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Marketing Magician

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

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Above: The Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, and the Chief of the SA Navy, Vice Admiral Johannes Mudimu, on board the SAS ISANLWANA with some young sailors who were keen of a photo opportunity with the Minister. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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FRONT COVER: The Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, with Sub Lieutenant Portia Dlamini after the SA National Editors Forum (SANEF) briefing held at the Naval Station Durban. Read all about this happy day on pages 12 and 13. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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

It’s that time of the year again when everything and everyone seem to be in a festive mood, yes Christmas is upon us. I hope 2008 has been a fruitful year to you and your loved ones. As you look back from January to December don’t only think and cry over what you have lost in 2008, but count your blessings too. In a unique and special way you will realise that you have been blessed, and you have been a blessing to others. God blesses you to be a blessing to others, on page 11 read the Christmas message which reminds us of how blessed we are.

As we take a break from our various routines to celebrate this festive season let’s think of our soldiers who are in deployment areas for various SANDF missions, get to read letters from these soldiers on pages 8 to 11. Commemorating those who died in combat is an old military tradition keeping with this tradition we take time to honour those who sacrificed their lives to bring change, pages 20 and 21 laments our departed heroes and heroines.

An acknowledgment in any shape or form remains the best way to show appreciation of a positive action; SA Soldier recognised the might of acknowledgment and covered most of the recently held award ceremonies read about them on pages 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 40. While we are on this topic, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Lebogang Tlhaole, SA Soldier photographer on his promotion from a Sergeant to Staff Sergeant. “You can accomplish many things if you do not think of them as impossible.”

Meet Lt Mpho Makgobathe, a young pilot and Cpl Patrick Mdaka, an aircraft mechanic, on pages 36 and 37 who made successful careers in the SA Air Force.

Christmas is a time to give and to show love and compassion. SA Soldier representing Defence Corporate Communication donated goods to a charity organisation to make this Christmas a memorable one read about it on page 43.

Please accept our apology for the error in the November issue page 23, “Enriching young minds because our youth matters” Col Bobby Keller is the Chairperson of the DOD Youth Programme not the Chairperson of the AAD Youth Programme.

Thank you for all your support, constructive criticism, and compliments and for being our loyal readers.

“Do your bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world” - Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The SA Soldier team wishes you a marvellous festive season.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Acting Editor

SA SOLDIER  •  DECEMBER 2008

Letibuya kumhleli

Njengoba sesitsatsa sikhashana sokuphumula, asikhumbule emadzelakufa etfu sisho wona emabutfo lasabalele etiveni tangaphandle, fundza kabanti ngemilayeto lephuma kubo ekhasi ni 8 kuya ku 11. Njenge lisiko sitseatsa sikhashishe emadzelakufa emadzelakufa etfu lasaya kubogogo mikhulu, labalewela ingucuko kute nesitukulwane shlephule kulelhloko lekhona, ekhasini 20 na 21 sivudlwana emadzelakufa netinkhubela, netitsandzane, nebafelokazi bawo madzelakufa.

Kubonga nekuhlembise cubululeka kwevalingani betfu kuyinfumela lelemba phambili e SA Soldier, fandza ngemcicicimbo lebunjue maduwane ekhasini 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29 na 40. Sisukubalalisa Lebogang Thhaole, umtsatsi titfombe we SA Soldier esikhundleni leishi se Staff Sergeant. “sitsi lumwele lohlonde”

Fundzani kabanti nga Lt Mpho Makgobathe, umchubi we ndiza na Cp Patrick Mdaka, umlungisi wetindiza ekhasini 36 na 37 labaphumelele kumikhakha yabo e SA Air Force.

Khisimusi sikhatshi sokuphunula nesekuhlembise lutsandze nekucolelana. i SA Soldier imele umnyango lohlanganisa tinikhulumo lethukeleni(corporate communication). Lenikela ngetihlopo kubantu labangakakhonini kutimela kute baba nakhisimusi lohlonde, fundza kabanti ngaloludzaba ekhasini lemanxawu lamake nakhosatfu.

