SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

Our deployed soldiers ... creating peace in Africa

defence
Department: Defence: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
From the Editor's desk

Letters: feedback from our readers

News from abroad

Christmas ... God's call for reconciliation

Giving back to our deployed soldiers' families

Sowing shades of peace

The First African Commandants' Conference

18 Our Chief hosts Mozambican guests

20 All for charity

21 A Bastion of Hope for Africa's Children

22 Fitting tribute to our Angels of Mercy

24 Our soldiers ready to deploy to the Sudan

26 Remembrance Day in Cape Town

28 Remembrance Day in the Congo

29 Honouring the deceased Italian POWs

31 16 Days of Activism

32 The ability of people with disabilities

34 Courageous spirit of the Military Police Division

36 Service Corps Kimberley has done it again

39 17 Squadron reaches out to our children

40 CISM Military World Games

43 Malaria tips for travelers within SA

44 Letters: Casual Day
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FRONT COVER: DEPLOYMENT IN THE DRC: Rfn S.R. Nzuza during joint foot patrol with the Indian Battalion and local government soldiers (FARDC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). For more news from abroad read pages 10 to 12. (Photo: Cpl J.J. Verreynne)

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

With the festive season upon us and time hurtling towards Christmas, remember to pause a moment, smell the flowers, stick one behind your ear and take time out for yourself. We live in the most beautiful country in the world, enjoy a unique cultural mix and have superb weather for most of the year - so enjoy December!

The Editorial team of SA Soldier wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Drive safely, don’t drink and drive and enjoy South Africa’s summer holidays …

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

Zwi bvaho kha Munwaleli

Shifhinga tsha madakalo tšo suika, na dvuha le khisto Jesu a bebwa ngalo li tšini, ni si hangwe u ima tshifhinga nyama, ni pfe munukho wa maluvha, ni vho e tšihi kha ndevele. Ni difhe tshifhinga tša u avela.

Ri tšiha kha shango lo nakesahlo lihasini, diphiteni nga melelo dzashu dzo fhambanako, ni diphinina nga mutšho wa vhudi - Ni ohe na dakalo kha rvedzi uve Nyendavhusika!

Tshigwada tša vhashumi vha SA Soldier tši ni tamela dvuha la vhudi la u bebwa ha khisto Jesu na nwaha muwusa! Ni rile nga tsirelodo, ni songo no a zwi niwisa zwi kambaho na reila. Diphiteni nga tšilimo na maduvha a u avela a Afrika Tshipembe …

Nelda Pienaar
Munwaleli

By Manelisi Ndaba
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Christmas came early for the winners of the Public Finance Management Act crossword puzzle competition that was published in SA Soldier. The first prize (R1 000) went to Maj Helena Potgieter from the SA National War College and the second prize (R500) to Maj Clive Kornie from Chief of Logistics, while Lt Col Shadow Qumza from Joint Operations Divisional HQ received the third prize (R250). The winning prizes were sponsored by SANLAM. Congratulations to the three winners!

The Acting Chief Financial Officer (A/CFO), Ms Dudu Mutloane, presented the prizes to the three lucky winners during a prize-giving ceremony held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 2 November 2007. Excitement was written all over their faces! It was an exciting moment for those who attended and all were inspired to participate in future competitions.

The winners were randomly selected from among the more than 700 entries. Even the A/CFO alluded in her speech to her not having expected so many entries. The crossword puzzle competition was another means to communicate the contents of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The A/CFO indicated that there were plans already in place for a nation-wide campaign to amplify awareness of the PFMA within the Department of Defence (DOD).

She highlighted the objective of the PFMA, which was to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Department were managed effectively and efficiently. Ms Mutloane emphasised that the PFMA helped the DOD remain alert to issues of budget control and corruption. She added that the Act regulated issues involving the finance and was not a “policing document”. “On the contrary, it is meant to make everyone’s life in the workplace easier,” she said.

Ms Mutloane insisted that it was necessary for members of the DOD to remain vigilant regarding acts and policies introduced by the Government, which were intended to provide excellent and professional services. She expressed her gratitude to the Editorial team of SA Soldier for their contribution in ensuring that all members of the DOD were informed about the PFMA.

Those who wish to learn more about the PFMA may visit the DOD Intranet: http://www.mil.za:8080/
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LET US BE RELEVANT

It is the festive seasons again, the time to give and the time to share. South Africans are just about to plan and decide which home, orphanage or organisation to give to, I plead with you to be relevant.

I have been to a lot of different places where fellow South Africans are being cared for. Our societies have been helping out by donating clothes and food parcels (snacks), especially during the festive seasons. The heart of giving that is within us was born and bread by our culture of Ubuntu. Most Africans have lived together in the same household with aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. Although we cannot all adopt orphans or the elderly to come and live in our homes, we can still reach out to them during times such as the festive season. My plea to all the caring, concerned, involved and giving members of different government departments, NGOs, the SANDF and individuals is that let us be relevant during this season.

The elderly at old age homes, women at houses of safety and children at orphanages have needs that span more than just for clothes and snacks. They bath and therefore they need toiletries. They wash their clothes and therefore they need washing detergents, irons and ironing boards.

I request that since we will all be planning for the festive season, may we also be relevant. May this also apply to our own households, may we spend money on relevant matters and prepare for January 2008 in time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Maj Ditebogo Mashigo, SA Army Office

THE BRAVES OF LOHATLHA GONE LIKE A LEAF IN THE WIND

This poem is dedicated to our Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members who died at Lohatlha during a training exercise.

alas you’re gone
but your beauty
lives on
braves of lohatlha
that fateful day

alas
you’re gone
like a leaf in the autumn wind
your memory however
will tower in the minds of all
for now and forever

alas you’re gone
mothers grieving
fathers in mourning
sisters and brothers
pondering
gone like a leaf

in the summer breeze
yet
your memory lives on
in our hearts in our minds
for now and forever

alas you’re gone
like a leaf in the wind
on that fateful day
when that machine
spat death
in all directions
tearing apart

gone like a leaf in the wind
heroes and heroines
never die
you are gone in the flesh
in our hearts
in our minds
friends and family alike
compatriots and colleagues
we salute you
braves sons and daughters
of the soil
gone like a leaf in the wind
we salute you
south africa salutes you
gone like a leaf in the wind.

Belinda Martin

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

The Defence Attaché Office, Pretoria, was shocked to hear of the tragic accident on Friday 12 October 2007 at the SA Army Training Centre in Lohatlha, which claimed the lives of nine South African National Defence Force soldiers, and injured 14, five of them seriously.

It is a tragedy not only for the South African National Defence Force, but even more so for the families of the victims to whom, on behalf of the German Federal Armed Forces, we herewith convey our deepest sympathy.

As the Department of Defence has already appointed a commission to discover the cause of this deplorable accident, the Defence Attaché Office would greatly appreciate being informed of the outcome in order to enable it to use the information to help avoid similar accidents within the German Federal Armed Forces.

Capt (N) H-Uwe Mergener,
Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Pretoria

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.
NA O HOPOLA KERESEMESE JWALO KA HA KE E HOPOLA?

Ke nako yane ya selemo moo bohle re thabang le ho keteka matswalo a Morena. Kgale ke sa le moshanyana e ne e re ha e le Keresemese, re ne re tla iketsa kgokanyana phiri le bana ba motse mangona, ebe re tla kena ntlo le ntlwana re kopa dikuku le kgemere. Lelapa le leng le le leng le ne le baka dikuku tse ngata ka ho tseba hore bana ba tlo tla ba kopa dikuku. Re ne re se na tshabo ya ho kena ke re le lelapeng leo ntate wa teng e neng e le tau ka bohale. Ka Keresemese, bohle ba ne ba thaba. Na ntho ya mofuta oo re sa e bona matswaling aha? Naha e jele boya, re se re tshaba le ha bana ba tswela ka ntle ho jarete, ka mohlolemo ba tloha ba tsosa diqabang le baahisane. Le ha ho le jwalo ke dumela hore re ka etsa ho hong selemong sena. Ho na le malapa a mangata a sa tsebeng hore na a tlo ja eng a nwe eng. Ho na le bana ba bangata ba sa tlo apara diaparo tse ntjha (jwalo ka ha e le tlwaelo dilemo tsena kaofela) ka Keresemese. Ke lakatsa ekare pelo ya hao e ka ba mosa. Ekare o ka ikgethela lelapa le tshwanang le ao ke boletseng ka ona mme wa ba mema bakeng sa dijo tsa motshehare ka Keresemese. Batla diaparo ka otoropong ya bana, ha e le hore ha o no kgona ho reka tse ntjha, e be o fa bana ba hlokang, hore le bona ba be batle ka Keresemese.

Se ke wa nahana ka moruo o hlveweng matsatsa wa re ntho di a turua. Nahana feela ka Keresemese le hore ke nako ya ho fana. Ntle le moo, letsoko le fang ke letsoho le amohelang. Empa se bohlokwa hlokwe ka hore re filwe feela (Morena Jesu), jwale ke nako ya hore re fane feela (Ka lerato). Etsa hore Keresemese ya e mong e be e tla hopolela selemong sena. Lebohang Mathibela, Mosebeletsi wa tsa Puo MOD DHQ Unit

DO YOU REMEMBER CHRISTMAS LIKE I DO?

It is that time of the year again, where everyone enjoys and celebrates the birth of Christ. When I was still a boy I remember we used to come together as the children of the township and knock at every door in the township asking for cakes and ginger drink. Each household used to bake enough knowing that the children would come and ask for cakes. We did not fear knocking at the door of a man no matter how fierce like a lion he looked. Everybody was elated during Christmas. Do we see this happening now of late? Things have changed; we are even scared to let our children out of the yard, lest they get into trouble with the neighbours. Nonetheless I believe we can do something this year. There are many families that do not know what they will eat or drink. There are children who will not be wearing new clothes (as it has been the tradition over the years) on Christmas. I hope you find it in your heart to reach out. I hope you identify one such family and invite them over for lunch on Christmas. I hope you find clothes from your children’s wardrobe, if you cannot afford to buy new ones, and give to those children that cannot afford, so that they too can look smart on Christmas.

Do not think of the cost of living and say that it is too high. Only think of Christmas as the time for giving. Besides the hand that gives, is the hand that receives. But most importantly we have been freely given (Christ), now let us freely give (Love). Make someone’s Christmas a memorable one this year. Lebohang Mathibela, Language Practitioner MOD DHQ Unit

* AMEN - Ed.

SOME BROKEN HEARTS NEVER MEND

Broken hearts and tear filled eyes were the emotions displayed when our most loyal member retired, Col E. Jansen van Rensburg, Officer Commanding Area Military Health Unit Limpopo. He started working a long time ago with the people of Limpopo as the “father of ethics”. He is a well-known leader with the ability to articulate his aspirations.

His friendship with the staff officers, PSAP, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and the community, all of whom have shown him great support and love over the years will always be part of his special memories.

He said he will remember the NCOs often, and remember the jokes they shared. He also said that in order to have a happy career one had to be hardworking, loyal and honest.

We wish him the best of everything for the future with these words: Go and face the world, give it your best shot. Don’t let your hopes go by. Your life is in your hands.

Colonel, when days are dark friends are there. You were there for us through the years. I salute you. Sgt N.S. Monyamane, AMHU Limpopo

A BIG "DISABILITY" THANK YOU

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management, Disability Equity Section would like to thank all DOD units for their support in making a difference in the lives of children with disabilities by adopting schools for children with disabilities in their various Provinces and areas.

A heartfelt thank you is also extended to everybody in the DOD who participated in the Casual Day fundraising campaign and thereby positively contributing to the lives of persons with disabilities in South Africa.

Last year the DOD raised an amount of R162 000 and this year we raised R206 181. We are very grateful for your continuous support for people with disabilities. This shows that the Department cares not only for the country, but for the communities as well.

