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Our Nursing College in good hands

Reserve rises and shines against all odds

SANDF Soccer Champions

A major passion for kickboxing

STREET ADDRESS
Defence Headquarters
c/o Nossob and Boeing St
Erasmuskloof
PRETORIA

POSTAL ADDRESS
SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

TELEPHONE
Tel: 012 355 6341 Fax: 012 355 6399
email: sasoldier@mil.za
website: www.sasoldier.mil.za

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
Assistant Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Editorial Staff: Ms Nomonde Vuthela

Col P.M. Motlhabane
Col S.P. Zeeman
Ms N. Pienaar
Maj J.V. du Toit
Mr L.R.M. Netshirembe
Ms I.D. Jacobson
Ms J. Render
Lt J. Sverdloff
Sgt L.F. Letoaana
(Chairperson)
(Secretary)

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

TEXT EDITOR: Mr Eugene Muller
TRANSLATION CONSULTANT: Directorate Language Services
PHOTO PROCESSING: 5 ASU Photo Section
DISTRIBUTION: Mr Jim Tshabalala
TELEPHONE: Tel: 012 355 6341

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Formset Printers Johannesburg (Pty) Ltd,
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FRONT COVER: Northern Cape (blue shirt) beat Gauteng (4 - 0). Northern Cape was the runners-up (women), while Gauteng came third in the SANDF Soccer Championships. More soccer news on page 43.

(Phot: Cpl Elias Mahuma)

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

It is nice and warm and, as they say, the most beautiful month of the year and this edition is therefore overflowing with sport. I recently covered the SANDF Soccer Championships in Potchefstroom and what a spirit of sportsmanship, fun and laughter did I experience! Please read more on page 43.

Our Department is full of people one can look up to and learn something from. Such a person is definitely R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, the SA Navy’s Director of Transformation. She again did the Department of Defence proud. On 12 September she was acknowledged by Rapport and City Press as one of ten South African women achievers countrywide for making a difference in the lives of others through perseverance and courage. Read all about the glitz and glamour of the awards ceremony on page 17.

Another remarkable person is the first-ever black gunner to be appointed to the Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA) Regiment - Lt Richard Ngwenya. He has risen above his circumstances and looks to the future. One Friday evening in 2004 he was travelling home from work when he became the unsuspecting victim of violence and his whole life changed … Please read his extraordinary life story on page 40.

Through hard work, determination and a strong belief in oneself one can excel in any field!

The degree to which we are able to forgive determines the degree to which we are able to love our enemies. It is impossible to serve and love God while at the same time treating your neighbour with contempt and disrespect. If you treat only certain people with respect, you expose the superficiality of your spiritual experience. Courtesy is not something that you can switch on and off. It is either something that comes from your heart or an act of hypocrisy that fools no one. Do yourself a favour and read the message on human dignity by Chaplain B.J. Moncho from 46 SA Brigade on page 46.

Greetings until next month!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

S A S O L D I E R • O C T O B E R  2 0 0 7

Ku suka e ka tafula ra Murhangeri

Nu dzawulo ya hina yi ni vanhu votala lavo munhu a nga langutaka na ku dyondza swinwana e ka vona. U muona wa vanhu lavo i R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, murhangeri wasa suku hundzuka e ka xiyeza xa vusiriheri va Africa Dzonga va le matini.U thlele a tsakisa Ndzawulo ya vusiriheri. Hi siku ra khume mbirhi ra hvueti ya September u xiximivele hi va Rapport na City Press tani hvunuwana wa khume ra va manana va Afrika Ndzonga lavo nga humelela hi ka kondelela na ku tiyimisela va kotaku ni ku tisa hluvuko e ka vutomi bya va nswana. Hlayani hinkawaso swa nthirho lwu a uu nyaya swinwene e ka ritluka ra khume nkombi.

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Nza milosa, a hi hlanganeni e ka hvueti leyi taku.

Nelda Pienaar
Murhangeri

* Translation is done by Lawrence Ngoveni.
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TRIBUTE TO REMARKABLE MAJORS

In early August death robbed the SA Air Force of a creative communicator, Maj Mogorosi Benny "Big Brother" Morake. Towards the end of the same month the evil struck again and seized the life of the South African National Defence Force workaholic, Maj Sibusiso Enock "Sbu" Ngema. The two can be simply defined as normal human beings with an extraordinary passion for their work. That characteristic has been motivated by an unusual affection they possessed for their country and its people.

Most of us were touched by the stunning role Maj Morake played in the SA Air Force (SAAF) Corporate Communications team he led. Their community development programmes, projects and donations to schools, hospitals, prisons and shelters were visible examples of public service to alleviate poverty. The programmes also revived hopes among needy communities and kept the SAAF flag flying high.

Maj Ngema will be remembered for the sterling role he played in recruiting for the SANDF. He had an unusual flair for unearthing young talent for the SANDF. His rare marketing skills played a vital role in recruiting young recruits to strengthen the Defence Force of this country.

Their untimely deaths have robbed the country of selfless public servants who served South Africa and its people with zeal and pride. Everyone was shocked at the loss of these great men and remarkable servants of the masses. Death cannot erase the immortal memories of humbleness and their sacrifices throughout their lifetimes. May their souls rest in peace. Siphiwe Mahlangu, Salvokop, Pretoria.
MY LIFE WITH THE SANDF IN CONGO

Since South African soldiers arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) I started being on a friendly footing with them. I was close to them each and every time. I started eating at the base, did many things in the base, and learned different languages. When they rotate, I will be with the newly deployed soldiers. They sent me to town to buy something for them or sometimes we went together so that I could help interpret for them. I was not working, but I was helping and they were helping me by giving me presents, paying school fees for me and buying different things that I needed. Oh, thanks a lot! Nowadays I am trying to run a business by selling DVDs and CDs at the Mavivi and Lubero markets. But please would you allow me to receive an SA Soldier magazine each and every month at Mavivi?

Friendship is like a flower that needs to be nourished so that it can grow and last forever. Mumbere Visosene Sammy, Butembo, Northern Kivu Province

* Thank you for your keen interest in SA Soldier magazine. Please feel free to ask our deployed soldiers for a copy of our magazine or visit the SA Soldier website: www.sasoldier.mil.za to get your own electronic copy - Ed.

LEAVING A LEGACY BEHIND

I am very proud of my leader, Col Nontobeko Mpaxa, who has recently been promoted to General. She deserves such an honour because knowing our status is the only way to enjoy life to the fullest. Most of us have a fear of being publicly embarrassed and stigmatised when we and others get to know our status. Think twice, practise safe sex and be responsible for persuading others to practise safe sex. Never be seduced by others into not playing safe when it comes to sex. About 60% of people know their status. Are you one of them? If not, why wait, just have yourself tested today.

Loving yourself is important. Know what is right for you. Each and everyone of us is unique and special. Stand on your feet and appreciate the beauty of life. Let us not be ruled by a disease made worse by symptoms of negativity and blame. You are the owner of your body, your mind and your feelings.

We are always tempted by matters sexual everywhere we go, for example on television, in magazines or on the radio. So then, how could our feelings not respond to such enticements? There are only two ways to conquer this life sentence, namely abstaining from sex or condomising. Be concerned. Let's condomise and stay safe always. Sgt James Mchunu, 121 SAI Bn, Mtubatuba

SOLDIERING IS A CALLING

Soldiering is a calling to which one may or may not adhere. All of this was noticed during the deployment in the Sudan. Signals were sent to all SANDF battalions to go and restore peace and represent peace in certain foreign countries, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Sudan, not forgetting our neighbour Mozambique with its flooding problems. Everyone was willing to leave their loved ones and answer this call to be a symbol of patriotism. We all noticed that being mature was not enough. All had heard about the Sudan, but all they knew was that the Sudan was a semi-desert. Many were called but few were chosen. Cpl P.S. Jantjies, 2 SAI Bn in the Sudan

HIV CONCERNS US ALL

Being an HIV/AIDS victim concerns everyone no matter who one is, young or old, as long as one is still breathing. All those who are not infected must be warned about this pandemic disease.

What about you my friend? We must respect others. Who are we not infected still have a lot to do unlike them. Firstly, we don't know our status and our destination, or what the cause, place, and time of our death is. The reality is that we must undergo HIV tests because knowing our status is the only way to enjoy life to the fullest.

I am very unhappy about her departure as there is still a lot to be done in this unit. It may happen that we go backwards. Most members who have been NCOs and Privates for years, with degrees and qualifications, got promoted and became Commissioned Officers. We usually hear about good things happening in other units, such as promotions of uniformed and PSAP members, but that has never been implemented in our unit (ASB PE). At least during her time a lot happened, regardless of the former forces. Her time with us was too short.

At ASB PE she was the green light for everybody who was in darkness because of the wonderful things she did in leading us. She will leave a legacy behind in this unit. For someone to fill her shoes will be very difficult, but we are waiting expectantly on whomever will be taking her position.

Please sir/madam, do not let us down. If there are still some shortfalls, people should remember that Rome was never built in a day. She has tried her best and has walked where no other Officer Commanding has been before. I thank the DOD (Chief of the SA Army) for deploying such a leader to the ASB PE. May God bless her. N. Gcobo, ASB PE HQ
On 16 August 2007 the SA National Defence College (SANDC) hosted the annual Women’s Day celebrations. Sixty women attended this event, representing the Training Command HQ, the SA National War College, PSAP Education, Training and Development (ETD), Personnel Services School, COLET and the SANDC. The day started off with Scripture reading and prayer by Chaplain Melanie Smit. Thereafter Col Mariëtte Hartley, on behalf of the Commandant of the College, officially welcomed everyone. This was followed by a passionate speech on “Issues Facing Women in the Workplace” by Mrs Minah Sindane-Bloem from Armscor. She focussed on the problems women have to face on a daily basis in the workplace, eg juggling two "jobs" - an official one earning a salary and an "unofficial" job as wife, mother, housekeeper, nurse, cook, etc. Having a woman as a boss certainly helps, as she understands the challenges we face on a daily basis. The onus, however, rests on mothers of boys to educate their sons to take an active role in the running of a household and sharing the workload. Prof Rosalie Finlayson from Unisa was next, educating us on “Cross-cultural Communication”, a passion of hers, seeing that she speaks all eleven official languages! She regaled us with practical examples of why it was important to speak an indigenous language. Not only does speaking a language empower one, it also teaches one about the inherent culture of that particular group of people. This very entertaining presentation was concluded by the singing of “Wa thinta Abafazi Wa thinta Imbokodo” (meaning you strike a woman, you strike a rock). Director Stephanie Zeelie from the SA Police Service focused our attention on security aspects surrounding ATMs, our homes and being vigilant wherever we are.

WHAT DO TRADE UNIONS DO FOR ME AS A SOLDIER?

The question arises whether there is any benefit for me as a soldier to be a member of one of the trade unions for uniformed members. To my knowledge there are at present two unions with a total membership representing no more than 27% of all the members in uniform. Not only does this figure create doubt in terms of the unions’ bargaining power, but it is frustrating me as one of the more than 70% non-members that are negatively financially affected by the delays experienced in the pay-out of our salary increases.

The delay in our salary increases is a direct result of the presence of these unions in our organisation. They impose procedures and practices that the Department of Defence (DOD) has to comply with in terms of the law. This is not the first time it has happened. In 2005 our salary increases were only implemented in November and December of that year.

