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

SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

EXERCISE SEBOKA
... an apt tribute to the nine fallen Gunners

defence
Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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Darfur: A sector commander’s perspective

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FRONT COVER: GV6 - 155 mm self-propelled gun howitzer - Renoster (foreground) and Multiple Rocket Launcher - Batteleur (background). Read more about EXERCISE SEBOKA on pages 14 and 15. (Photo: WO1 Hennie Booysen)

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

Above: Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence, addressing mourners at the memorial service for the nine Gunners that died during EXERCISE SEBOKA. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)
Before you start reading this edition of SA Soldier I urge you to pay a minute of silence in honour of those nine Gunners of 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment who accidentally died during training on 12 October 2007.

This is tragedy beyond comprehension. How do we begin to treasure and pay tribute to the young men and women who lost their lives untimely?

During a memorial service held in Kimberley the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, paid tribute to the fallen soldiers. “We sincerely regret the loss of life and injuries and wish to pass our heartfelt condolences to the affected families,” said Mr Lekota.

At the memorial service Minister Lekota assured all those whose loved ones were recuperating in hospitals or at home and those who have returned to their places of duty that the Government of South Africa cared and that their future was secured within the SANDF. Turn to pages 16 and 17 for all the info on the memorial service.

According to the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, EXERCISE SEBOKA went exceptionally well, despite the tragic incident. He said that the excellent display of soldiership by all the participants of the exercise was an apt tribute to those members who lost their lives. Read all about the exercise on pages 14 and 15.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those we have lost and for all those left behind to cope with the loss.

SA Soldier salutes their greatness.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

From the Editor's desk

Ho tswa ho Mohlophisi

ele le bala kgatiso ena ya SA Soldier ke le kopa ho nkakomsotsoswa kgutso e le ho hlomphasa masole ane a robong a 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment a ileng a hlokahala nakong ya thupello ka la 12 Mphalane 2007.

Ana ke masisapelo a fetang kutlwisiso ya motho. Re qala jwang ho ananela le ho rolela kgaeabana bahlankanaka le barwetsana ba tlaheletswe ca hlokalakala sa maphelo ba sa le bati’fje?

Nakong ya tshebeletso ya sehopotso o neng e tshwere Kimberely, Letoana la Tshireletso Mong Mosiuoa Lekota o ile a rolela bahale bana kgaeabana. “Re bohlako ka tlaheletswe ya maphelo le ditemalo mme re rata ho fetisetsa molaetsa wa rona wa kutlwelobholoko ho malapa a amehileng,” ho realo Mong Lekota.

Tshebeleltsong eo eo ya sehopotso Letoana Lekota o ile a netefaleltsa bohle bao baratwua ba bona ba ntseng ba fola dipetieleg kapa malapeng le bohle ba kgutletseg mesebetseng ya bona hore mmmuso wa Afrika Borwa o a isetella le hore bokamoso ba bona bo netefaleltswe ka hara Letho ho Sesole ho Naha ya Afrika Borwa. Phetla maqephe a 16 le 17 bakeng sa lesele mabapi le tshebeletso ya sehopotso.

Ho ya ka Hlooho ya Masole a Afrika Borwa, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, EXERCISE SEBOKA, o ile ya tswela pele halntle, ho sa natswe kotsihadi ena. O tse tsele eo bankakarolo bo bontshitseng bolaithwario ba sesole nakong ya hlakiso ena ke tsele ya ho tlota ba hlokaheltseng. Bala haholwanyane ka hlakiso ena maqephe a 14 le 15.

Mehopolo le ditapelo tsa rona di lebipa ho bohle ba re siileng le ba setseng morao hore ba mpe ba kgothale.

SA Soldier e ba rolela kgaeabana.

Nelda Pienaar
Mohlophisi
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LET YOUR LANGUAGE BE HEARD AND SEEN

The language policy of the Department of Defence (DOD) stipulates English as the "thread language" of the Department. It further states that all other official languages referred to as link languages shall be used. Are the other ten official languages used? The answer is NO. English is given this "thread" status because the DOD is one of the critical departments of government, one that is involved regionally and internationally in various missions, which therefore requires the common language or international language if you prefer.

Imagine what the reaction of a heterogeneous group of troops on the battlefield would be if instructions were to be issued in Sesotho! It is incumbent upon the troop commander to ensure the safety of his or her troops at all times. What about the many bilateral talks and agreements entered into by the department with various countries? Surely the use of a language understood by all is a must. However, all languages in South Africa have been accorded the same status. Why then, if all languages are equal, do we not write articles for SA Soldier in Sesotho sa Leboa? Wat het van Afrikaans geword? Siphi isiXhosa? isiZulu sono?

I urge you, ma Afrika, let us wake up and do something - NOW. The language policy does not restrict anyone of you from communicating in languages other than English. Besides, the DOD employs over 35 language practitioners who are competent translators, interpreters, trainers and facilitators. My next piece will definitely be in Sesotho. Helele bana ba Thesele! Lebohang Mathibela, Chief Language Practitioner, MOD DHQ Unit

CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF SOLDIERS

We have learnt with great shock about the blast that has claimed a lot of lives and caused suffering to many people.

Please accept our condolences of the Officers, Warrant Officers, NCO’s men and women of the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force to the people of South Africa that have been hit by this tragedy.

Our hearts go out to all families and friends of those that have lost their lives and pray for the speedy recovery of those that were injured.

We hope god, the Almighty will grant you the strength and courage to recover from this immense loss. Lt Gen S.S. Dlamini, Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force Commander

I SALUTE MY FELLOW GUNNERS

I am a female ADA gunner from 1997 and I am very proud of it. I am grief-stricken by the fatal incident that has occurred in Lohatla during EXERCISE SEBOKA in October 2007 and would like to offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones of the deceased.

To me this is a serious horror with serious consequences. After I had accepted the fact that 9 gunners were killed in just 6 seconds, I realised that there were still 15 more who had lost some of their body parts and I started to think how they will carry on with life.

I believe that the incident was not an accident, but it was planned by God for reasons beyond our understanding. It is sad to hear rumours that “it was the female gunner’s fault because she had to put on make up and do her nails first”. It is not my duty to defend anyone, but I would like to give a short background on the 35 MKV gun and its training.

I am a qualified 35 MKV instructor and have been doing just that for the past 5 years. From experience I have concluded that the 35 mm gun works as a system, meaning that there are different systems like the Power Supply Unit (PSU) and the Fire Control Unit (FCS), etc. The two are difficult enough to master since they must be combined in order to effectively fire the 35 mm gun. It’s a fact that all of these systems have safety procedures and measures built in. In fact the 35 mm manual has a chapter on safety and considering all this it is sad that so many lives had still been lost.

I urge people not to judge anyone, but please have an open mind and consider this: “It’s always the productive person who makes mistakes, an unproductive person will never make mistakes because he/she seldom does anything”. I believe that no one becomes an expert in a skill without practice and that is what our gunners went there for, to become experts and perfect their skill. I thank all ADA gunners for always setting a good example where ever they go and please don’t be discouraged by this incident because the gunners “troops” are the elite of our Core. I salute them. Sgt A.C. Puckree, Special Forces HQ

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.

SA SOLDIER • NOVEMBER 2007
CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF LIVES

It is with deep sorrow that I learnt of the recent accident, which resulted in tragic loss of life of your service personnel. The Malawi Defence Force and the entire nation were shocked by this very unfortunate tragedy and wish to sympathise with you during this trying period.

On behalf of the Malawi Defence Force and indeed, on my own behalf, please accept our deepest condolences to the South African National Defence Force and all the members of the bereaved families. May their souls rest in peace. General M.D. Chiziko, Commander Malawi Defence Force.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

It was with shock that we learned of the tragic accident involving an anti-aircraft gun at the military exercise at Lohatlha. On behalf of Denel, especially our Board of Directors and the Executive management team, I wish to convey our sincere condolences to you and the relatives and friends of the deceased, as well as to the injured. Our thoughts are with those who suffered loss and I trust that the nation’s support will go some way to heal their wounds.

Mr Shaun Liebenberg,
Group CEO of Denel

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO SANDF

On behalf of the officers and all members of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and indeed on my own behalf, I present my compliments to you, General, and to the SANDF.

I wish to convey our deepest sympathy to the SANDF having learned of the deaths of nine personnel who passed away following the accident on Friday 12 October 2007 at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha in the Northern Cape. General, please accept our heartfelt condolences to the SA National Defence Force and all the members of the bereaved families.

Lt Gen Tebogo C. Masire,
Commander Botswana Defence Force

UNSERVICEABLE MILITARY VEHICLES COST LIVES

How many soldiers still have to die before the DOD realises that civilian garages just make money out of the DOD and do not repair or fix our vehicles properly? We invest millions of rand to train and qualify our own mechanics and “tiffies”. Why can’t they fix our vehicles?

On 2 August 2007 I was involved in an accident in which two of my NCOs died because of a prop shaft that might have come loose or the brake system not being set properly. We were on our way to Infantry School for parachute selection when the accident happened. All over the country such incidents/problems (corruption) occur. Military vehicles are booked in for repair, but only a part is repaired so that the vehicle can come back again. Other times vehicles go in for service, but when it returns other faults are reported. Vehicles are broken (sabotaged) on purpose to be sent back to the garages so that they can make money out of the Government.

Yes, I (we) don’t have hard evidence, but although so many people know about this they are afraid to come forward. Otherwise they get something out of the deal. When is the Government going to realise that this is a reality and that they should do something about it? How many people must die before they act? WO1 A. de Bruin, 44 Parachute Regiment, Tempe

CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED

On behalf of Armscor Management and employees, I would like to pass our condolences to the entire SANDF and their families. We have learnt with shock of the accident that occurred in Lohatlha during EXERCISE SEBOKA.

We have an understanding that our work in the defence environment remains a risky one. However, one is never prepared for this unprecedented event.

It is our wish that you will be able to deal with all the challenges that are associated with this unfortunate event occurring. We hope that the investigators will be able to establish the cause of the accident and hopefully be able to rectify whatever problems that might have arisen as a result of this incident.

Armscor assures you of their support in this trying time.

Mr H.S. Thomo, CEO of Armscor

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Lt Gen Tebogo C. Masire,
Commander Botswana Defence Force

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY

It is with great sorrow that we received the devastating and shocking news of the unfortunate accident in Lohatlha, in which SANDF lost 9 comrades and 14 sustained injuries, on 12 October 2007.

In the same vein, we deeply share the grief of the tragic and untimely death of comrade Lucky Dube, whom we held in high regard. On behalf of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces family and my own behalf, accept our heartfelt condolences to the SA National Defence Force, 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment and also to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives in this tragic accident. We hope and pray that the bereaved families and friends would find strength and resolve to bear this irreparable loss. We also wish speedy recovery to those who were wounded.

General Aronda, Nyakairima (MP), Chief of Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces

UNSERVICEABLE MILITARY VEHICLES COST LIVES

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SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS

Let me tell you about a soldier.
A soldier is someone who has discipline.
A soldier is someone who is willing to lay down his/her life for other people in order to protect and defend.
A soldier obeys orders and executes without question and asks later.

