campaign ribbon.

For bravery that has not taken place in action in military operations, eg rescue from a fire or from drowning, there is the Order of the Mendi for military and civilian personnel.

Leadership, devotion to duty or meritorious conduct in other circumstances may be recognised by iPhrothiya yeGolide - the Golden Protea (GP), iPhrothiya yeSiliva - the Silver Protea (PS) or iPhrothiya yeBhronzi - the Bronze Protea (PB). Mentions in Despatches are also available for significant conduct that does not justify a decoration.

Civilians in the DOD (and other civilians) and members of the SANDF may earn the Commendation Certificates for Meritorious Conduct awarded by superior officials and officers when personnel are not eligible for decorations.

Preparing a citation

Read the Presidential Warrants in Government Gazette, No. 25213, Volume 457, 25 July, 2003, or the summaries in SOP 01/2007 of 21 September 2007 on Honours and Awards on the DOD Intranet.

Provide clear and specific examples of a nominee's outstanding acts. Show that the nominees have gone beyond what could be reasonably expected of anyone in a similar post. Mention why the service and achievements are thought outstanding and worthy of recognition.




Write a clear statement explaining which actions by a person should be singled out. Answer some of the following questions:

1. What work has made the nominee stand out from others of the same rank and in the same type of post? This is not simply describing posts held - what has been done in the post?
2. What actions demonstrate service worthy of recognition? Describe particular actions that were special and different from that which others did.
3. What significant effects have nominees' actions had in particular roles in Divisions, Services, Corps, Units or in the SANDF or DOD as a whole?
4. For how long has the person shown outstanding commitment to the Service? Time is not essential. Some people are able to show tremendous originality, initiative or devotion to duty in a very brief time.
5. Has the nominee's contribution been noticed or even recognised elsewhere, eg by other awards given, by professional or interest groups or even in the media?

Clearly set out the grounds for an award - use active, strong verbs and nouns. Adjectives or adjectival clauses are usually padding and poor substitutes for concrete description of actions. Write clear summaries of evidence already on file or which officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) can provide as notes.

A Mention in Despatches requires no more than the mention of names of personnel in a report to the President. It does not need a full citation. Simply say what the person "is be mentioned for, eg brave conduct or leadership or meritorious conduct or devotion to duty or praiseworthy conduct or distinguished conduct", whichever is relevant. Next, write a brief narrative setting out events, or a role the nominee played and dates and names.

Never fail to recommend just because you yourself have gone unnoticed. 



Inspired women are doing it

By Kgabo Mashamaite
 Photos: Sgt Leonard Xaba
 (1 Military Printing Rgt)

“Start with small shared ideas and make a very huge contribution to the society”. Those were wise and inspiring words from Colonel Bobby Keller Senior, Staff Officer (SSO) South African Military Health (SAMHS) Management Renewal Structure and the SAMHS Fund Business Development Officer during the Warrant Officers Council Spouses Forum welcoming function on 20 February 2010 in Centurion.

Drawing from his wealth of social responsibility Projects he is currently involved in, including the Alta Du Toit School for the mentally challenged for all races in Cape Town, Col Keller was invited as a guest speaker during the spouses welcoming function and he helped to create a vision to identify the project they would like to get involved in during 2010.

The Forum consists of spouses of Warrant Officers (WO's) from all Services and Divisions who have organised themselves to support their husbands in contributing meaningfully to the advancement of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) by supporting their subordinates in the line of duty.

According to the Forum Council Chairperson Mrs Sheron Scheepers, a spouse to Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, WO Spouses Council has a parental duty to the SANDF youth.


"The main function of this

forum is to support our husbands in their responsibility as Warrant Officers because it is their responsibilities to look after and guide young members within the Defence Force. It is also our wish to involve members on level 3 (Formation and Unit levels) because they are essentially the guardians of those members in their units." Mrs Scheepers said.

The idea of the WO spouses organising themselves stems from the October 2009 Warrant Officers Council work session where spouses expressed the need to come together to join hands in various social responsibility projects (SRP's). A highlight was the quarterly functions on Womens Day, when the WO spouses from all military attachés were hosted. Also in October 2009, the Forum made history when it attended a work session to which guest speakers had been invited. These dealt with touched topics such as cultural diversity and marriage enrichment. A dietician was also at hand to advise of suit-

able nutrition.