As a non-member I cannot expect or recall any benefit gained from actions taken by the unions. After all, what have they done for their members currently serving in uniform? Nothing that I can recall in terms of privileges, except for some legal actions to get a few members reinstated after their services were terminated. To my knowledge some of these cases could have been avoided if those members had followed the correct grievance procedures. It worked for thousands before, after all the Defence Act also makes provision for protecting my rights as a soldier.

All my grievances, allowances, salary notches and increases, of which many required intensive negotiations with the Government, were satisfactorily handled by my superiors in the past. After all, I am convinced that my superiors have better communication, respect and bargaining power with the Government than any other external organisation, especially those that often threaten to go to court.

I was underwhelmed by the salary increase from the 6.3% that was initially offered by Government to the 7.5% that the unions claimed to have achieved during the recent strikes. After all, what is one per cent? One has also to realise that Government can only afford a certain amount, and as a non-profit organisation Government will have to make up for this one per cent loss in terms of its intended spending. The Government’s options could include cutting back during the next salary increase or raising taxes in an area where they can make up for the shortcoming. On the other hand, this stimulates inflation, which will have a further financial impact on me. I am also of the opinion that the Government’s problem and the impact that this may have on me in the medium to long term are of no concern to the union bosses, as they should be happy with the income and the media attention they received, especially during the recent strike.

What also astonishes me is that I have never seen an audited financial statement published by any of the unions for members in uniform. The total union membership fees paid by all the registered members should amount to approximately RM 11 annually. On the other hand I can think of a lot of things that I can do with the amount paid in membership fees. Fortunately this is none of my concern as I am not a union member and hopefully I will never be forced to pay membership fees as a loyal soldier serving the people of South Africa.

What is also of concern is that I, being part of the more than 70% (the majority) that are not members of any union, must also suffer the consequences of waiting for my increase. After all, this does not say much for being a soldier in a free democratic society - a soldier who has pledged to serve the people of this country and who is paid by the people through their taxes. Should not we, as the non-members that represent more than 70%, ask the Department to negotiate a solution for us so that we may be released from any procedures and practices involving the trade unions? This will enable us to be paid out, while those registered members can wait for their salary increases every time an increase is announced.

It should be understood that I do not oppose those unions in the private sector that serve a purpose by protecting workers against exploitation by profit-seekers in the business world. I am only expressing my personal view as a soldier with more than 40 years’ service that fully trusts my leaders’ initiatives and intention to uphold and improve the standards and conditions of service of myself and my colleagues at all times. They did so in the past and I am convinced that they will do so again in the future as they are in a better position to negotiate with the Government than any outsider.

Col Faan Weyers, Pretoria
The Washie 100 Miler Ultra Marathon
The Washie 100 Miler Ultra Marathon covers a distance of 160 km from Port Alfred to East London. The race was the first of its kind in South Africa and was founded by Mr Washington Whilfield in Port Alfred in 1977. This year’s race started at 17:00 on Friday, 27 July, at the Port Alfred Sports Club in very cold and icy windy conditions. The route was narrow and made more difficult with hills. The finish line was in East London on 28 July. Seven licensed members of the Defence Western Province Athletics Club competed in this race. Five were from the SA Navy: WO1 P.L. Johnston, CPO A.T. Kleinsmith, CPO G.N. Lary, PO W.N. Piloso and LS M.P. Kwakwa, as well as Capt A. du Toit (SAMHS) and S Sgt M.A. Rorwana (SA Army). They were accompanied by eight seconds from the SA Navy. The SANDF team was very well received and the organisers had only positive remarks on our participation, including that of our seconds, who were also exemplary ambassadors for the SANDF. The runners did very well, especially PO Piloso (the “Black Mamba”) operating in the front line hungry for blood right through the race. We want to thank everyone, including our race organisers and committee chairperson, WO1 Johnstone, for his confidence in us and WO1 Bannett for his support with the first-aid kit and kindness, as well as all our supporters. Last, but not the least, many thanks to Youngsfield Medical Centre (clinic) personnel, especially S Sgt Hendricks for his support in supplying medical tablets, etc over the past years.

Throughout the race all runners and supporters made use of their torches, illuminating jackets, belts and gloves for their own safety, especially because of the many potholes in the narrow roads, which were constantly used by heavy trucks. The SANDF also participated in the Washie 100 Miler Ultra Marathon in 2005 and 2006. Here it also won the team prize for the most runners to complete the race.

S Sgt M.A. “Rocks” Rorwana, Defence WP Athletics Running Club Rep Youngsfield

Back, fltr: WO1 P.L. Johnstone (JPT Smst), PO W.N. Piloso (the black mamba, SANAD), Capt A. du Toit (IMM) and CPO G.N. Lary (SAS ISANDLWANA). Front, fltr: CPO A.T. Kleinsmith (the iron man, Fleet TUS), S Sgt M.A. Rorwana (the rock, ASB Western Cape) and LS M.P. Kwakwa (SAS SALTANHA).
Goodwill parcels for our deployed peacemakers

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Naval Mess in Pretoria was the place to be and was under siege during a solemn retreat 2007 Goodwill Parcel Project gala evening, when senior members of the SANDF and representatives of the various sponsors of the Goodwill Parcel Project converged on 19 September 2007 to hand over the goodwill pledges and parcels.

WO1 Johan Scheepers, Sergeant Major of the SANDF, acted as the Master of Ceremonies at the proceedings, while his wife, WO1 Sheron Scheepers (Divisional Warrant Officer of Joint Operations Division), provided the necessary arrangements and assistance to the dignitaries, military and civilian guests. WO1 Scheepers called on the sponsors individually to hand over their pledges and to say a few words.

All the sponsors were thankful for the opportunity to support the SANDF generously by lending a helping hand in reaching out to our deployed peacemakers, both internally and externally. Mr Ezrom Ramadiro from Old Mutual Group Scheme said: "The goodwill parcels donation is a token of appreciation and commitment to our deployed peace ambassadors who will sacrifice much to be without their families and loved ones during the festive season in answering the call of duty."

Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, wife of the Chief of the SANDF, was the guest of
he Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Refiloe Mudimu, invited the Chief of the Algerian Navy, General Malek Necib, to visit the SA Navy from 27 to 31 August 2007.

The visit was arranged to foster closer relations and to serve as a platform to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two navies.

The Algerian Navy is in the process of acquiring ships and hence General Necib was accompanied by his delegation of technicians who used the opportunity to benchmark the fleet capabilities and facilities of the SA Navy.

From home during the festive season.

He pointed out that the task that the sponsors were fulfilling as a gesture of goodwill would not have been possible without their support. He also thanked Ms Ngwenya, and the SANDF Spouses Forum for their involvement with the deployed members’ families by providing them with hamper packs.

In conclusion Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg acknowledged the support given by the sponsors and their participation in this project. “It is through this project that we demonstrate our determination to help our deployed members who have tirelessly and with sacrifice pursued peace and security inside and outside the borders of our country.”

The Patron of the Goodwill Parcel Project, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg (Chief of Corporate Staff), received the goodwill pledges and donations. On receiving them he thanked the sponsors and said that they were making a huge difference in the lives of our deployed members. He pointed out that our deployed soldiers endured hardship, deprivation and a long separation from their families and loved ones, including being away from home during the festive season.

Honour and also represented the SANDF Spouses Forum. She had the privilege of handing over Certificates of Appreciation to the sponsors on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, for their participation and generous contributions to the 2007 Goodwill Parcel Project. “Thank you for generously supporting the SANDF and recognising the value added by our worthy peacemakers”, concluded Ms Ngwenya.

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Sponsors

The SANDF received sponsorships for the Goodwill Parcel Project to the value of R1.8 million. The sponsors were ABSA Consultants and Actuaries, ABSA Group, African Life, BOE Trust, Clinix Health Group, Liberty, Maxi Credit Solutions, Metropolitan, Novare, Old Mutual Group Scheme, Old Mutual PFA, QUBE, SAAF Fund, SAFI, SA Army Foundation, SAMHS Fund, SANLAM and the Chaplains Service.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff (left), receives a soccer kit donated by Old Mutual Group Scheme from Mr Ezrom Ramadiro.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff (left), receives a soccer kit donated by Old Mutual Group Scheme from Mr Ezrom Ramadiro.

Algerian guests visited our Navy

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Vice Admiral Refiloe Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy (left), and General Malek Necib, the Chief of the Algerian Navy, at the Navy Office.

(Photograph: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)
Military Veterans Memorial Service

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Council of Military Veterans’ Organisations of South Africa hosted its annual Military Veterans’ Memorial Service at Fort Klapperkop in Pretoria on Sunday 9 September 2007.

The memorial service was held to commemorate and pay homage to those at the call of duty who made the great sacrifice and paid the ultimate price, and those who had become disabled as a result of such service. All the deceased gallant soldiers died for the Allied cause and their names reflect the diversity of our rainbow nation.

The SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff, and other senior officers representing the Services laid wreaths during the service to pay homage to our heroes and heroines. The memorial was also attended by foreign military attachés and other dignitaries who paid tribute by laying a wreath or planting a cross.

Mr Mluleki George, SA Deputy Minister of Defence, paying his respects and laying a wreath at the memorial service.

Explore acquisition and technology

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

The eleventh meeting of the Acquisition and Technology Working Group took place in South Africa and was hosted by the Department of Defence (Defence Matériel Division) at the Armscor Castle (“Spookhuis”) in Pretoria on 30 and 31 July 2007.

This working group is an entity of the RSA/USA Defence Committee and has as its aim to explore and develop co-operation in areas of technology and acquisition.

Some of the achievements of this working group are in the domains of information exchange on artillery, mortars, oceanography, foreign comparative testing, mine protected vehicles and the Advanced Canon Artillery Ammunition Programme.

The RSA/USA delegates during their working group meeting.
The 2nd RSA/Ghana Defence Committee Meeting

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebohang Tlhaole

The 2nd RSA/Ghana Defence Committee Meeting was held at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 28 and 29 August 2007. The SA delegation was led by Mr T.E. Motumi, the Chief of Policy and Planning, and the Ghanaian delegation by Mr E.F. Ofosu-Appia, the Chief Director of Ghana Ministry of Defence.

The meeting cultivated a spirit of union and served as another building block in the process of strengthening the bonds of friendship and defence co-operation between the two countries that share ideas of peace, freedom and democracy.

The meeting between the two delegations further provided an opportunity to take a cursory look at regional security issues, particularly the issue of peace and stability in the region. The two Co-chairpersons, Mr Motumi and Mr Ofosu-Appia, briefed each other on their defence systems.

Mr Motumi pointed out that South Africa and Ghana had common goals and shared common values. Both countries want prosperity, democracy and good governance in Africa. “Stability is an indispensable prerequisite for economic growth and South Africa will continue to participate in bringing peace and stability to countries characterised by conflicts,” said Mr Motumi.

In response, Mr Ofosu-Appia said that South Africa was playing a crucial role in promoting peace in Africa. He emphasised that defence collaboration between the two countries should be based on mutual knowledge about each other, shared goals and complementary capabilities.

Mr T.E. Motumi, the Chief of Policy and Planning (right), and Mr E.F. Ofosu-Appia, the Chief Director of Ghana Ministry of Defence, exchanging gifts during the 2nd RSA/Ghana Defence Committee Meeting in Pretoria.
The SA Navy is the guardian of
the Cape Sea Route. This state-
ment was proved again quite
recently when North Atlantic
Treaty Organisation (NATO)
ships of the Standing Naval
Maritime Group 1 (SNMG1)
conducted a series of multilateral exer-
cises with the SA Navy and certain
elements of the SA Air Force. These
exercises (EXERCISE AMAZOLO) took
place south of Cape Point from 3
to 6 September 2007.