Sicolisa kakhu Ndlela lelakhu lekhona elushicilelelewelele lubfu luwami likhasi 23, ‘Enriching young minds because our youth matters’ Col Bobby Keller akasuye uhungcini sibhalo ivukulwane lapho ye AAD kodwaba uhmungcini sibhalo lohlelo luwe luse DOD.

Ngitsandzane kubonga lubambiswano, neteluleko letakhako, netincobo letihle nekutsebenza kwenu befundzi.

Umbutfo we SA Soldier unifisela kutetemuka kusishwene kulehlole "Lufuno Netshirembe
Acting Editor

*Translation by Ms Ngcongcotsekile Madonsela (isiswati)
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THANKS BE TO GOD

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift (2 Cor 9 vs 15). We thank the Lord for the gift of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Really our God is merciful and marvelous at all times. God, we thank You for this wonderful gift among gifts. Our sins are forgiven through Him who gives life when we receive this gift from our God. This teaching is from the Holy Spirit with His promise of eternal life. Receive this gift and read your Bible through the teaching of the Holy Spirit and you will experience what ever I am talking about.

It has been a great honour and a privilege to deploy in Darfur in the Sudan in Kutum with a great man and a servant of God, Chaplain Masudubele. For a period of twenty-six weeks (six months) with its Sundays we were blessed and received food from the Holy Spirit by this great man of God. Really, you are a servant and a utensil that is used by God in this organisation. May the Lord continue to use you mightily in this organisation so that we continue to have the fruits from the Holy Spirit. Continue doing good work in this organisation of reviving the Spirit and give teaching from the Word of Life. For six months every Sunday, with no break, in our diverse religions and cultures we were uplifted by your inspirational preaching from the Good News. Thank you for the themes of each an every week’s inspiration to revive our spirits and to give us courage in our daily lives. Wherever you are, never forget who is your God whom you serve. Yes we have served our God together in Sudan’s Kutum Base.

I do not forget my brothers and sisters from South Africa and other parts of the African continent who have been rendering service with us. May the Lord keep your spirits living forever in His Spirit. Whatever we have sown in Kutum we will reap in its own time. Whatever you sow in spirit you will reap (Galatians: 6 vs 7).

Soldiers, our National Defence Force chaplains need our support in order to deliver a good service in the Holy Spirit. Let’s join our hands and hold each other in Christ and serve God in this Army. Let’s be the Army of the Lord and serve in Christ. Let’s try and make the church service parade not a normal church service. Let’s talk about God, not our religion. God is God and God is for all. It was not easy to be in the Sudan for a period of six months, but by committing ourselves to God it has been possible.

God was always on our side because we were calling his name daily. If God is on our side, who will be against us; definitely no one. God was always good to us (Luke 1 vs 37). For nothing is impossible with God. With God in Darfur everything was possible. Together with our chaplain we have made it. Chaplain Masudubele, may our great God keep on using you as his instrument in this National Defence Force. I pray for the Lord to be with us at all times, not forgetting our fallen soldiers in mission countries. May their spirits rest in peace forever more in Jesus Christ, Amen. In God we have trust and hope. A born again in Christ: Cpl R.A Dikgale Signal Unit North in Limpopo.

THE LADDER

Our life is like a ladder
A ladder that never ends,
We come across different obstacles
As we continue climbing the ladder.

Never stop running,
Never stop fighting,
And never stop walking
To reach the top of the ladder.

Dreaming is the name of the game
The game that never ends,
Success never meant to be easy,
Where difficulty lies
It is where happiness is.

Our life contains various steps,
Steps that are not easy to reach,
Steps that are apart from each other.
Steps that need focus and dedication.
Let’s stand tall and
Reach our destination,
The ladder. Smn T.J. Mathavhana,
21 Signal Unit

SON OF AFRICA!