We thank you all for making Casual Day 2007 a huge success. Ms R.A. Habela, Ass Dir Disability Equity

DECEMBER 2007 • SA SOLDIER
I would like to say thank you to the SANDF higher echelons, especially the Chaplain General, for authorising SA Military Christian Fellowship (SAMCF) to operate as a Christian movement or fellowship, ie the coming together of people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

I would like also to thank God for Capt P.J. Louwrens, National Executive Director of SAMCF, for his commitment and dedication in uniting SANDF Christians. Jesus Christ is the answer to every problem.

Capt Louwrens, you remind me of the Bible, as it is in the heart of God that supplications, prayers, intercessions and the giving of thanks can be made for all men, for kings and all those in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men - the man Jesus Christ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified to in due time. 1st Timothy 2:1-6.

Capt Louwrens you are a champion, a person of great determination. I thank you for your habit of holiness. I pray that whenever you open your mouth, God will give you the words of wisdom so that you can fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel.

I pray that the SAMCF will produce quality soldiers who will say: “When we view the beauty of Jesus’ holiness, we hate even the garment tainted by sin”. We will be protecting South Africa under the anointing of the Holy Spirit: a God-fearing SANDF. God will come back to our families. These hopes will become a reality and then South Africa will be able to proclaim that it was right that Capt Louwrens dreamt and toiled to give life to a workable dream.

Salvation is a joy unspeakable and it is full of glory. We will be joyful people in a joyless society. Champions like Capt Louwrens are not made in stadia; they are made from something deep inside of them: a desire, dream and vision. I thank God for what you have - the last minute stamina. You are an unstoppable force. The greatest quality of a Christian is that of becoming unstoppable. You become unstoppable by refusing to quit, no matter what happens. Fire from Heaven will come down. We will also be keeping peace externally under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We will be entering Burundi and other countries under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Sgt Z. Nkosayixakwa Ntho, AFB Durban.

I started working for the SA Navy in Simon’s Town in October 1988. I had to sign a Code of Conduct as an employee. Romans 13 vs 1 reads: “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists what God has appointed, and those who resist, will incur judgement.”

I have the need to thank firstly God in Heaven for His Word and for placing some people in the SANDF, DAP and PSAP on my path of life that have caused a significant positive change in me. To do this you need to know why and what happened in my life.

I am a coloured woman who was raised by loving parents, but I was sexually abused (not raped) by someone very close to me when I was eight years old. I did not know what sex was, but knew that what was happening to me was wrong. My mother was and is a God-fearing woman who spends a lot of time on her knees in prayer. I had four brothers. My youngest brother went to the SA Army in 1984 voluntarily. He was inspired by two older friends who were also our family friends. One of these friends is Col Delmond Delcarme. My brother was a chef and was respected by his peers and senior officers because of his conduct.

In 1985 my older brother joined the SA Army (Infantry). None of my brothers were gangsters or violent people in our community. My youngest brother was murdered in October 1986 and had a full military funeral. My eldest brother was murdered in January 1980 and another in February 2001. My father died brutally in 1997 and one of my brothers was accused because he was the first on the premises. Later, in 2001, he was proved innocent.

These are some of the tragedies, trials and tribulations we as a family went through and are similar to those of many other people. Irrespective of race and culture, we share similar tragedies. We can to some extent relate to one another’s pain. I hated this world and many times I wanted to die. I never used to like greeting people, because they might ask me: How are you? I did not want people to know my business.

In the 1990s I accepted Jesus into my life after almost 12 years of so many trials and tribulations. My life started changing when God by His Power placed some marvellous people on my path for the good of His Glory. In the book of Jeremiah 1 vs 5 – God said: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you". Jeremiah 29 vs 11 - "I know the plans for your life not to bring evil upon you but to prosper you.”

The following people need to keep on doing what they do best because so many people are receiving from them, more than what they think they do. They might sometimes feel their efforts are no good, but today I want to encourage them to keep going:

Thank you R Adm (JG) K. Louw for your humbleness and for interacting with members of lower ranks and levels under your command and for your charity, always having a smile when I see you, greeting back when you are greeted. Your seniority did not make you big-headed. This behaviour has taught me to stay friendly and helpful. I started as a cleaner and prospered to become a Senior Admin Clerk. Your instruction is always clear and your guidance and discipline, rules and regulations are fair. I will respect this for as long as I am a PSAP in the SA Navy.

Thank you R Adm (JG) K. Litchfield-Tshabalala for your efforts to enrich women across racial and religious barriers. It was when I travelled the first time in a luxury bus that had a TV and air-conditioning that I heard the true story of W01 V.P. Mabasa and saw her bravery at the one-day women’s conference held at the Wynberg Military Sports Complex in 2006. We all held hands weeping and feeling one another’s pain. I have been trying to live

THANK YOU FOR SA MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

INSPIRATION FOR ALL

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I was watching TV when I saw leaders debating about how to combat poverty in our communities. It was then when something ignited in me; it was a question: “What is real poverty?” It is an absence of memory: if you cannot remember where you come from, you will never appreciate what you have today. Then you are poor if you cannot remember your roots.

I would like to state the following: I was born in Upington on 25 February 1967. I turned 40 on 25 February 2007. I left my place of birth when I was 6 years old. In December 2006 for the first time I went to visit my birthplace with my wife and kids. Approaching the Orange River I stopped a few metres from the bridge. I went and stood on that bridge looking across the Orange River and recalled a time of heartache and pain when a vehicle killed my beloved Grandfather when I was only five years old.

And the memory came back to me of what happened that specific day. It was in the morning when my Grandpa went to collect his pension. We had a place where we usually met and where he would bring two champion sweets for me. That particular day I waited as usual, but he did not turn up. I went back home after waiting for hours in the hot Upington sun. When I arrived at home I saw his bicycle lying outside. It was a total wreck covered with blood. I could hear the screams from outside the house. I went inside only to find everyone crying. I went outside and sat next to the bicycle when my mother came and held me by the hand and explained what had happened. I went there knowing that I would never see him again.

My Grandfather was a very hard worker and he would always tell me to appreciate the little things in life, for those were the things that would make you rich; and when you are up there don’t forget where you come from. “For what I have today has been motivated by my memories of where I come from - it was not easy” he said. These where the words that motivated me 35 years later and made me what I am today.

People will never know who you are until you start caring for them. When I see a poor person I see love and destiny, but when I see a barefoot child I am reminded of where I come from and where I am today. To all our people coming from rural areas, don’t be satisfied about where you are today and forget where you come from, if so then you are poor. If there is still one Voortrekkers alive and he looks at the Drakensberg, it will remind him of the ox wagons and suffering - then he will cry.

Real poverty is the absence of memory. If you cannot remember where you come from, then you are poor. I want to quote from the Bible in the Book of Proverbs: “Many are the fruits in the fallow ground, but injustice sweeps it all away”. Africa is a typical example, such a rich and beautiful country, but because of injustice it cannot be developed. Everyone’s riches are just a memory away. Remember where you come from, then you are rich. Cpl Fanie Swartz, Fire Department Infantry School, Oudtshoorn.

WHAT IS REAL POVERTY?

What is real poverty? It is an absence of memory: if you cannot remember where you come from, you will never appreciate what you have today. Then you are poor if you cannot remember your roots.

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I was watching TV when I saw leaders debating about how to combat poverty in our communities. It was then when something ignited in me; it was a question: “What is real poverty?” It is an absence of memory: if you cannot remember where you come from, you will never appreciate what you have today. Then you are poor if you cannot remember your roots.

I would like to state the following: I was born in Upington on 25 February 1967. I turned 40 on 25 February 2007. I left my place of birth when I was 6 years old. In December 2006 for the first time I went to visit my birthplace with my wife and kids. Approaching the Orange River I stopped a few metres from the bridge. I went and stood on that bridge looking across the Orange River and recalled a time of heartache and pain when a vehicle killed my beloved Grandfather when I was only five years old.

And the memory came back to me of what happened that specific day. It was in the morning when my Grandpa went to collect his pension. We had a place where we usually met and where he would bring two champion sweets for me. That particular day I waited as usual, but he did not turn up. I went back home after waiting for hours in the hot Upington sun. When I arrived at home I saw his bicycle lying outside. It was a total wreck covered with blood. I could hear the screams from outside the house. I went inside only to find everyone crying. I went outside and sat next to the bicycle when my mother came and held me by the hand and explained what had happened. I went there knowing that I would never see him again.

My Grandfather was a very hard worker and he would always tell me to appreciate the little things in life, for those were the things that would make you rich; and when you are up there don’t forget where you come from. “For what I have today has been motivated by my memories of where I come from - it was not easy” he said. These where the words that motivated me 35 years later and made me what I am today.

People will never know who you are until you start caring for them. When I see a poor person I see love and destiny, but when I see a barefoot child I am reminded of where I come from and where I am today. To all our people coming from rural areas, don’t be satisfied about where you are today and forget where you come from, if so then you are poor. If there is still one Voortrekkers alive and he looks at the Drakensberg, it will remind him of the ox wagons and suffering - then he will cry.

Real poverty is the absence of memory. If you cannot remember where you come from, then you are poor. I want to quote from the Bible in the Book of Proverbs: “Many are the fruits in the fallow ground, but injustice sweeps it all away”. Africa is a typical example, such a rich and beautiful country, but because of injustice it cannot be developed. Everyone’s riches are just a memory away. Remember where you come from, then you are rich. Cpl Fanie Swartz, Fire Department Infantry School, Oudtshoorn.
It was on 18 May 2007 when we arrived at the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on a peacekeeping mission. For the first time in a foreign country hearing a foreign language, I asked myself how will I cope with this kind of situation?

The answer was simple. I am an African visiting an African country; meaning one way or another we (South Africans and Congolese) have something in common. Even though some of us struggled in the beginning to communicate, it didn’t surprise me when I could hear and speak their language, because I’m an African speaking an African language.

I was so proud to see how South Africans communicate and integrate with the local population. To all South Africans deploying at various countries, keep up the good work by maintaining discipline and assisting those who are in need of help.

Looking at the various countries which our soldiers had deployed before, ie the Comoros which held their elections in 2006, Mozambique which was flooded which the SANDF have provided a helping hand.

Looking at the Sudan, the DRC, and Burundi are currently settling down to maintain peace in their countries courtesy to the SANDF.

To the SANDF, keep up the good work by deploying and supporting peace to the countries in need. Cpl Mokgaetji Justice Sedibana, Bakone

Deployment in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The RSA Battalion (15 SA Infantry Battalion) was deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from May to November 2007. We relieved 4 SA Infantry Battalion after the completion of their term of duty. As proud South Africans we once again confidently continued to contribute to bringing everlasting peace to the Congo as peacekeepers.

The RSA Battalion, under the leadership of Lt Col K.J. Raselomane, was being utilised as the Divisional reserve of North Kivu Brigade.

It was an honour and a learning experience to work with members of other countries, such as India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh. We were all one family with different cultures, languages and moral values striving shoulder to shoulder, confident in one another’s faith, trust and commitment.

As D Company we were responsible for providing guards to protect Mavivi airport and to do joint patrols with the Indian Battalion in our area of responsibility. About 90% of D Company consisted of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members serving our country with dedication.

We strive to make a difference to the lives of the people in the DRC and to win the hearts and minds of the Congolese. We shall continue to serve the United Nations and our country with pride and as professional soldiers.

Capt Leon Daniels, D Coy 2IC, Mavivi Base (Beni), DRC
The angel of peace

I live my life as an extraordinary person among ordinary people. I stand out from the others because my heart is wiser than the big blue sky above us.

It gives me a good reason for leaving knowing that I always lend a helping hand to those who are in need.