The SNMG1 comprised six vessels
from as many countries and was com-
manded by R Adm Michael Mahon, US
Navy. The ships (and their countries of
origin) were: HMCS TORONTO (Can-
ada), HDMS OLFERT FISCHER (Den-
mark), FGS SPESSART (Germany),
HNLMS EVERTSEN (The Nether-
lands), NRP ALVARAS CABRAL
(Portugal) and USS NORMANDY
(USA).

The ships from the SA Navy that
participated were the SAS AMATOLA
and the SAS ISANDLWANA (Valour
Class Frigates), the SAS MANTHATISI
(Heroine Class Submarine) and the
SAS GALESHEWE (Warrior Class
Strike Craft).

As soon as the ships left harbour on
Monday morning, 3 September, the
exercise serials began. What followed
was an extremely busy time where one
serial started immediately after the pre-
vious one had finished. Some of the
exercise serials included:

- A photo exercise,
- Various fleetwork and ship
manoeuvring exercises,
- Anti-submarine exercises,
- "Attacks" by fast attack craft (SAS
GALESHEWE was used for this),
- Boarding exercises (where ships
were boarded by marines to search
for "illegal" activities)
- Gunnery exercises,
- Air defence exercises, and
- Officer of the watch manoeuvres.

The opening statement of this article
was borne out by the success achieved

An SA Air Force Dakota aircraft flies quite low over the FGS SPESSART
(Germany).
by SAS MANTHATISI. During the anti-submarine exercises none of the surface vessels of NATO and the SA Navy were able to detect the submarine. In fact, during these exercises the SAS MANTHATISI managed to sink all (yes all!) of the NATO vessels - twice!

When one considers that some of the NATO vessels specialise in anti-submarine warfare the magnitude of this achievement becomes more apparent.

The SAS AMATOLA also performed very well in this air-defence exercise because she was the first ship in the fleet to identify positively and track the incoming aircraft. This is a spectacular achievement when one considers that the HNLMS EVERTSEN was designed as an air-defence frigate and therefore has more powerful search radars than our vessels. The USS NORMANDY is also equipped with the AEGIS weapon system, which is also a very powerful air-defence electronic system. This proves that the sensors on board the SAS AMATOLA, and the crews that man them, are truly world-class.

It is obvious that the SA Navy may be smaller than some of the larger NATO navies, but we do not have to stand back one step when it comes to proficiency and excellence.
Our Army is a reliable partner for security challenges

By Lebohang Letaoana
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, hosted a scrumptious breakfast for members of the media at SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, on 6 September 2007. The purpose on this occasion was to brief the guests about the latest developments in the SA Army and also to strengthen the existing bonds.

Before addressing the media, Lt Gen Shoke introduced Col Eddie Drost, Project Officer Vision 2020, to human assets for the future. There are plans to increase this figure to 7 000 by 2009.

He also emphasised that discipline was still the most important factor in the SA Army, "We will be hard on the members who are not delivering and disciplined. We will also look at the individuals' performance and see if they are performing or not," said Lt Gen Shoke.

Members of the SA Army who have been neglected in the past will benefit from the establishment of the DOD Works Regiment, which was recently initiated by the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota. This regiment will be responsible for the maintenance and repairs of all DOD facilities. "It is a known fact that some of our facilities are deteriorating. We will utilise these members to repair these facilities and they will be remunerated according to their skills and qualifications; we cannot dump our people on the streets," said Lt Gen Shoke.

He paid tribute to the members of the SA Army for the success of the elections in Burundi and said the SA Army was a trusted and reliable partner for the security challenges of the 21st century.

The SA Army is in the process of recruiting about 3 000 recruits for the January Intake (2008), through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), to ensure that the SA Army has the right human assets for the future. There are plans to increase this figure to 7 000 by 2009.

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, addressing members of the media.
litz, glamour, music, food and gifts were the terms in which Rapport and City Press paid tribute to ten South African women for making a difference in the lives of others through perseverance and courage. “They had through hard work, determination and a strong belief in themselves excelled in their respective fields.” City Press and Rapport acknowledged these women achievers during an award ceremony with a difference at VodaWorld in Midrand on 12 September 2007.

The event, considered by many as one of the most coveted occasions in the South African social calendar and a “hot spot” for local personalities within entertainment, fashion and design industries, had been held annually for the past eleven years. The day was dedicated to each woman who through hard work and determination had excelled and earned respect among her peers.

As the Editor of Rapport, Mr Tim du Plessis, put it: “Experts say if you want to gauge the progress of a society, you need only measure the progress of women in that society”. He added that if that is the case, then South Africa is doing very well because women are better represented in both the private and public sectors. Reiterating Mr Du Plessis’ words, the Editor in Chief of City Press, Mr Mathatha Tsedu, said the awardees were heroines who saved us in the face of overwhelming feelings of despondency. “We honour courage in the face of daunting odds,” he said.

What a fine day! - coinciding with the anniversary of the death of a great South African, Bantu Steve Biko, co-founder of the Black conscious movement in the early 70s, the event promoted the numerous citizens that made the country proud, past and present.

Receiving her award for being a remarkable woman, Helen Zille, the Mayor of Cape Town, said that it was possible for all South Africans to participate because of those that came before. “We look back at the murder and detention of Steve Biko and remember those who went before us,” she said.

“We are free at last and never have I been prouder to be a woman,” proclaimed a fellow recipient and renowned actress, Amanda Strydom. Other recipients such as the extremely popular and strikingly beautiful actress, Michelle Botes, celebrated her two children, hailing them as the factors that inspire and drive her the most. HIV and AIDS were also put on the platform when Rhoda Kadalie, the Director of the “Mpumelelo” Innovations Awards Trust, attributed her success to the countless women working with HIV and AIDS, and stated that those unknown and scarcely recognised women “hold up half the sky”.

The SA Navy’s Director of Transformation, R Adm (JG) Khanyisile Litchfield-Tshabalala, did the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) proud by being one of the carefully selected top ten women. On this celebrated day, her endless efforts to be counted among those members in the SANDF who helped narrow the gap between the organisation and the public it serves, were once again affirmed. Thanking God for her strength R Adm (JG) Litchfield-Tshabalala, in receiving her award, also told how her husband was the “Wind beneath her wings”, adding: “My prize goes to the South African Navy”.

One by one, young and old came forth to collect well-deserved awards, but only one person who, although she wants no pity, brought the house to tears of joy, namely the youthful and extremely soulful Masingita Masunga, who was born with cerebral palsy and failed Grade 12 twice, because she was not allowed to use a typewriter to write matric. Nevertheless, she is today the Managing Director of Tinyungub-yiseni Talent Promotion, Director of I Can Events as well as of Basadi Property Management.

“All I did was to use challenges and turn them into opportunities. I am encouraged by women who have made ordinary lives into extraordinary lives,” said Ms Masunga, one of the nation’s currently top ten beacons of hope.
With the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament coming to Africa soon, it was no coincidence that the congress of the International Commission for Military History (ICMH) was for the first time ever hosted in sub-Saharan Africa. It was held in Cape Town from 12 to 17 August 2007 and organised by the SA Military History Commission and the Military Academy (Faculty of Military Science, University of Stellenbosch).

The ICMH is a working group within the International Committee of Sciences. As such it is under the auspices of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and has the status of an affiliated international organisation. It aims at furthering and co-ordinating security related research throughout the world and at being an international platform for the exchange of ideas.

SA Soldier attended the opening ceremony of the 33rd congress of the ICMH in Cape Town on 13 August. The delegates from more than 40 countries came from various armed forces, universities, military academies, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the international diplomatic community. This year’s theme was Regions, Regional Organisations and Military Power.

The SA Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, explained in his opening address why it was so important to debate regional security issues from a historical perspective. "History is a critical element for the higher order understanding of conflict in general and the security needs of society in particular. Understanding conflict and security from a historical perspective is rooted in the notion that a historical mind is a well travelled mind. By exploring conflict and security from a historical perspective current policy debates are informed, enriched, articulated and shaped. This notion is of particular importance for the understanding of African conflict and security in general and the security of African states in particular," said Mr George.

Prof Dr Luc de Vos, President of ICMH, said in his welcoming address:
The delegates that attended the 33rd International Congress of Military History in Cape Town.

Maj Gen (Prof) Solly Mollo, President of the SA Military History Commission, welcomes the delegates.

"This congress, the first one in this area of the world, will be a new step in the history of our organisation. The 'Eurocentric profile' of the ICMH becomes more and more an obsolete characteristic. I am particularly happy that African countries are so well represented this year," said Cdr (Dr) Thean Potgieter, Secretary General of the SA Military History Commission (SAMHC), explaining why it took so long for the congress to come to our soil: "African countries were not represented in the past because the congress had been mainly dominated by the European countries. With this congress we want to make sure that African voices are heard," said Cdr Potgieter.

Maj Gen (Prof) Solly Mollo, President of the SAMHC, also welcomed the delegates. "I am positive that our international delegates and the various national commissions participating in the congress will contribute much towards our understanding of this issue and that the large variety of interesting papers will provide us with important insights into this complex phenomenon," he said.

The opening ceremony was also graced by the presence of Prof Russell Botman, Rector and Vice Chancellor of University of Stellenbosch, and Dr Edna van Harte, Dean of the Faculty of Military Science, Military Academy Saldanha.

The academic programme kicked off with a presentation by Mr Tsepe Motumi, Chief of Policy and Planning, who delivered his paper on Sustaining civil-military relations in a new democracy - current and historical perspective. Other topics that were discussed during the congress were regionalism, regional conflict and alliances, liberation struggle in Southern Africa, the international dimension of national and multinational peacekeeping regional alliances and conflict.

After much lengthy discussion and debate the delegates had the opportunity to experience the Mother City by visiting Simon’s Town and Robben Island to conclude the successful 33rd International Congress of Military History in Africa.
n 31 August 2007 the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, handed over the baton of command to Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi during the change of command parade held at Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane. Lt Gen Matanzima has been appointed as the new Chief of Joint Operations.

The parade, which was well attended by both senior and junior members of the Department of Defence (DOD), was well organised and the National Ceremonial Guard as always excelled on the parade ground. The parade was also graced by the presence of Ms Dimpho Hani, the wife of the late Mr Chris Hani.

Lt Gen Matanzima played a major role in the establishment of the Human Resources Division, a newly established structure of the SANDF with its inception on 26 January 2007 (see picture on page 21). He has been the Chief of Human Resources for two years.

In his address, he mentioned a few milestones that were achieved since the inception of the Human Resources Division, such as the amalgamation of the various Human Resources components, becoming a strategic National Government partner and reaching even further afield into the African continent.

“These milestones, you will agree, can and have been achieved through the dedication and direction of many strategic minds and thoughts within the Division. I trust that the same support and initiatives will continue to prevail with the ushering in of the second Chief of Human Resources,” said Lt Gen Matanzima. He added: “The need to acquire and retain the best talent with a specific focus on the youth, the need to acquire, develop and retain scarce skills and expertise to ensure that the DOD is in a position to operationalise our strategic defence packages in the best possible way.”