I sometimes wonder if soldiering is a career or a calling.
I guess it is a calling because if you don’t have it within, you won’t be a soldier.
The salary and the pain you feel for others are not enough, but with the discipline that soldiers have, you will.

When you are deployed in other countries in Africa
You find children who are homeless
Women whose husbands have died through the brutality of others
People who run away from their family because of violence
Women who are raped because they are defenceless
Why Africa?
Why must people be killed?
Why must women be abused?

Why must children grow without their fathers?
Where is humanity (ubuntu)?
Where is sincerity?
Where are our hearts?
Have they been taken from us?
And put somewhere in the oceans where no one can find them.

Where are you a soldier you face all that
Do I really like being a soldier?
No I love being a soldier.
It is something within me!
Ndaliso, 2 SAI Bn in the Sudan

THE NEED FOR SELF-CRITICISM

As an officer in the SANDF, I am a regular reader of SA Soldier. However, I have observed a worrying trend within this magazine.

It is understandable that SA Soldier must provide an overview of activities within the SANDF. My concern is, however, that SA Soldier does so in an unrealistic manner with a sense of often unfounded optimism. Do not misinterpret my approach here as unpatriotic or arrogantly pessimistic. On the contrary, the reporting of problems within the SANDF goes a long way towards strengthening the organisation as a whole. Hence, constructive criticism is the keyword here.

SA Soldier needs to embrace this notion of positive criticism as it falls in line with the development of the SANDF. Creative means should be found by the editorial staff to address such problems without being overly pessimistic. Thus, the dual need exists to attend to all issues within the realm of the SANDF. These include both optimistic articles (for which I applaud SA Soldier thus far), and highlighting areas where the SANDF may fall short. If such areas are being addressed, it could contribute to the development of the organisation. Such objective reporting would then also be in line with the democratic requirements of openness, and therefore press freedom.

If SA Soldier cannot have such a dual approach, my plea is to senior SANDF commanders to create a channel of dialogue where constructive criticism has its place. The recently published SA Army Journal might be seen as a step in the right direction. However, this focuses more on strategic issues, while many other issues in need of constructive criticism are neglected. Such a need for introspection and self-criticism is imperative for the growth of the organisation. Capt W. Janse van Rensburg, email

* SA Soldier provides the opportunity for its readers to raise issues of concern and importance to our organisation by means of the letters column, which takes up four pages of the magazine. Please do use this channel of dialogue whenever you need to - Ed.

SA ARMY RECREATION DAY

The SA Army presented its annual Recreation Day at the SA Army College in Pretoria on 14 September 2007.

This event was attended by uniformed and civilian members of the SA Army Headquarters, its formation headquarters, brigades and Army Support Base Dequar Road. The aim of the day was to enhance esprit de corps among the members.

After the welcoming address by Maj Gen L. Rudman, Acting Chief of the SA Army, all the members participated in the mass aerobics presented by a member from Planet Fitness.

Members could participate in the Potjiekos Competition. Themes could be used such as ethnic, sport related, etc.

The members were divided into teams of 15 members each to compete in two rounds of 14 different activities. The activities ranged from balancing ball and beam to volleyball, golf chipping and many others. The members who did not form part of the above-mentioned teams could play soccer, volleyball and board games.

The Best Spirit of the Day Certificate was presented to SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation. SA Army Training Formation won the Potjiekos Competition, with SA Army Intelligence Formation as the runners-up, while Chief Directorate Army Force Preparation scooped up the third position.

S Sgt Capt W. Janse van Rensburg, email

Adapted
A BACKYARD DOG

Lonely Lucy’s locked away,
Longs for company and play.
Locked inside a dreary run,
Till her human carers come.

Only when their work is done,
Will she get to have some fun.
Sadly, then, another day,
Like the others, locked away.

Was a time they’d let her roam,
In the garden of her home.
Passing children said hello.
She was sad to see them go.

Underneath the fence she squeezed,
Human carers were not pleased.
Knew that she was lonely, blue,
But they wanted one, not two.

Said they had no wish for two,
Double trouble, more to do.
So they opted for a run.
No escaping … no more fun.

Built a well secured place,
In a narrow, cheerless space.
'Tween the house and high brick wall.
Now she can’t escape at all.

Now she sees no passers-by,
Only sees the bricks and sky.
Just how many share her fate,
Hidden by a garden gate.

Dogs left for long periods of time without company suffer from boredom and loneliness. Adopting a second dog for companionship will prevent this and should also stop him/her from trying to escape. If your yard is surrounded by a solid fence and gate, make a “window” in the gate so that your dog can have the stimulation of seeing other dogs and passers-by.

“No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich” - Louis Sabin. K. van Staden, MEDUNSA.

TRUE MEANING OF BATHO PELE AT GEORGE SICKBAY

Batho Pele, professionalism, care, concern and people values are those things that come to mind when I think about the personnel of George Sickbay. During the July 2007 holidays my family and I went to George to attend a wedding and enjoy a bit of leisure time with each other. But Murphy’s Law played a role: my wife developed a bad case of fever on the eve before the wedding and the next morning her right leg was covered in what is called cellulitis (nothing to do with cellulite).

This became so bad and painful that I took her to the sickbay. Upon entering the sickbay the first thing that caught my attention was the concern and immediate assistance and attendance that was given by the staff. The Officer in Charge and the Pharmacist came and assessed the situation and every member gave suggestions on how to ensure comfort and the least amount of pain until the doctor could attend to my wife.

Never thinking that cellulitis could be all that dangerous, I was informed by the members that if left untreated it could turn into gangrene and she could lose her leg. Once again professionalism was displayed by the members as they in turn explained what cellulitis was all about and they show me how serious it was and could become.

In the waiting room I saw the true meaning of Batho Pele (People First). All the people waiting to see the doctor were treated by the staff as if they were close family members and friends and not just VPA members or outsiders from another province.

This experience showed me that there were still members that put others’ needs before their own. In the light of all that I have experienced and witnessed I can only share it with the rest of the SANDF and commend the personnel of the George Sickbay for a job well done!

Thank you for showing that Batho Pele still does exist, and that it was not just a thought that in the meantime has become long forgotten. Capt W.E. Brown, DOD Main Ordnance Subdepot, Durban.
Our soldiers in Darfur

By Col Stephen van Neel, Sector 6 OC: African Mission in the Sudan

The recent visit by the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, to the deployed RSA forces in Darfur, the Sudan, (11 to 13 September 2007) galvanised the writing of this article.

The deployment of SANDF members (Military Observers and an infantry battalion) in Darfur is a huge contribution in terms of human and economic sacrifice. It has been undertaken by the Republic of South Africa in a modest attempt to assist in the alleviation of the suffering people of Darfur.

Since the financial inflow in maintaining the force is drawn from public sources, it is important that a quick appraisal be made of the deployment as a way of providing information on how the forces are faring in the mission area to which they have been committed. The period under review was April to September 2007 of which

I, Col Stephen van Neel, had been in command of the South African forces in the most northern sector of African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), known as Sector 6.

SECURITY SITUATION IN SECTOR 6

In order to assess whether anything had been achieved from April to September 2007, it is necessary to look at the security situation in April when I, as the Sector Commander, and members of 2 SA Infantry Battalion arrived to assume duty in the mission area. The picture painted for me through briefings I received was a sad, gloomy
and hopeless one. Attacks on AMIS had occurred in some areas, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and agencies had moved out of the Sector 6 Area of Responsibility (AoR) because of the deteriorating security situation.

Attacks by Janjaweed were continuous and the greater part (almost 70%) of the Sector’s AoR had been declared as High Risk Areas and were therefore regarded as so-called no-go areas. There was very limited to zero interaction or engagement with the non-signatory factions and therefore these areas were not visited. This led to movement being restricted to these areas and therefore the security situation in these areas could not be ascertained. The conclusions drawn from the foregoing was that there was no systematic security arrangement in the AoR and the general security situation prevailing at the time was very unstable.

**EFFORTS AT CHANGING THE SITUATION**

As the Sector Commander, I was not comfortable with the situation I had inherited. The major worry for me at the time was the limited interaction/engagement between AMIS forces, the local leaders and the rebel factions. My mission therefore was for Sector 6 to create a secure environment within which peace could be built through interaction with all and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid in order to relieve the sufferings of the vulnerable population, and to ensure the return of NGOs.

We further attempted to reduce tension among the various warring factions by promoting trust and confidence through negotiations and frequent interaction between AMIS Forces and among the belligerent forces for a lasting peace in Sector 6 AoR. This was thoroughly addressed by comprehensive Commander’s Estimates, which were presented to subordinate commanders. Some of the fundamental aspects identified as operational guidelines included:

- Promotion of trust, confidence and co-operation between all parties.
- Promotion of freedom of movement within boundaries.
- Assistance to humanitarian organisations with the protection of aid convoys within boundaries and with the security of their bases.

Confronted with these fundamental guidelines, the Sector immediately proceeded to work assiduously to meet the set targets. The tasks listed below were therefore embarked on:

- Peace Negotiation/Mediation Efforts. Interaction between AMIS forces and all role players in the Sector 6 AoR took place. Factions/movements that were willing to meet AMIS forces were engaged in a peace dialogue in which the deteriorating security situation in particular, and other concerns such as freedom of movement were discussed. The Chiefs and opinion leaders in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps were also engaged in several meetings where they were urged to control the banditry and other criminal activities in the camps. These efforts yielded positive results as criminal activities in the camps and other areas in the Sector abated considerably.

- Humanitarian Situation/Return of NGOs. As a person who fully sub-

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**INTERACTION WITH REBELS:** Col Stephen van Neel, Sector 6 OC: African Mission in the Sudan (right), and Commander “Shame” Bush, Rebel Commander, shake hands.

Front, fltr: Two Released SLA (Freewill) Generals and SLA (Minni) faction. Standing: Col Stephen van Neel, Sector 6 OC: AMIS.
from page 11
scribes to the description of Barry Buzan who suggests “that security is wider than the military dimension”, I pay special attention to the social dimension, and that is the reason why I undertook certain roles with NGOs to create a security environment conducive to their return. Thankfully, some of them agreed to return and currently it is heart-warming to mention that almost all the NGOs have returned and have resumed their humanitarian missions, which are in full swing. In order to cement the cordial relationship that had been initiated, weekly meetings between the Sector and the NGOs to discuss security issues and common concerns were arranged. This has so far yielded positive results.

- Interaction with Non-signatory Factions. In order to break the negative jinx of the non-signatory factions (NSF) occupied areas which had been labelled “high-risk” areas, the Sector resolved to venture into these areas to engage the factional leaders on various matters. It is unfortunate to have to mention that the first confidence building patrol undertaken into an NSF area (EL HOSH, about 80 km north of Kutum) was met with an attitude of hostility and confrontation as the Sector Commander and team were taken hostage and the helicopter seized, very much to the astonishment and chagrin of the team. The reason for this unfortunate incident was arguably the lack of trust that existed between AMIS and the rebel movements. However, with determination, zeal and the unyielding resolve to achieve its set objective, the team pressed on and insisted on the rights of AMIS to free and unhindered access to all areas. In the end the rebel faction identified itself as the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) United Front. Surprisingly, the meetings that followed were cordial and mutually respectful. The SLA (NSF) pledged their full support for AMIS and granted free access to AMIS patrols, including air patrols to their “liberated areas”. The sector is very proud to be the first and only sector, thus far in the whole of the AMIS, to have this cordial relationship with the NSF, which can be seen as a very important and necessary relationship.