At present, the WO Council Spouses Forum consists of 15 women of WO of Services and divisions. The Forum members do not necessarily work full time on the council, but are full-time employees. They include Lieutenant Colonels in Risk Management, Warrant Officers Class 1 Signal Formation, South African Receiver of Revenue (SARS) Customs Officials, care givers, Admin Clerks and website administrators.

Recently, the WO spouses adopted the following projects: Caring and supporting the SANDF deceased members' next of kin to show them that the SANDF, the nation and the business community care for them and appreciate their sacrifices through their contribution towards peace and stability in South Africa and their support of the Alta du Toit School for the disabled, the only school in the Western Cape that caters for disabled children of all races. 



Members of the Warrant Officers Council Spouses Forum Fltr: Mrs Thea Cloete, Mrs Priscilla Moloi, Mrs Rina Wiese, Eva Tshabalala, Mrs Sheron Scheepers (Chairperson), Mrs Julia Kgaladi, Nox Goqo, Beverley Roos and Mrs Karina Halgreen.

Women on the move

By Bibi Morgets

Photos: Thabo Shirinda

With an unbelievable sense of purpose, an unmistakable passion for her role and a solid sense of what constitutes a remarkable woman, Lt Col Florence Shaik Latiff is undoubtedly a role model for woman, young and old. SA Soldier visited the Lt Col in her office and got her talking about her vision for the new post.

She is the new female Officer Commander for the DOD School of Catering an appointment she attained on 25 April 2009 after acting in the post for one year. With such a dedicated spirit to make changes to the school she reckons with a smile that indeed it is time for new things, but she also knows that as a woman many challenges await her. Although the Department has made provision for senior management posts to be held by women it will take time to shift the mindsets of others so that women can take charge of units too. She now joins the likes of Col Z.A Themba and others, in the category of first black female Officer Commander of a military unit.

Lt Col Shaik Latiff's military career started in 1993 when she joined as a nursing sister. She worked in various sickbays within the military, in particular for 6 years at the 68 Air School where she became officer in charge of the sickbay. She holds various qualifications in the nursing faculty, but two that stand out are her psychiatric diploma and the management diploma. These qualifications put her at an advantage as shown by her diplomacy in doing things. Her acting secretary, Pte Mandisa Majola, calls her the "Mother of the unit", a strong character of excellence, bravery, a gentle fighter with remarkable morale and values and some one with a great amount femininity.


Since her new appointment as the

OC of the unit a lot of changes have been made. It has become tradition that once a month a pub lunch is held to raise funds. Any member of the DOD can come and enjoy a meal at a reasonable price. Her greatest achievements were the opening of the "Blue Lady", a dilapidated train that she rescued and that is now used as part of an entertainment area. There is also a library and an internet station, because she believes strongly in the development of others and in rewarding excellence. The Catering School trains all members of the DOD who have an interest in the catering and hospitality industry. Their biggest support comes from the MSD members who have finished basic training and want to further their education in this field. The courses are accredited and registered with the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA).

The unit caters for weddings and other functions, especially for members of the DOD, affirms the Lt Col with a soft voice. She says "a person doesn't need to be loud to make a statement, This is what I learned from my late mother who was my mentor and who has contributed so much to what I am today. It is also my deepest desire that more and more people will

use our services for their functions as we are the core unit for such events."

Lt Col Florence Shaik is a married woman and a mother of three sons. At the end of the interview she said, "I believe there is goodness in each and everyone of us, People should be given the opportunity to prove themselves."

For any enquiries on how to book a place for events or pub lunches, please contact the office of the OC on 012 674-4657. 



Lt Col Shaik Latiff giving a brief overview of the catering school operations.



Lt Col Shaik Latiff officially opening the "blue train".

Building a linguistically competent DOD

By Dr J.L. Marais, D Lang, HR Dev
Photo by: Thabo Shirida

Mrs Ruth Tutu, the newly appointed Director of the Directorate Language Services, joined the DOD in October 2008. Her passion for languages started at an early age. She recalls the way she used to be fascinated by "speakers of other languages".

After matriculating, she pursued her studies and attained the following qualifications: Diploma in Education (Hebron College), BA degree (University of the North West), B Ed degree (University of Cape Town), MA degree in Applied Linguistics (RAU) and MBA degree (De Montford University: UK). She met her husband at the University of Cape Town and they are blessed with four children: Ipeleng, Nonhlanhla, Ntombizinhle and Loyiso).