On his new appointment Lt Gen Matanzima said: “I am grateful for the confidence entrusted in me with my appointment as the new Chief of Joint Operations. The operational deployment of our members is of cardinal importance and I would like to make the commitment that I will ensure that our operational capabilities are of the highest standard and, specifically, I know that I can rely on your unwavering support with regard to human resource matters,” concluded Lt Gen Matanzima.

The new Chief of Human Resources
Who is the new Chief of Human Resources? - Lt Gen Derrick Mgwebi. He started his military career in 1978 and has since completed all military courses, including the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP).
Lt Gen Mgwebi was appointed Director Special Forces and then Director training and Operations in the SANDF. In 1995 he held the position of Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence and later, in 1997, he became the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Mpumalanga Command.

He was later appointed as the GOC SA Army Infantry Formation and also served as the GOC Joint Operations Headquarters. Since 2004 he has served as the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Burundi. His previous appointment was as the Chief of Army Force Preparation.

He is married to Busisiwe and they are blessed with four children.

He further studied and obtained a degree in Business Administration. His quest for further knowledge gained him a Diploma in Defence Management from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Certificate in International Business Communication from the UNISA.
Business gurus at Reserve Force workshop

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoile

About 30 top business personnel from the private sector participated in a five-day orientation workshop for the SA Army Reserve Officers held at the SA Army College at Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, from 3 to 7 September 2007.

Among the participants were the former Secretary General of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, Mr Ngila Michael Muendane (now the Executive Director of Soultalk), African National Congress (ANC) activist, Col Johnny Sexwale, (current Chief Executive Officer for Mantuba Investments Holdings [Pty] Ltd), former ANC parliamentarian, Col Ntsiki Mashimbye (now Executive Chairman of Automotive Association Emergency Services), and ANC activist cum businessman, Col Sipho Majombozi.

In his welcoming address the Chief Director Army Reserves, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, said the main objective of the workshop was to provide an overview of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), especially the role that the Reserve Force plays in the SANDF.

“The SANDF covers different fields and this workshop will concentrate on making visible to you the main components, role players and their functions in the SANDF. I trust that this workshop will empower you to contribute fully to the upliftment of the Army Reserve,” said Maj Gen Mokoape.

The workshop, which was conducted mainly by Generals from the four Services, consisted of topics such as the role of Reserves in the Department of Defence (DOD), the Military Strategy and the role of the DOD, the Code of Conduct, military drill, the vision of the SANDF, service orientation of the four Services, the
At the height of black power politics in September 1976 in South Africa, Col Johnny Sexwale, then 19 years old, left his Soweto home for exile through Swaziland.

In search of freedom outside his country, Col Sexwale spent some time in Swaziland, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Angola before going to the Soviet Union to study Military and Political Science.

His journey to unknown lands was driven by his love and passion for his people and country. Although a businessman today, Col Sexwale still manages to defy his busy schedule to attend Reserve Force meetings arranged by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

On 6 September 2007, while attending a five-day orientation course for Reserve Force officers at the SA Army College, Col Sexwale was confirmed by the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the SANDF as a Colonel in the SANDF.

Before opting for exile, Col Sexwale was actively involved in the underground activities of the African National Congress (ANC). He managed a network that recruited and transported ANC cadres from South Africa to neighbouring countries. Among his recruits were some of the current government ministers, parliamentarians, senior government officials and business leaders.

Col Sexwale spent many years in Angola where his responsibilities included training, selecting and infiltrating Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) cadres into South Africa. He also headed a special top secret formation called the Documentation Department, which was responsible for forging identity documents, passports and related documents to enable MK cadres to travel freely to South Africa and other countries.

As a former activist in the liberation struggle, Col Sexwale's struggle credentials speak volumes about his contribution to the current democratic dispensation in South Africa.

“...As an educator, I feel deeply moved by the work done by the SANDF in our country. I wish that SANDF personnel could visit schools around the country with a view to recruiting youngsters and instilling the culture of discipline in them.”

Johnny Sexwale appointed as Colonel in the SANDF

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Cpl Elias Mahuma

Colonel Johnny Sexwale.
Soldiers putting their skills to the test

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Army presented its 12th annual Warrant Officers (WOs) and Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) Competition at the SA Army Gymnasium at Heidelberg from 3 to 5 September 2007.

For the 2007 evaluation there were 199 entries and teams affiliated to the SA Army WO/NCO Competition to compete in this prestigious event in which their skills were put to the test. Among the participants 174 were members of the SA Army from units across South Africa and there were 25 international members from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

SA Soldier caught up with WO1 Mothusi Kgaladi, Sergeant Major of the SA Army, who mentioned that the competition determined the degree of competitiveness: “The aim of the competition is to put skills to the test and determine the best WOs and NCOs and enhance an esprit de corps that reflects the state of discipline to a great extent”. He also said that WOs and NCOs were the guardians of military discipline.

WO2 Kunaka Godfrey, Wing Sergeant Major from the Zimbabwean Defence Force, conveyed the sentiment that the WOs and NCOs Competition brought a spirit of friendship to the forces. “Participants learnt a lot from each other and made each minute count,” said WO2 Kunaka. In any competition there can only be one winner. Participants showed much determination as they reassured themselves that everyone had a common purpose and goal, which was winning the competition.

Over the three days the skills of WOs and NCOs were put to the test in various skills evaluations, which included theory, pace stick, fitness, shooting, drill and neatness.

Results:
Fittest Member:
Cpl P.M. Mwandaba
(Infantry Formation)

Best Shot:
Sgt P. Ngwenya
(Artillery Formation)

Best L Cpl in the SA Army:
L Cpl S.J. Madlakamela
(Infantry Formation)

Best Cpl in the SA Army:
Cpl D.J.P. du Bus (Armour Formation)

Best Sgt in the SA Army:
Sgt P.P. Motlhabi
(Artillery Formation)

Best S Sgt in the SA Army:
S Sgt R.C. Els (Armour Formation)

Best WO in the SA Army:
WO2 M.M. Beukes
(Training Formation)

Best Pace Stick Team:
ASB Johannesburg in the SA Army: (A-team)

Best Pace Stick Sticker:
Sgt M.D. Hugo
(Training Formation A-team)

Best Pace Stick Driver:
WO2 T. Radebe
(Engineer Formation B-team)

2007 Overall Best Team and the Grand Prix Trophy winners:
Infantry Formation.
One on one with Director Corporate Communications

What began as a concerned father’s attempt to instil discipline in a son turned into a military career that would span over 26 years for Brig Gen Kwena Darius Mangope, the Director Corporate Communications at the Department of Defence (DOD). Speaking to SA Soldier about Directorate Corporate Communications, which he currently heads, Brig Gen Mangope confirmed that his father’s decision to make him into a military man remains the best decision ever.

“I would not exchange this experience for any other,” he said, revealing that functioning as the co-ordinator of all corporate functions for the Chief of the SANDF makes each day different. Brig Gen Mangope has now been the Director Corporate Communications for the past three years.

Having admitted that he has over the years acquired a taste for a good challenge, he added this about future adventure: “Perhaps more exciting times will stem from being able to internalise, popularise and project the vision of the Chief of the SANDF.” During the Chief of the SANDF’s work session a “new vision” for the SANDF in peacetime was confirmed. The second phase would be to formulate a “catch phrase/slogan” descriptive of what the SANDF represents.

The slogan that should capture the essence of the organisation and its contribution to exporting peace to the rest of the continent for the overall good of South Africa must be fully understood and made familiar to its workforce and the general public (of all ages). “Our job is now to project the vision not only internally, but externally,” Brig Gen Mangope said. (A progress report on the project is expected before the end of 2007.)

Noting that popularising the SANDF presents itself as an opportunity for the organisation to project itself in a very robust manner, the General said that this was also a time for the SANDF to lay claim to its rightful place as a significant contributor to peace and security, ie “to be proud and articulate the successes it has achieved”.

Part of his job includes making sure that the Communications Strategy of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is aligned to the Communications Strategy of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS). “The challenge I am faced with is to be able to practically implement the plans embodied in our Communications Strategy, and to also continuously reflect on the environmental factors which influence our activities,” he commented on his work. Brig Gen Mangope said: “It is an inspiring challenge so to speak, an eye-opener, because not every day brings with it the same challenges. You need to be thinking on your feet and being bold enough to take decisions”.

His office is based at the Defence Headquarters in Pretoria where he enjoys the art of disseminating information. Brig Gen Mangope in his earlier years majored in Anthropology. For him choosing to move away from his initial qualifications did not necessarily result in the abandonment of all that was originally learnt. “One enjoys Corporate Communications because of one’s nature,” he said. “It has been very, very exciting. I must say, I have gained a lot of experience and I can only improve. As a Director I demand that my people perform.”

Prior to joining Directorate Corporate Communications he was deployed as the Military Attaché to India from 2001 to 2003. “Even after my retirement I will serve in the Reserve Force because I believe that the SANDF has a very important role to play.”

“I am an African from an African village setting, but influenced by the environment in which I operate from,” he stated. Brig Gen Mangope revealed that when at home he was like any other father with his family. “At home I am not the Director as I am at work and that is good because it allows you to reflect on how best to adapt to different environments.”

Returning to what stirs his passions the most, he said: “We are an asset to our country, but we need to educate our people on what the military is all about”.

Brig Gen Kwena Mangope, Director Corporate Communications, addressing his workforce.

The SANDF is an asset to South Africa.
As per custom, the Department of Defence (DOD) commemorated this year's National Women's Month by inviting a group of women from the nine provinces to experience a bit of military culture. Approximately 45 women representatives doing different types of work and in various professions were treated to how things were done in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). For three days the DOD’s guests toured and explored military installations around Gauteng.

The guests having gathered and been accommodated at a chosen central venue to become the "home away from home" for the duration of the visit, members of the Defence Corporate Communications assisted our visitors to ease into their new settings. On 29 August a welcoming dinner was hosted by the Director Corporate Communications, Brig Gen KwenA Mangope.

The following two mornings began very early and guests were driven by bus from one point to the other. The first military pit stop was the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane. After a short briefing session by the Officer Commanding SA Army College on what the facility offered, representatives from the Directorate Transformation Management, Human Resources 2020 Division and an officer from the Reserve Force informed them about the diversity and advancement plans that the DOD was involved in.

By the end of the presentations it was clear to the visitors that senior positions in the Department were offered to all capable applicants, irrespective of gender, and that “deployment in or outside of South Africa is an opportunity”, made available to those who best fitted the list of requirements. However, the visiting group felt all presentations should have been made by women, from the beginning to the end, for this after all was Women's Month.

Another place our visitors found interesting was the SA Air Force Museum in Swartkop. Established in...
1973, the SA Air Force Museum is home to the largest collection of vintage aircraft in Africa. Our visitors loved the depth of history and variety of aircraft on display, but found the order of the exhibitions somewhat wanting in that the museum did not quite reflect the South Africa they now lived in. The Air Force Gymnasium gave the women more of what they were looking for when it gave a demonstration of how women in the SANDF marched during special “women’s only” parades.

The day ended with a gala evening hosted by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF at the Air Force Gymnasium. Lt Gen Shoke told the women that being a member of the SANDF and serving one’s country “was a calling”.

The last day of the visit took the guests to 1 Military Hospital - where the visitors were not disappointed - there women reigned. Marking the end to the tour was a visit to the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT).