- Restoration of Credibility and Trust of AMIS Forces. The credibility of AMIS forces a few months ago was one of total mistrust and loss of confidence in AMIS. As a result the force had been labelled as impotent and toothless by the IDPs, in particular, and some of the local population. They blamed AMIS for the withdrawal of the NGOs and the insecurity existing in the camps. They also refused to engage AMIS in any discussion as they had the notion that AMIS had nothing to offer. Some villages had only heard of the AMIS forces and were never visited. However, when the sector embarked on its peace initiative and engaged the opinion leaders through mediations, negotiations and dialogue, AMIS credibility was restored and confidence regained. Again, the conduct of night patrols in the IDP camps to prevent criminal activities is another hallmark activity that has earned the forces much commendation. Indeed, a comment from the representative of the United Nations Human Rights in response to this was: “In the last (two) years of my presence in this area, it is the first time we see AMIS forces respond to an incident in the way it did”. This has turned around a very negative attitude and AMIS is now invited to mediate between villages in order to establish reconciliation among local people. This illustrates the trust that exists in Sector 6 AoR.

MEDIATION EFFORTS OF SECTOR 6

Mediation Efforts between Arab Nomads and Local Villagers. During the frequent interaction with the local community it was learned that at a certain time of the year Arab nomads migrate from the south (Kabkabiya) to the north (Kutum general area). This activity has been another source of huge insecurity in the Sector 6 AoR since the war started and it has always been characterised by increased tensions that led to incidents between the local population and the nomads. Armed with this vital piece of information it was necessary to engage with the nomads soon as they arrived to sensitise them to the need for peaceful co-existence with their hosts to avoid incidents. In view of the already good relationship that had been established between the Sector HQ and the Kutum local Authority, they were more than willing and ready to assist and to approach the nomads collectively. What followed thereafter was a landmark joint meeting between me, the local authorities, and the local population where a platform was created, for the first time, for direct interaction to take place among all actors in the AoR.

Establishment of Security Committee. The above-mentioned initiative culminated in a ground breaking event when a security committee was established comprised of representatives of all Damrats (villages of Arabs) and non-Arab villages. The seriousness of this effort was acknowledged and accepted by all, so that a swearing-in ceremony by all role players took place. Another fundamental initiative was the implementation of the notion of collective security. Engagements with Umdahs, sheikhs and other opinion leaders has given rise to a common platform where interaction takes place. This was a necessity and common issues of concern are discussed and collective decisions are reached or solutions found.

Mediation Effort for the Release of Captured SLA (Freewill) Generals. During a meeting in June 2007, I was privileged to meet all the SLA (NSF) Commanders and field commanders in Hashaba. The meeting was chaired by General Ahmed Karim Jerenabli from the G19 faction as part of the SLA (NSF). The meeting focused on the following issues:

- Two generals and other SLA (Freewill) faction members were arrested by the SLA (NSF) at the end of May. As the area falls under Sector 6 AoR, the Freewill faction leadership requested the sector to intervene on its behalf. A few weeks after the visit to Hashaba, I was invited back to the SLA Freewill “stronghold” to meet with the leadership. The reason for the visit was
to express gratitude for the role Sector 6 played in the release of the generals.

Another fundamental issue discussed at the meeting was the fact that African Union (AU) forces could not move around NSF areas. This issue was resolved and unhindered access to all areas within their jurisdiction was granted.

A third point for discussion was the weapons captured from 6 SANDF Battalion in 2006. Even though a concrete undertaking has not yet been given by the NSF leadership, frantic negotiation efforts will continue in order to secure the return of the weapons.

My candid suggestion with regard to the retrieval of these weapons is that we have to get them back at all costs, as my conclusion is that as long as these weapons are out there, we will remain a target, since the perpetrators will be looking for an opportunity to get ammunition for the weapons (R4s) because at present they cannot utilise them at all since they do not have the right calibre of ammunition.

Interaction with all Local Authorities.

It is gratifying to mention that the efforts and the achievements of the sector have not gone unnoticed by the Force Headquarters (FHQ). On numerous occasions the current Force Commander, General Martin Luther Agwai, has remarked that the forces of Sector 6 are doing very well and this has been communicated to our Chief during his visit to Darfur.

Indeed, three written commendations have been received from the FHQ in acknowledgement of the selfless efforts and professionalism exhibited by the SANDF deployed in Sector 6. It is also worth mentioning that the Kutum Local Authorities, the IDPs and the local communities have continuously expressed their appreciation to the sector for the good work being done.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COMMENDATIONS

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CURRENT PREVAILING SECURITY SITUATION

Five months later, as we look back at where we had come from, the current security situation in the sector can be said to be relatively calm. This relative calmness is attributed, by and large, to the consistent efforts undertaken by the sector to engage those responsible for the breach of security in a dialogue to reach a collective peaceful solution.

Fortunately, this has so far yielded good results and it is to be hoped that this laudable initiative and vision of the sector will continue into the future. Although the sector is profoundly satisfied with these modest achievements, one has to be realistic. Anything is possible with the precarious situation in Darfur, so much so that even by the time this article is published things might have changed, but we hope that it will not be the case.

CONCLUSION

The confidence building efforts initiated by Sector 6 is one major factor that has helped diffuse otherwise very volatile situations. These were undoubtedly powder kegs or time bombs that could have exploded without warning, thereby aggravating the already bad security situation. Of particular significance is the confidence in AMIS that has been regained by the local population following what can appropriately be termed as “dialogue for peace” initiatives adopted by the sector.

This is an illustration that many of these kinds of problems need more than just military solutions and demonstrate the need for military commanders to resort to diplomatic and mediating roles. Above all, the trust and confidence in the sector, to the extent that opinion leaders in different communities are now requesting AMIS to mediate over disputes between them, is a very heartening development that has to be lauded and commended.

It is equally important also to commend the local population for their desire and willingness to chart a peaceful path for mutual coexistence. Indeed the spontaneous and quick response to the peace initiatives is a clear demonstration that the local population is fed up with the security situation in which they find themselves and are ready and prepared to put every bitterness, hatred and animosity aside and to sacrifice their pride, their pain and their egos for a lasting peace.

It is all because we are Proudly South African and committed to the notion of our President bringing peace to the African continent.
... an apt tribute to the members who lost their lives during the exercise.

Asvoëlkop in Lohatlha was the venue for an excellent open day on 19 October 2007. The open day was the culmination of EXERCISE SEBOKA that started on 2 August 2007 with the training by the individual units that took part in the exercise. The units were individually assessed taking part in the integrated training and the actual exercise which took place from 13 to 17 October 2007.

The open day started with a minute silence in honour of those soldiers of 10 Anti-Aircraft Regiment who died in the training accident on 12 October 2007. The Plenary Defence Staff Council (PDSC), the Army Council, Reserve Officers Commanding, several Honorary Colonels and learners from the neighbouring schools, such as Prieska, Danielskuil, Postmasburg attended this open day.

The first sound was the Engineers who detonated a crater followed by a section attack by members of 121 SA Infantry Battalion and then followed by demonstrations of all the different weapons. Thereafter an integrated attack with vehicles was demonstrated.

The comments of some of the Reserve Officers Commanding, after a few shots were fired by the Ratels and G5s were that the dust, smell and sound brings back pleasant memories of a very tough time when they underwent training at Lohatlha. Some of them became very nostalgic when they heard the Oryx helicopters coming in to land. It reminded them of times when they were in a tough situation in the former Southwest Africa (now Namibia) and the Oryx came to pick them up.

Comments of the children who attended the day included: "magic, super, impressive". The one girl sat the whole day with her hands on her head, but she never moved her eyes off the weapons. Some of the youngsters indicated that they definitely want to join the SA National Defence Force.
Army units in operational art, deployment and all aspects of combat discipline. 46 SA Brigade provided the brigade headquarters and units from the Infantry, Armour, Artillery, Intelligence, Air Defence Artillery, Engineers as well as support elements, the SA Air Force and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS).

Over 5 000 members took part in the exercise of which 23% were female members and more than 1 000 vehicles at the cost of RM25. Money well spent in the training of young soldiers who will be responsible to protect our country.

The exercise also serves as course support as it gives the students the opportunity to plan and execute mobile warfare operations and real time command and control under the supervision of experienced commanders. This was done by students filling shadow posts with real time commanders in their posts.

The day ended with a very moving moment when a Ratel of 8 SA Infantry Battalion drove towards the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, bearing the National Flag. All the other vehicles, Rooivalke and Oryx helicopters followed and saluted the Chief of the SA Army.

Lt Gen Shoke said that the exercise went exceptionally well, despite the tragic incident and complimented the soldiers and commanders on excellent result of their hard work in the rugged terrain of Lohathla. The excellent display of soldiership by all the participants is an apt tribute to those members who lost their lives.

(SANDF) after seeing the weapons in action.

A highlight of the day was an attack by two Rooivalk attack helicopters. It was the first time that their prowess were seen by some of the visitors and even old soldiers were impressed when the two helicopters were hanging very still in the sky while shooting at the target.

**EXERCISE SEBOKA**

The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate the training of the SA

Members of 4 Artillery Regiment demonstrate the firepower of the GV5 - 155 mm gun howitzer - Luiperd.

MkII Olifant tanks.
The nine fallen combatants of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) who perished in an accident involving an anti-aircraft gun machine during EXERCISE SEBOKA at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla on 12 October 2007, were given a dignified farewell by the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, on 24 October 2007.

Addressing mourners who included the First Lady, Ms Zanele Mbeki, the bereaved families, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu, and his team at a memorial service held at Alexanderfontein Church in Kimberley, Minister Lekota reflected on the contribution these young people were yet to make, "one is engulfed by grief and overwhelmed by sadness at the loss".

"As a Ministry and Department of Defence, we have lost a part of us. The country has surely lost a rare calibre of..."
Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, Minister of Defence, addressing mourners at the memorial service for the nine Gunners that died during EXERCISE SEBOKA.

people, willing to defend her and work for peace in the continent and the world. It is therefore befitting that today we honour the memory of these youthful troops. We will miss them. But, above all, we will continue to honour and cherish their contributions.”

Speaking in typical South African languages: Sesotho, isiXhosa and Afrikaans, the Minister summed up his condolences to the bereaved families: Baholoholo ba re, Aluhlanga lingchlanga. Lefu ke moeti ina malapa ohle. Almal moet eendag sterf. (The Elders say: What happened is something that should not have happened. Death visits every household. We all are going to die one day.)

Minister Lekota assured all those whose loved ones were recuperating in hospitals or at home and those who have returned to their places of duty that the Government of South Africa cared and that their future was secured within the SANDF.