Before joining the DOD, Mrs Tutu, passionately known as "D" by her team, held senior educational and managerial positions at, amongst others, the National Department of Education, the North-West Department of Education and the Public Administration, Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA). As an educator, lecturer, examiner, moderator and subject adviser for English, policy adviser for education funding norms and provincial coordinator for the Massified Induction Programme she gained valuable experience.

At D Lang, Mrs Tutu leads a team of language practitioners and trainers.



Mrs Ruth Tutu, passionately known as "D", the newly appointed Director of the Directorate Language Services.

During her first year in office, she was greeted by a mammoth task when Exercise GOLFINHO, the joint multi-national exercise that was conducted in Lohatlha from 01 to 25 September 2009, called on her and the language team comprising 22 foreign language translators and interpreters to provide linguistic support to the SADC brigade. She cites her appreciation of the opportunity and support granted by the DOD to D Lang as "one of the most rewarding experiences one can have".

In her endeavours to ensure D

Lang's compliance with national, DOD and SADC language obligations through teamwork, Mrs Tutu is currently developing a Language Training Strategy for the DOD, revising the Language Policy and CSW, and finalising a Brochure on D Lang.

"I enjoy my work and gradually acculturating into the military culture. To be... or not to be ... that's the question!" Mrs Tutu, a keen traveller and swimmer, concluded.

We wish D well! 

A sweet reunion after 19 years

Article and photos by Kgabo Mashamaite

Maj Lesley Rakhibane is on a mission to bring the former freedom fighters who were previously exiled by the old regime together, with their families and friends from their former host countries.

Many people, especially those who criticised the former Government, opted to oppose the latter through protests and forums that ultimately led to the establishment of political parties. Leaders of those political parties were then targeted for arrest and charged with high treason, while others fled to neighbouring countries to seek political refuge. Those who managed to get away were then banished. Many political organisations then established their own military forces in a bid to help defeat the then Government.

In 1990 the former Government decided to afford various political parties an opportunity to negotiate the best political solution for the country. This it did by lifting the ban on organisations and all exiles were allowed to return to the country.

The negotiations charted the way to the first democratic elections in 1994, in which the African National Congress (ANC) won elections and Nelson Mandela became the first President of the newly democratic South Africa. During the Mandela tenure, all liberation forces were disbanded to form a single defence force and they were integrated into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Maj Rakhibane, SO2 Staff Support at Defence Corporate Communication, is a former Umkhonto we Sizwe member (ANC armed wing) and was also exiled. His commitment to get the former freedom fighters and their loved

ones reunited was evident when he took time off from his busy schedule to bring his 19 year old daughter from Zambia.

Before his integration with the SANDF he had been exiled in both Angola and Zambia where he plied his trade at Radio Freedom, the service broadcasting from the *Zambian National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC)* and the *Radio Nacional de Angola* during 1989.

During that time Maj Rakhibane met Ms Nosiko Wakalala who he subsequently dated and later married. The couple was blessed with a baby girl, Tsholofelo Frangelinah Rakhibane, after her deceased grandmother on the Rakhibane's side.

It was through his extensive research and a web of contacts he developed while working in both countries that he managed to get in touch with Tsholofelo, whom he brought to South Africa to meet her family.

On 28 November 2009 after landing at the O.R. Tambo International Airport, a jubilant Tsholofelo could not wait to meet her new family back in South Africa.

"I am excited by the fact that my father has demonstrated his love for me by launching an extensive search. On the other hand I was trying all means available for us to reunite. This was a clear indication that he also had that burning desire for us to meet," said Tsholofelo, who had just finished her O Level, (Matric Equivalent) with 20 points, a criterion used in Zambia to enable learners to enrol at the university.

Tsholofelo was welcomed with open arms by the Rakhibane family during a welcoming party held in Daveyton.

Those former exiles who would like to be reunited with their loved ones should contact Maj Lesley Rakhibane on the following e-mail



Tisetso (left) at the O.R. Tambo International Airport to welcome his father, Maj Lesley Rakhibane, and his half sister, Tsholofelo Frangelinah Rakhibane, when they returned from Zambia.