All in all, our visiting women saw the visit as a revelation and an opportunity. They discovered that there was more to the SANDF and that the rest of South Africa needed to be told and educated about this.
The SANDF is very much in the forefront of service delivery and skills development and has emerged as an asset contributing not only to crisis and conflict prevention, but also to youth development, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for SA (ASGI-SA) and other government initiatives to improve the social and economic conditions of our youth in South Africa.

A passing out parade for our young men and women who displayed true allegiance to the cause of the SANDF and our nation was held at the Personnel Services School in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, on 23 August 2007. The parade was held to celebrate the achievements of the members of the Human Resources’ Military Skills Development System (MSDS) who had successfully completed the Senior Personnel Clerk Course.

Chaplain Lazarus Makobake from The Personnel Service School conducted the prayer and Scripture reading. The day was certainly no ordinary day for these young soldiers; it was a day of joy and accomplishment. Parents and loved ones of the young ones on parade were present to witness this memorable occasion.

The chief functionary at the parade was Maj Gen Makabongwe Ntshinga, GOC Training Command. During his address he mentioned that the people of this country looked up to these soldiers to deliver the best service to our people in line with the “Batho Pele” principles, as they are the face of the SANDF. He further encouraged the young soldiers to maintain focus and to develop themselves further academically and always to strive to improve the capabilities of this organisation. "Today marks a historic turning point in your careers in the Department of Defence (DOD) as graduates from this institution. What you have achieved today is only the beginning of your journey in this organisation and nothing will stop you from achieving your goals," said Maj Gen Ntshinga.

The top achievers on the course, fltr: Pte Sonwabo Tyutu, Amn Sello Kutumela and Maj Gen Makabongwe Ntshinga (GOC Training Command), Amn Mildred Monyayi and Cpl Joseph Sejoe, Instructor Platoon 3.

Members of the Human Resources’ Military Skills Development System (HR MSDS) proudly marching during their passing-out parade in Thaba Tshwane.
Music with a bang

By Capt Werner Joubert, Comm Off School of Artillery

On 28 September 2007 the SA Gunners Association in cooperation with the Aardklop Arts Festival Organising Committee joined forces in the production and execution of the 1812 Overture musical spectacular.

This event formed part of the Aardklop Arts Festival’s 10th anniversary celebrations. The 1812 Overture is a musical piece that was written after Russia’s victory over Napoleon. This classical masterpiece symbolises the triumphant Russian Army after the battle. What makes this piece unique is the fact that there are 16 cannon shots written into it. On 28 September 2007 this work was performed live as one of the main events at the Aardklop festival.

Needless to say the successful performance of such a unique musical piece called for many hands, many hours of preparation and practising and many nerve-racking moments. One of these moments was when the show was almost cancelled because of weather conditions, as it was an outdoor production. The show that was scheduled for 27 September was rained off. On the morning of the 27th the production team had meetings every two hours to determine the weather status, but every time the situation was the same or worse: “rain and more rain”. At some stage during the day the technical crew informed the production team that the stage was too wet to switch on the electricity. The decision to call off the show was made later that afternoon after a power failure that left the whole of Potchefstroom in the dark. Aardklop, however, decided that the 1812 Overture had to continue and the decision was then made to make it part of the Aardklop Pops Show, a show in which various local artists performed.

The 1812 Overture then became one of the items of the Aardklop Pops Show. Aardklop, organisers of the show, were informed the production team, ie the civilian element covering all the expenses wrt the production of the 1812 Overture and the sponsors. The symphony orchestra of the University of Pretoria performed the 1812 Overture. Supporting the symphony orchestra was the SA Army Brass Band from Kroonstad and two pipers from the Cape Field Artillery. Regular Force members from the SA Army Artillery Formation, The School of Artillery, 4 Artillery Regiment and the Artillery Mobilisation Regiment were also involved in this production. Reserve Force members from the Transvaal Horse Artillery Regiment under command of Capt Albert Pestana were also involved. These members were responsible for the cannon shots in the 1812 Overture. Other Reserve Force involvement included support from members of the SA Gunners Association who played a major role in the production and behind-the-scenes support for the production.

The cannon shots were fired by five G1 guns using 88 mm blank cartridges. The highlight was when the conductor, Mr Eric Rycroft, acknowledged every instrument in the orchestra and finally turned towards the guns to acknowledge their contribution. The five G1 guns replied by firing a salvo (all guns firing simultaneously) effectively closing the production and the show for the evening.

The production team and some VIP guests attended a small function afterwards where Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves, conveyed his appreciation for the effort. Maj Gen Andersen also made use of the opportunity to market and promote the SA Gunners Memorial. He emphasised the importance of the memorial and the fact that it played an important part in the ceremonial responsibilities of the Gunners of South Africa. He expressed his concern about the recent desecration and vandalising of the memorial and called upon the Gunners to make use of opportunities such as the 1812 Overture to promote the memorial and to market it to create a wider general knowledge of and support for it among the general public.

Irish Pipes and Drums Regiment had to withdraw.

The work was a show-stopper with more than 5 000 people attending, making it one of the biggest shows presented at the festival. The 1812 Overture brought down the house. It was the final show for the evening and, judged by the response of the public, it was an overwhelming success.

Owing to the nature of the production, various role players had to come aboard to make it happen. These included the Aardklop production team, ie the civilian element covering all the expenses. The 1812 Overture was a show-stopper with more than 5 000 people attending, making it one of the biggest shows presented at the festival. The 1812 Overture brought down the house. It was the final show for the evening and, judged by the response of the public, it was an overwhelming success.

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Strategic Leadership Programme

By Lt Col Simon West, SO1 Peace Support Operations Training, British Peace Support Team SA

The second in a series of leadership programmes delivered by the UK Defence Leadership and Management Centre was recently held in Pretoria and was attended by 27 senior SANDF officers and civil servants. The programme, which is an adapted version of the leadership course delivered to senior officers in the UK, was aimed at stimulating debate by examining leadership and the challenges that leaders face in the modern environment at the strategic level.

This programme will also assist in the development of a virtual leadership centre within SANDF, which will champion further academic study and instruction.

Col Helen Zobane, currently working in the Directorate Human Resources Plans, and due to take on her new post on promotion as Director Education, Training and Development (ETD) at the end of this year attended the programme. She has written the following:

My impressions

After engaging in discussions under various circumstances over the years, my understanding is that leadership is the art of inspiring people (followers/subordinates) by means of words and actions, to achieve excellence within the context of set or agreed objectives/vision within a specified period of time.

This thinking presupposes that a leader has a duty to release the potential of followers/subordinates to perform to the best of their abilities by, among other things, creating favourable conditions and instilling a strong sense of belonging.

In the words of Johan Buchan: “The task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity but to elicit it, for greatness is already there”. In line with this my view further assumes that, in general terms, people by their very nature prefer to subscribe to success rather than failure, and that given the opportunity and motivation, people will passionately pursue a path that leads to success for the common good. It further holds that the disposition to do the right thing goes far beyond economic gain and self-actualisation. This sounds very naïve and idealistic, does it not?

The Workshop on Strategic Leadership Development, which was facilitated by the British Peace Support Team (South Africa) during the period 31 July to 3 August
required, especially in the international setting, it was important for leaders to adopt a strategic approach. It was pointed out that, this notwithstanding, ethics are not universally uniform. It is important to understand that the belief and value systems are embedded in the ethics of organisations and institutions, the ethics are not universally uniform. It was pointed out that, this notwithstanding, it was important for leaders to be familiar with the vocabulary used in this context. The reason for this is that leaders should be able to articulate with the degree of vocabulary required, especially in the international arena at strategic level.

Two philosophical approaches

To bring this point home, the two philosophical approaches that speak to the relevance and purpose of ethics were introduced. Utilitarianism, the philosophical approach whose only fundamental value is the balance between human happiness and avoidance of pain, presumes that happiness versus pain is important to all. According to this philosophical approach the right action is the one that brings about the greatest happiness to the greatest number of people. This approach can even go as far as using people as a means to an end.

The deontology approach on the other hand recognises that people have rights and that attached to these rights are responsibilities. Contrary to utilitarianism, the deontology approach sees people as an end and not as a means to an end. It, however, takes the position that a person can forfeit his or her right if such a person fails to fulfill the responsibility attached to that right. In this context, failure to do or not to do something can constitute failure to carry out a responsibility.

The role of ethics in change leadership was also discussed. It was pointed out that because change is about the unknown, it can bring about destructive inter-cultural rivalry and distrust of management.

In my opinion, what came out of all the discussions on leadership at both individual and organisational level is that attention to soft issues by individual leaders and the leadership of the organisation does not undermine the importance of hard issues in the military set-up. It does not relegate hard issues to a position of low priority. On the contrary, it says that the soft issues can hold the hard issues together and thereby ensure success rather than derailment. In the words of Socrates - a leader "must be brutal and gentle, at once straightforward and designing ..." A leader who is disposed to giving attention to soft issues does not necessarily pay less attention to hard issues.

The approach of recognising the soft issues as an important ingredient in leadership is in line with DOD policy. In particular the DOD’s policy on Employees Well-Being as articulated in the Department of Defence Instruction: Surgeon General 05/2000 recognises the importance of soft issues in the workplace. This instruction states that "Productivity and well-being of the organisation are dependent on effective functioning of its individual members, relationships between and within groups of members and between members and the organisation." According to this instruction the aim of the policy on Employees Well-Being is to ensure conditions that are conducive to the effective and productive functioning of members and their families and the organization as a whole. This policy recognises that in order for members and teams and the organisation to function effectively and productively, individual members’ needs have to be given consideration.

Remedial processes

This policy links the members’ job performance with their well-being, not only in physical well-being terms, but also in terms of their social, economic and mental well-being. It provides for a system to promote a healthy work environment and lifestyle. Under this system, provision is made for remedial processes through which problems identified in this context can be addressed.

From my perspective, this puts responsibility on leaders at all levels to gain insight into the soft issues that may affect the performance of their teams and individual team members. For that reason, it is the view of the author of this article that the DOD’s initiative of exposing leaders at all levels to leadership development through Leadership, Command, Public Administration, Management, Practices, Philosophies, Plans and Principles (LCAMPS) and other leadership development programmes should be embraced. It is recommended that as part of capacity building, more people in the DOD should be given the opportunity to participate in programmes similar to the Workshop on Leadership Development.
Wildlife maintains training areas

By Cdr A. Liebenberg, A/SSO Environmental Services

The policy of the Department of Defence (DOD) on the environment is consistent with national and international legal and other requirements and, among others, includes the protection of species and habitats, the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, as well as the protection of the environment against disturbance, deterioration, poisoning or destruction as a result of military activities and structures.

The Department is in control of a number of military training areas for the training of personnel and the evaluation and testing of equipment in order to prepare forces for domestic and international deployments. These areas are inclusive of buffer and security areas associated with training areas and air force bases and consist mostly of large tracts of relatively unspoiled natural land where there is a lower military impact. All military activities practised on such training areas can cause damage and deterioration of the environment, and thus the necessity for sustainable environmental management of future training. Incorporating environmental best practices into military procedures and operations will enhance the utilisation of such areas and reduce costs associated with actively managing habitats.

Therefore, to ensure maximum military utilisation of training areas, it is necessary to maintain the ecological integrity and sustainability of the environment by applying sound ecologically and scientifically based methods, such as the keeping of wildlife. The DOD is not in the business of game farming or the management of zoos. Game and other wildlife is only utilised as a scientific habitat management measure for natural areas of more than 1 000 ha in size and an approach of minimal intervention is applied.