“We also assure you that necessary care is being taken at all times to avoid accidents similar to the one in Lohatlha”, the Minister said.
SA and Namibia zoom in on security

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

Think tankers from the Department of Defence, Safety and Security, Justice and Home Affairs gathered in Durban for the 7th meeting of the SA/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security from 19 to 21 September 2007. The meeting focused on defence, public security and state security.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, said: “The establishment of the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security in 2000 between our two countries was not only aimed at strengthening the already existing relations between us and working towards the betterment of the lives of our people, but was also a mechanism aimed at contributing to the regional and continental efforts to achieve the vision, goals and objectives of the Southern Africa developing countries (SADC) and the African Union (AU).”

“Every time we prepare for our Joint Permanent Commission meetings what automatically comes to mind is our common historic past under the apartheid regime. The current stage of our historical development and the cultural diversity give our people the source of strength,” said the Permanent Secretary of Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, Mr Samuel Goagoseb.

Senior Officials from both the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Namibian Defence Force (NDF), Directors General from the Ministry of Intelligence, Home Affairs and Police Commissioners held discussions for three days on issues, such as the military-to-military co-operation, immigration and customs, human trafficking and joint operations.

At the SA/Namibia Defence Committee meeting the SA delegation was led by the SA Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg (Chairperson), while the Namibian delegation was led by the Acting Chief of Staff of the NDF, Maj Gen E.D. Ndaitwah (Co-chairperson).

During the meeting various matters were discussed, such as SANDF’s assistance to the NDF in establishment of sports, physical training and recreation as well as assistance to Namibia in hosting EXERCISE AIRBORNE AFRICA. Other issues that were tabled were the military-to-military co-operation between SA and Namibia for 2006/2007, including goodwill visits, training programmes, exchange of military personnel and SADC related activities.

In their closing remarks, both the Chairperson and the Co-chairperson agreed that the meeting was a success and further hoped for the implementation of the decisions taken during these deliberations.

The last day of the proceedings was comprised of a Ministerial Session...
where the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his counterpart from Namibia, Maj Gen (Ret) Charles Namoloh, were briefed about the outcome of the meeting.

“Our relationship is of a very long standing, coming as it is from our shared history of both oppression and of the struggle for freedom, and today a shared future as we plan development of the region. We share the same value systems and we also share the same problems and our hopes for the continent of Africa are the same,” said Minister Lekota in his welcoming speech. He added: “This co-ordinating binds us together with the profound understanding that our unity is our strength. We will never forget that it is the understanding we have of unity and our experience on the grounds of unity that enables us to move forward together towards peace and prosperity.”

In response, Maj Gen (Ret) Namoloh gave thumbs up to the SANDF, in particular the SA Navy for their participation in the recently held EXERCISE AMAZOLO. “It is paramount that we build capacity for us to be masters of our region. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of South Africa for their training of our Defence Force members and law enforcement agencies,” said Maj Gen (Ret) Namoloh.

He added: “The co-operation between the defence and security forces of our two countries must be commended, in the countdown of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which will be held in the region. We need to double our efforts to make this important event a success.”

An influx of people is expected to touch the South African soil during the 2010 FIFA World Cup and criminal syndicates will be hoping to conduct their business. To combat the problem of criminal activities, Minister Lekota said: “Defence, security and intelligence agencies have to intensify their own activities and have to anticipate that there will be increased threat around that time.”

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SA/Rwanda Joint Defence Committee meeting

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

President Thabo Mbeki’s pursuit of African Renaissance was rekindled once again when the South African delegation led by the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, met with the Rwandan delegation led by the Rwandan Minister of Defence, Gen Marcel Gatsinzi, during the inaugural meeting of the Joint Defence Committee at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 4 October 2007.

The Rwandan delegation to South Africa served as another building block in the process of strengthening the friendship, common interests and military co-operation between the two defence forces. The meeting between the two allies further provided the opportunity to look at the continent and regional situation, particularly the issue of security, peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

Talks on ending conflict in areas that comprise some eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) bordering Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda were part of the agenda. The 1994 hostilities and genocide that tormented the Rwandan people necessitated discussions on issues of nation building, transformation, reconciliation and integration.

Finally, peace and stability and the possibility of expanding knowledge, exchange training, technical and medical skills, joint military co-operation and joint exercises were touched by the two Ministers in their discussions. Joint efforts towards a common cause, shared goals and other capabilities that would help in realising democracy and good governance in our continent were also discussed.

Minister Lekota emphasised that the signing of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Defence Committee meeting paved the way for co-operation in defence relations, military diplomacy and other co-operation dealing with a number of significant areas of beneficial engagement. He also highlighted that the recent launch of the SADC Brigade is seen as an important milestone in the region. He also applauded the success of the elections held in various parts of our continent. “In the past ten months, credible elections were held in several African countries, such as Lesotho, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Togo and Sierra Leone. The relative success of running these elections was something that all of us should be proud of,” concluded Mr Lekota.
Armscor welcomes its dockyard employees

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

In a new dawn of partnership, the SA Navy officially handed over the SA Naval Dockyard in Simon’s Town to Armscor on 28 September 2007. This ceremony took place at the East Dockyard in Simon’s Town and was attended by key role players and the dockyard personnel who will henceforth be under the management of Armscor. The historical occasion “marked a watershed” to the many meetings that took place between the two parties to ensure a smooth transfer of the Dockyard from the SA Navy to Armscor.

Up until the late 19th century, an era that witnessed historical world wars, the British Admiralty could deploy its fleet across the Empire for long periods with little or no support. With the advancement of technology the need for shore support intensified, increasing the need for dry-docks to repair steel hulls and propeller shaft leaks. Thus the East Dockyard in Simon’s Town was conceived (the facilities in the West Dockyard, Simon’s Town, were upgraded in the form of a new dockyard consisting of a dry-dock capability to handle the largest warship.)

The evolution which took place over 100 years involved four distinct phases, each phase identifiable by its own distinct building architecture. The fourth and final phase followed the take-over of the Dockyard by the SA Navy on agreement that the SA Navy expand and modernise the property.

“It was not easy to hand over a dockyard that has over the years been so dear to us,” commented the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Refiloe Mudimu, as he handed over the ceremonial key to Armscor. Declaring that the Dockyard has been a key installation situated on the strategically important Cape Sea Route around the Southern tip of Africa. “Many ships from international, regional and continental navies have called in Simon’s Town and will continue to do so in the future,” said V Adm Mudimu. “During the two World Wars, this Dockyard had a significant role to play in the repair of severe bat-
tle damaged to Allied warships that limped into Simon’s Town.” V Adm Mudimu commended the transfer of the Dockyard and its loyal and dedicated personnel to Armscor as a venture that would allow the Dockyard to exploit and compete for potential opportunities in the commercial ship repair environment. The Chief of the SA Navy further expressed confidence that the newly formed co-operation with Armscor will generate revenue from the commercial sector that can be used for the benefit of the entire nation.

Documentation on the East Dockyard is reflective of a loyal and resilient workforce, from back in the days when the dockyard was still in construction. When the East Dockyard was built it was the practise of the time to move large amounts of construction material by rail rather than road transport.

It is almost not surprising then that in 2007 Armscor would then inherit both the East Dockyard and its employees. Assuring his new employees of Armscor’s good intention, the CEO of Armscor, Mr Sipho Thomo said: “We are going to bring in new machines so that you work better. We are going to work hard to make sure that you are happy”. He also promised that the numbers of the workforce would increase coupled by an increase in the consistent training of the employees.

Referring to the Dockyard, Mr Thomo said: “We are receiving it like a small child to be natured”. He also confirmed the intent of Armscor is to turn and make the East Dockyard into the best dockyard in all of South Africa.
Encouraging maritime security and safety

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

From early morning journalists, photographers and cameramen braved the strong Cape winds and staked out the arrival of the United States Navy’s newest guided missile destroyer, USS FORREST SHERMAN. This Aegis Class Destroyer was confirmed to be on her way after a week long military exercise with the SA Navy.

The media who competed for the best positions to capture the perfect picture had their “paparazzi” thirst quenched when ultimately at exactly 13:55, the USS FORREST SHERMAN slowly but gracefully approached Quay No 2, with seagulls circulating and serenading her well awaited arrival. The USS FORREST SHERMAN anchored at the V & A Waterfront in Cape Town on 30 September until 4 October 2007.

Speaking to SA Soldier the US Naval Task Group Commander, Capt Nicholas Holman, explained that to mark the ship’s very first deployment since its creation, the vessel and crew members had in a space of two months sailed round South East Africa, through the Mediterranean and eventually to South Africa. He elaborated on how there were in actual fact two US Naval ships participating in the South East Africa sailing venture.

“The USS NORMANDY visited South Africa a few weeks ago and these two ships were on a voyage; the USS NORMANDY finished a visit to Eliminating problems that plague the high seas.
Mauritius and was currently in Madagascar,” said Capt Holman. “What we did was working with the navies, governments and the civilian population of the various countries to show them how to improve and work together as partners in looking at maritime security and safety.” He stated that the most pressing issues were those of sharing information, training, as well as looking and understanding the different oceans.

“We were concerned as the United States that there were some bad people out there,” he pressed on, sighting drug smugglers, illegal fishermen, pirates and the illegal trafficking of people as matters needing urgent attention. It was also the view of the US Naval Task Group Commander that the whole process of countries working together to eliminate the problems of the oceans will help to build partnerships, economic growth and improve regional stability.

The highlight of the voyage was EXERCISE INDUNDUMA (meaning hill in isiZulu), a joint military exercise at sea on the East Coast between the visiting US Navy and the SA Navy, which started on 25 September and finished on 28 September. Sharing in the excitement of the exercise, Capt Holman painted a detailed picture of how the exercise was carried out.

“The SAS AMATOLA was with us and additionally we had aircraft that flew with us; the United States had a P3-Orion maritime aircraft, and the South Africans had Oryx helicopters and C47 aircraft searching the areas for what ever it can find in the ocean” added Capt Holman. The SA Navy Task Group was also represented by the frigate SAS MANTHATISI, the Operational Boat Squadron, the Maritime Reaction Force, the Operational Diving Team and harbour patrol vessels.

On a lighter note, one other great skill the Americans brought with them to share was the ability to make good music. Some of the precious cargo on board the warship of the US Navy was their naval rock and roll band called “Top Side”. During their stay in Cape Town they met with the SA Navy Band and shared the stage at venues in and around Cape Town.

According to classified information, Cape Town was the “Liberty point” or “Point number one” for the USA crew, the best fun to all, a stop that had a lot to offer, including White Shark diving.
Lt Cdr Musawenkosi "Kop" Nkomonde became the second black officer to command a mine warfare vessel when he assumed command of SAS UMKOMAAS on 21 September 2007. He took over command from Cdr Richard Penn, who was appointed in February 2005.

Lt Cdr Nkomonde was born in Orlando West, Soweto in 1974. He joined the SA Navy in 1997 and completed his Officers’ Formative training at Naval College Gordon's Bay in the same year. From 1998 to 2000 he studied at the Military Academy in Saldanha and graduated with a B Mil (Natural Science) degree from the University of Stellenbosch.