Going solo in the "mosquito"

By 2 Lt Maryke Lynn, student at Starlite Aviation Flying School
Photo: Lt Col Jaco Steynberg

The fact that people say "the Robbie is the most difficult helicopter to master" made us five newly qualified SA Air Force pilots a bit wary of going solo in it for the first time. However, it was nothing but pure bliss!

Before you know it, after only a few weeks of intense training at Durban's Starlite Aviation Flying School, you find yourself in the RH-22's small cockpit with the Chief Flying Instructor, Kate Esterhuyse, in the left-hand seat.


This can only mean one thing - she is determining if you are ready (or not) to go for your very first solo in a helicopter - and suddenly you are overcome by a combination of mixed emotions ...

After a bit of hovering, a few take-offs and landings and a couple of circuits, she looks at you and says: "I think you are ready to do this on your own; I am getting out". In a flash you are all by yourself and intensely aware of the crowd that has gathered to witness this glorious occasion. You take a deep breath: focus, focus, focus ... do your final checks and slowly start raising the collective.

After two quick circuits and a

shaky landing later, course mates strip you of your badges and other insignia and then it is a painful march to the makeshift solo pit for a well-deserved mud bath. In time course mates and bystanders became more resourceful and inspired in their ways of "punishing" the soloist - so you are lucky if you are one of the first to go. Covered in mud and soaked to the bone you proudly receive your bottle of bubbly and Starlite badge.

Course 01/09 is making good progress on both the RH-22 and B-206 Jet Ranger and we are looking forward to returning to AFB Bloemspruit for the Oryx conversion.

To hover is truly divine! 



Second Lieutenant Maryke Lynn with her instructor, Jaco Oosthuizen, in front of the Robbie RH-22 helicopter at Starlite Aviation Flying School.

Recession equals investment opportunity

It's not surprising that many people rush to cash in their investments in times of economic uncertainty, says Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager at Old Mutual, but did they know that a recession often provides good opportunities to expand one's investment portfolio.

At times like these, some investors tend to let emotions overrule logic. This often either leads to risky investments to make a quick gain or selling out to cut your losses. "Both these actions could prove harmful to your investment portfolio," she said.

Look on the bright side

The upside is that, a recession is usually followed by a period of sustained economic growth. The market value of many investments will be available for purchase at below their intrinsic value. Money you invest now can buy more shares than it would have a few months ago, setting you up for substantial gains when the market fully recovers. And, even if the market hasn't bottomed out yet, it would still prove to be a good time to invest.

Get some distance

If you do not have spare cash to invest, then it's always advisable to stay put. "In other words, leave your portfolio in tact and put some distance between yourself and your investments," Wilson advised.

"The safest way to wealth is by taking a long-term view, and waiting for the tide to turn. The longer your investment horizon the safer it becomes to invest in shares. For really long-term investments

(more than 10 years) it's most certainly preferable to invest in shares than cash.

Some guidelines for investing

- **Don't put all your eggs in one basket.** Diversify your portfolio across a variety of asset classes, and across different industries and sectors of the economy.
- **Be realistic and match your goals with appropriate timeframes.** Eg. if you're investing for retirement, don't allow short-term market volatility to lead you off-course.
- **Invest with a reputable financial services company** that can deliver professional advice and assistance. Old Mutual has been helping people for more than 160 years and has the expertise to achieve maximum results.



Rosie Wilson
Market Development
Manager

For investment advice that suits your pocket speak to your Old Mutual financial adviser, or broker, or phone 0860 INVEST (0860 468 378).



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Airborne Forces ready for the FIFA Soccer World Cup

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A week-long integrated training exercise at De Brug military training ground in Bloemfontien has demonstrated the SA Army's airborne readiness for the FIFA Soccer World Cup (SWC), to be held between 11 June and 11 July 2010.

This was evident during the annu-

al Young Eagle Open Day exercise held at the Air Force Base (AFB) Bloemspruit on 18 February 2010 before almost 350 spectators, which included Chilean Armed Forces (CAA) delegations.

The exercise was aimed at training and exercising the SA Army's airborne and air assault forces to enhance their capability and combat readiness.

The open day consisted of briefings, static displays/exhibitions,

pathfinder infiltration, airborne and air assault demonstrations and a free fall demonstration.