Even though I find myself in a country where my survival is not guaranteed, I still feel blessed and it brings joy to my heart knowing that my presence brings a smile, joy and hope for the future to the citizens of this wonderful country.

Leaving my loved ones back at home wasn’t easy, but it’s worth it, knowing that I am here to make a difference to the lives of those affected with the importance of this work, especially woman and children.

My presence gives the light of hope to those upon whom the black cloud has fallen. I am the light of hope for the future to the disadvantaged people and it gives me courage and strength to take each day with pride.

I feel honoured to be part of the family that puts the needs of others first. And I feel grateful to be part of this family that looks after its members with love and respect.

It gives me pride to know that my

on page 12
CIMIC excellent delivery in the Sudan

CIMIC cell deployed in the Sudan (Darfur) Sector 1 ZamZam under United Nations Light Support Package had a successful programme presented under the umbrella of the International Alliance "The Youth Game on Sports Programme" (based in the USA) over the period 26 to 30 August 2007 at the Teachers' Institute/College North Darfur. The facilitators were Maj Victor Nxumalo from Joint Tactical HQ Gauteng (currently deployed in the Sudan, Darfur) and Maj Chileshe from Zambia.

The five-day course was attended by 34 teachers representing 32 schools around the Sudan Darfur Region. There was a massive gender representativeness of both men and women. The main aim of the programme was to present the philosophy and methods of coaching and teaching children in play and sport. Though the United Nations (UN) definition of a child is any person below 18 years, the focus in this approach was made towards persons under the age of 14 years.

The Mission Statement was to provide extensive and various activities for children in order to enjoy participation, have fun and create a base for their future development in sport. The development plan, the role of a coach, injuries and accidents, planning and conducting a training session were among the subjects that were covered during the course. The First Aid lecture was presented by Sgt E.T. Zulu (1 Military Ambulance).

After five meetings with the local authorities the team got the go ahead to present the course. Later a number of directors from the Department of Education North Darfur were involved and the initiative was given a go ahead. At the end of the course the participants were awarded the certificates of participation by the Minister of Education North Darfur. Both AMIS and the UN Light Support Package received thumps up after the successful event. Such activities were already conducted in one of the sectors - Shangil Tobaya.

Plans are in progress for the next course to be presented in other areas within the area of responsibility (AoR). Some of the Sudanese authorities and teachers community were really surprised to see soldiers exchanging their knowledge and sporting skills with them. They promised that what they have learned during the course will be instilled to the ground level.

Maj Victor Nxumalo, Staff Officer Liaison Darfur, Zam Zam

input here will give the people of the Congo hope that tomorrow will be a brighter day than yesterday.

At the end of the day I'll wake up as a better person knowing that I have put my effort and energy into helping others. Indeed I will have fought for a better life for all, because I am who I am, the angel of peace. I am proud to be a soldier.

Rfn V.W. Sono, D Coy 15 SAI Bn, Mavivi Base, Beni, DRC

The course was attended by 34 teachers representing 32 schools around the Sudan Darfur Region. The facilitators were Maj Victor Nxumalo (black T-shirt) and Maj Chileshe from Zambia (red tracksuit top).

Maj Victor Nxumalo (black T-shirt and black tracksuit pants) presenting "The Youth Game on Sports Programme" to the teachers representing 32 schools around the Sudan Darfur Region.
Christmas … God's call for reconciliation

By Rev Marius Cornelissen, Chaplain General SANDF

John 1:14 and 2 Cor 5:19. The Word became a human being and full of grace and truth lived amongst us … All of this was done by God, who through Christ reconciled us with Him and gave us the task to reconcile with one another …

What a wonderful country we live in. A country of beauty. A country full of opportunities. A country that has the amassing privilege of sharing with others, the wonder and miracle of reconciliation and healing.

Against this backdrop and the wonder of Christmas I would like you to reflect on what happened to you as an individual and to us as a Department over the past year, but I also want to remind, encourage and challenge you to recognise from the above scripture the following:

- that God, as our Heavenly Father, has made us all to be His people. In doing this God has made us the top of His creation, entrusting us with the responsibility to govern over all the universe. In this God did not leave us alone, but as our text is saying - through His Son Jesus Christ came to live amongst us in order to help, guide and protect us. Yes, we are His special people and therefore we are celebrating the special day of Christmas acknowledging God coming to us in a very special way.

- that in doing our duty by representing God on our continent, our country, the Department, our families and our communities, was not always easy. We as an organisation had to work through many challenges, amongst others the agony of losing members in deployment and in training. You as individuals had to manage your own pain, sorrow, sickness, family issues and other problems. Through all of this, the Scripture says God is Immanuel - God with us. With us to guide, heal, support, care and bless us. In this, like Psalm 37 says, He sometimes protected us against the storms of life and other times gave us the strength to handle the storm. Let us therefore at the end of the year be thankful to God for anything good and memorable that we have done and let us support one another.

- that we have a responsibility to represent God by living a life of high ethical and moral standards. God in Jesus set us an example of willing to serve, humbleness, respect others, honesty, and faithfulness. As individuals of this nation and Department we have the responsibility to do likewise. We need to be morally on the high ground. We need to do what is ethically right. We need to do to others as we would like them to do to us. We must live out the values of Ubuntu, taking care of and protecting one another. People must be able to trust us because we are honest, truthful, reliable, faithful and caring.

- that as individuals and as a country have the responsibility to reconcile, forgive and heal. This is for Christians, as our text indicates, the main message of Christmas - that God through His Son Jesus Christ came to reconcile us with Him and with one another. Enjoying our freedom, we as soldiers must not only ensure peace on our continent and continue doing the great work during deployments, but we must also ensure peace and reconciliation in all our relationships. Yes, as husband and wife, as parents with our children and children with their parents, as family members and friends, as people of different backgrounds working together and living together in our beautiful country - we all have the obligation to reconcile, to forgive and to heal one another. Paul Briscoe once said: "Forgiveness can’t change the past, but it can change the future.”

Let us all use this festive season, to the example of God, to reconcile and heal one another, changing our future.

My prayer is that each one of you will experience God’s blessings over the Christmas period and the New Year lying ahead.
Giving back to our deployed soldiers’ families

Not only will our deployed members receive Goodwill Parcels this year, but for the first time in the history of the SA National Defence Force their families will also have something to cheer them up over Christmas in the absence of their loved ones. This is thanks to the Spouses Forum that initiated something special for the families who remained behind, while their loved ones were away from home.

On 15 November 2007 the parcels were packed at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane. According to the plan all the parcels must reach the families of the deployed soldiers before 14 December 2007. In that same week the Goodwill Parcels will also be given to our deployed members in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and central Africa.

Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the Spouses Forum (wife of the Chief of the SANDF), also came to witness the packaging ritual. “The Spouses Forum realised that there was a need to do something for the families who remained behind. It was not an easy task, but we managed to pull it off,” said Mrs Ngwenya. She thanked Massmart and all the sponsors for the contributions they made. She also cautioned the sponsors that they had started something that they should sustain. (Massmart got other sponsors to join hands in this worthy course.)

On 20 November at 10 Air Depot these parcels were handed over to the various Sergeant Majors of the Services and Divisions to deliver them to the appropriate units (the deployed members’ home units) for distribution to the families concerned.

On this occasion Mr Graham Rebello, Executive of Massmart Channel, said: "We were approached by Mrs Ngwenya who requested us to come on board regarding their initiative, and we did not hesitate as it goes towards a good cause". Mr Rebello also promised to try and get more sponsors for this project next year.

Mr Konrad Boing, Accounts Manager of Premier Foods, said they were happy to assist wherever they could and they would like to continue with this project in the future. "We respect the role the SANDF plays, therefore we are committed to making our relationship grow," he said.

Finally, Mrs Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of the SA Army, said: "The Spouses Forum would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions: Colgate Palmolive, National Brands, Unilever Food, Tongaat-Hulett and Premier Foods".
Sowing shades of peace

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A tree planting ceremony took place in front of the Joint Operations Divisional HQ at Swartkop Park on 8 November 2007. The sponsors of the Goodwill Parcels Project symbolically showed their gratitude and appreciation towards the SANDF by planting a tree on its premises. Brig Gen Sakkie Hurd (Ret), ABSA Regional Manager, presented a tree to Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Operations.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Brig Gen Hurd said that the tree symbolised growth and development between the sponsors and the SANDF regarding the goodwill visits over the past few years and the years to come. He added: "The SANDF is creating peace in Africa, so that in years to come our brothers and sisters in Africa will be able to live in peace and sit in the shade of peace planted many years ago."

Brig Gen Sakkie Hurd (Ret), ABSA Regional Manager (right), presents Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Operations, with a tree, while the sponsors of the Goodwill Parcels Project look on.

International Families Day

By Miempie Louw, wife of the Air Adviser and Dep Def Adviser for SA in the UK

The SANDF students attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course 11 in the United Kingdom drew a lot of attention to the South African stall with their innovative way of showcasing South African customs and traditions during International Families Day held at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham on 17 November 2007.

The biltong, droë wors, lamb on the spit, boerewors, roosterkoek and jam, and South African wines and beer proved to be very popular with the more than 2 000 guests from all over the world that attended the event. Mr Sidney Ledimo from Armscor, who is a Masters student at Cranfield University, and Lt Col Doyle's family, ably assisted Cdr Maria Clulee and Lt Col Andrew Doyle.

Promotional material provided by Satour and the Department of Trade and Industry were also displayed and distributed.

Fltr: Mr Sydney Ledimo, Cdr Maria Clulee and Lt Col Andrew Doyle flying the South African flag high during International Families Day.
Sound military relations and cooperation between allied countries are vitally important, particularly in the quest for global peace and security. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the governments of South Africa and Great Britain on defence co-operation took place at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 8 November 2007. Mr Paul Boateng, British High Commissioner to the RSA, and his delegation met with the South African delegation led by the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.

This was the second time that the MOU was involved in defence co-operation in an effort to maintain peace and stability in the respective countries and regions. Minister Lekota emphasised that the extension of the defence co-operation between the two allies would not only strengthen co-operation on defence matters, but would ensure that the forces of the two countries worked together in peace operations. He also pointed out that the state of security co-operation on the African continent was of particular importance to South Africa.

Mr Boateng said that upholding defence co-operation and establishing relations between SA and the UK was a confidence building measure that extended the bond of friendship. He highlighted the role currently played by South Africa in creating peace in Africa.

The SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, giving his opening remarks at the conference.

A great African thinker, visionary and philosopher Kwame Nkrumah, once stated the African dream that Africa must unite and through unity Africa could challenge the global disparities of power by “pooling” together the resources of the economically weak and politically divided continent. "If African countries fail to unite, Africa will become subject to neo-colonialism and balkanisation.”

"We need to fast-track the process of synchronising the unity of our armed forces with an understanding that together, as Africans, we shall be able to achieve defence and security goals and safeguard our interests in the face of common threats." This was the message that the SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, conveyed to the delegates attending the First African Commandants’ Conference in Magaliesberg on 6 November 2007.

Officially declaring the four-day conference open, the Deputy Minister of Defence said that it was important for members to play a certain role to ensure that the maintenance of common standards across the continent was upheld for the purpose of a coherent continental force. "I have no doubt that by having learners from a number of fellow African countries exchanging knowledge and experience at our respective..."
war colleges we will go a long way to achieving this ideal,” he said.

In conclusion, he told the delegates that as leaders of military training institutions, it was appropriate that they started to explore the levels of their contribution to African security in the development and transformation of education and training within the military environment. “It was correct that you started to ask yourselves important questions on issues relating to benchmarking, curricular and academic accreditation to ensure that across Africa, all our forces posed a similar high level of training and defence capabilities,” said Mr George.

The host, Brig Gen William Nkonyeni, the Commandant of the SA National War College, welcomed the international delegates to South Africa. He emphasised the importance and relevance of the conference and its objectives to enhance harmonisation, interoperability, commonality, standardisation and the role African staff colleges can play in contributing to the common vision of African Unity.