After that he was transferred to Simon’s Town where he honed his skills in mine warfare onboard various mine counter measure vessels. During this time he was appointed in various posts, such as Navigation Officer and Gunnery Officer. He has also completed a United Nations Military Observer’s Course as well as an International Mine Warfare Course in Plymouth, England.

The Change of Command Parade was attended by various guests and members of the media. Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm H.vE. Bester, thanked Cdr Penn for the contribution he made as the Officer Commanding SAS UMKOMAAS and wished Lt Cdr Nkomonde well in his new appointment.

This appointment again proves that transformation within the SA Navy is on track. It also shows that technology with a competent skilled workforce and competent leadership is important and further shows the commitment that the SA Navy has towards employing a skilled workforce of the highest calibre.
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Divisional Warrant Officer assumes the reins

y Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Warrant Officers are a specifically unique group of soldiers expected to heed the call for military discipline and instigate actions rather than words, they are developers and mentors. On 21 September 2007 a Change of Office and farewell parade of the Divisional Warrant Officer of the Human Resources Division was held at the Personnel Services School in Thaba Tshwane.

WO1 Richard Walker stepped down after a long career in the SANDF and WO1 Raj Narain assumed the reins.

In paying tribute to WO1 Walker, Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, GOC Training Command, said WO1 Walker served as an exemplary soldier who always performed his tasks with diligence, enthusiasm and zeal. “He demonstrated honesty and courage throughout his military career,” declared Maj Gen Ntshinga.

Maj Gen Ntshinga welcomed the incoming Divisional Warrant Officer of the Human Resources Division, WO1 Narain, with the following words: “Having served in the training environment, continue to set a worthy example for our young creed of soldiers to follow and be a mentor.”

Family, friends, colleagues and members of the Personnel Service Core came to witness this special occasion with mixed feelings of pride, excitement and sadness. WO1 Walker expressed confidence in WO1 Narain’s ability in fulfilling his major task ahead and wished him well for the role he was about to play within SANDF.

Curriculum vitae
WO1 Raj Narain

He joined the SA Defence Force (SA Navy) in January 1981 as a Voluntary National Serviceman at SAS JALSENA, an Indian basic training unit, for two years. After his basic training he became a junior instructor/regulating clerk at SAS JALSENA until 10 November 1982. He served at SAS JALSENA from 1982 to 1989 as a personnel clerk, senior personnel clerk and instructor, whereafter he was transferred permanently to Naval Headquarters in April 1989 where he was tasked to start the Pension Section for the SA Navy.

From 1 October 1990 to 14 June 1998 he served as an instructor, course leader and chief instructor at Personnel Services School. Over and above presenting courses he volunteered to present decentralised training at the various SA Army commands.

WO1 Narain integrated into the SANDF in 1994. He modified the Personnel Clerk Course and the Senior Personnel Clerk Course from a theoretical based training to a practically based training and was awarded the Military Merit Medal for his outstanding performance at the unit.

He was appointed to the Naval Headquarters as SO2 Evaluations and Promotions at Director Naval Manning from 15 June 1998 to 30 June 1999. From July 1999 to August 2001 he was appointed as the Chief Clerk of the Development Section, Human Resources Support Centre (DMPU). In May 2001 he was appointed as the Formation Warrant Officer of Chief of Joint Training.
Appointment of Regiment President Kruger Honorary Colonel

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The inauguration parade of Colonel Jacques Roger Jean-Marie Jullienne as Honorary Colonel of Regiment President Kruger, a SA Army Reserve Force unit, took place in Randfontein on 15 September 2007.

Pledging to “Serve the Regiment” Col Jullienne expressed gratitude to the Chief of the SA Army for bestowing such an honour upon him. The responsibility of honorary colonels is to assist in maintaining regimental or unit traditions, to foster esprit de corps and to represent regimental and unit interest. Because honorary colonels are part of the civilian community they are also expected to improve goodwill and support relations between the organisation and the general public both locally and regionally.

Originally based in England, Col Jullienne was an Article Clerk with Chartered Accountants Robson, Rhodes, Laser and Dunwoody in the City of London. He obtained a business degree at the London Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom. Further more, the newly inaugurated Honorary Colonel is reputed for his acute business sense and holds positions, such as the Chairman of the Bee Foundation (Pty) Ltd, whose objective it is to create employment for 100 000 people of which 80% should be women.

In addition to his accolades, he is the current CEO of the Veterans Foundation (Pty) Ltd. The foundation was founded to create business jobs and job opportunities in line with the Advisory Board for the Military Veterans Association (ABMVA).

Congratulating Col Jullienne, the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, sighted the afternoon as one of the highlights of his military career. He highlighted that Regiment President Kruger has had a rich history since it was established on 10 January 1954 in Randfontein. The unit supports several crime prevention operations in the Johannesburg area and as far as Welkom in the Free State.

“...This regiment must keep up its standard and keep training,” said Maj Gen Andersen. “25% of the workforce was provided by Reserves during the national Public Service strike; the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake is going to be extended extensively; and the budget has also seen an increase,” said the Chief of Defence Reserves.

In addition to the Regiment inaugural ceremony a medal parade and a memorial service were held. Col L.J. Erasmus, the Officer Commanding of Regiment President Kruger, received a 40-year Good Service Medal. More Good Service Medals were presented to other deserving members of the Regiment who have served for lesser years.

Coinciding with the day’s events, a Memorial Plaque containing 20 names of members who passed away while serving in the unit was unveiled to honour the deceased.
September was our Heritage Month: it was a time for our country to celebrate our diversity and embrace our stable democracy that continues to enable coherence and diversified cultural practices. The celebrations on Heritage Day to some extent provide a record of culture and tradition where various cultures merge to form a unique nation which is proud of its heritage. South Africans of all races, cultural backgrounds, languages and creed participate and share each other’s cultural heritage as we collectively build a united nation.

According to the Constitution, different South African cultures are recognised and the right of every person to express his or her cultural identity is respected. By protecting our heritage sites we affirm and celebrate these cultures and cultural achievements. We deepen our understanding of our rainbow nation that consists of a dynamic blend of old and modern customs.

This year the main celebration took place on 24 September in the Free State Province at the Botshabelo Stadium. The main speakers for the day were the Acting President, Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, and the Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan. Following last year’s successful heritage
celebrations held under the theme "Celebrating Our Music" the 2007 theme for Heritage Month was "Celebrating Our Poetry". South Africans throughout September celebrated South African languages through poetry in pursuit of a shared identity.

Heritage is an accumulation of all our achievements as a society. Our art, poetry, and our spoken eleven official languages in our country are our pride—all this keeps us growing and developing as a nation.

Back at Botshabelo Stadium the celebration was kick-started with a sensational parade by the National Ceremonial Guard and the SA Army Band from Kroonstad. The military performed the Guard of Honour, a National Salute, 21-round gun salute and a fly-past by the SA Air Force. The impressive large gathering could not get enough of the spectacular aerobatic air display by the Rooivalk helicopter.

Addressing the large gathering, the Minister of Arts and Culture said: "Heritage Month recognises aspects of South African cultures which were both tangible and intangible, creative expression such as music, poetry and performances, our historical inheritance, language, the food we eat as well as the popular memory. The theme 'Celebrating Our Poetry' resonates with the initiative undertaken by the Department of Arts and Culture to revitalise South African languages and literature both in their oral and written forms and we are committed to promoting a culture of reading and writing as well as encouraging equitable development of all South African languages". He hinted that the Department of Arts and Culture will host poetry workshops in all the nine provinces to train and encourage aspiring poets and our youth.

There were stunning performers during the proceedings. Various artists and poets as well as traditional dancers entertained the crowd.

In her keynote address, the Acting President said: "The choice of this year's theme "Celebrating Our Poetry" was most appropriate as it aptly captures the logical link between music and poetry. Music and poetry in the evolution of the African artistic expression has always existed as twin partners working together, among other things, as major depositories of our collective memory and cultural values. Our collective memory is an integral part of our living heritage. A people without memory, a people without an awareness of where they come from, cannot be in a position to reclaim their history to enable themselves to deploy the vital aspects of that history to chart their path to the future."

Further emphasising the importance of poetry, the Acting President said that poetry plays a significant role in the restoration of the memory of a nation. She further informed the audience that in Africa we also have what is called izibongo/Lithoko (praise poems), which played and still continue to play an important role in traditional society. "In the past poetry played an important role during the time when our people were engaged in the struggle to liberate their country. Poets played their role by being social critics and were critical in mobilising and educating the people," concluded Dr Matsepe-Casaburri.

After 13 years of democracy in our country, let us continue to appreciate our rich and varied cultural heritage which has a profound power to develop national unity and strengthen nation building.
Soweto Festival in Kliptown

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Congratulations to the Visual Communications team of the Department of Defence (DOD) for winning the first prize in the “Best Large Exhibition Stands” category at the Soweto Festival, which ran from 21 to 23 September 2007 in Kliptown, Soweto.

This annual festival became a reality for the first time in 2006, but came back bigger and improved in 2007, providing the DOD with a perfect opportunity to once again prove its worth.

The Soweto Festival allows organisations, State departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and even small businesses to showcase “what it is that they do so well”, through static displays and information centres. The idea behind the “Soweto Festival” stemmed from the fact that historically Soweto, like many other South African communities was considered and classified as under-privileged. Arranging and running this type of festival was an attempt by the sponsors and key role players to speed up the Government’s vision of a pro-active nation whose efforts will help realise the national goal for “accelerated progress towards a better life for all”.

The festival brought to the general public information on job creation, employment prospects and basically where to go when in need of a wise buy or good purchase. The static dis-
The young audience understands that serving in the SANDF includes saluting.

The youth undoubtedly understands that serving in the SANDF includes saluting.

A youngster acts out how good it would feel to be in the SA Army.

Maj Precilla Lengoasa from the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) explains to a civilian what SAMHS is all about.

A youngster acts out how good it would feel to be in the SA Army.

In equivalence with the festival, the large exhibition put up by the DOD was big in terms of both size and stature. Confirming that indeed things were done a lot differently in 2007, Mr Chappy Holtzhausen, the Manager of Visual Communications in the DOD, said the festival was a strong platform from which to communicate.

Speaking to SA Soldier Mr Holtzhausen said the purpose of the participation of the DOD in this festival was firstly to tell the people of Soweto about recruitment and also to communicate what we do as a Department, so that people get the idea of who we are, what we do and how we do it, putting a lot of emphasis on training so they may choose to join. Emphasising the message of the DOD to the festivalgoers, Mr Holtzhausen said: "We tell them exactly what training in the SANDF entailed, the need to be disciplined, the career possibilities with maths and science. We had exhibitions from all four the Services - the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS)".

A lot of information, brochures, pamphlets, SANDF applications forms and DOD magazines were available. The SA Army static display included rifles so that curious youngsters were able to get a feel of what it would be like to aim and fire a real and loaded rifle. Members of the public were also allowed to touch and climb onto an Army tank and other armoured vehicles that were placed on display.