The son of Africa!
The son of South Africa!
The son of Mozambique!
The son of Botswana!
The son of Zimbabwe!
Arise the son of Africa.
Be proud of who you are!
Be proud of what you are!
Be proud of your culture!
Be proud of your tradition!
Arise the son of Africa.

You are the soil of Africa!
You are the roots of Africa!
Africa is your home!
Africa is your land!
Arise the son of Africa!

Africa is where your heart is!
Africa is where you belong!
Arise the son of Africa!
Arise the son of Africa!
Arise the son of Africa!

Smn T.J. Mathavhana, Pretoria

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.
THE WORLD AROUND ME
The world around me
Holds up my life,
The world around me
Determines my future,
The world around me.

The world around me is bright,
Yes, its time to wake up
To wake up from the dead,
It’s time to start acting
Acting upon my dream,
The world around me.

My goal
My vision
My talent
Is the world around me.
The world around me is beautiful,
The world around me
brightens my life,
The world around me
Brightens my future.
I love the world around me.

Snm T.J. Mathavhana, 21 Signal Unit

OUR BELOVED ONES
Since getting SA Soldier magazine each
and every month, I have obtained a lot of
information about our deployed soldiers
around certain the African countries,
then Darfur, Burundi, the Democratic
Republic of the Congo (DRC), to name but a few. They do a
wonderful job down there and we are
proud of you men and women, who
leave your land to restore peace to
Africa.7 SAIBn, under the leadership
of their commanders, Lt Shingange and
Maj Motsitsi, have done an excellent job
in Darfur, not forgetting Col Van Neel. I
say, keep it up our beloved ones; we
salute the work done.

WHAT A GREAT LOSS
What great loss we suffered
In a painful way we lost
In a cruel way we lost
And in a mysterious way we lost
Yes another life was lost
A contribution to the SANDF was lost
But what can we do?
What could we have done? Nothing!
I mean nothing could have been done
To save this PRIDE OF LIONS

I don’t know why life can be so cruel
How can life snatch away
A young very promising life
A sister to the nation, and a friend to all?

Yes we lost a sister, a great one at that
Death has stolen a soul without mercy
Death has stolen a good soldier
Death has stolen a good daughter
Why? Why? I ask myself

WHAT IS RESPECT?
I am just a new Lance Corporal in the
Army and highly confused about the
word “respect”.

Who must respect whom? What
kind of respect is expected from
whom?

People in the SANDF keep on saying
Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members do not have
respect. Okay fine. If a Sergeant Major
can tell a Lance Corporal that she is
ridiculous, why should it be hard for a
Lance Corporal to tell the Sergeant
Major that he is ridiculous?

When I grew up I knew that respect
comes from both sides, young and old,
but in the National Defence Force we
are expected to understand the feelings
of the higher ranks, but they are not
taking our feelings into consideration
because we are young! Do unto others
what you would like to be done to you.

God bless the people who are not
abusing their ranks in the SANDF and
who stick to the words: “Young soldiers
have a lot of rights!” Respect us, so that
we can respect you. L Cpl D.P. Bhila,
SA Army Intelligence Formation

A SOLDIER IN ME
Once a soldier always a soldier
I am a demilitarised soldier
Who is still proud of being a soldier
I still wear my uniform only on the inside
I still correct my fellow soldiers when
committing a wrong
I still respect and honour my superiors
Because I have a soldier in me.

Once a soldier always a soldier
People do not understand the pride of being
a soldier
Once a soldier it means that you have
committed your life
To your country, you have pledged to serve
your people

You have signed your life over to your
Government
I am proud of the SANDF.