The conference was unique, as it aimed at facilitating and harmonising cooperation between the African staff colleges and fostered a single approach to education, training and development to contribute positively to joint multinational operations, the African Standby Force and peace support operations. High-ranking officers and commandants of the various staff colleges of the defence forces of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Zambia attended the conference.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Brig Gen Nkonyeni said that in view of the transformation of the global security and bilateral relations with other African armed forces, opportunities for cooperation between our defence forces had increased considerably and today the SANDF was a major role player in peace support operations, along with other armed forces of our region. He added: “The benefit of such co-operations is to promote socio-economic upliftment and development of Africa and the need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of our development and create better humane living conditions for our people on our continent.”
Our Chief hosts Mozambican guests

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The friendship and camaraderie between the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Mozambican Defence Force (MDF) were given more momentum when the Chief of Staff of the MDF, Gen LagosHenriques Lidimu, paid a five-day visit to his counterpart, the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, from 8 to 12 October 2007.

A day after his arrival at Oliver Tambo International Airport, Gen Lidimu and his delegation of five top soldiers were treated to a morning grand parade by the National Ceremonial Guard at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. The parade was also attended by top SANDF soldiers, including generals of the four Services.

While paying a courtesy call to Gen Ngwenya in his office the same morning, Gen Lidimu paid tribute to the SANDF for its contribution and support to the people of Mozambique during the natural disasters that engulfed his country during the recent past.

“We are ever grateful for the assistance we receive from South Africa whenever we are confronted with natural disasters we are unable to control. Just two weeks ago, we had a warning of the Tsunami coming from Asia. Although we were scared about the possibility of a disaster of such magnitude, we were comforted by the trust that South Africa would come to our rescue in the event of such an eventualit,” said Gen Lidimu.

In response, Gen Ngwenya told his counterpart that the friendship between South Africa and Mozambique was born in the era of the liberation struggles, when their people each fought for their independence. “Today, we are two friendly families on each side of the bor-
The Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya (left), receiving a gift from the Chief of the Defence Staff/Air Marshal United Kingdom Armed Force, Sir Graham Eric Stirrup. (In the background is the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan.)

**Courtesy call from the UK**

*By Lebohang Letoaana*

*Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma*

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, held discussions with the Chief of the Defence Staff/Air Marshal United Kingdom Armed Force, Sir Graham Eric Stirrup, at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 16 October 2007. During this second visit of Sir Stirrup to South Africa, he was accompanied by his wife, Lady Mary Stirrup, Captain Thomas Dewolfe Hamlin Francis (aide de camp) and Group Captain Bruce Haakon Hendley (Deputy Principal Staff Officer).

During the discussions, Sir Stirrup asked Gen Ngwenya how the SANDF was coping with the workload of peacekeeping operations in the continent. "We are over stretched, but I must say that our soldiers are doing a great job. As you are aware there has been peace in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Comoros also had successful elections where our soldiers were involved," Gen Ngwenya answered.

They both spoke about the conflicts in the continent and the ageing equipment that the SA Army is still using. Gen Ngwenya said the latter would be addressed as they did with the SA Navy and the SA Air Force under the Defence Strategic Package.

Sir Stirrup also wanted to find out about the HIV and AIDS within the organisation. "We are doing our best to combat this epidemic, we also have programmes in place, such as Phidisa to make our members aware of this disease," said the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan.

Sir Stirrup said it was an enormous pleasure to visit South Africa again and Gen Ngwenya assured him that his door was always open.
All for charity

Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomthongwana

The reinstating of the Charity Prestige Ball in 2005, requested by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, was a true reflection of the need to interact with the defence associated industries. Previously the Charity Prestige Ball was organised by the Navy Ladies Association. The last event of this kind was held in 2003.

Today the charity is a huge non-profit organisation with more than 39 sponsors. More than 250 members of different industries, companies and "Friends of the SA Navy" arrived at Utopia Place in Wapadrand, Pretoria, on 20 October 2007 for the Charity Prestige Ball. Among other important issues addressed on that day were the achievements and future plans of the SA Navy, as well as appreciation to those who contributed towards the success of the SA Navy.

The Chief of the SA Navy was quite delighted with the resuscitation of this event. He said that coming together created unity enjoyed by old and new partnerships in the ever advancing era of military technology and human relations. "We look forward to further strengthening our relationships through efforts we should jointly explore," said V Adm Mudimu.

"It was evident that our industry had a major role to play in ensuring that the inventory of the SANDF was done by all the Services in the different parts of the continent and the world in support of the Government’s peace initiatives that promoted co-operation. He

Our Navy ends the year on a high note

Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomthongwana

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, hosted a Prestige Gala Evening at Unisa in Pretoria on 9 November 2007. The event was graced by the presence of the First Lady and Patron of SAS AMATOLA, Ms Zanele Mbeki.

The crowd was excited not only because they were enjoying the music of the SA Navy Band, but also because of the amusing Programme Director. Every time she stood up to say something the crowd was already laughing at the jokes she cracked. The person in question was none other than R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, Director Naval Transformation.

On a serious note, for the Chief of the SA Navy it was an opportunity to inform the people about the achievements and future projects and to thank those who supported the SA Navy through thick and thin. The evening was also a platform to strengthen existing friendships and to create new ones.

In his speech V Adm Mudimu acknowledged the sterling work being done by all the Services in the different parts of the continent and the world in support of the Government’s peace initiatives that promoted co-operation. He
By Helen White, Communication Manager of the Children’s Hospital Trust

The idea to build the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital goes back to World War II when a group of South African soldiers resolved that once they had returned home they would create a place of healing to honour their fallen comrades. The hospital was built in 1956 using funds provided by the South African Government, the Cape Town branch of the Red Cross Society and the World War II veterans who each donated a portion of their salary in honour of their fallen friends.

When ex-serviceman Francis Carbayly Mellish paid a special visit to the Red Cross Children’s Hospital, much had changed since the hospital was first built. “I was born in 1917 in Cape Town and joined the army in 1940. I was stationed in East Africa as a gunner before I was captured and placed in prisoner-of-war (POW) camps in Italy and Germany from 1943 to 1945. When I returned home I was delighted to see the hospital being built as a living memorial,” explains Francis.

Today, more than 50 years on, the Red Cross Children’s Hospital is a leader on the African continent in caring for the sickest children. The hospital’s tiny patients come from throughout South Africa, but also from countries beyond our borders. The majority of the 250 000 patients treated annually are from poor, marginalised communities and over half the patients are under a year old.

As the Red Cross Children’s Hospital is more than 50 years old, there will always be a need to maintain buildings, purchase new technology, continue research, train health care professionals and address the growing spectre of HIV/AIDS in children. 100% of all donations donated to the Children’s Hospital Trust, the fund-raising arm of the Red Cross Children’s Hospital, go directly to the hospital. Not a single cent is spent on administration costs and donations are tax deductible.

The Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital began with the legacy of a small group of compassionate soldiers like Francis. It should not end with them. Help their legacy grow and join the relentless war on the diseases of childhood by supporting the Children’s Hospital Trust.

The Children’s Hospital Trust
(021) 686 7860
www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za

also paid tribute to those who had lost their lives on our continent in trying to free it from instability, underdevelopment, hunger and disease. He added that South African prosperity would be meaningless unless it was linked to creating growth, development, peace and stability on the continent. The Admiral concluded by saying "Bravo" to the winning team - "Naval Staff" - serving the people of South Africa. He ended by quoting the Commander-in-Chief, President Thabo Mbeki, who said: "Let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work; fully understanding that the task to build the South Africa for which we yearn is a common responsibility we all share". The destiny and the hope of our people are in our hands and it will be what we individually and collectively make of it.
The country witnessed the biggest SANDF parade in honour of our “Angels of Mercy” on 2 November 2007. This parade was held in honour of the more than 7 000 SANDF members who answered the call of duty to preserve lives during the National Public Service Strike in June this year. Members of the military community and scores of local people gathered to celebrate the patriotic service of sons and daughters in uniform at the Pretoria Military Sports Grounds in Thaba Tshwane.

The parade was performed in the finest military precision by our soldiers - their immaculate and spectacular drill movements left one speechless.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, awarded symbolic medals to every rank group from Lieutenant General to Private (representatives of over 7 000 members of our Services who participated in Operation BATA) on parade in acknowledgement of their noble service rendered to our nation at the coalface during the strike to assist in the provision of essential services, allowing our public hospital services to continue, providing secure public facilities and creating a safe environment for patients and those who did not strike at various hospitals. [Every member who participated in Operation BATA will receive the Tshumelo Ikatelaho Medal (General Service Medal).]

This is testimony that our National Defence Force’s vision and mission are genuine and that the SANDF has been perfectly shaped to deal with its primary role and numerous other tasks assigned to it. Most significant is its
commitment to protecting our people and rendering service with a view to the preservation of life, health and property, the provision or maintenance of essential services, supporting any Government department in working for socio-economic upliftment and providing humanitarian assistance in times of disaster, search and rescue operations and rendering service in the defence of our Republic by protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Addressing the members on parade, Minister Lekota praised our "Angels of Mercy" for having worked hard and successfully under trying and difficult circumstances. He said that it was not surprising that the SANDF received praise not only from the leadership of this country, but also from all spheres: "While the core function of the SANDF is to defend the country, our soldiers are trained and expected to render humanitarian and other aid to communities where unexpected and unforeseen situations arise and their assistance is required. The doctors, nurses, dentists, engineers, pilots and many others we have in our midst ensure that our people are guaranteed access to those basic services necessary to ensure a better life for all," added Mr Lekota.

In conclusion, he said: "You performed your duties with zeal and dedication. You created hope and ensured that the most vulnerable sections of our society were afforded dignity and compassion. You ensured that the mothers of our nation were not only able to give birth, but that they did so in a safe and caring environment. You defended the constitutional rights of our people needing essential services. You gave your everything, risked your lives, gave up the personal comforts of family life, and endured the insults from backward elements of our society," concluded Mr Lekota.

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, in her complimentary address said that the respect the SANDF commands as "Angels of Mercy" in responding to the needs of the vulnerable people of our country by providing essential services in preserving lives ensured a better life for all. "The SANDF proactively shapes the future of our nation in accordance with the South African Constitution," said Minister Fraser-Moleketi proudly.

March past by SA Navy members.

Members of the SA Military Health Service walking tall at the parade.

Operation BATA medal recipients (representatives) in every rank group from Lieutenant General to Private.
Our soldiers ready to deploy to the Sudan

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tihaole

Our angels of peace are men and women in uniform who remain ready, faithful, true and unshaken in the noble cause of answering the call to duty.

On 26 October 2007 the rotation cycle mobilisation parade for the contingent to deploy for Operation CORDITE to the Sudan was held at the DOD Mobilisation Centre at De Brug, near Bloemfontein. The contingent, consisting of members of 7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn), a medical task team and an engineer squadron, was selected to deploy to the Sudan, under the auspices of

The contingent deploying to the Sudan on parade, led by Lt Col Khathutshelo Nethononda, Officer Commanding 7 SAI Bn (front).

Brig Gen John Church, Director Peace Support Operations (left), and Lt Col Khathutshelo Nethononda, Officer Commanding 7 SAI Bn, inspect the parade.
the African Union Mission (AMIS), for a period of six months.

Brig Gen John Church, Director Peace Support Operations from the Joint Operational HQ, acted as the chief functionary at the parade. Addressing our angels of peace he said: “The job you have to do may be tiring and even more frustrating than you can imagine. It will also be more satisfying and more rewarding than anything you can imagine. The job you do will make a difference to the people, it will change lives and it will save lives.”

In conclusion, he mentioned that every one of them would be leaving something precious behind and it was the same for every soldier who had left before them and it would be true for many after them.