"For the SAMHS we showed what Ops Medics do", added Mr Holtzhausen. The SA Air Force did a fly-past at the festival, while the SA Navy divers demonstrated their diving skills inside a water-filled tank encouraging the youngsters that the SANDF can teach them to also become professional divers.

plays/exhibition stands also differed in size and character and one could easily move from interacting with an information officer from the South African Police Service (SAPS), to inquiring about car rentals at Avis Car Hire and eventually landing at the hot dog stall if you followed the inviting savoury smell.

plays/exhibition stands also differed in size and character and one could easily move from interacting with an information officer from the South African Police Service (SAPS), to inquiring about car rentals at Avis Car Hire and eventually landing at the hot dog stall if you followed the inviting savoury smell.
Environmental advice available at no cost

By Cdr A. Liebenberg,
A/SSO Environmental Services

South Africa’s leading environmental information and networking source, Enviropaedia, has been a keen supporter of the DOD’s environmental efforts over the last few years. This highly popular publication was published over the past seven years and brings together information from South Africa’s leading specialists in the environmental and sustainable development fields and facilitates debate on many controversial environmental issues and includes an environmental directory and information resource with contacts and networking information.

Two copies of this publication were handed over by the Editor, Mr David Parry-Davies, to Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, during the annual DOD Environmental Awards ceremony at AFB Ysterplaat on 7 June 2007. It was also announced on World Environment Day on 5 June 2007 that this publication will be available free of charge on the Internet as an environmental education and awareness resource to Government, business and civil society.

Mr Parry-Davies says: “As there are many conflicting interests and opinions regarding the environmental challenges that we now face, Enviropaedia Online has been designed to build bridges of common understanding between the stakeholders and promotes positive public participation and constructive engagement in order to achieve effective mutually acceptable solutions to the challenges we face.”

This innovative encyclopedia on environmental matters, information and networking can indeed assist in the environmental efforts of the DOD. It also provides a sustainable lifestyle guide to reduce one’s impact on the environment at home, at work and at play, helping one to be part of the solution to global warming and several other “inconvenient truths”.

* For more on this initiative go to www.enviropaedia.com.

SANDF Officer excels

Lt Col Dion van der Horst, currently working at the SA National War College (SANWC), recently received the Baccalaureus Technologiae (BTech) Management. He already complied with all the requirements for the completion of this degree in the academic year 2005, but the degree was only conferred at a graduation ceremony held on 4 October 2007. Not only did he pass his major subjects, Strategic Management and Administrative Management IV with distinctions, he also obtained distinctions in Management I, Communication: Business Administration I, End-User Computing I and Administrative Management III as part of his Diploma studies. He completed the Joint Command and Staff Course in Zimbabwe in 2006 and finished among the top achievers.

Lt Col Dion van der Horst and his wife, Jolene, after he received his BTech degree from Unisa.
Aeronautics and Aviation Week

By Solomon M. Kotane, Ad Astra
Photo: F Sgt Marinda Spang

Learners from over sixty high schools in Gauteng crowded around some five laptops showing aerial flight photographs at the SA Air Force (SAAF) stall during the Aeronautics and Aviation Week held at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg.

Most of the learners were attracted by the unusual collection of interactive aircraft videos and other science exhibits. They were also drawn to the hall by the colourful T-shirts, which were given out to matric learners who do mathematics and science at school.

The French Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Denis Pietton, who is an aviation enthusiast, launched the programme. The Centre had planned to focus public attention on all aspects of air transport. However, during the week of 15 October, most of the viewing was on aviation.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to South Africa, Mr Dieter Haller, hailed the organisers of the initiative, saying the event augured well for his country. It coincided, he said, with the handing over of the first Airbus A380 to Singapore Airlines. He reckoned that the event was yet another proof of the visionary capacity of the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) for long-term planning.

He said that the EADS remained a success story of European industrial policy. He added that it reflected the determination of key Caucasian partners not only to advance the political process of integration, but also the economic process.

Moreover, he believed that “in the world of today, technological advancement can never be achieved by individual or fragmented action.” What is needed, he noted, is a joint and broad-based effort of governments, the academic world and the private sector. He said: “all actors have to join hands to foster research, bringing the best brains together in creating an overall favourable framework to allow the swift transfer from research to production.”

“Flying a modern airplane is one of the most challenging and exciting activities in the world,” said the EADS’ top man in South Africa, Mr Hans Lueken. He added that it was not a one-man job. He acknowledged that it took many people doing a variety of skilled jobs to get an Airbus that weighs over 500 tons off the ground and keep it up.

Most learners and their parents, he noted, have a limited perception of the modern aviation industry. He pointed out that there was a constant need to get enthusiastic school leavers into the industry and that the EADS was keen on introducing the wonderful study and work opportunities in aviation to the youth.

The Centre offers advice, testing and counselling. Most of the visitors had fun and learnt some interesting things about aircraft and flying. The key aim of the SAAF exhibition was to capitalise on the Aeronautics and Aviation Week to promote and enhance the image of the SAAF and Programme Siyandiza among the communities in Gauteng.

In partnership with the French Embassy and the EADS, a global leader in aerospace, defence and related services, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre offered schools and the public an opportunity to explore the world of flight and flying. With the help of the EADS and local role players, such as the SAAF, Denel, Eurocopter, South African Airways (SAA) and many other companies, the Centre hosted an exhibition of commercial and military aircraft.

In addition to a spectacular collection of models and components, there was a programme of activities and events that included paper plane workshops, flight simulations and presentations by pilots on how planes fly as well as talks for youngsters by a range of role models. The display also included a career exhibition that looked at the wide variety of opportunities for young people in the aeronautics and aviation industry.

Maj Abby Mashao shows a visitor how to operate a flight simulator during the Aeronautics and Aviation Week, while Lt Col Pierre Wright and Lt Col Alastair Saultse concentrate on their controls.
Sixteen Candidate Officers from the Air Force Reserve received their rank commissions during a colourful pass-out parade held at the SA Force Headquarters on 19 September 2007.

Among the sixteen rank recipients were three Colonels, four Lieutenant Colonels, one Major, four Captains and four second Lieutenants.

The promotion of the new officers in the SA Air Force (SAAF) is a milestone achievement for the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and in particular the SAAF, as most of the Officers are already deployed in the Technical, Personnel and Corporate Communications directorates.

Addressing the newly appointed Officers, the parade reviewing officer, Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe, General Officer Commanding Air Command, said the intention of the SAAF is to ensure that the Air Force Reserve reflects the composition and cultural diversity of the South African population.

"The Air Force Reserve remains an integral part of the force design and structure of the SANDF. The Reserve Force should be capable of fulfilling its functions in an efficient and effective manner, and that the service conditions of the Reserve Force are designed to attract and retain sufficient and capable volunteers to meet the force level requirements of the SAAF," said Maj Gen Mangethe.

He further urged the Officers to maintain dignity, integrity, excellence and service before self in their Air Force careers.

Five of the newly appointed Air Force Reserve Officers, fltr: Lt Col M. Mdialose, Lt Col R. Molefe, Lt Col F. Pale, Lt Col M. Serame and Maj S. Ngwenya.
Tumefika - we have arrived successfully!

By Maj E. van Staden, Defence Corporate Communication

The Junior Command and Staff Duties Course (200702 C) at the SA Army College has come to a much-anticipated end, celebrating with an award ceremony on 11 October 2007. The learners were awarded for successfully completing the residential module of the course that commenced on 18 June 2007.

Brig Gen D.J. Masters, on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army, presented symbolic Junior Command and Staff Duties (JCSD) Certificates to the respective Chiefs of Services and General Officers Commanding of the different SA Army Corps.

Various awards and prizes were presented to learners who excelled in specific areas during the course. The trophy for “The best overall achiever” was awarded to Maj P.J. Lombard. Two book prizes were also presented respectively to the learner who displayed exceptional progress during the course, Maj M.J. Sindimba, and the learner who presented the best Commandant’s Research Paper, Maj M.M. Visser.

Brig Gen Masters also presented a JCSD Certificate to the Rwandan Defence Force Learner, Maj F. Kalisa, who was hosted as an international learner during the JCSD Course.

The JCSD Course is the most senior course in the SA Army and is presented in three phases, sequenced by a progressive building block approach. The first module is facilitated through distance training, followed by the residential module, facilitated at the SA Army College over four months and finally the practical module facilitated in Lohatla at the SA Army Combat Training Centre. The course encompasses the training of senior officers at the tactical level of war, to function optimally as commanders and staff officers at unit level.

“Songa Mbele” - we are moving forward was the slogan of the learners and indeed now they can say “Tumefika” - we have arrived successfully!

The reality, however, is that we might have arrived successfully at the end of the course, but for many this marks the beginning of the journey, especially those who aspire to further their careers in the SANDF.
An exciting new era was unveiled when the SANDF hosted the 4th World Military Golf Championships (CISM) in South Africa for the first time. CISM is an acronym for International Military Sports Council.

The championships proved to be a powerful and significant tool that fosters the motto of CISM - Friendship Through Sport - as it was able to bring together more than ten competing countries under one African sky. The championships took place at the Sun City’s Gary Player Country Club from 29 September to 5 October 2007.

As golf continues to make an impact on many more South Africans, blending it with international experience of peers from around the globe seemed to be rather a valuable experience for the local players, on and off the field of play.

Under the leadership of Col Gideon Odendaal, the Organising Committee pulled out all the stops to ensure that the visitors have unparalleled access to a selection of beautiful hotel rooms at the Sun City Cabanas.

The official opening ceremony (which was in a parade format) was held on the Monday evening at the Sun City Conference Centre. During the opening ceremony Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, extended his heartfelt welcome to all and wished them a pleasant stay during the championships.

“Let us cement our friendship...”
through sport by ensuring that the 4th World Military Golf Championships echo through the international community to prove that different armed forces can convert and make peace through sport,” said Brig Gen Sedibe.

He also paid homage to all countries attending the championships. “We would like to commend all the CISM member countries that joined us in South Africa to become part of this history making event of CISM. What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us,” added Brig Gen Sedibe.

The Chief Functionary of the ceremony, Maj Gen Landman, mentioned that sport is renowned as the “golden key” to the attainment of a sound mind and body. It can enable sportsmen and sportswomen to live better, healthier and happier lives. He added that sport fosters self-discipline, the spirit of self-sacrifice and the will to win. Above all it builds the indispensable quality of team spirit and as the motto it stipulates closer relations and co-operation among the military fraternity worldwide. He also appealed for mass participation in military sport as it develops important qualities of robustness, persistence, initiative, leadership, creativity and the essential ability to work as a team.

After all the formalities were taken care of, dinner was arranged for all to sit and enjoy themselves, while the marimba dancers entertained the guests in a uniquely South African way.

When the teams teed off and carried on with the championships, there were other activities planned for the spouses of the different delegates. These included a trip to the Lesedi Cultural Village.

This is a cultural village set among the pristine bushveld and the rocky hills less than an hour’s drive north of Johannesburg. This cultural village boasts five traditional homesteads - The amaZulu with their fighting sticks and cosy beehive huts, the amaXhosa with their perfectly thatched rondavels and distinctive white blankets, the rhythmic drums and the whistles of the Bapedi tribe and the conical straw hats and thick coloured blankets of the Basotho and the Bandelebe with their beautifully painted homes.