The highlight of the day was when various airborne military units, in conjunction with the South African Police Services (SAPS) handled a mock bus hostage situation. Members of the public were treated to a spectacular show when a hostage situation was staged in which four terrorists held officials hostage.

The audience was amazed by the



Ftr: Brig Gen Sithabiso Mahlobo, General Officer Commanding of the 46 Brigade, explaining the tactics applied by the airborne forces in a hostage situation to the Chief SA Army Lt Gen Solly Shoke (centre) while Gen Oscar Izurieta Ferrer, Chief of the Chilean Army, looks on.



SAPS static members surrounding a terrorist pick-up aircraft during the Exercise Young Eagle demonstrations at Air Force Base Bloemspuit.

quick response of the police officials as they closed in on the 35-seater bus used by the radicals for the hostage taking. SA Army pathfinders followed them from a CASA 212 military aircraft.

A few minutes later, a four-seater light caravan aircraft landed, apparently to load the terrorists and hostages, but the air assault forces quickly surrounded it. Within a second or two, the scene was a hive of military activity as the forces scrambled to free the hostages and capture the terrorists. Before we knew it, it was all over, the hostages were freed and referred for counselling, while the terrorists were arrested by the police.

Speaking after the demonstration, the Chief of the Chilean Army, General Oscar Izurieta Ferrer, said he was impressed by what he had seen and had learned a great deal about the SA Army's combat readiness.

"The tactics of responding to the hostage situation were well planned and the forces responded timeously to prevent any loss of life and unneces-

sary bloodshed," Gen Ferrer commented.

At the press conference held immediately after the demonstration, a clearly impressed Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, said that this year's exercise was planned with the upcoming FIFA Soccer World Cup in mind.


"We are preparing our forces for the Soccer World Cup tournament which we are hosting later this year and should anything happen that disturbs peace and stability during the tournament, we will be ready for anything," confident Lt Gen Shoke said.

During his presentation of the SA Army State of readiness, Brig Gen Sithabiso Mahlobo, General Officer Commanding of 46 Brigade, said that escalating threats on the country's borders and coastlines required a formidable defence.

"Our soldiers are in good command and capable hands and are more than reliable to secure our country's integrity and sovereignty in 2010, the year wherein the world will be coming

to this great continent in the spirit of peace to celebrate humanity. Our morale has never been so high and our commitment to serve is undoubted and therefore, people can look up to us," Concluded Brig Gen Mahlobo.

According to Capt Denzil Sampson, a member of Air Assault Battalion (Bn) in Grahamstown who had participated in Exercise Young Eagle in 2005 and in previous exercises, such as Dragon and Iron Eagle, this year's edition was well planned and the tasks well executed. Sampson said that the exercise was also more about testing the skills of the airborne forces true tactical manoeuvring.

Rifleman Benjamin Blumears (23), a 6 SA Army Infantry (SAI)Bn who had participated in exercises in 2006, 2007 and 2010, said the important lesson he took from this exercise was that the SA Army had intelligent leaders who knew the requirements of the troops on the ground. Rfn Blumears joined the SANDF in 2006 and said he enjoyed being a soldier serving his country. 

ASB Potchefstroom hosts a CISM Day run

Article and photo by Jeffrey Mabidikane, SO3 Com ASB Potchefstroom

Army Support Base Potchefstroom hosted its annual *Council International du Sport Militaire* (CISM) Day run on 19 February 2010 to promote the motto of CISM - "Friendship Through Sport".


The following units participated during the march: Army Support Base Potchefstroom, 17 Maintenance Unit, 4 Artillery Regiment, School of Artillery, Military Veterinary Institute, North West Area Military Health Unit, 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment, Artillery Mobilisation Regiment, North West Signal Unit and 102 Field Workshop Unit.

In his address to the participants, Col Paul van der Merwe, the Chairperson of the Potchefstroom Military Sports Club, said that the event was meant to promote the principle of "Sport for All" and anybody, regardless of sporting ability and rank, was allowed to show up on the starting line. It was also an opportunity to build durable relationships between our organisation and international sports organisations, armed forces and governments. This was also an opportunity for the soldiers to show their support for the National Soccer Team. He also thanked the neighbouring units for their participation to mark the important historical day.



Participants enjoying the brisk walk during the CISM Day run.