SA Soldier caught up with an ambitious and enthusiastic woman, S Sgt Violet Poo from 7 SAI Bn, who was going to be the first woman Company Sergeant Major to be deployed to the Sudan. She was very passionate about her job and the role of women in deployment. She told SA Soldier that the Sudan was dominated by the Muslim culture where women wore long dresses and covered their faces. “As women combat soldiers we are prepared to face and overcome any challenges that we might come across. Women in deployment are faced with the challenges of rape, abduction and being targets for killings. As a Company Sergeant Major I will give support and help to build confidence among our members. It is going to be a challenge, but with the support of our male counterparts we will make it and fly the South African flag high as the angels of peace,” said S Sgt Poo positively.

S Sgt Violet Poo, the first woman Company Sergeant Major to be deployed to the Sudan, looking forward to her deployment.

Brig Gen John Church, Director Peace Support Operations, addressing members during the rotation cycle mobilisation parade at DOD Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein.
Remembrance Day in Cape Town

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

It was on 21 February 1917 that 616 members of the SA Native Labour Corps, 607 of them African men, lost their lives when their ship, SS Mendi, collided with the SS Darro in the English Channel. The Corps was en route to France to be part of the Allied Forces during World War I.

The occasion of the tragedy has in the past years been commemorated through a number of memorials in South Africa, Britain and France, as well as in the names of two SA Navy ships, the SAS ISAAC DYOBA (Rev Isaac Wauchope Dyoba, who cried words of encouragement to the dying men) and the SAS MENDI.

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan, has decided that the 90th Commemoration of the sinking of the SS Mendi and the national presentation of Armistice Day will be presented in Cape Town this year.

Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the SS Mendi tragedy

SA Soldier, along with the community of Cape Town, experienced a wonderful parade where our soldiers were symbolically marching to war from the Castle of Good Hope to the Grand Parade on 10 November 2007.

Addressing the audience, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, said: “It is therefore fitting that we, their children, their grandchildren and their great grandchildren still remember them and acknowledge their bravery. It is possible that very few, if any of their number, are still alive. However, their memory will forever remain with us and we shall forever celebrate their lives.” He added: “While it is appropriate to commemorate the heroes of the Mendi as we are doing today by song, dance and verse, I have no doubt that those who gave their lives in that calamity on 21 February 1917 would also feel proud if many among our youth would follow in their footsteps by serving a free and democratic South Africa as soldiers in one or other service of the SA National Defence Force.”

The occasion was also used to expose young talent from the Mother City that had the privilege of performing before cabinet ministers and other VIP dignitaries. Artists such as Claire Phillips and Ntando wowed the crowds with their beautiful sounds.

Next to speak was the Minister of Arts and Culture. Dr Jordan said: “We are here to honour and pay tribute to
Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund

In 1931 the International African Ministers Association invited other black organisations to join in a national committee to establish a Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund. Later a constitution was adopted, its primary objective being "To assist African children to obtain higher education within the Union of South Africa and abroad by means of scholarships and bursaries".

It was decided to use this money to provide bursaries to approved applicants studying for matriculation.

There are many funds that provide bursaries, mostly for post-matric students at tertiary institutions. Very few concentrate on learners at the formative level, as we do.

With our limited funds awards are made to learners in Grades 11 and 12, based on merit. These are spread throughout the country, especially in the rural areas where the need is very great. The current award is R500 per annum per learner. To date the Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund has already awarded more than 5 700 bursaries worth over R1 million to Black learners in Grade 11 and Grade 12. The present requirements are an aggregate of 60% or more, a certified copy of the Grade 10 report and a letter of recommendation from the school principal or a leader in the community.

The Fund does not assist anyone with his or her studies after matriculation and does not grant bursaries to learners in lower grades.

Entrants will be able to win a copy of the book 'Black Valour' by Norman Clothier, outlining the saga of the sinking of the troopship, SS Mendi, in which over 600 soldiers drowned. The book is on sale at the office for R60-00 and by mail order for R75-00.

Enquiries and application forms are available from the Mendi Memorial Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1936, Houghton, 2041; tel: (011) 486 4533 or fax: (011) 486 2855.
Remembrance Day in the Congo

By Lt Col Casparus Engelbrecht, Chief G3 (Operations), MONUC HQ Eastern Division, DRC

To mark the passing of the 89th Remembrance Day (11 November) during their tours of duty in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of the MONUC Eastern Division HQ the British contingent, consisting of three officers, organised an informative ceremony for all.

Representatives of 13 Commonwealth nations were present, making up 16 nations at the parade. The idea was to inform all the other countries about the tradition of Remembrance, how it came about, and why it is continued year on year within the Commonwealth.

A brief history of Remembrance Day was presented, including the origins of the wild red poppy as its adopted symbol. War poetry from World War I was used to focus the thoughts of those attending on the horrors of war.

The Malawi Company formed up on the square in time for the non-denominational Act of Remembrance led by the GOC Eastern Division, Maj Gen B. Singh, and the Chief of Staff Eastern Division, Col C.A. Newell OBE. The ceremony took the same form as the act of remembrance that was to be held two hours later in Whitehall, London. Addressing the parade, Maj Gen Singh said: "there can be no more noble cause than the salute to fallen comrades in this manner".

As the Last Post was played by the Malawian bugler, all heads dropped in quiet contemplation, a fitting memorial not just for those fallen in the service of their countries, but also for those whose names are inscribed upon the boards on either side of the main doors of the MONUC Division HQ in Kisangani.
Honouring the deceased
Italian Prisoners of War

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On Sunday, 4 November 2007, a commemoration service in honour of the fallen Italian prisoners of war (POW), who died in South Africa at Zonderwater POW Camp during World War II, was held at the Italian Military Cemetery at Zonderwater.

The wreath-laying ceremony was co-hosted by Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SA Air Force, and the Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator Franco Danieli.

During the solemn commemoration numerous wreaths were laid that bore eloquent testimony to the losses still felt by their fellow comrades in arms and those who were present. The SA Air Force Band also participated in the event.

In his address, Lt Gen Gagiano gave the historical background to the POWs and said that in February 1941, 66 years ago, Italian POWs began arriving in South Africa where the Zonderwater Camp had been established, 23 miles from Pretoria. He added that those POWs had been captured during the Somaliland and Ethiopian campaigns and thousands more were brought in from the campaigns in Egypt, Libya and Tripolitania during the years up to 1943.

"Zonderwater was the largest Allied POW camp in World War II. Around 9 000 of those prisoners were illiterate and among the greatest and most lasting achievements at Zonderwater was that before the camp was closed in February 1947, 9 000 prisoners had learned to read and write their mother tongue during their six years of confinement. Some 5 000 learned a trade before returning home and many were allowed to work outside the camp on neighbouring farms and building and construction sites, benefiting over 5 000 farmers who required cheap, but skilled labour," added Lt Gen Gagiano.

He said that from 1943 to 1945 Italian POWs were involved in the building of mountain passes, such as the Du Toit’s Kloof, Chapmann’s Peak, and the Orange River Water Scheme, as well as churches and schools. “Like Robben Island, Zonderwater symbolises the triumph of the human spirit under extremely difficult circumstances. During World War II, the skills of the Italian POWs were uniquely developed here.

Sixty-six years later during the working visit of the SA Deputy President, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, to Italy in September 2007, it was agreed that an SA/Italian task team should be formed. 

>> on page 30

Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SA Air Force (left), paying his respects at the solemn commemoration service.
to discuss concrete co-operation in skills development within the framework of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for SA (ASGISA) and the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA),” said Lt Gen Gagiano.

Next to speak was the President of the Zonderwater Block Ex-POW Association. Mr Emilio Coccia said: “Today we are celebrating the 66th anniversary of the opening of the cemetery; and we are also celebrating the end of World War I and the unification of Italy, after centuries of division and foreign domination. Today Italy is honouring the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Rome, and paying tribute to all those who gave the life for the country.

In the same spirit we are here, to remember the 437 Italians whose destiny it was never to see their families again and who were buried with honour in South Africa.

We are also remembering all soldiers who were standing on the same war fronts, but on opposing sides, giving their youth and their blood for their countries and for their beliefs. It is, and remains our moral duty to pay tribute to them, and to teach the new generations never to forget their supreme sacrifice. They have written history through their deeds and their lives and history must not be forgotten, and least of all be denied.

By Miempie Louw, wife of the Air Adviser and Dep Def Adviser for SA in the UK

The Defence Adviser’s Office in the United Kingdom participated in the annual “planting of the crosses” in the Field of Remembrance on the grounds of Westminster Abbey in London on 8 November 2007.

The Field of Remembrance is a tribute to those who have lost their lives in the service of their country. It contains thousands of wooden crosses, each bearing a scarlet poppy and grouped in 250 plots representing regiments, ships, corps and other organisations involved in conflicts from World War I to present day conflicts, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Hundreds of veterans, most of whom were elderly and wore war medals, gathered to place crosses in memory of their fallen comrades.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, this year officially opened the Field of Remembrance.

The Air Adviser and Deputy Defence Adviser for South Africa in the United Kingdom, Col Riaan Louw, arranged for crosses to be planted on behalf of all South Africans. The SA Air Force and other veteran organisations were present during the opening ceremony. In walking around the Field of Remembrance to view tributes and meet the veterans and serving military representatives, the Duke of Edinburgh pondered a while at the South African plot, enquiring about South Africa.

Members of the public had the opportunity to visit the Field of Remembrance until dusk on 15 November and could obtain and plant their own dedicated crosses. The donations from the purchase of the crosses go towards the British Legion’s Poppy Appeal which raises millions of pounds each year for welfare work among ex-service men and women.

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16 Days of Activism against women and children abuse

By Balosang Sanki Lerefolo, Dep Dir Strat & Coord GCIS

When reading newspapers daily, one is confronted with headlines screaming about the abuse of women and children. To eliminate the scourge and increase awareness of this issue, Government is again embarking on a 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign.

This annual United Nations endorsed awareness-raising campaign, which started on 25 November and ends to 10 December, forms part of the Government’s year-long, integrated and cross-sectoral drive to eliminate the abuse of women and children. It also contributes to the Government’s primary developmental objective of restoring individuals’ human dignity within the context of safer and more secure families and communities.

The objective of the campaign is to promote the National Action Plan to end violence against women and children, in partnership with other stakeholders. These include the justice, crime prevention and security cluster, social sector cluster, provincial and local government, women’s and youth organisations, traditional leaders, state-owned enterprises, faith-based organisations, the private/business sector, academics, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and the media.

It is hoped that the campaign will generate an increased level of awareness of how domestic violence against women and children manifests itself within South African society and the negative impact it has on these vulnerable groups.

On the other hand, the campaign aims to challenge perpetrators of such deplorable actions to change their behaviour, and also emphasises the need to enhance partnerships between Government, the private sector, all civil-society formations and other stakeholders in an effort to spread the message.

The 2007 campaign kicked off with the Million Men’s March (MMM) on 25 November in the Free State. The MMM is inspirational and seeks to mobilise men and boys for inclusion in the 16 Days of Activism campaign, and also to acknowledge that there are many men who are not perpetrators, but responsible partners. It is hoped that millions of men will be touched and that in the future millions of men and boys will participate in the march on 25 November.

It is of the utmost importance that the 16 Days of Activism campaign reaches people at grass-roots level and also permeates into the rural areas to make a direct and positive impact on the lives of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of our society. For the duration of the campaign, please wear a white ribbon and pledge your support at: www.postoffice.co.za and www.gov.za

Phantsi ngokuhlukuyezwa kwabafazi na bantwana, phantsi! (Away with the abuse of women and children!)
The ability of people with disabilities

By Ms Adele Snyman, Assistant Director Disability Equity

Why Employment ... Income ... Ability ... (EIA) Conference and not Disability Conference? The Disability Equity Section wanted to emphasise and focus on the abilities of people with disabilities and not on their disabilities. Through the conference the section wanted to demonstrate to delegates that when opportunities and reasonable accommodation are provided, people with disabilities can contribute valuable skills and abilities to every workplace, and contribute to the economy of our country.