You are making us proud inside and
outside our country
You woman and men of strong courage
Sometimes I confuse you with the South
African Police Service
Because you are committed
To dealing with crime in our country
Keep your heads up and do not despair
Because you are a pride of lions
That fears nothing and conquers all
You make me happy because I have a soldier
in me. Xoliswa Xashimba, Soweto

DECEMBER 2008 • SA SOLDIER
"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

**Twelve months tour of duty in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Colonel Xolani Gilbert Mabanga, Chief Instructor at the South African National War College, led a team of men and women who, for the duration of twelve months, endeavoured to make a difference in the

Integration process of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and thus made a difference in the lives of the Congolese people.

Col Mabanga started his mission in February 2007 and concluded his tour of duty in February 2008.

In January 2007 the Chief of the South African Army nominated Col X.G. Mabanga for a command post in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under the operational command of Chief of Joint Operations Division. The post was that of an Officer Commanding South African Detachment Assisting with Integration and Training (OC SADAIT) in the DRC.

SADAIT was established in 2005, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the governments of the DRC and Republic of South Africa. The MOU stipulates that SADAIT is to provide assistance and advice to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) with regard to integration, demobilisation and training through the Structure for Military Integration (SMI). SMI is an organization tasked with the responsibility of facilitating, monitoring and supervising the integration, demobilisation and training process of the FARDC.

The SADAIT mission was code-named "Operation TEUTONIC" and was commanded by Brig Gen A. Nelwamonde. SADAIT members are deployed throughout the DRC in areas designated as centres for integration, demobilisation and training. These centres are called Centre de Brassage et Recyclage (CBR) in French. There were also some additional responsibilities given to SADAIT and these tasks were conducted under "Operation TEUTONIC II" from 2005 to 2006.

Late in 2006 the size of the team was reduced following successes achieved at that time, and on completion of additional tasks conducted under "Op TEUTONIC II". The reduced team was then put under the command of Capt (SAN) S. van Rooyen. The team comprised HQ staff (advisory elements and support elements) and Identification Teams (x3). This did not include team building team (psychologists and social workers), normally drawn from the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) and deployed on request by SADAIT HQ. Col Mabanga was appointed to command the team (SADAIT), which replaced the group that was commanded by Capt (SAN) Van Rooyen.

Col Mabanga and his group were deployed to the DRC between January and February 2007. By the end of March that year Col Mabanga recalled all his team members to Kinshasa for a work session which was held on 01 April 2007. Lt Col W. Mbele was appointed to plan, organise and facilitate the work session and all other staff members of the SADAIT HQ were to render support as required. Col Mabanga explained to the Human Resource Adviser at SADAIT HQ, Lt Col Mbele, that the HQ staff and Identification (ID) Teams were his intention for the work session, with emphasis on the desired end state. All SADAIT members appreciated the work session as one in which they learnt a bit and a day they would always remember.

Col Mabanga said that it was indeed a great opportunity for him to integrate the theory he gained at the College for practical implementation.
"It is an interesting situation when theory meets the reality. What you teach or learn at the College is not always what you meet on the ground. But the theory puts you in a better position to handle and manage realities of any situation." The major goal for each and every commander should be to achieve more with what he/she has under his/her command in terms of resources (personnel and equipment). The important resource (not undermining the value and importance of equipment) is human resources. In order to have the desired output from personnel under your command you need to ensure that they have the correct attitude.

One of the tasks that Col Mabanga was faced with was to ensure that personnel under his command had the correct attitude towards what they were expected to do in terms of their mandate. "I had to explain to the members that we were to perform our duties to the best of our abilities. I always reminded everybody that we were privileged to be appointed to serve and represent the SANDF and our country in assisting and advising another country’s defence force," said Col Mabanga. He added, "The importance of that responsibility was that whatever the results would be, the RSA and the SANDF would be remembered for having been involved in the transformation of the DRC and we would be part of that contribution. Therefore this is in service of our country and not a money making opportunity”. "I used to share with the team these words that I borrowed from a quote from John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address of 20 January 1961, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what can you do for your country".