The SANDF became a member of CISM in 1994 and participated for the first time at the First World Military Games that were held in Rome in 1995. The military members were invited to participate in aeronautical pentathlon, military pentathlon, naval pentathlon, parachuting, shooting, boxing, cycling, equestrian sports, fencing, golf, judo, modern pentathlon, orien-

teering, sailing, skiing, swimming, including diving, lifesaving, water polo, taekwando, track, field and cross-country, triathlon, wrestling, basketball, football, handball and volleyball. (South Africa was awarded the CISM Solidarity Trophy, an honour which has only been bestowed on thirty countries thus far and one of three countries that has received the trophy twice.) 

Athletes honoured at 102 Field workshop

Article and photo by Capt J.M. Mabidikane, SO3 Com ASB Potch

Army Support Base Potchefstroom and the Potchefstroom Military Sports Council (PMSC) hosted their annual Sports Awards to honour sportsmen and women who had excelled in different sporting codes during the period 2009/10.

The occasion was held on 28 January 2010 at 102 Field Workshop Lapa in Potchefstroom after the official opening earlier by the Officer

Commanding of Army Support Base Potchefstroom, Col Phillip van Dyk.

During his speech Col Paul van der Merwe congratulated the recipients and urged others to participate in sport as it was also one of the tools to ensure a combat ready force.

Col Van der Merwe presented certificates to the following members:

Veteran Sportsperson of the Year: Combat Rifle Shooting (WO1 G.P.R. Dreyer)

Sports Club of the Year: Freshwater Angling (Lt Col H. Coetzee).

Sports Administrator of the Year: Freshwater Angling (Lt Col Markus

de Beer).

Sportsman of the Year: Combat Rifle Shooting (Cpl B. Seleka).


Sportswoman of the Year: Rugby (WO2 L. Maans).

Special Merit Award (in his absence): Col P.J. van Dyk.

Official of the Year: Cricket (Sgt R. Ellis).

Best Developed Member of the Year: Swimming (Gnr L. Dlongolo).

Best Developed Member of the Year: Freshwater Angling (Ms G. Coetzee).

Friends of the PMSC: Col D. Schoonwinkel, Col T. Pillay and Lt Col V. Khasapane. 



Front, fltr: Cpl Ben Seleka, Gnr Lungani Dlongolo and WO1 Gert Dreyer. Back, fltr: Chaplain Kaiser Cornelius, Lt Col Markus de Beer, Col Dawid Schoonwinkel, WO2 Leonie Maans, Col Trevor Pillay, Col Paul van der Merwe, Lt Col Hannes Coetzee and Ms Georgina Coetzee.

SA Forces Cricket beats SA Rural XI

Article and Photos by Maj Pierre Hamman, Media Liaison (SANDFCA)

21 loyal cricketers from the SANDF were again recognised for their continuous good performances at the SANDF Cricket Championships held in Cape Town in December 2009. This were for their participation in an SANDF Cricket Association Training Camp hosted by the Free State Cricket Association at the Outsurance Oval in Bloemfontein and for having participated in the SAPS in an inter-forces cricket

tournament during the week of 16 to 26 February 2010.

A squad of 21 players from around the country, including Oudtshoorn, Potchefstroom, Kimberley, Upington, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town, together with relevant officials and administrators were selected after the SANDF Cricket championships. This grouping assembled in Bloemfontein on 16 February 2010 where CPO Henry Abrahams, Manager Amateur Cricket of the SANDFCA, welcomed them.

From 17 to 19 February the squad was put through its paces by two professional coaches from the Free State Cricket Association. The hard work of

Mr Jacob Malau, a former Highveld Lions spin bowler and CSA level 4 coach was clearly noticeable at cricket oval. It was evident from the practice sessions that these players were serious about not letting the SANDFCA down in the training camp and forthcoming matches against the SAPS. The players showed excellent team spirit, guts and determination. That was a good indication of good things to come in week's tour matches.

Not only did the players keep themselves busy with cricket practice, they also assisted the Bakers Mini Cricket coordinator of the FSCA with the coaching and training of more than 80 teachers



Front row Fltr: R. Manuel (SAPS), Maj Q. Eksteen (SANDF), WO1 A.Dido, Manager (SANDF), U. Erntzen, (SAPS), I. Alexnader, Coach (SAPS) and Gen T.T. Mokgosi (SANDF)
 Back row Fltr: N. Cloete (SAPS), H.D. Reinecke (SANDF), Lt M. Van Rooyen, Captain (SANDF), W. September (SAPS), F Sgt C. Denton (SANDF), W. Engelbrecht (SAPS), M. Mandisa (SAPS), AB D.J. Kriel (SANDF), Cpl C. Diedericks (SANDF) and G. Meintjies (SAPS)

and parents from the greater Bloemfontein area so that they could obtain their Bakers Level One Mini Cricket certificates.