Owing to their expertise in the disability field, the Association for People with Disabilities in Gauteng (APD) was requested to form a partnership with the Department of Defence (DOD) and to assist with the arrangements and presentation of the conference. The aim of the conference was to benchmark.

The conference was held on 28 September 2007 at the Service Corps Centre for Advance Training, selected because of accessibility and tranquility of the unit. Conference delegates were welcomed with an amazing display of arts and crafts, as well as other items made by people with disabilities in Pretoria.

Mr Bennie Palime, from the Office on the Status of People with Disabilities in the Presidency, welcomed the guests and opened the conference. Part of the opening ceremony was the performance by the Teruah Choir from the Prinshof School for the Blind, who dazzled everyone with their amazing and talented voices.

The guest speakers were of very high standard and kept the audience captivated. Conference delegates were enlightened with regard to the following aspects pertaining to people with disabilities: legal aspects guiding employment, the current situation regarding employment, reasonable accommodation in the workplace, challenges experienced with regard to the employment of people with disabilities, some employment success stories and some best employment practices in this regard. During small group discussions delegates were given the opportunity to deliberate possible solutions for education, skills development, learnerships, screening and placement and the after placement career planning for people with disabilities.

Dr Hans Myburgh, a paraplegic and orthopedic surgeon from the Eugene Marais Hospital, inspired everyone with his life story. He truly demonstrated the ability and the value of employment for people with disabilities.

Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, GOC Training Command, did the closure at this very insightful and eye-opening conference. The conference was concluded with a cocktail function where delegates were granted the opportunity to network.

The conference truly demonstrated the ability of people with disabilities and provided amazing insight into their world, as well as the importance and advantages of employing them. It demonstrated to everyone that being disabled does not imply inability to work.
Sniper, a.k.a. Andile Cele, is a rhyming Hip-Hop artist who is a soldier by profession (SANDF). Born to Sweat is his debut Hip-Hop album that consists of 15 hot, hot tracks. He took a break from the Army to come realise his dream of being a hot rapper and taking his throne as the King of Hip-Hop. In this album Sniper shares his experiences as a UN soldier in other Africa’s war torn countries, such as Burundi and others. He also pays tribute to all those soldiers who dedicate their lives to maintaining peace throughout Africa (Track 13). He further talks about his tough life growing up in KwaMashu Township and hassling for recording deals as an aspiring rapper (Track 5).

This album was produced by South Africa’s highly acclaimed music producers, which include, among others, Mqobi Mdabe and Zakhele (Zakes) Madida. Both guys are credited for producing L’vovo Derango, SHANA and a whole lot of other SA’s big names. Sniper has recently finished filming his music video which is due to show on SA television very soon. Sniper has the following to say to his colleagues in the Army “To all my colleagues and friends who have been constantly phoning me, asking when is Sniper coming out and giving me messages of support - I say now is the time - go out there and grab yourselves a copy of Sniper. This album will be taking South Africa and Africa by storm and taking Hip-Hop music to greater heights”.

For orders/bookings and CD distribution opportunities please call (031) 304 2757 or 076 8333 848 or email: attention@masinothe.co.za

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...our lives are in your hands...
The launch of the Military Police Division takes our memories back to prior April 1999, when our Military Police had three different Military Police structures consisting of the SA Army Corps of Military Police, the SA Air Force Police and the SA Naval Police.

1 April 1999 went down as one of the most significant days in the history of the Military Police structures. It was the day on which tremendous change and the rebirth of the Military Police Agency (MPA) took place. Thus amalgamating the former Military Police structures and accommodating members from all the Services in one structure. The appointment of Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba as the Chief of the MPA meant that changes in the MPA were eminent and irreversible.

Today the Military Police Division has a noble tradition and distinctive culture that unites its members in one formidable division, which enjoys legitimacy among the military community and other State departments and law enforcement agencies. The Division performs various functions varying from traffic control for military convoys, handling and safe custody of prisoners of war, gathering police information and intelligence to the prevention and investigation of crime. The Military Police are combat soldiers, police officials, prison warders and traffic officers all in one division. They also perform other functions, eg law and order operations, maneuver and mobility support operations, area security operations and Police intelligence operations.

Medal parade

"Glory comes from daring to do what should be done with loyalty and zest. Some of you dared to start your careers 30, 20 and 10 years ago, and you have done a remarkable job. I am highly pleased with the work that you are doing, not only in the Military Police Division, but in the Department of Defence (DOD) and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) as well as for the country and its citizens." These were sentiments echoed by the Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, as he congratulated the medal recipients during the annual Military Police Division medal parade held at the Pretoria Military Sports Club.

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, delivering his keynote address at the medal parade of the Military Police Division in Thaba Tshwane.
Hall in Thaba Tshwana on 9 October 2007.

Addressing the indoor gathering, Brig Gen Ledwaba said that recognising diligent service, patriotism, sustained effort and sacrifice deserved more than the word "thank you". He stressed the values of where the culmination and results of the Division members' persistence and purposeful efforts and good deeds in the transformation process in order to manage a very dynamic and continuously changing environment.

Brig Gen Ledwaba said that medals were precious symbols of victory, bravery, commemoration of specific events, good and loyal service. He proudly conveyed a congratulatory message to the recipients and said: "You have proven yourselves to be worthy recipients. Your exceptional capabilities have been noted and today you are recognised for your outstanding achievements. Every medal is unique and tells its own story of loyalty, bravery, unity, and service, and grants its bearer recognition and pride for devotion beyond the ordinary demands of duty".

Talking to the Provost Marshal General, he said that complimenting people when they do something well, and criticising constructively when they do something wrong was the right thing to do. "The annual medal parade and prestige sports events show that we are mindful of the responsibilities of our members in different parts of our country, in peace support missions around the continent. Some perform their tasks in uncomfortable situations and this is a token of appreciation and gratitude for loyal and meritorious service rendered," said Brig Gen Ledwaba. To conclude, he uttered the following words of wisdom: "Privilege comes with responsibility, getting something done is an accomplishment and doing something well is a great achievement".

SA Soldier also conversed with the Regional Provost Marshal Northern Military Police Region, Col Justice Macanda, who mentioned that medal parades and prestige events serve as a motivation for members to go that extra mile and strive to do better. "It does not matter what one's rank is, but recognition and acknowledgement for a job well done is something that all of us want. If one does not make the effort at work today, no one will recognise or notice and it will not make a difference. If you work hard, you'll enjoy the fruits of your toil," said Col Macanda.

**Prestige event**

The medal parade coincided with the annual Military Police Division prestige event which took place at AFB Hoedspruit in Limpopo Province where members of the four Military Police regions in the rank groups Privates to Majors competed against each other in various sporting activities, in both team and individual categories.

The results of the prestige events team competition were as follows: Northern MP Region won the soccer, Central MP Region won the netball, Northern MP Region won the best adventure sport and Southern MP Region won both the 7's rugby and the volleyball. Individual competition members had to write a theoretical exam, complete a physical test that included a battery test, 4 km walk and 2,4 km run and participate in a 9 mm shooting exercise. The awards were conferred in various categories of team and individual competition.

Maj R. Franken from the TITANS (a combined team from the MPA HQ, MP School and 13 Provost Company) was the recipient of the following awards: Best Major in the MP Division, best shotstist, fittest member, best academic individual and overall best MP official. S Sgt T. Kwezi from Western MP Region was the winner in the duathlon. The best overall MP structure was Southern and Northern MP Region. The best Captain was Capt W. van Eeden (Central MP Region), while WO2 J.L. Mkwenza (Northern MP Region) was chosen as the best Warrant Officer. The best Staff Sergeant was S Sgt A.R. Wasinyane (Western MP Region) and the best Sergeant was Sgt J.M. Maphanga (Western MP Region). The best Corporal was Cpl M.M. Bebeza (Western MP Region) and the best Lance Corporal was L Cpl P.B. Mbuli (Western MP Region), while Pte P. Mafolo (Northern MP Region) was chosen as the best Private.

Physical training and fitness tests were also part of the prestige events.
Service Corps Kimberley has done it again!

By Mrs Gerda Bezuidenhout, Int Comm Officer Service Corps Kimberley

The mission of Service Corps Kimberley: “We will provide development growth opportunities to beneficiaries of the Department of Defence (DOD) by facilitating reskilling and employment guidance through empowering and developing them to become either self-employed entrepreneurs or to assist in sustainable employment ventures.”

Having said this we, as a unit, currently only eight men and women strong, are dedicated and committed to doing just that. Within our unit and under the concrete leadership of the Officer Commanding, Lt Col W. Klink, we have four sections. The first is the Business Administration Section, which handles all administration of Service Corps beneficiaries in the most effective and economical manner. Coupled to this we have the Education, Training and Development Section, which is responsible for the facilitation of the reskilling process and to monitor the progress and attendance of the beneficiaries to ensure that course material used is SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) approved and that government funds are utilised effectively. Thirdly, we have an Employment Service Section which is responsible for assisting the beneficiaries of the Service Corps in finding sustainable employment related to job market trends. Finally, our Support Service Section is rendering sustainable support services to the staff members of Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley in conducting its core business.

Unit staff members are actively involved in the weekly meetings of the Officer Commanding, two weekly communication periods and various workshops and seminars on topics such as financial management, deployment resilience, domestic violence, five languages of love throughout the year. This unit is devoted to the Code of Conduct, therefore monthly briefings on the Code of Conduct and Rule of War for both Defence Act Personnel (DAP) and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) are done and there are weekly readings of these. Evaluations and inspections are carried out by the Officer Commanding on a monthly basis, whereafter a Performer of the Month is identified during a monthly “big tea”. This in itself serves as motivation for individual staff members to increase their performance output.

Our province, the Northern Cape, is very unique in that spatially it is the biggest province in South Africa, but with the smallest population compared to other provinces. A great percentage of our beneficiaries form part of communities that are scattered throughout the Karoo, Namaqualand and Kgalagadi. These beneficiaries live in appalling poverty, have little or no access to resources and are not exposed to the luxury of the mainstream that we so often take for granted. These conditions remain a challenge to us in terms of enablement. However, we remain committed to fighting poverty.

OUR EXCLUSIVITY

This year the Service Corps has implemented a completely new method or approach in conducting what is known as Business Process Architecture (BPA).
The BPA was designed uniquely for the Service Corps by an independent consultant, Mr Daan du Plessis, to align and integrate the services and functions of the Service Corps with the requirements of the Human Resources Division and the DOD objectives. The initial introduction to the BPA at Level 4 was an encounter with Col Swannie Swanepoel at the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) in 2005 at which all Service Corps regional offices were introduced to the BPA. There was a follow-up in the Service Corps via a strategic analysis in March 2006 by the Service Corps Head Office. In January 2007 all Service Corps regional officers and officers commanding were instructed to implement the BPA within their respective units. After analysing the BPA it was realised that the BPA would generate a process conducive to best business practices by providing the Officer Commanding with an effective, efficient and economical method of directing his or her unit in such a manner that a generic franchise concept would evolve that would standardise all functions throughout the Service Corps.

WHAT IS THE BUSINESS PROCESS ARCHITECTURE?

The Business Process Architecture (BPA) is a concept designed for the Service Corps to formulate, standardise and streamline its functions. The methodology applied within the BPA encourages a systematic approach to conducting business and is characterised by definitive mechanisms, inputs, control measures, procedures and outcomes. The BPA will not only enhance the performance output of the Service Corps, but more importantly it will ensure that each and every Level 4 Force Structure Element (FSE) operates in the same manner, delivers the same service and achieves the same objectives guided by a clear and defined audit trail. The BPA is intended to be a baseline template that can be utilised to assist the Service Corps in its approach and strategy to develop and refine new work methods.