Col Mabanga acknowledged that commanding men and women in a foreign country was not easy but rather a complicated and delicate matter. He said this task put more demands on the knowledge, attitude and skills of the commanders. This also becomes an opportunity for the commander to reflect on his/her experience, maturity and personality. "Remember experience is not bought or sold from any retail shop, but gained through time, space, exposure and/or encounters that one has been through or is due to go through in his/her career”, emphased Col Mabanga.

In December 2007, during his visit to the SANDF members deployed in the DRC, the C SANDF, Lt Gen Ngwenya, was informed by the RSA Ambassador of the achievements of the SADAIT team of 2007. "Gen Ngwenya, I would like to inform you that Col Mabanga and his team did a tremendous job during their twelve (12) months tour of duty here in the DRC. Their advice and assistance in areas of security sector reforms is much appreciated by their Congolese counterparts and Minister of Defence in particular” said the RSA Ambassador telling the C SANDF of the achievements of the SADAIT team of 2007. He added, "I have also been receiving positive reports concerning

>> on page 10

Colonel Xolani Gilbert Mabanga with the Commander of the Centre for Integration and Training.
their performance in areas where they have been deployed. I would like personally to commend Col Mabanga and his team for a job well done and for making us proud. We at the Embassy had good working relations with Col Mabanga and his team and we appreciate the support received from them.

The C SANDF congratulated Col Mabanga and his team and said, "I'm glad to hear from the Ambassador that you did a good job during your tour of duty in the DRC, and that you had good working relations with the Embassy. People need to know that the Embassy is the most senior office representing our country and it should be informed of SANDF activities in that country. I am glad to hear that you worked very closely with the South African Navy R Adm (JG) Hlongwane, Defence Attaché, and that you constantly briefed the Ambassador on SADAIT activities so that the Ambassador could also advise you accordingly".

Reflecting on his mission, Col Mabanga said, "It was an honour and privilege for me to have a team comprising disciplined, dedicated, and devoted men and women under my command. I know that at the beginning it was not easy for me to work with them, as much as it was not easy for them to work with me".

As the Chief Instructor at the South African National War College, Col Mabanga worked with colonels and equivalent, lieutenant Colonels in a class of one hundred learners that comprised few colonels, but mostly lieutenant colonels. In the DRC, he had to work with lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, warrant officers, staff sergeants and sergeant or petty officers (SAN), which was different from the time he taught colonels at the South African National War College.

“As time went by, the team members understood each other and it was nice and easy to work with them, as it was nice and easy for them to work with me,” he said.

On a personal note, Col Mabanga would like to convey his sincere gratitude to all those who served under his command for their patience and tolerance both to him, and with one another. "I want them all to know that all the successes and achievements of SADAIT 2007, as well as the praise received were results of their dedication and devotion to serving the country in a most disciplined manner, he said, adding, "We did our jobs to the best of our ability and we made a difference and surely we will always be remembered for that. I wish them all the best in their careers. My appreciation also goes to the members of the FARDC, in particular and Congolese people".

"My message to those who are currently serving in Peace Support Missions on the continent or elsewhere in the world is that they should put the country first. They should not define voluntarism to deploy in terms of a moneymaking endeavour but in terms of service to the Nation and money should be a bonus. Patriotism should not be compromised by love of material things; otherwise we would be breeding mercenaries in the SANDF. To serve in defence of our country as outlined in the Constitution of the RSA and other policy documents should be the priority for soldiers".

Co-authored by Col Xolani Gilbert Mabanga, Chief Instructor at the South African National War College and Gp Capt B. Adekoya, a Senior Directing Staff from Nigeria seconded to the SANWC.
xolanigm@webmail.co.za

FREEDOM IN SUDAN …

When is there going to be freedom, when is there going to be peace!
People are suffering, people are dying, people are always fighting
When is there going to be peace, when is there going to be freedom?
Children don’t have schools, they don’t have food to eat, they don’t have clothes to wear, as well as accommodation!
When are they going to do what south africans did?

