

Brazil honours SANDF members for meritorious service

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The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, and Acting Director Performance Audit at the Defence Inspectorate Division, Col Antonio André, were both recognised for meritorious service to Brazil at a medal awards ceremony held at the Brazilian Embassy in Pretoria on 25 July 2007.

The Chief of the SA Navy was awarded the Naval Order of Merit Medal, which was created by a decree on 11 July 1934. The purpose in awarding this particular medal is to recognise members who have distinguished themselves professionally and exceptionally in national or foreign military and civilian institutions, to their flags

or coat of arms and to Brazilian or foreign military or civilian personalities, who have contributed towards important services to the Brazilian Navy.

Col André was awarded the "Marechal Cordeiro de Farias" Medal, which was created on 20 June 1983 by the Commander and Director of Education at the Senior War College in Rio de Janeiro. The purpose of this medal is to honour and distinguish the students of the Senior War College for competence and knowledge displayed. Col André, who was nominated as the "best overall achiever" on course, was also recognised for the valuable guidance provided in the interests of improving the War College's curriculum. Of note is the fact that this is the first time a member of the SANDF has been awarded this particular medal.

On completion of the ceremony,

V Adm Mudimu thanked the Brazilian Ambassador, Mr Lucio Piers De Amorim, for presenting him with the award. He emphasised the long-standing relationship shared by the South African and Brazilian Navies and assured the Brazilian Ambassador of the SA Navy's continued commitment to ensuring that this relationship flourishes. He concluded by saying: "... our greatest challenge is to navigate safely and survive the might of the sea. This in itself bonds us as brothers and sisters ... through co-operation we can collectively counter such challenges."

And to emphasise this bond, the SAS MENDI, one of the SA Navy's four MEKO Valour Class frigates, is scheduled to participate in the Brazilian Navy's bicentennial celebrations in September this year. 



Mr Lucio Amorim, the Brazilian Ambassador, awards V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, with the Naval Order of Merit Medal.



Capt (N) Jorge Guimaraes Dias, the Brazilian Attaché, congratulates Col Antonio André, Acting Director Performance Audit at the Defence Inspectorate Division, on being honoured with the "Marechal Cordeiro de Farias" Medal.