WHO ARE THE INTENDED USERS OF THIS MANUAL?

The BPA has been developed as a tool to empower the user to conduct business more efficiently. It is intended for use by the DAP and the PSAP at any level within the Service Corps structure that has the responsibility of progressively developing the Service Corps further in terms of growth and future aspirations. It is therefore of the utmost importance that all staff of the Service Corps should be able to understand the BPA and so fully grasp the systematic approach to conducting business.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE BPA

To ensure that the BPA is maintained as a work standard in the Service Corps, certain critical areas must become the nodal point of operations:

- The BPA Policy,
- Detailed planning coupled to the execution of the BPA,
- Defined and viable implementation plan of the BPA,
- Measurement and evaluation of the BPA,
- A review and improvement period, which includes or excludes performance gaps.

BPA ANALYSIS CONCERNING ADVANTAGES

In analysing the BPA process it was determined that it could streamline the activities of the Service Corps by creating a stable baseline of operations consisting of a chronological flow of processes and procedures that depend on each other to achieve an outcome. The advantages of the BPA process are highlighted below:

- Creates a structured approach to directing the force structure elements (FSEs) of the Service Corps.
- Gives clear guidelines regarding core business functions within the Service Corps.
- Creates a systematic approach to conducting Service Corps business.
- Defines a clear flow of outcomes to be achieved.
- Generates a logical sequence of events.
- Creates a defined administrative audit trail.
- The BPA is measurable and can be evaluated using various channels.
- Flexibility regarding adaptability to variables.
- Encourages cohesion and teamwork amongst staff.
- Increases performance output.
- Encourages and promotes staff interaction.
- Creates a higher sense of job satisfaction.
- BPA promotes the franchise concept in business operations.

BPA OUTCOME

The BPA is a management tool to assist Officers Commanding to direct their respective units in the most effective, efficient and economical manner, supported by the business franchise concept.

Audit trail. The BPA, by virtue of its design, clearly defines a traceable audit trail complementing the administration and the financial processes of SC business.

Support material. To support the BPA process, various support documents needed to be generated for implementation, of which the most significant were:

- Control registers.
- Control measures to ensure compliance.
- Databases to be implemented.
- Yearly Officer Commanding guidelines aligned to budget allocation.
- BPA evaluation sheets.
- Measurable [stats, graphs, training schedules, labour market information intelligence (LMII) or labour market entry enablement (LMEE), etc].

ADVANTAGES

The BPA process has many significant and tempting advantages to offer:

- It defines clear and specific guidelines/work methods concerning core business.
- It creates a chronological flow of functions aimed at performance improvement.
- It ensures a systematic approach to directing the Service Corps regional offices.
- It enables a clear and defined audit trail throughout the process.
- It strongly supports the franchise concept.
- It in entirety can be evaluated constantly in its entirety.
- It ensures performance improvement through planned service delivery tasking.
This new approach has been fine-tuned and all serving members of the Service Corps have undergone a three-day intensive training session. The project was executed under the leadership of the Project Manager, Col Swannie Swanepoel (Service Corps Head Office), and the Chief Trainer, WO1 H. Bezuidenhout (Service Corps Kimberley). The Assistant Trainers were Maj Evette Payn and Ms Vonette Scheepers (Service Corps Bloemfontein) and Mrs Gerda Bezuidenhout (Service Corps Kimberley).

ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARIES

The Service Corps has six distinctive categories of clients:

- **Category 1**: demobilised members.
- **Category 2**: serving DOD members exiting as part of normal contract date (e.g., Military Skills Development System members).
- **Category 3**: members to exit by means of an employer initiated exit mechanism before pension date or contract expiry date, for example accepting the Military Exit Mechanism (MEM).
- **Category 4 (a & b)**: persons external to the DOD in which only special assignments will be dealt with (in support of ASGI-SA).
- **Category 5**: Reserve Force members actively serving in the DOD.
- **Category 6**: Military Veterans who fit the description according to the Military Veterans Act.

FUNDING

Funding for our beneficiaries is currently paid by the DOD. Efforts are being made to access other funding through the Department of Labour, local governments and SETAs in order to reskill or train the Military Veterans. Training would be in line with local Integrated Development Programmes (IDPs) and the Provincial Growth Development Structure (PGDS).

During the course of the year we submitted four proposals to Working Solutions International for the training of Military Veterans with the aim of enabling them to start their own small micro medium enterprise (SMME) companies. Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley is proud to announce that it currently has three Military Veterans projects on the go. They are the Plumbing Course, which after successful negotiations with Working Solutions International was funded by it for 16 Military Veterans at Upington Further Education Training (FET) College.

The second project is the Electrical House Wiring Course funded by SASSETA and presented by LEPS Training Centre at which 14 Military Veterans are enrolled. The Automotive Maintenance and Repair Course is being attended by 23 Military Veterans at the Kimberley Urban FET College and is funded by SASSETA. On completion of this course these Military Veterans will also receive additional tutoring in New Venture Creation that will further equip them with the fundamentals to start their own ventures. The uniqueness of this course is the enrollment of seven women; we can only comment - "Go girls go!"

Reskilling Programme is there to equip the exiting member with additional skills so that redeployment in civilian society can take place with confidence. Currently this unit has 13 members in training in the Northern Cape. The courses range from Business Management to Electrical Engineering. We are proud to have various training institutions complying with the National Qualifications Act (NQA), and that provide reskilling for our beneficiaries. To name but a few: Damelin, Intec College, De Beers Training Centre, Quality Driving School and Pro Driving School.

The SA Police Service (SAPS) redeployment Service Corps Regional Office Kimberley facilitated two driver training intakes for SANDF members who wished to be redeployed in the SAPS and who did not have valid driving licences. It can be proudly announced that during the first intake 12 out of 15 members successfully completed their practical evaluation. A further group of 18 members were enrolled in the latter part of the year and were practically evaluated in October 2007. Again a high success rate was achieved. Statistics reflect that the national pass rate average is a mere 30%. Well what can we say: We smashed this statistic to bits, course after course!

17 Squadron reaches out to our children

Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

When 17 Squadron at AFB Swartkop started its social responsibility project in 2004 with only one orphanage they had a vision that was driven by the words of Albert Pike: "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal".

The dream of the helicopter squadron (AFB Swartkop) to change other people's lives and to bring happiness to the face of the African child was made possible by Gestetner, which donated four copier machines in 2006, and they have continued to sponsor the project this year. There were also the contributions of other sponsors, such as Pick 'n Pay (Irene), Tiger Brands, Imax (Menlyn), Galaxy World (Menlyn), Round Table, the University of Pretoria, Steelwings RSA, Mr Price and Kerk Sonder Mure/Church without Walls (Centurion), AFB Waterkloof and 17 Squadron.

That is why on 19 November 2007 all the goodies contributed by the sponsors were airlifted to the different children's homes, such as the Lighthouse Community Kitchen Ministries, Echo House, Centurion Child Welfare, Louis Botha Orphanage, Sonitus School for the Hearing Impaired, Irene Middle School, President Kruger Orphanage and Olivenboutbosch Soup Kitchen.

The children at Sonitus School for the Hearing Impaired were excited to see the Oryx landing on their soccer field with the copier machine and lots of chips and sweets. When we landed, some of the children said that one day they would be pilots.

The project of distributing the parcels throughout the whole day was worthwhile, especially in view of the genuine childlike gratitude expressed by the children.

Cpl Stephan Engelbrecht (left), Cpl Bev Bevington and learners of Sonitus School for the Hearing Impaired with the Oryx in the background.
India hosts the 4th CISM Military World Games

By Ann Ally Rakoma

On 8 October 2007, SA Soldier and other well-wishers were invited to the SAMHS Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane to witness the final preparations of the SANDF sports team comprising 32 members before they jetted off to Hyderabad and Mumbai in India to take part in the 4th Military World Games.

Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, welcomed members of the media and distinguished guests and other well-wishers. When Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, GOC Training Command, addressed the gathering he said that the SANDF had built up a proud reputation since the First Military World Games in Rome. He added that the SANDF athletes had won the best sportsmanship and the solidarity awards and that they were mentioned by other defence forces as people who played fair. "I want to urge you to win, but to win fair, to fight, but to fight fair. The eyes of the world’s other defence forces will be on you, make us proud. Run hard, be strong, think big," concluded Maj Gen Ntshinga.

Speaking to SA Soldier, a sports enthusiast, Trooper Moses Brown from 1 Special Service Battalion in Bloemfontein, said: "It is an honour to represent your country. It is a humble experience. Although it is going to be a tough competition the SANDF team is highly spirited and will not be like sheep going to slaughter, but we will strive to achieve our best".

Wishing our athletes all the best

T hey came from all over the world, 5 500 soldiers from 108 countries, to fight it out on the sports field. But it was no ordinary sports event - it was the 4th CISM Military World Games in Hyderabad and Mumbai in India and it was held over the period 11 to 21 October 2007.

The Opening Ceremony for the largest sporting event in India’s history resembled the opening night of the Olympic Games with all the necessary military pomp and circumstance.

The Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) 4th Military World Games officially opened on 14 October at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad with a colourful celebration of Indian culture that uniquely expressed CISM’s goal of striving for world peace by uniting armed forces through sport.

The President of India and the first woman to serve as supreme commander of the Indian Armed Forces, Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil, declared the games open. As part of celebrating this historical event she also released three commemorative postage stamps and a First Day Cover that captured the spirit of the games.

The Indian Air Force’s helicopter formation team performed a dazzling display of sarongs in the air while their skydiving team had the crowd of about 20 000 on their feet with their precision jumping. As a closing spectacular a Dhruv helicopter showered rose petals.
Military bands, high-stepping bagpipers and the precision steps of the Air Warrior Drill Team of India launched the entertainment part of the ceremony as military athletes from 101 of CISM’s 128 member nations marched into the stadium to begin a week-long competition.

The main goal of the Military World Games was to provide accredited defence forces from all over the world with an opportunity to compete among each other on the sports field to reinforce ties of friendship and to ensure the dream of peace and stability in the world.

The Games were held under the well-known theme of CISM, namely “Friendship through Sport” and for 11 days soldiers battled it out to be the world’s best. In the end, peace and friendship were the overall winners.

After 11 days the Defence Minister of India declared the Games closed at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad with a grand finale showcasing a blend of tradition and modernity that marked the conclusion of the week-long sporting event. The closing ceremony was a four-hour long celebration that added...
to the festive mood of Vijayadashami, the Dussehra. Thousands of spectators filled every seat of the stadium to join the celebrations in honour of the Games in which nearly 5 000 athletes from 101 countries participated.

**SANDF and ESALO**

South Africa became a member of CISM in 1994, and the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) was given the responsibility of hosting the Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office (ESALO) for the next four years by the Annual General Assembly of ESALO held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1996. At the 2000 Annual General Assembly meeting in Namibia this period was extended to the year 2004, whereafter Botswana took over the liaison office.

Currently Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are member countries of the ESALO, with Mozambique as an invited member.

Only six of the ESALO countries: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe and Tanzania participated in India.

**The SANDF and the Games**

The programme of the 4th Military World Games included 15 disciplines: Track and field, football, wrestling, judo, swimming (including diving, water polo and life-saving), volleyball, sailing, boxing, handball, parachuting, shooting, triathlon and military pentathlon.

The SANDF was represented by a team of 32 athletes at the Games under the command of Col Thembi Mkhuilise as the Chief of Mission, and entered individuals and teams in five of the fifteen sporting codes, viz:

- Boxing (men)
- Judo (men and women)
- Military Pentathlon (men)
- Sailing (men)
- Shooting (men)

This unique event gave the SANDF the opportunity to proudly display its abilities, sporting standards, uniform and flag before the thousands of athletes and spectators that were present.