When is there going to be peace, when is there going to be freedom?
Pte R. Mathata, 10 SAI Bn, Sudan (Mellit Base)
By Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, Chaplain General of the SANDF

Ecclesiastes 2.26: "God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness to those who honour him."
John 3:16: "God so loved the world that he gave us his Son."

Erick Forms once said: “It is not those that receive a lot that are happy but those that give a lot.”

Solomon had to learn this the hard way. This passage describes how he tried to find happiness, fulfilment in life and peace of mind. He tried through knowledge, pleasure, wealth, women, arts and culture, power and position, but in the end he said: “It was like chasing the wind - no use at all”. Then the big realisation came and we hear him say that happiness, fulfilment, peace of mind and a feeling of worth are things that God gives to you when you learn the lesson that it is:

- More important to give than to receive;
- More about others than myself;
- More about serving than being;
- More about giving love than being loved; and
- More about bringing peace than receiving peace.

For us going into the festive season and into the New Year, there are a few lessons to learnt from this:

- God has put us on earth not for ourselves, but for his purpose.
- God has blessed us with opportunities not for ourselves, but so that we can govern with responsibility on his behalf.
- God has given us the opportunity to bring peace to our houses, our country and to Africa, not only to our own benefit but also to the benefit of his creation and his people.

Therefore, let us in our evaluation of the past year and in realigning ourselves for the new year accept the challenge of the words of Theodore Roosevelt when he said: “Let us not ask what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country.” Therefore let us serve, lead, guide, govern, work, bring peace and help those around us. This is the example of Christmas when God, out of his love for us, gave us his only son to bring peace into our lives and our world. Therefore let us receive, forgive to be forgiven, love to be loved and bring peace to receive peace.

I pray that everyone of us will have the courage to be such a blessing to others and ourselves for this will bring us true happiness and fulfilment.

May I also pray that God will bless everyone of you during the Christmas season and the New Year.

Blessed by God to be a blessing to others
Our Minister meets the South African National Editors Forum

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In his first media briefing as the Minister of Defence (MOD), the newly appointed Mr Charles Nqakula, met with the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) at Naval Station Durban on 10 October 2008. In bona fide Navy tradition and immaculately dressed, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, R Adm Mosoeu Magalefa, R Adm Rusty Higgs, R Adm (JG) Hanno Teuteberg and Capt (SAN) Andre de Wet welcomed the Minister.

The meeting between the MOD and SANEF coincided with Exercise OXIDE, which was in its last stages. The main objectives of the exercise were: evaluate support capability, exercise command and control, force preparation training, operational testing and evaluation, and enhance operational co-operation.

On his arrival the Minister was immediately briefed about Exercise OXIDE. Minister Nqakula was then ushered on board SAS ISANDLWANA. The Head of Communication (HOC) in the Department of Defence, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, introduced the Minister as not just a minister who was not informed on defence matters, but as a well-informed and knowledgeable man who was the Chairperson of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster. “Be assured that the Minister is a soldier from his days in the Umkhonto we Sizwe. I must even inform you that Minister Nqakula has been a journalist and knows the media environment very well,” said the HOC, Mr Dlamini, introducing the new Minister of Defence.

On taking to the platform he assured the public that he would not change policies or strategies already put in place by the previous minister, but he would continue on the path established and implement decisions that were taken.

SKILLS RETENTION

The Minister told the Editors about the enormous challenges regarding the loss of skills and retention plans to reduce the loss. He conceded that this was not just a DOD challenge, but also the Government’s problem in general. He was at pains to present a realistic picture of the challenge and to show that the government was trying with all its might to discourage employees from leaving the government sector.