Game on defence-controlled properties is managed in accordance with the draft of the DOD Instruction (DODI) on Game Management, DODI 47/2002, which is in the process of approval. This management takes place strictly in accordance with the approved Game Management Plan of the military area in terms of resettlement, relocation and/or alienation of species historically indigenous to the area. Game is therefore only managed at 60% of the grazing capacity of the habitat. Alienation of game takes factors such as military utilisation, ecological management objectives and financial consideration into account to prevent overutilisation of the habitat or to adjust imbalances in the ratios of sexes, species or populations. This takes place on the recommendation of the base environmental officer, in conjunction with an external ecologist from the relevant provincial government, and not according to the needs of any individual within or outside the Department. The alienation of game is recommended on the basis of the following prioritised methods:

- Relocate within the DOD.
- Capture and relocation by external organisation in terms of an agreement.
- Capture and sale by public tender.
- Internal harvesting by shooting (culling not applicable to the DOD) as the last option or as required by the characteristics and infrastructure of the military area.

Sometimes the shooting of game is motivated as the only option of disposal in areas where safety and security or topography of the area make the capture of game impractical. This takes place either by means of public tender or is specified for execution by approved military members. The internal harvesting of game by shooting is only allowed if permitted by the Disposal Approval Committee at Chief Logistics. Under no circumstances is any game, bird or wild animal on defence-controlled properties to be harvested or shot for the purpose of providing rations for any military, private or any other function, occasion or individual.

The implementation of alternative measures for maintaining the ecological integrity of the military environment and reducing the fire and flight safety hazards includes the following:

- Block burning to reduce the biomass;
- Manually reducing the biomass by bush and brush cutters; and
- Active management of grazing by cattle.

These measures will therefore place a demand on resources such as personnel, time, funds, and equipment and increase financial requirements not associated with the core business of the DOD. Wildlife on defence controlled properties must therefore be appreciated and conserved as this helps conserve resources for the Department and ensure the sustainable utilisation of our military training areas.

* For more information please contact Maj Leoni Baird on (012) 339 5337.
LEGSAETO celebrates in grand style

By WO2 Graham Harman, Navy News
Photos: Leading Seaman Martin Venter

On 5 September the gracious and historic Castle in Cape Town added lustre to this year’s Chief of Defence Legal Services Division’s Joint Medal Parade and Gala Evening, held to celebrate the eighth year of the Division’s existence.

addressed the assembled troops, guests and dignitaries (which included a number of senior generals and the Ministerial Legal Advisor, Ms Lizzy Kubushi) and, on behalf of the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, congratulated those members on parade who were receiving Loyal Service Medals for up to 40 years’ service. He said that they were an inspiration because of their loyalty and dedication to the youth in these times of constant change.

He thanked those who received the Tshumelo Ikatelaho Campaign Medals for their willingness to leave families, relatives and friends behind in order to serve abroad. He also thanked the families of these members for their support and sacrifices.

The General finally thanked all the members of the Defence Legal Services Division for their enthusiasm and tangible contributions to the success of the Division, while reminding everyone that despite the enormous strides the Division had taken towards demographic representivity there was still much to do and that everyone would need to continue to give of their very best to maintain their high standards and excellent levels of success.

By 19:00 that same evening the group of distinguished guests who had met at the restored Dolphin Pool Area had made their way to the elegant and historic Lady Anne Barnard Hall. They were seated in splendour for an evening to remember at a beautifully appointed table, which stretched the entire length of the massive room. After all the speeches were done and a number of internal trophies had been handed out, everyone got down to some serious networking with old friends, new friends and colleagues and enjoyed an evening of fine dining in one of Cape Town’s most unique and exclusive venues.

The ancient walls around the vast grassy courtyard facing the picturesque “De Kat” balcony rang out with the brisk commands of the Parade Sergeant Major. The rhythmic tread of the boots of 9 SA Infantry Guard of Honour on the flagstones to the beat of the ever-popular SA Army Staff Band brought spectators to a hushed silence as the different divisions formed up smartly for the inspection and Medal Parade.

Maj Gen Bailey Mmono, Chief Defence Legal Services, addressing the audience during the medal parade.

The beat of the SA Army Staff Band brought spectators to a hushed silence as the different divisions formed up smartly for the inspection and Medal Parade.
Developing astute policy writers

By Col J.P. Cronje, Programme Co-ordinator, and Mr Clive Pillay, Deputy Director Policy Advisor, Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning Division

The 7th Departmental Policy Writers Course was held at the SA Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria from 23 July to 3 August 2007. More than 120 applications were received from the Services and Divisions, but only 45 applicants could be accommodated. This included five persons from other State departments (the SA Police Service and the Department of Public Works), which accorded with the State of the Nation Address in which President Thabo Mbeki encouraged intense interaction between Government departments to ensure that skills in short supply are provided.

The course was officially opened by the Chief Director Defence Policy, Mr Nick Sendall. In his keynote address he dealt with the Government’s Strategic Direction and focused on the Medium-term Strategic Framework for 2008-2010. He confirmed the importance of policy direction in the Department of Defence (DOD).

Purpose of the Policy Writers Course

The purpose of the course is three-fold: In the first instance it is to advance the capabilities of policy writers at departmental level so that they can articulate and manage clear, concise and executable policies. In the second place it is to enhance understanding of the departmental policy process. Thirdly, it is to provide a vehicle for the interchange of ideas, information and experience. It offers a kaleidoscopic view of how policy writers can help execute strategy. Policies must be more pragmatic and must also be informed by societal values. In general these goals continue to be achieved. The course provides a series of practical tools and techniques and creates close collaboration and networking among policy writers.

Skills needed for a policy writer

The following skills are needed to be a competent policy writer: Policy formulation skills, knowledge of policy research, analysis, project and financial management, clear conceptual understanding and developmental principles, skills in the interpretation and application of policy, ability to develop training material, problem-solving, analytical and innovation skills, strategic planning and co-ordination skills, excellent communication skills (verbal, written and networking), presentation and facilitation skills, and motivation and negotiation skills.

Faced with the question as to what their views were on the course and what would be the most valuable thing they would take away from it, personnel attending the course had the following to say. Col A.A. Young, Facilitators and learners of the Departmental Policy Writers Course and management of Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning Division.
SSO HR Planning, Human Resource Division, said: "The positive nature of the Policy Writers Course is embedded in the fact that it brings together a wide-ranging group of people from various levels and backgrounds and, although they are serving under the Defence Act and the Public Service Act respectively, it provides them with a solid basis on completion of the course from which they can go forth and make a valuable contribution to the development of effective and efficient policies in the DOD.” Lt Col J.M. Madumbo, SO1 Transport, Logistics Division, said: "Policy skills learnt can be applied at work. The course provided me with tools to enhance my working environment. I have created a new support base of colleagues to assist with any future problems on policy development and management.”

Way forward
The course was officially closed by the Chief Policy, Strategy and Planning, Mr Tsepe Motumi. He concluded with an inspirational closing speech in which he stated that the Policy Writers Course was invaluable and a strategic training intervention that helped to develop astute policy writers to address the backlog of departmental policies in the DOD. Finally, he confirmed that the course was scheduled to be delivered again in 2008.

Fly-fishing for people with disabilities

By Catherine Larkin,
CVL Consulting

Fly-fishing is an activity enjoying increasing support from people with disabilities, with 2007 marking the 10th year of their annual fly-fishing competition. Presented by Nedbank in association with Curamus and the Belfast Fly-fishing Association (BFSA), the competition has grown from only ten participants to over sixty, with the number unfortunately being restricted owing to the size of the dam.

The benefits of sporting activities such as fly-fishing will come under the spotlight at the upcoming Disability 2007 Conference and Expo, which takes place at Gallagher Estate from 1 to 3 November.

This year’s event in Belfast was undoubtedly one of the most successful events ever as all prior records were surpassed. Johan Crous of Pretoria won the heaviest bag category with a bag weighing in at an impressive 3.2 kg. Martin Buys, also from Pretoria, smashed the previous record of 1.49 kg by landing a trout weighing in at an astounding 1.8kg. Johan Crous and Boeta Roux shared the R10 000 prize money as each landed a tagged trout.

Curamus, partners in the event, is responsible for the well-being of servicemen with disabilities. These include former MK, APLA and SADF soldiers, policemen and prison officers.

"Sports such as fly-fishing are a unifying and essential part of any country and are a great way to bring people together,” says Kim Krynauw, part of the organising team of this year’s Disability 2007 Conference and Expo. Kim believes that all people deserve and need an opportunity to take part in all kinds of sport and physical activities. This year’s event includes an exciting array of activities, including:

- Wheelchair basketball tournament, which includes the Discovery Eagles Team and the Pumas in action. These two teams will be battling it out against each other on 1 November at 18:00 and Saturday 3 November at 12:00.
- Wheelchair tennis demonstrations and clinics.
- The SA Disabled Golf Association will be hosting clinics and competitions on 3 November.
- Wheelchair dancing.
- Motivational talks by Oscar Pistorius, our double amputee athlete who won two Paralympic medals in Athens.
- Natalie du Toit, our own swimming champion who won gold medals at the 2004 Paralympic Games.
- The Disability 2007 Conference is being sponsored this year by Airports Company South Africa, with Nedbank sponsoring the exhibition. Cell C is participating as a gold sponsor. The exhibition will include over 100 displays, including entertainment and lifestyle choices, eg adapted vehicles, assisted daily living equipment and service (ADLS), communication aids, computers, easy reaches, emergency medical supplies, hand cycles, hearing aids, hospital furniture, mobility aids, occupational products, patient handling devices, physio-equipment, products and aids for the deaf and blind, prosthetic artificial limbs, showering devices/building products, sports equipment, training institutions, walking sticks, wheelchairs, wheelchair clothing and, much more!

For more information on the event, contact the event organisers.

Overall management of the expo and conference: Bette McNaughton of Fair Consultants SA on tel: (021) 713 3360 or fax: (021) 713 3366.
Email: bette@fairconsultants.com
Website: www.fairconsultants.com

Expo Information: Kim Krynauw on cell: 084 710 6496, email: nthuse@compute.co.za

OCTOBER 2007 • SA SOLDIER
Since 1994 South Africans have been embracing and enjoying a new-found freedom. The task of correcting the wrongs of the past, however, has been an all-encompassing one. Thirteen years after democracy much has been achieved, but a few important things have yet to be restored. A new nation needs new symbols with which to identify, to look up to and to draw inspiration from.

In 2000 Parliament engaged in certain processes to establish Parliamentary symbols that were in line with our new democratic dispensation. These processes at Parliamentary and political party level culminated in the design, manufacture and launch of the new symbols for each of Parliament’s two houses.

Thus the National Assembly introduced and launched a new Mace in September 2004 known as the People’s Mace. The National Council of Provinces launched and introduced a new Black Rod in February 2005. The aforementioned events were initial phases of a bigger project to establish a new emblem for Parliament - an emblem that spanned nine provinces and could be understood in all languages. The old emblem dated back to 1964 and represented the Westminster tradition, with a shield representing the four colonies from which South Africa was composed at the beginning of the twentieth century. This emblem also included the old South African Coat of Arms.