By the end of round 1 the USA was leading in all divisions: The men’s and women’s individual gross positions, the seniors’ division and the male and female team events.

The overall winners (men) of the top three countries: the United States of America, South Africa and Ireland, salute while the USA National Anthem plays. Front, far left: the President of CISM, Brig Gen Gianni Gola (Italy).
female team gross positions.

The second day saw the competitors tee’d off at around eight o’clock in the morning and hoping to better their performance as most of them got the feeling of the course the previous day.

As soon as the last shot was hit the participants went to visit the Lesedi Cultural Village. Here they were given a guided tour of the village and were briefed on the history of the different cultures within South Africa. After the tour the visitors were dined in exquisite African delicacies, much to their appreciation.

By now the results (after round 2) were telling a different story as Fabian Grotz (Germany) was leading in the individual gross positions in the men’s division, followed by Ivan Henrico (South Africa) and Albert Jr Johnson (USA) in the second and third positions respectively. On the other hand Karin Watts (South Africa) was in the third position in the women’s division. The South African teams, both men’s and women’s divisions, were lying in the second position.

On Wednesday the spouses were afforded the opportunity to visit the Pilanesberg National Park to get first hand experience of the natural side of South Africa. This park boasts a population of lions, leopards, black and white rhino, elephant and the buffalo - Africa’s Big 5.

It was traditions galore at the Chief of Missions’ function at the Palace of the Lost City later in the evening. The main aim of the function was to allow the visitors an opportunity to exchange gifts. The well-attended spectacle was like no other ever held before as it afforded guests the opportunity to display their cultural attire. The place was adorned with beautiful silverware to complement the mood. The dining hall was decorated with authentic African art that provided splendour.

The final day of the championships arrived and there was a lot of excitement in the air as the golfers were out to give their best in order to secure their positions in the top three.

Later in the evening the closing ceremony was held at the Palace of the Lost City, which did South Africa proud with its natural beauty.

The Chief Functionary of the closing ceremony, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, thanked all who took part in the organising and ensuring the success of the event.

He also said that sport is one activity that inculcates discipline. A well-disciplined sport personality maintains a consistent mental and physical training schedule, which helps build a healthy body ready for activities that are not confined to the competitive part of sport.

He appealed for greater participation in sport, as it is good for everybody, nations and the CISM. The physical activity and skills, the perseverance, the will to win and the emphasis on teamwork, all make sport an essential part of military life.

Lt Gen Matanzima mentioned that sport is a valuable tool in closing cultural gaps between people. In sport people learn to interact in a spontaneous and positive manner. They learn to trust and appreciate team mates regardless of differences, boundaries of race and culture disappear.

**Results**

**Team scores for men’s divisions:**

1. United States of America
2. South Africa
3. Ireland
4. Canada
5. Denmark
6. Germany
7. Netherlands
8. Pakistan
9. Zambia
10. Namibia
11. Tanzania
12. Zimbabwe

**Team scores for women’s divisions:**

1. United States of America
2. South Africa
3. Canada
4. Netherlands
5. Ireland
6. Zambia

**Individual scores - men:**

1. Vincent Hubert (Netherlands)
2. Ivan Henrico (RSA)
3. Fabian Grotz (Germany)
4. Mike Batten (USA)
5. Rodney II Frank (USA)
6. Kristian Mejnert (Denmark)
7. Albert Jr Johnson (USA)
8. Ryan King (USA)
9. Tony Stuckless (Canada)
10. Stefan Venter (RSA)

**Individual scores - women:**

1. Linda Jeffery (USA)
2. Karin Watts (RSA)
3. Maria Gronning (USA)
4. Lizette Potgieter (RSA)
5. Chantale Belley (Canada)
6. Ilona Moorrees (Netherlands)
7. Regina Foley (Ireland)
8. Nanda van Klink (Netherlands)
9. Lena Heidelmann (Germany)
10. Elaine Guinan (Ireland)

**Individual scores - seniors:**

1. Rodney II Frank (USA)
2. Albert Jr Johnson (USA)
3. Tony Stuckless (Canada)
4. Brendan Healy (Ireland)
5. Kieran Kennedy (Ireland)
6. Barry Norris (Canada)
7. Henrik Skovhus (Denmark)
8. April Prins (RSA)
9. Al Jensen (Canada)
10. Damien McCabe (Canada)
Can you afford to gamble when the stakes are high?

As the festive season approaches, and celebrations get underway, we need to be mindful of the high road accident rate over this period and prepare ourselves for the unexpected, says Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager at Old Mutual.

“This is highlighted by the fact that some 30% of all Old Mutual death claims are accident related, and with the odds so high, the important role of risk planning in our lives is clearly emphasised,” she says.

Wilson explains that there are two main components to a balanced financial plan; the one is the creation of wealth, which includes retirement savings and general investments or savings for short-term goals; the other is risk planning that includes goal and lifestyle protection.

She says that many young people erroneously neglect this element of their risk plan, believing that they don’t have a need for this type of protection. Remember though, that being young and healthy will not necessarily safeguard you against life’s unexpected events.

Given the high cost of health care, medical aid is also a crucial component of a risk plan, but one could opt for a less comprehensive option that is specifically designed to target the high cost of hospital events rather than the everyday health risks you may not require.

Protect your aspirations

She says that under risk planning there are different needs that have to be met. The first is to ensure that if you die, there is sufficient capital to provide, or replace lost income. In addition, there needs to be enough funds to cover all expenses related to the winding up of your estate.

The second need is to ensure that your earning ability is protected in case of disability, and that you are adequately covered for any lifestyle adjustments due to illness or impairment. The third need is to protect your assets in the event of theft or damage.

Don’t leave it to chance

When planning for the shorter term, there is the need to cover expenses, which could erode your savings and investments. If you are the victim of an accident, or a severe illness such as cancer. The costs of these illnesses or accidents can go beyond purely medical expenses. You may need to take time off work or make changes to your car and home, for example.

Life is unpredictable

“We can take all the precautions available to ensure our safety and that of our families, but the one thing we cannot do, is predict the future. By making risk protection a key component of your financial plan, you will have protection against any financial vulnerability that the future may bring,” Wilson concluded.

For more information, contact your Old Mutual personal financial adviser, broker, or nearest Old Mutual office.
A lot of hockey was played during the weeklong SANDF Hockey Championships with many sore legs by the end of the tournament held in Potchefstroom in August 2007.

Four men’s sides (Northern Cape, Western Province, Gauteng and West Coast) competed in the men’s division, while two sides competed for the women’s division (Northern Cape and a Combined Team).

The 2006 men’s champions - Northern Cape - were very keen to maintain their title and arrived with a mission to leave as champions again. Unfortunately a number of their players were deployed and could not participate in the tournament, which weakened their side slightly. Gauteng who were the champions in 2005 were determined to regain the title and Western Province which last won the title in 2002 wanted to be on the hockey map again. On the other hand the West Coast players were enthusiastic to be able to play on an astro court. They had no illusions of grandeur about their abilities and came to learn and develop. The scene was thus set for a tough men’s competition.

Unfortunately, with only two women’s teams competing, the competition was not as exciting as the men’s division. The Northern Cape women’s team was playing their third tournament and were determined to go back as champions, whereas the Combined Team was keen to enjoy the tournament and win.

The tournament started with a round-robin phase where all the men’s teams played each other twice to determine the group standings for the final. As there were only two women’s teams, they could only play each other during the week and again in the final.

The Combined women’s team ran out easy winners during the preliminary rounds, but the final was something different. It was a hard fought match, with Northern Cape leading 1-0 at half time. The Combined side levelled the score half way through the second half, with the match ending in a 1-1 draw. This resulted in a penalty flick shoot-out. The women had difficulty in finding the back of the net and after four penalty strokes each, there was still no score. Northern Cape scored with their last penalty stroke, and it all depended on the final penalty stroke of the Combined side. It did not find the back of the net and the Northern Cape women’s team became the 2007 SANDF Women’s Hockey Champions.

After each men’s team played six round robin matches, Gauteng ended top of the log with four wins, one loss and a draw. The loss and the draw were both against Western Province.

Western Province could, however, not continue with those results and lost both of their matches against Northern Cape, who in turn lost twice against Gauteng. Gauteng was closely followed by Northern Cape (4 wins and 2 losses), then Western Province (3 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses) and West Coast brought up the rear of the round-robin log.

The men’s final between Gauteng and Northern Cape, the defending champions, was also a hard fought match with Northern Cape leading 1-0
Have you ever seen the aerobic moves of Maj Gen Thembba Nkabinde, GOC SA Army Infantry Formation, or Brig Gen Enoch Mashoala, Deputy Chief Director SA Army Corporate Services, on the volleyball court? We have seen it and were impressed. All this and more took place at the annual Chief of the SA Army Recreation Day at the SA Army College on 14 September 2007.

This year the emphasis was on fun and not on winning, although the Infantry Formation is very proud of beating the Armour Formation in tug-of-war. (Of course the Infantry Formation had the most women in their team - “this was probably why they won” …)

Each formation/brigade manned two items ranging from hand grenade throw, playing darts and volleyball to the more sophisticated game of croquet - although there was no sophistication when the members of ASB Dequar Road played the game!

The different formations and two brigades competed in a *potjiekos* competition. I am still wondering how the *potjie* of the Intelligence Formation tasted with its Indian flavour as they were all dressed in saris to fit in with their theme.

The manner in which Gauteng won the title is a lesson for many sportsmen. The side consisted of both older, experienced (eight) and inexperienced players, the latter being recruited to play for the tournament, but who had never played a hockey match in their lives before. The average age of the experienced players was 46 and the average age of the side was 36. The younger players were coached and guided by the experienced players during the week and they responded well to the training, with their capabilities improving greatly during the week.

The final result was a good reward for such a mixed team!
The Golf Day of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, held at the Silver Lakes Golf Course in Pretoria East on 12 October 2007, served as a catalyst for bringing together South African captains of industry and high profile personalities from Government.

This was the view of many golfers who attended this colourful Golf Day. The golfers included dignitaries such as the Deputy Chief Justice of SA, Judge Dikgang Moseneke, the former Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda (Ret), the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and the Group Chief Executive Officer of Denel, Mr Shaun Liebenberg.

Speaking in an interview to SA Soldier Judge Moseneke called on the Department of Defence (DOD) to continue organising the Chief of the SANDF’s Golf Day as it serves to bring people from different professions together in an informal way. “The SANDF needs this interaction in as much as we need it too,” said Judge Moseneke. Commenting on a personal note he said like members of the SANDF, his duty was to uphold the rule of law and protection of the Constitution of the country.

Gen Nyanda (Ret) was also impressed with the event. “When my retirement came about, I asked Gen Ngwenya to consider making a day like this a reality. I am truly impressed to be part of this day. It is like a dream come true to me. The reach-out exercise by the SANDF is necessary as people meet and discuss issues of mutual concern at a social level,” said Gen Nyanda.

Mr Liebenberg compared the Chief of the SANDF’s Golf Day to the possibility of reconciliation in South Africa. “This day helps us to forget the differences of the past and forge ahead with a common future as South Africans. Just have a look at people of different colours taking part in this competition. You will realise that the past differences are fast disappearing. This is ideally what the new South Africa is all about,” added Mr Liebenberg.