On 20 to 22 February the SANDF team played two warm-up matches against a combined team from the Bloemfontein Cricket Association to prepare them for the two matches against the SAPS, of which SANDF won by four wickets and lost the second by 179 runs. Newly selected members were given the opportunity to confirm their places in the SANDF team by playing in these matches as preliminary to the inter-forces matches.

The rain that measured more than 80 mm on Tuesday night, 23 February, resulted in the match against the SAPS scheduled for the following day to be called off as it continued raining until 19:00 on the 24th.

When the players returned to the field of Bobbies on 25 February they found that the field was not in condition for playing, so the match was postponed once again. This left the selectors of the SANDF and SAPS with the task of selecting an inter-forces team, without any cricket being played over the two days.


The only option was to do a paper selection. It was agreed by the two forces that each force would select seven players to comprise the squad of 14 players, of which Maj Q. Eksteen, F Sgt Denton, Cpl C. Diedericks, Lt M.M. van Rooyen, Capt LS H.D. Reinecke, AB D.J. Kriel and Gen T.T. Mokgosi made the starting line-up of twelve players, the match being played according to the new Standard Bank Pro-40 rules. WO1 A. Dido was appointed as the manager of the team.


On 25 February the SA Forces team left for Kimberley where they had their team talk and discussed strategy for the match against the SA Rural XI at the De Beers Diamond Oval the following day. The SA Forces XI had lost the previous two matches against the SA Rural XI at Good Year Park in 2007 and Skukuza in 2008 by a narrow margin. The captain of the SA Forces XI, Lt Marco van Rooyen, lost the toss and the SA Rural XI were sent in to bat first.

With the SANDF players, C. Diedericks (54 runs) and Q. Eksteen as (32 runs) the main contributors, the SA Forces reached a total of 197/9 in their allotted 40 overs. The SA Rural XI started their run chase with a bang and

at 130/3 looked firm favourites to win the match. Excellent fielding from H.D. Reinecke, as well as singing and loud cheers (after the member of St George's Park Cricket Stadium in Port Elizabeth) of the SANDF contingent present at the match, provided the spark to turn the match on its head and suddenly the SA Forces team looked like "they could pull a rabbit out of the hat."

The pressure started to mount on the SA Rural XI and they were eventually all out for 193 runs. The SA Forces XI won the match by four runs and beat the SA Rural XI for the first time in three matches, making the SA Forces XI a force to be reckoned with!

The President of the SANDFCA, Col N.T. Majola extended a word of thanks to all the relevant role-players, including Brig Gen M.M. Moadira, OC of ASB Bloemfontein, Lt Col P. Sawyer of D PTSR, OCs of players and officials, Lt Col Le Roux of BMSC, Mr M. Jordaan of CSA, Mr C.S. of the FSCA, the Griqualand West Cricket Union, as well as CPO H.P. Abrahams the tour co-ordinator, to name but a few, for making this tour such a success - it was highly appreciated! 



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Responsibility of freedom

By Col(REV) C.B. Bosiki,
CPLN General Division

“**Y**ou are the man” (2 Sam 12:7)

The lord sent Nathan the prophet to David, and when he entered his presence he told this story: "A rich man and a poor man lived in the same town". The rich man owned a lot of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had only one little lamb that he had bought and raised. The lamb became precious to him and the rest of his family. He even let it eat from the palm of his hand and drink from his own cup and sleep in his own bed. This lamb was like one of his own children.

One day a visitor come to the home of this rich man, but the rich man did not want to kill any of his own sheep or cattle and serve it to the visitors. He stole the poor man's little lamb and served it instead. David was furious and angry with the rich man and said to Nathan "I swear by the living lord that the man who did this deserves to die. And because he did not have any pity on the poor man, he will have to pay four times what the lamb was worth". Then Nathan told David "you are the rich man". The lessons one learns from the story are as follows:

1. Practising self-discipline
2. Follow through
3. Know others depend on you
4. Step forward

Practise self-discipline

The prophet Nathan was a disci-



Col(REV) C.B. Sobiki

plined man who could relay a serious and a confrontational message in a disciplined way. He was practising self-discipline and expected the king to behave the same way.