**WHY A NEW EMBLEM?**

A new emblem was an important step in establishing an identity for Parliament, one that represented its values, vision and mission. As a cornerstone of our new democracy, it was important for this new emblem to be the result of a democratic process involving its members, officials and - more importantly - the people of South Africa. A new emblem that is representative of Parliament’s role in society would inspire members and officials to uphold its values and strive for the ideals set out in our Constitution. The new emblem would also serve to unite and educate the public as to the role of Parliament in their everyday lives.


**TOWARDS A NEW EMBLEM**

In 2006 the presiding officers to Parliament established a multi-party political steering committee. Consisting of thirteen members, the role of this committee was to give political guidance in the development and design of the new emblem in terms of Parliament’s values and vision. The committee also had to ensure input from all political parties and see that the public participation process was considered in the development. Finally, it also had to recommend a final design to the presiding officers. Experts from across design, branding, heraldry, African symbolism and art were consulted and played an integral part in the development of the new emblem.
**Design criteria**

The Joint Rules Committee ruled that the new emblem should reflect our diverse multicultural society while still showing the unity of our nation; should celebrate our democracy and our country’s new beginning while upholding the dignity and stature of the institution; had to be dignified and aesthetically pleasing, yet meaningful and simple with a distinctive African flavour.

**Design philosophy**

The philosophy had to convey the idea that Parliament was a people’s parliament, which acts as their voice to ensure government by the people under the Constitution. It is where their elected representatives assemble to consider national and provincial issues that affect them. Parliament is responsive to their needs and is driven by the ideals of improving their quality of life. It upholds their values of democracy, social justice and fundamental human rights.

**THE PEOPLE’S EMBLEM**

**Public participation**

Parliament is the voice of the people. Thus the search for a new emblem was entrusted to the very people it represented - the public. After an internal call for submissions, the public advertising campaign was launched on 20 August in all Sunday and some regional newspapers and national and regional radio, in all official languages.

Tapping into South African creativity an abundance of artistic talent was available. Therefore the brief was sent out to design schools and departments, community art projects and high schools. Supporting the campaign was extensive publicity and promotional activity, which resulted in coverage in almost every medium in the country. To raise awareness of the project at street level, a series of public design days took place across the whole of South Africa. These design days, or D-days as they were known, included internal sessions in Parliament. A total of 90 schools from all nine provinces ensured that the voice of our youth was represented at the highest level.

**Final 20 designers**

Over 2 000 designs were submitted by passionate South Africans during the three-week call for entries. From these, the panel of experts chose 20 finalists - a vibrant mix of designers from rural to urban areas across the whole of South Africa. The 20 finalists participated in an intensive four-day design workshop in Cape Town. Their programme included design and expert lectures, interactive workshops, and a tour of Parliament. The expert lectures covered heraldic standards, design language, African symbolism, brand management and a case study on the National Coat of Arms. Importantly, the participants were also orientated regarding Parliament’s values, mission, vision, core objectives and strategic objectives.

Finally, the workshop saw four teams of five delegates each collaborate on new draft designs for a Parliamentary emblem.

The 20 finalist designers were: Mr D. Christer, Mr R.G. Clayton, Ms A. de Jager, Mr N. Franzen, Ms P. Harris, Mr R. Humbulan, Mr M. Leander, Mr A. Ma’an-Hessari, Mr K. Mathebula, Mr L. Moagi, Mr J.L. Mokoena, Mr P.A. Moleko, Mr M. Moleme, Mr L. Nkosi, Mr V. Nxedlana, Mr V. Rust, Mr T. Samuel, Mr M. Shaw, Mr X. Sokhela, Mr R.G. Tsie.

With this new symbol we, as the people of South Africa, are reclaiming another important piece of our past and looking forward to a brighter future for all our people.
Our Nursing College in good hands

By Lt John Sverdloff and Lt Sello Segone (Milmed)
Photo: Lt John Sverdloff

Col Fezeka Mabona said that her appointment as Officer Commanding of the SAMHS Nursing College was a challenging appointment in that a person must have the necessary knowledge and experience to manage the different facets of commanding a unit. These include the effective managing of human, financial and material resources, how to deal with internal and external stakeholders and analyses of the micro and macro-environments and to instil military culture. This is incorporated with the Surgeon General’s intent and the unit’s General Officer Commanding and Director Nursing’s guidelines.

“The load of running the SAMHS Nursing College is made lighter by the highly motivated and qualified personnel I have, who have diplomas, honours and masters degrees in nursing. The proven pass rate of learners at the SAMHS Nursing College also bears testimony to the abilities of the nursing staff,” said Col Mabona.

Currently, the focus is on building a formidable team that will take the SAMHS Nursing College to greater heights by using the Surgeon General’s vision of a world-class SAMHS, and on obtaining accreditation of the SAMHS Nursing College according to the South African Qualifications Authority in terms of the learner programmes, quality management systems and staff development.

It is also the vision of the SAMHS Nursing College to be recognised as an international training institution where foreign military counterparts can be trained in post-basic courses.

Col Mabona has had an illustrious nursing career. In 1973 Col Mabona trained as a general nurse at the Glen Grey Hospital in Queenstown, and was later awarded her Nursing National Diploma in 1976.

Col Mabona then worked as the Officer in Charge of the East London Military Medical Clinic from 1996 to 2000 and was transferred with promotion (major) to Director Nursing in 2001, where she was involved in policy and planning. The following year saw her being transferred to 3 Military Hospital where she took up the post of SO1 Nursing and was promoted to lieutenant colonel. During this time, she completed her Senior Staff Course at the SA National War College and was promoted to the rank of colonel and transferred to the SAMHS Nursing College as Officer Commanding on 19 January 2007.

Col Mabona has also obtained a masters degree in health and welfare management from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (formally known as the University of Port Elizabeth), and is pursuing her Doctoral Curative Programme in Nursing Science. Her thesis deals with the development of a support programme for nurses who tend patients with HIV and AIDS.
A drop in the ocean makes the ocean

By Nomonde Vuthela
Photos: Cpl Elias Mahuma

It’s the thought that counts!” One does not have to win the Lotto first before one can donate to the needy or perform a good deed. Small heartfelt efforts to give to the less fortunate is exactly what gives rise to bigger things, and the Corporals and Privates of the Department of Defence (DOD) stationed at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria seem to have gotten it right.

On 14 September 2007 this group of DOD members visited the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto to spend the day with the children and the elderly as a reminder that though they may be hospitalised, ailing and separated from the rest of the world, they are far from forgotten.

Speaking to SA Soldier at the hospital, the Chairperson of the Corporals Forum, Cpl Lilly Fortune, said that visiting the sick and spending time with them was to give back to society the much needed positive spirit. “We came here to assist the matrons and the nurses by cleaning the wards and chatting with the patients,” said Cpl Fortune.

Explaining the reason for the visit, she said: “One day we were sitting in the Forum deciding where to go for leisure purposes, when I came up with the question why we always had to do the same thing? Why don’t we do something different, and go where people need our help?”

After airing the idea with the “powers that be” at Defence Headquarters, we met with the Chief Executive Officer of the hospital and the rest was smooth sailing. “We were told what to do and what not to do, including not bringing the mainstream media in.” Once the ball got rolling the group called for donations of clothing and non-perishable foods from those willing to give. “The little that we got would make a difference,” she added emphatically.

“I feel relieved; we have done something for people who need help. Today the patients saw new faces, and this will boost their bodies and morale.”

Members of the Corporals and Privates Forum off-loading boxes containing donations of clothing, food and books from a military bus at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto.

A Forum member gives just a little loving care.
Reserve rises and shines against all odds

What does it feel like being shot four times, once in each leg and each arm? This was the result of criminal violence on the streets of Johannesburg. Today Lt Richard Ngwenya looks like a healthy G1K1 soldier, but travelling home from work one Friday evening in 2004 he became the unsuspecting victim of violence and his whole life changed.

At the time Richard was working for a clothing factory where he had obtained a job as a supervisor in 1999. Working his way up in the company, and at the same time fulfilling his obligations to the Transvaal Horse Artillery (THA) Regiment, he became the warehouse manager and eventually general manager and chief sports co-ordinator by 2004. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time and being hit by four bullets eventually cost him his job at the factory, whose policy was no work no pay.

His illustrious military career, however, goes back to 1993 when he and a friend obtained forms to join the Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom for one year of basic military training. Here he also learnt section battle drill and field musketry. At this time the military was called upon to help with the 1994 elections and Richard found himself in Bophuthatswana for three months.

By 1995 he had completed his one year Voluntary Military Service and was transferred as a Reserve Force member to the THA Regiment. He was the first-ever black gunner to be appointed to the regiment and admits to feeling vulnerable in the beginning. However, his fears were soon laid to rest and he recruited new members into the regiment. It was not long before Richard realised he had a flair for recruiting and persuading black people to join the military. Within three weeks he had recruited 336 people from as far afield as Vryburg, Orkney, Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom and Soweto.

Exercise SOUTHERN CROSS is held in Lohatlha each year and is held in high esteem as a beneficial training exercise not only by the Regular Force, but also by Reserve Force members. Richard was sent with the “Voorspan” of the THA to organise facilities for the regiment. He says that as a lance corporal it was his biggest challenge yet, but he learnt quickly how to plan and control the whole situation and coped well.

Two more courses followed. The first was the Junior Leadership Course at the School of Artillery in Potchefstroom in 1997, in which Richard came second. Then in 1998 he attended the Technical Assistance Course in which he also achieved high marks.

By 2005 he was nominated and accepted for the Officer Formative Course held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg where he gained 82%, once again competing with his Regular Force counterparts.

This year the THA was invited by the Honourable Artillery Company in the United Kingdom (UK) to take part in a prestigious firing of the guns in London. Lt Ngwenya was part of the group selected to go to the UK and he recalls that it was a highlight of his life. He was especially taken with the long-standing traditions of the UK regiments.

He is married to Cleopatra and the couple have a son aged ten and a daughter of five. Cleopatra is an assistant director in the Department of Finance and works in Johannesburg. Although life has not been easy for Richard who grew up in Alexandra with seven brothers and a mother who kept the family going, he has risen above his circumstances and looks to the future.

In 2004, after the shooting incident, he had to spend three months in hospital as he could not walk or use his left arm. He recalls with gratitude the support he received from the THA at the time. Both his Officer Commanding and the Regimental Sergeant Major came to visit him during this trying time. One evening his friends “kidnapped” him from hospital and took him to the Regiment where he attended the regular Monday evening order group, and returned him to hospital later that evening!

Lt Ngwenya sees the Chief Director Defence Reserves as his role model. He wishes one day to serve on a strategic level and assist with the way forward for the Reserve Force.
SANDF and the Music Certificate Course - A Prelude

By Santie de Jongh, Archivist, Documentation Centre for Music, Stellenbosch University

In 1999 the Certificate Course for Music was introduced at Stellenbosch University for individuals at various levels intending to broaden their music skills. Additionally, it prepares students for the B Mus degree, and offers opportunities to under and postgraduate students wanting to gain experience in teaching and mentoring. Noticeable, ever since its inception, is the continual growth in student diversity and courses offered, for example the establishment of satellite campuses in Caledon (2002) and Youngsfield (2005) in the Western Cape.

Initiated in 2004 by Sergeant Major Jack Simpson (Military Band, Youngsfield) the beginning of 2005 saw the inclusion of students from the SA Army Band, the Military Skills Development Programme, and the Military Bands of Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia. Currently the SANDF constitutes 25% of the Certificate Programme.