Another highlight for the SANDF was the appointment of Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, as the Official CISM Representative for wrestling. He was able to use his experience and expertise to ensure the smooth running of wrestling at the Games.

Brig Gen Sedibe also participated in the Sport for Peace Conference that was held in Hyderabad during the Games. He was able to tell delegates from around the globe what our Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation was doing in the deployed areas to assist with building bridges between the members of the armed forces and the population in those areas.

**RESULTS**

Though none of our athletes won any medals, they gained crucial experience to compete in future events at international level.

African countries that won medals were Kenya, the Sudan, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria.

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**FINAL MEDAL STANDING**

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**Overall Total** 157 157 200 514
Malaria tips for travelers within South Africa

Article courtesy SAMHS Info Bulletin

Malaria is one of the most serious tropical diseases in the world. The disease can be fatal if not diagnosed correctly and appropriate, prompt treatment administered. Malaria is mostly transmitted in the low altitude areas of the northeastern parts of South Africa. Transmission is seasonal with the greatest number of malaria cases occurring between October and May. Travelers should be vigilant and remember the "A, B, C, D, E" of malaria prevention.

A: Awareness of malaria risk
- Going somewhere? Find out whether there is a risk of getting malaria there. (The risk is lower during the cold and dry seasons.)

B: Avoidance of mosquito bites
- Take precautionary measures to prevent mosquito bites in all risk areas.
- If possible, remain indoors between dusk and dawn (mosquitoes carrying malaria bite at night).
- Wear long-sleeved clothing, long trousers and socks when going out at night.
- Apply an insect repellent containing DEET to exposed skin at night.
- Sleep under a mosquito-proof bednet, preferably one that has been treated with an approved insecticide.
- Spray inside with an insecticide spray, after closing windows and doors.

C: Compliance - Take your medicines correctly
- There is no prophylaxis that is 100% effective, but the correct medicine will reduce your risk of severe illness.
- Take only the medicines recommended by a health professional.
- Start before entering the malaria risk area.
- Take the medicine at the same time every day (or week for weekly medication) with plenty of water, after a meal.
- Continue while in the area and for 4 weeks after leaving the area.
One of the following 3 regimes is currently recommended for use in South Africa.

D: Early detection of malaria
- The majority of deaths and cases of complicated malaria result from delayed diagnosis and/or inappropriate treatment.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you have any "flu like" symptoms for up to 6 months after leaving a malaria area, eg fever, headache, chills and muscular pain.
- Confirmation of malaria as a cause of illness is made by the examination of blood for parasites, either by blood smear or a rapid malaria test.

E: Effective treatment
- Malaria must be treated as a medical emergency. The sooner effective treatment is started, the better the prognosis.

The Anopheles mosquito.

Mefloquine (weekly). Start at least one week before entering a malaria area.
- Doxycycline (daily). Start at least one day before entering a malaria area.
- Chloroquine (weekly) PLUS proguanil (daily). Start at least one day before entering a malaria area.
On 7 September 2007 members of the School of Signals had the privilege to spend Casual Day at the School of New Hope at Menlopark with the learners with disabilities.

After the visit some of the members wrote letters on what influence the visit had on their lives.

Please share these letters with us - Ed.

We had fun

When we arrived at the School of New Hope we had a warm welcome by both the learners and the teachers. I was mainly impressed by the professional way the sports day was organised. It was a great success.

Coming to the main objective of the day, I was very proud to be part of people who went there to put smiles on the faces of the children with disabilities. Although initially the situation was a bit emotional to me when seeing children with disabilities, eventually I managed to adapt and I had fun with them.

Another thing that impressed me to the utmost was the way those kids were handling themselves. They were not ashamed of themselves or for being disabled, they had full confidence in themselves, irrespective of the situation they are in and I learnt a lot from them. Pushing them on their wheelchairs, playing games with them, seeing all the smiles on their faces was a huge moral boost to them and a great experience to us.

I also want to salute their teachers for the great job they are doing for that school and the contribution of the School of Signals. I wish we could do the same for other disadvantaged learners and schools for learners with disabilities. I strongly believe that those kids' teachers are very proud of them.

Smn T.J. Moiloa

The wonders in "New Hope"

It was so painful for me on arrival to see people with disabilities there, but I can say that I did see God's wonders through their lives. I can guarantee that they had really accepted themselves and they have also been given means, just like any of us, to survive.

As we started to play games, I was happy to see them participating and enjoying the games, and I also really enjoyed the day.

One other thing that really impressed me was when one of the kids told some jokes to us. I was so surprised because the kid knew that in the defence we had Captains and even 2ICs - that's something I never knew at their age. This proves that their education is more advanced than mine. To their teachers, I think you are doing a great job to help them to succeed. May God bless the learners and their teachers.

I also give my thanks to Col H.E. Gunter, Officer Commanding School of Signals, for giving us the opportunity to spend time with them.

Smn N.D. Tshivhase

Let us all be stars

It was a sunny day when we celebrated Casual Day on 7 September 2007. We were invited to a school called New Hope in Menlopark to celebrate with them this special day, encourage them, make them feel like everybody else who is capable of doing anything.

When they looked at us it was as if they saw their heroes. They felt secured with us, saying that “Soldiers are strong, powerful and they can do anything”. They were so competitive and their participation however limited, was wholeheartedly done.

I learnt that we should treat them as any normal human being, because it could happen to anyone of us, even to our kids. There are people with disabilities on earth and we need to accept them for who they are. It's God’s world, and we can’t escape it.

Smn N.S. Tsita
Value life

In life there are so many complications that we have to digest and just live with. Since visiting the School of New Hope I have started to value life more.

Through our visit I’ve learnt to look at life from all angles. I’ve realised how fortunate I am to be who I am. I appreciated all the things that God has done for me. It was tense and I nearly cried to see the kids; it was like they did everything in their power to participate no matter how hard it was for them, but they all tried their level best. If you ask me look at us we are lazy; we always complain, we can’t utilise what we have. Thank God for all His good work.

We should be part and parcel of the daily lives of people with disabilities. They really need us by their side. Colonel Gunter, thanks for the visit; now my eyes are opened and I managed to think of others. I’m no longer selfish.

Believe in yourself

There is an expression that says: “Visiting means adventuring”. It was early in the morning when we just arrived at the School of New Hope. We were welcomed with warm hearts.

I thought we were going to visit people with disabilities, but only to find that those people were just like everybody else. I was involved with the junior group. Those were young kids who could not walk; either wheelchairs or crutches were aiding them.

Those kids had hope to such an extent that some of them were even trying to walk on their own. They had so much confidence and they were so thrilled to see that there were people who supported them.

We played with them, laughed with them. In my thoughts, those kids told themselves that nothing could beat them unless they allow it. I learnt so many things about them. They were strong, smiling and greeting everyone. They were proud of themselves and that made me to be a proud soldier.

I learnt a lot from them, that by believing in yourself you could achieve almost anything - just by believing in yourself.

A day with kids with disabilities

On 7 September 2007 the School of Signals had the privilege of spending Casual Day with the kids with disabilities from the School of New Hope at Menlopark.

As a uniformed member I went along. It was a fun-filled day and also a day of sadness to see some of the kids who needed assistance to do things for themselves, since it was my first experience to get close to people with disabilities. But the moment I spent time with them I realised that these kids can be as happy as the rest of us, because we ran together and participated in different games.

At the end of the day everyone was happy. The CMIS Formation and the School of Signals made donations for those who are not so fortunate. Thanks to the Officer Commanding School of Signals, Colonel H.E. Gunter, for the great opportunity. Halala School of Signals! Smn S.L. Mahlo

Ek is geïnspireer

Losliedag - Wees ‘n STER - 7 September 2007 by New Hope Skool Menlopark.

Ons eenheid, Seinskool, Wonder-boom het die skool in Menlopark gaan bezoek. Die doel van die bezoek was om die kinders met gestremdhede te assisteer sodat hulle ook ‘n sportdag kan geniet. Ons het besef dat hulle ‘n daaglikse stryd voer. Ons wou graag ‘n bydra as ‘n verskil maak.

Ek het ‘n gehoorprobleem, maar hoe meer tyd ek met die kinders spandeer het, hoe meer het ek besef hoe bevoorreg ek is om so onafhanklik te wees en minder struikelblokke het om te oorkom.

Ons is met ope arms en warm glimlaggies verwelkom en dit het my geïnspireer om my medemens met liefde en sorg te dien. Dit was vir my werkelik hartverskeurend om te sien hoeveel mense in hul gebroke liggame vasgevang was en wat hul hulpmedel tot hul beskikking is.

Ek is baie trots op my eenheid en hoop dat hulle die ster in hulle harte sal bewaar. Kom laat ons ons sterre saamvoeg en een groot helder ster wees! Mev L.E. Els

I am inspired

Casual Day - be a STAR - 7 September 2007 at New Hope School in Menlopark.

Our unit, the School of Signals, at Wonderboom visited the school in Menlopark. The aim of the visit was to assist the children with disabilities so that they too can enjoy the sports day. We realised that theirs was a daily struggle. We wanted to contribute and make a difference.

I have a hearing problem, but the more time I spent with the children the more I realised how privileged I was to be independent with only a few stumbling blocks to overcome.

We were welcomed with open arms and warm smiles and that inspired me to serve my fellow human beings with love and care. It was really harrowing to see how many people were trapped in their broken bodies and what aids were available to assist them.

I am very proud of my unit and I hope they will treasure the star in their hearts. Come, let us put our stars together and become one big bright star. Mrs L.E. Els

(Translation: Lebohang Mathibela)

45
The DOD School of Logistical Training in Youngsfield celebrated Casual Day on 7 September 2007. The occasion was marked by the presence of invited guests, and the staff members and learners with disabilities from Tembuletu School in Guguletu.

At the occasion a present was handed over to the school and the staff and learners were entertained with excellent music of all kinds by the SA Army Band in Youngsfield. A drilling session also formed part of the occasion. The social work and other medical personnel were doing face painting. After various speeches, singing and performances, the visitors were entertained with refreshments. It was indeed a joyous occasion that signified the solidarity of the DOD School of Logistical Training with our community, and in specific people with disabilities.

This was a team effort by the Chaplain, Dr D.I. Maasdorp, the OHS Officer, Capt Nzaxonke, the Social Worker, Capt Botha, the Psychologist, Mr C. Maggot, and many willing volunteers.

Chaplain (Dr) D.I. Maasdorp, Eerste Rivier

I would never forget their facial expressions when they saw us looking at them. My heart immediately went out to these kids. Every time I looked at them I felt like calling one of them aside, holding them close to my heart, and telling them how special and loved they were.

I believe that day had somehow been a life changing experience for each and every soldier that went there. It made me realise that there was still a world out there - a world apart from the military world that I live in. These kids form the biggest part of my country. I have to defend and protect them, for they are our tomorrow.

Seeing the excitement and smiles on their faces gave me the confidence to participate in all the activities that had been planned for the day. We had "so much fun" with these kids and some of us even started some sort of friendship with them.

These kids did something good for me as well. They made me feel proud of where and who I am in this world. They made me feel proud of being a soldier for the first time.

I personally think that we should be involved more often in activities like this so that our country can see what we can do for them not only in war, but in situations like these and in their daily lives. Thanks to everyone who participated and made this day possible. The day was a blessed success and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Smn D.E. Bobbitt

I feel proud to be a soldier

Casual Day celebrations

Learners with disabilities from Tembuletu School (Guguletu) celebrating Casual Day.
The launch of the SADC BRIGADE in Lusaka, Zambia, on 17 August 2007
BEING DISABLED DOES NOT IMPLY INABILITY TO WORK