Addressing the guests, on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, at the Golf Day Dinner Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Operations, said the SANDF has made great strides in achieving its military strategic objectives.

“Our defence capabilities were not only maintained, but definitely enhanced through the delivery and
The history of Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane dates back to 1924 when a number of senior officers of the Union Defence Force decided that the Roberts Heights Garrison should have its own golf course. The result was the development of an initial nine-hole course that has over the years developed into what is now known as Services Golf Club.

Today Services Golf Club still operates as a club predominantly for members of the SANDF and their families. Members of the SA Police Service, the Department of Correctional Services and employees of other State departments and State-subsidised institutions have also been welcomed as members of the club. Civilian members are also welcomed, but numbers are restricted in terms of the constitution of the club.

Currently the membership of the club stands at just over 1300, and about 50 000 rounds of golf are played at the club annually.

In the light of the close relationship existing between the club and the SANDF the club has created a special membership category for SANDF members. This membership endeavours to create an opportunity for SANDF members to join the golfing fraternity in the Gauteng North region at an affordable rate and enabling them to participate in the Inter Unit League on Wednesdays.

This also creates a unique opportunity for SANDF members to become part of the Pretoria Military Golf Club’s development initiative, as it affords members the opportunity to participate in the Inter Unit League as development players. A development player is deemed to be any male or female player with a handicap of 19 or higher.

This membership entitles members to play at Services Golf Club on Mondays and Wednesdays and in any Pretoria Military Golf Club fixtures at membership fees as determined annually by the club. Members are also registered at the SA Golf Association and receive a National Golf Network (NGN) affiliation card, which entitles them to play at all golf clubs in South Africa at affiliated visitor rates, which are much cheaper than non-affiliated visitor rates. Members will also receive an official handicap, linked to the NGN affiliation card, and managed by Services Golf Club.

The above-mentioned membership is offered at an annual fee of R500 plus card and affiliation fees of R170. These fees will increase annually as determined by the club and the service provider, namely the NGN.

All SANDF members are hereby invited to contact the General Manager of Services Golf Club, Dr A.J. van Wyk, at (012) 651 4411 regarding this membership. Any enquiries regarding the Pretoria Military Golf Club and its activities can be addressed to the Chairperson of the Pretoria Military Golf Club, Lt Col Olivier Schultz, at (012) 355 1884.
Casual Day was celebrated by members of the SA Army Infantry Formation HQ in Pretoria with a potjiekos competition and tree planting ceremony. The entry fee was a Casual Day sticker.

This event took place at the Erasmus Hall, the home of the Infantry Formation HQ, situated in the Army HQ complex. Eight teams prepared items for the competition, which ranged from a chicken potjie to runners and flyers. Showing the initiative of the Infanteers.

A rainbow panel of judges, who took their job very seriously, consisted of Mr Henk Redelinghuys from SA Army Foundation, Lt Col Desmond Adams, Second in Command of ASB Dequar Road, Lt Col Mafi Mgobozi from the SA Army Communication Section and Capt Cheryl Essop, Communication Officer of the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

The mark sheet was compiled by a former student of Peter Veldsman, the well-known South African chef.

Cooked, but still crunchy vegetables ensured that the potjie prepared by the Research and Development and Force Structure Sections won the first prize.

The Infanteers also celebrated Arbour Day by planting a Karoo Akasia and thereby ensuring that the spirit of the Infantry will grow like a tree, from strength to strength.

WO1 China Chinanayi, Sergeant Major of the SA Army Infantry Formation, covering the tree. (Lt Col Albert Mukwevho, SO1 Military Security, is standing next to him.)

Essop, Communication Officer of the SA Army Intelligence Formation. The mark sheet was compiled by a former student of Peter Veldsman, the well-known South African chef.

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Letona Lekota O Galaletsa Bagaka ba ba tlhokafetseng

Mokwadi: Lt. Col Frans Pale
Ditshwantsho ka Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoele
Mofetoledi: Re Kenneth k. Seanego

agaka bale borobabongwe ba Sesole sa Setsabana sa Afrika Borwa SANDF) ba ba ileng ba rrna madimabe mo kotsing ya tlhobolo ka nako ya ikatíso ee itsiweng jaaka IKATISO SEBOKA, kwa sekoleng sa ipaakanyetso botlhobani ya sesole kwa Lohatla, Diphalane ale 12 monongwaga baile ba tsamaisiwa setle ka tlotla ke Tona wa Itsireletso Rre Mosiuoa Lekota Diphalane ale 24, 2007.

E rile a ema bahutsafadi pele ka lefoko, ba ba neng ba akaretsa mothu magadi Mme Zanele Mbeki, ba malapa a amegileng, modulasetilo wa komiti ya tsa Itsireletso Rre Fizile Bhengu le setlhopa sa gagwe kwa tirelong ya segopotso kwa kerekeng ya Alexanderfontein mo Kimberley, tona Lekota o ne a bua ka fa baswi ba tsamaileng basale ba botlana ka teng le gore gone go santsane go solofetswe gole gontsi go tswelela re, o ne "motho o fehelwa maikutlo le e kana kana ka tatlhegelo e".

"Jaaka lefapha la tshireletso, re latlhetswe ke kanolo ya rona. Naga e latlhetswe thata ke bagaka baba sa bonalemg motlhoko, ba baneng ba ikemiseditse go sireletsa naga lego direla kagiso mo kontinenteng ya Afrika le mo Lefatsheng ka bophara. Ka jalo ke tshwanelo gore gompieno rebo re tlota kgopolo ya bagaka baba botlana ba. Re tsile goba gopoleng. Mo godimo ga moo, re tsile go tswelela re ba tlota gape re ipela ka diphithelelo tse ba di dirileng."

Tona o ne a bua ka maleme a mo Afrika Borwa ale mmalwa; seSotho, seThosa le seAferikanse, a soboka matshidiso goba malapa a a latlhetsweng a re "Babohobolo ba re. Aliubhanga lingeblanga. Lefu ke moeti wa malapa oble. Almir moet eendag stef." Tona Lekota o solofeditse ba mala-

pa a bao ba bonang kalafi kwa maokeleng le bao ba bonang monofo ba le kwa magae mmogo le ba ba boetseng tirong pabalelo go tswa go Puso ya Afrika Borwa le gore isagwe ya bone e thomame mo Sesoleng sa botshaba sa Afrika Borwa. "Re lo neteafatsa gape gore dikgato tse di maleba di a tsewa ka dinako tsethile go neteafatsa gore kotsi ya mofuta o wa Lohatla, ga e boe seboboane", go ne ga bua Tona Lekota.

Re Mosiuoa Lekota, Tona ya Tshireletso, a eme bahutsafadi ka lefoko ko tirelong ya segopotso ya masole ale robongwe a a tlhokafetseng mo kotsing ka nako ya Ikatiso Seboka.
Destruction of alcohol intake and drug abuse

By Chaplain Ben van der Walt, Air Force Gymnasium

A military General, Lt Gen F.L. Hagenbeck, GS Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, once mentioned in a letter that alcohol and other drug abuse have a serious impact on production in any company. People who abuse alcohol or other drugs are more likely to have financial, marital, legal and social problems. Most employees discharged for misconduct other than drugs or alcohol also had a drug or alcohol incident within the year prior to their discharge.

People with substance-abuse problems are less productive at work, miss work more often owing to ill-health, personal or legal problems, and thus force their peers to work harder to complete the mission.

Every person should be educated on the impact that the abuse of alcohol and drugs has on health, family, job performance and unit readiness. People must be able to recognise the early signs of abuse in themselves, peers and subordinates, and not be afraid to seek help from their superiors/supervisors.

Lt Gen Hagenbeck concluded by saying that managers and all who are in authority are all responsible for ensuring compliance with the drug and alcohol polices established by the Department of Defence (DOD). The support of these policies by employees will help to maintain unit readiness and reduce the loss of lives.

When I read the letter it reminded me of a passage from the Scriptures. When I read it, I was amazed by the detail and correctness with which the scenario was described. Even today we see similar scenarios and the details do not much differ from this ancient description.

We can learn from the text that we do not have to have woe, sorrow, contentions, babbling, wounds without cause and redness of eyes. Wine is not as innocent as it seems to be. People get hurt, get killed and even get infected with HIV and AIDS, when under the influence of substances, such as alcohol. When you are sober you can recall more of what happened to you.

We were called by God to be the crown of creation, not to be manipulated by substances like alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. The SANDF has a policy in place to assist those who want to be assisted to have control over these substances. Ask your Chaplain and/or Multi-Professional Team member.

We can live the victory together. Our Heavenly Father, You called us to be victors. Some of us have lost it to substances that took control of our lives. Give us the boldness to address this “cancer” in our society with the needed compassion. One day we want to look back and be proud of what we would have achieved, by your grace! Amen.
Sappers building bridges of friendship

By Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, SO1 Comm SA Army Engineer Formation

The SA Engineer Corps Open Day was presented to the community of Bethlehem in the Eastern Free State on Saturday 15 September 2007. An estimated 10 000 people attended the day.

Although the focus was on the functioning of the SA Engineer Corps, various other divisions and SA Army type formations also participated in both the static displays and the arena programme.

Schools from the region were invited to visit 2 Field Engineer Regiment on the Friday prior to the Open Day. The Department of Defence (DOD) was presented as an “Employer of Choice”. Learners could participate in practical shooting on the ELAC system at the exhibition of the SA Army Training Formation. Another sure winner was the GIS demonstration at the Mobile Operational Geographical System that was displayed by 4 Survey and Mapping Regiment from Pretoria.

The arena programme included four free fall sessions executed by the Golden Eagles and Special Forces, simulations of mine clearance and the handling of explosives. A roping exercise was executed by qualified Engineer Paratroopers and members from 44 Parachute Regiment. The SA Police Service (SAPS) also presented a dog show. Visitors were also treated to the music of the SANDF Entertainment Band and the Kroonstad Band.

In his address the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen L.C. Nobanda, indicated that 2 Field Engineer Regiment was responsible for mission training of all Engineer Corps members before deployments in peacekeeping operations. Currently almost 200 Engineer Corps members are deployed in Africa. He mentioned that 2 Field Engineer Regiment was also the main role player in the humanitarian aid that was delivered to Mozambique after the floods in April 2007. He thanked the Officer Commanding of 2 Field Engineer Regiment, Lt Col Bernard Monyatsi, and all personnel who contributed to the success of the Open Day.

The highlight of the day was the bridge building competition in which three teams, namely: 2 Field Engineer Regiment (Bethlehem), 35 Engineer Support Regiment (Dunnottar) and 19 Field Engineer Regiment (Durban), participated. The winner of the competition was the Reserve regiment from Durban with a winning time of 13 minutes and 8 seconds.

Sgt Daisy Mazibuko from the SA Army Gymnasium explains to learners how the R4 rifle operates.

Spr Rofhiwa Mutshinyani, a Military Skills Development System (MSDS) member from 2 Field Engineer Regiment, with children that attended the Open Day.
BEING DISABLED DOES NOT IMPLY INABILITY TO WORK