Two phases (Introductory Certificate and B Mus Foundation), each spanning two years (with the option of one year) focus on various aspects of musicianship (theory, aural training, practical music, history of music, conducting, basic arrangement for bandmasters and the like). Lectures take place in individual and group settings. Students are also encouraged to enter the UNISA and Trinity Guildhall music examinations.

Besides state-of-the-art infrastructure for teaching, practising and performing, students have access to a fully equipped library containing an extensive variety of music scores, books, sound recordings, DVDs and videos. Listening facilities are also at their disposal. The Music Department furthermore accommodates the Documentation Centre for Music, which houses collections of music and documents of individuals and institutions for further education and research.

The success of this programme, as illustrated by the structure of the course, the competence level of lecturers and outstanding results achieved by students of the SANDF, is certainly a reason for its continuation.

* Further information may be obtained from Mrs Felicia Lesch (co-ordinator) at fsmlesch@sun.ac.za or (021) 808 2349.

The SA Army Band (Polokwane) and the SA Air Force Band with lecturers of the Stellenbosch University Certificate Programme. Front, fltr: Justice Netshifhefhe Keith Jenneker (Conducting, Aural), Cheryl George (Theory), Felicia Lesch (Co-ordinator) and Lerato Morake. Middle, fltr: Coxwell Maphiri, Alfred Ntuli, Lazarus Phetla, Pamela Kierman (Brass) and Sergeant Major Jack Simpson. Back, fltr: Theuns Louw (Theory, Aural) and Obert Siobo.
SANDF Squash Championships

By Capt J. Mabidikane, SO3 Comm ASB Potch

Army Support Base Potchefstroom hosted the annual SANDF Squash Championships in July 2007. Participants came from Gauteng, North West, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

Col Brian du Toit, Chairperson of the SANDF Squash Association, confirmed that a total of 68 players had participated in the tournament. The teams competed in the following categories: Young Masters, Masters, Doubles, Men’s Open, Women’s Open and a Novice category.

Col Phillip van Dyk, the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Potchefstroom, officially opened the event. During his opening address he indicated to the participants that he felt honoured that Army Support Base Potchefstroom had hosted the event for the past two years in succession. He also mentioned that the quality of facilities boasted by the Army Support Base Potchefstroom was the reason for the event being held there.

The participants were once again assured that whatever assistance they might require during their stay in Potchefstroom would be readily available in accordance with the motto of the unit: "Consider it done".

Given the cold weather that “welcomed” the players, they were all looking forward to the games that were still to be played. As expected they were once again subjected to excruciating games for the whole week, but there were good results for both the winners and losers of the competition.

The winners’ results for the championships were recorded as follows:

**Men’s Open:** Sgt Willem Erasmus (Air Force Gymnasium)

**Women’s Open:** Maj Lerina Prinsloo (Defence Intelligence)

**Junior Masters:** Sgt Allard Randal (AFB Ysterplaat)

**Masters:** Lt Col Hardus Engelbrecht (Air Command)

**Double Event:** Sgt Willem Erasmus (Air Force Gymnasium) and Markus de Beer (ASB Potchefstroom)

Administrator: Maj Gavin Thomas (ASB Potchefstroom)

At the prize-giving ceremony Col Van Dyk thanked all the participants for the good sportsmanship displayed during the tournament.
Free State (men’s team) and North West (women’s team) are the SANDF Soccer Champions. The SANDF Soccer Championships were held at the Johann du Randt Stadium at Army Support Base Potchefstroom from 3 to 8 September 2007.

In the finals the men’s team of Free State played against Western Province and beat them 2 - 0. The North Western women’s team won Northern Cape (2 - 0). Northern Cape (men) and Gauteng (women) came third.

S Sgt Sipho Ngwenya was chosen as the best manager, while West Coast was chosen as the best team (for best spirit and behaviour).

Altogether ten regions participated in the championships, namely Western Cape, West Coast, South Eastern Cape, Free State, Northern Cape, North West, Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. There were 19 teams comprising 10 men’s and 9 women’s teams.
Building friendship through sport

By Amn Ally Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David Nomthshongwana

On 17 August 2007 the Potchefstroom Military Sports Council hosted its annual bilateral sports championships between the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) at the military sports grounds at ASB Potchefstroom.

The format of the championships was in line with the sport concept of CISM, which facilitated co-operation and friendship through sport. The indoor and outdoor sporting codes during the championships were road-running, endurance walking, golf, soccer, pool, squash, netball, tennis, volleyball and rugby. All the games were fiercely contested and the morale of the athletes was high.

The SANDF was well supported by the Director Physical Training Sport and Recreation, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, and the Chief of Mission SANDF, Col Phillip van Dyk. The BDF was well supported by the Chief of Mission BDF, Brig Letsogile Motsumi (1st Infantry Brigade Commander).

Although the SANDF members did not triumph in the championships, this did not dampen their spirits as they showcased their capabilities and proved to be strong competitors for the visitors from BDF. The Championships ended with a prize-giving ceremony held at 4 Artillery Regiment. In his address Brig Gen Sedibe said: “Sporting events such as this bilateral championships help to foster unity and friendship among participants, and such unifying events help to improve esprit de corps among members”.

He praised the participants for their exceptional efforts during the championships and congratulated them on the variety of sporting codes in which they took part. He also congratulated Brig Motsumi and his team as the overall winners.

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<td><strong>Endurance walking</strong> - BDF</td>
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Athletes heading towards the finish.
A major passion for kickboxing

By Maj Andrew April
Photo: F Sgt Karin Coetzee

Maj Andrew April (4th Dan) was elected as the national coach for the SA Amateur Kick-boxing Team that is going to the Senior K-1 Rule Full Contact Kick-boxing Championships in Serbia, Belgrade, from 22 September to 3 October 2007.

He learnt the art of kick-boxing from Kancho Eddie Cave (9th Dan) in 1982. He received his first National Colours in kick-boxing in 1990 and became the SA World All Styles Kickboxing Organisation (WAKO) Champion in his weight division in 1991.

Maj April is currently stationed at AFB Overberg (Test Flight and Development Centre) as 525 Squadron Officer Commanding. He presents fitness and kick-boxing classes to all the members on the base twice a week, as fitness is an integral part of being a soldier. He has his kick-boxing club in Bredasdorp where he presents kick-boxing and self-defence twice a week to men, women and children free of charge. Recently three of his members received National Colours and an additional nine received Boland Kick-boxing Colours and represented Boland at the recent SA Amateur Kick-boxing Championships in Durban.

Andrew is also the Chairperson of the SANDF Taekwondo/Kick-boxing/Karate, the SA Air Force Taekwondo/Kick-boxing/ Karate and the Boland Amateur Kick-boxing Association with over twenty registered clubs. He is also a registered member of the SA Amateur Kick-boxing Association.

Hitting the greens

By Lebohang Letaona
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Thhaole


The 18-hole championship golf course is among the most popular in Pretoria. A practice range, putting green, and a separate chipping green with a bunker are positioned close to the clubhouse.

This special event is designed to bring members of the Military Attaché and Advisor Corps (MAAC), Defence Related Industry, DOD and private companies together to interact, build contacts and alliances in a relaxed atmosphere.

During his address Maj Gen Mofokeng said: “Playing golf increases aerobic fitness and flexibility. It also improves muscle tone.” He added: “The participation of female golfers is acknowledged, and hopefully as the years go by we will see a significant increase in the number of women participants.”

The winning team comprised Mr Louis Nel, Lt Col Hugo Slabbert, Mr Moses Makena and Mr Brendan Jacobs. The longest drive went to Lt Col Karen Watts and Maj Blackie Swart. Nearest to the pin were to Mr S. le Roux and Mr Kobus Stoltz.

"The day was a huge success and contributed significantly to enhancing the relationship between Defence Foreign Relations and the SA defence related industry and private sector,” said Col Dries van Jaarsveld, SSO Coordination and Planning.

Filtr: Col John Waweru, Defence Advisor to the Kenyan High Commissioner, Mr Lorris Duncker, ATE, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, Chief of Defence Foreign Relations and his guest, Mr Chokane Moswane, before hitting the greens.
Luke 10:29 “... And who is my neighbour?”

The degree to which we are able to forgive determines the degree to which we are able to love our enemies. It is impossible to serve and love God while at the same time treating your neighbour with contempt and disrespect. If you treat only certain people with respect, you expose the superficiality of your spiritual experience.Courtesy is not something that you can switch on and off. It is either something that comes from your heart or an act of hypocrisy that fools no one.

Deliberately and unmistakably the story of the Good Samaritan challenges with new urgency to examine our attitudes beyond race, colour, religion and nationality. The Code of Conduct for uniformed members of the SANDF reads: “I will treat all people fairly and respect their rights and dignity at all times regardless of race, ethnicity, gender culture, language or sexual orientation. The Good Samaritan demonstrated beyond doubt that he risked his possessions and dignity to assist the man who was in pain. He demonstrated his respect and love for the man in need. He has love for the human being, and his action is in itself real love in action. He bandaged his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. His approach can be defined as "altruistic" to the core.

Altruism is the capacity to care for our fellow man is what human dignity is all about. Human dignity can thus be defined as an expression that can be used as a moral concept or as a legal term. Sometimes it means no more than that a human being should not be treated as an object. Beyond this it is meant to convey an idea of absolute and inherent worth that does not need to be acquired and cannot be lost or sold. In Immanuel Kant’s philosophy the claim is made that rational beings have an intrinsic and absolute value which is referred to as as dignity.

True human dignity and neighbourliness in essence involve one's readiness to suffer with those in pain and in time of trouble. It is also required of all of us as members of the DOD, where it usually takes the form of solidarity. Suffering and solidarity give rise to the spirit of "ubuntu". Ubuntu represents personhood, humanity, group solidarity and morality. Its core belief is rooted in the Nguni and Sotho languages: "umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu", "motha ke motha ka batho ba bang". This can be literally translated as: "a human being is what she/he is because of others". Sometimes I wonder about our failing each other in terms of humanity, and I ask myself the following question: how can we as members of the DOD be more inclusive, more tolerant and less critical and demeaning?

How can we celebrate uniqueness and difference and encourage the expression of personal strength and talents? The only way not to become entangled in a web of prescriptions and expressions would be to refrain from normalising any particular form of behaviour. Instead we should rather open up ethics to a process of participation by all who are affected or who have an interest in the choices that need to be made in a specific concrete situation. Hence dignity in humans involves the earning or the expectation of personal respect or esteem. To esteem a person is to give him or her high value.

Dignity can be seen as both intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic dignity is dependent on the actions of a person, but is always constant. Extrinsic dignity on the other hand depends on actions.

In Krog’s book of 1998 "The Country of My Skull" I read a statement of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: in the African world view, a person is not basically an independent solitary entity. A person is human precisely in being enveloped in the community of other human beings, in being caught up in life. To be is to participate.

Our hope as members of the DOD for creative living lies in our ability to re-establish the spiritual ends of social justice. Our lives are formed, influenced and constructed through social interaction within a particular cultural context. Part of the make-up of the members of the DOD should be a sense of ubuntu, of knowing how much we need one another and how totally dependent we are on the "little wires and flexes" that enables us to do our work in a neighbourly fashion. We neither can nor need to be more than human. To be what God made us to be is the way to achieve the greatest happiness possible.

Chaplain B.J. Moncho.
South African National Defence Force

Defence Reserves

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