Follow through

He was a follower of the king but at the same time he could not allow the king to deviate from doing what was right and following the code of conduct. He honestly called the king to order when he was violating the same regulation he crafted himself.

Know that others depend on you

The prophet's message was clear and loud that people depended on the king but also that the kings depended on the people. A king cannot do as it pleases him. He must act responsibly

and observe the full might of the law. He must understand that people depend on him just as he depends on his people.

Step forward

The prophet Nathan stepped forward to stand for the truth. He sacrificed his integrity for the sake of justice. The truth had liberated him from the bondage of sin. He confronted David with nothing but the truth.

This act of Nathan also liberated David from being wrong to becoming an exemplary king who knew the might of law. When Nathan steps forward, the king also steps forward to accept his level of weakness and shortcoming and then repented. Some people expect others to repent, but they cannot do the same. "Do unto others what you like them to do unto you"



Spear of Hope

Review by: Nomvula Khalo Media Relations Consultant.

Publisher: VDM Velag Dr Miller Aktiengesellschaft & Co.KG

This book is written by Major General Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, the highest-ranking woman currently serving in the South African National Defence Force, Chief Director Transformation Management.

It is based on her academic research for a Masters Degree in Policy Studies. It reflects on racial discriminatory policies instituted by the Nationalist Party Government when it took over power in 1948, and how it effectively implemented affirmative action programmes for the benefit of Afrikaners in the public service and the military, at the expense of the Black majority; including non white involvement in the SADF before 1994. It also traces the integration of seven disparate armies and the challenges of turning them into a single unit of patriots committed to protecting and defending the territorial integrity of the Republic of South Africa. The histories and the formations of armies, such as AZANLA, INKATHA, Homelands, MK and APLA are alluded to.

Gen Memela-Motumi relates the story of the integration process and informs the reader about how Non-Statutory Force members were given officers' ranks in the Placement Boards adjudicated by the British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT), as well as the Psychological Integration Programme (PIP) developed as an intervention programme during the early years of the integration process. Gen Memela-Motumi explains that all SANDF members from Private(s) to a General(s) were exposed to this programme and it enhanced their understanding of the basis for the stereotypes that they had against each other, and fostered cohesion. This resulted in former adversaries committing themselves to work together in order to build a legit-



Nontsikelelo Memela-Motumi

SPEAR OF HOPE

Affirmative action, transformation and reconciliation in the new SANDF




imate and credible defence force. This PIP was facilitated by psychologists and social work officers.

Gen Memela-Motumi describes the purpose of this academic research as to establish the extent to which the policy of Affirmative Action has been implemented within the South Africa military Health Service (SAMHS) in particular during the period 1995 to 2000, and the challenges experienced in the implementation of this policy. Gen Memela-Motumi further argues that the 'Sunset Clause', which was accepted during the political negotiations, was the main reason for non-implementation of this Policy during that period as it ensured that the White males who occupied all strategic posts should not be removed from their positions during the first five years of the democratic dispensation.

The crux of Gen Memela-Motumi's study is that this policy is not new, and on examining countries in which it has been tackled before, it becomes apparent that the rationale is to achieve equality. The Malaysia experience is cited as the best example in terms of its similar-

ities to the South African context. The Bumiputra who constitute the majority of that country's population were regarded as the main beneficiaries of this policy.

A comprehensive description and analysis of the ANC Government's policies, legislation and legislation and pre-prescripts on affirmative action, is made. Gen Memela-Motumi also highlights the challenges experienced in implementation and recommends what needs to be done going forward. The leadership commitment, the need for SANDF to build its own timber, by encouraging the youth to join the SANDF and to consider furthering their studies at state expense in professions in which this organisation is experiencing skills shortages. The establishment of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are cited as some of the key elements in pursuit of the transformation agenda. The SANDF scholars are encouraged to conduct further research, as it would be interesting to gauge progress achieved after 16 years, since the advent of democracy in this country! 



National Anthem of South Africa

**Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.**

**Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.**

**Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.**

**Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.**