Some companies were paying hundreds of thousands of rands to buy...
Capt Michael Boucher explains to the Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, some of the technicalities of navigating the SAS ISANDLWANA while Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, Director Ministerial Liaison, Mr Simphiwe Dlamini, the Head of Communication, Mr Thabiso Ratsomo, Head of Ministerial Services, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Chief of the SA Navy, and R Adm Rusty Higgs look on.

skilled sailors from the South African Navy which continues to be hit by very serious poaching," said the Minister.

"Big business says to these highly skilled people (sailors, pilots, technician, laboratory scientists, etc.): we will make you an offer you can’t refuse, and at times they can’t. Some people were being offered up to four to five times their salaries," he said. R Adm (JG) Hanno Teuteberg highlighted the severity of this problem by pointing out that his ship was on operation with the minimum number of approximately nine personnel whereas, preferably it should be at least sixteen.

Hope is not lost, however, as Government has adopted strategies to curb this massive skills loss to the private sector. Some of the strategies to be employed include, but are not limited to: calling up retired SANDF personnel with scarce skills and an arrangement for some tertiary institutions to train people for the SANDF personnel was being considered, but he was cautious when mentioning this and emphasized that people should not interpret the statement as a solid decision that had already been decided upon, but the statement should be read as a mere agenda point put on the table for consideration and that there were no guarantees until the final decision had been made.

TRANSFORMATION IN THE DOD

The Minister explained that transformation did not fundamentally mean the necessity of replacing one group with the other in terms of race. "Transformation required a strategy that would facilitate training of people from lower bases to higher bases," said Mr Nqakula.

He added that transformation was not just about human resources only. "There is indeed a serious need to transform our material resource too. South Africa, or rather the SANDF, might not be at war but it is involved in many operations.

"We need to be sure that we stay technologically ahead of all the challenges posed. Our combat readiness must never be in doubt or in jeopardy," reiterated the Minister. "It was for the above reason that we bought all the state-of-the-art equipment," added the Minister.

ONE STATE, ONE MILITARY FRATERNITY

Minister Nqakula warned that South Africa was a sovereign democratic state with a constitution that made provision for one military body that received its mandate from democratically elected institutions. Any internal paramilitary camps or bodies would be deemed illegal and those who perpetuate such acts would be arrested.

After talking to the editors, he finally had an opportunity to address the ship’s company on board SAS DRAKENSBERG. He assured the sailors that they were valuable to the SANDF and acknowledged the role they played in making South Africa a functioning state.

The minister had an opportunity for a comprehensive tour of the SAS ISANDLWANA, SAS DRAKENSBERG, where he saw all the technology on board these "sea machines". On board SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE, Officer Commanding, Cdr Jacobus Beukes, gave the Minister a guided tour inside the submarine and explained the how the periscope and other different components of the "sub" worked.

Only a man with a full understanding of what the military entails would not feel disheartened by the tasks that lay ahead for himself as Minister of Defence.
Multimillion rand facelift and upgrade of AFB Waterkloof

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole

On 13 November 2008, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, hosted a media briefing at AFB Waterkloof Officers Mess for members of the media on the state of the SA Air Force (SAAF) as well as to give an update of the multimillion rand facelift and upgrade of AFB Waterkloof runways, taxiways and strategic airlift facilities. These will result from the construction of maintenance hangers for aircrafts and specialised facilities able to accommodate the SAAF’s soon to be acquired A400M heavy lift aircraft.

Admitting that the SAAF was facing serious challenges, particularly the retention of skilled personnel, the Chief of the SAAF said that international sources were scouting the SAAF’s expertise. “The SAAF cannot compete against the large remuneration packages luring our personnel off to new challenges. The areas most affected are flying crew, command and control, air traffic controllers and technicians, specifically in the avionic environment,” said Lt Gen Gagiano.
He added that the SAAF and DOD needed to increase contact with Government and its stakeholders to explain to them what the SAAF needed to operate and deliver their mandate in a more cost-effective manner. Regarding the SAAF’s plan to consolidate its maintenance facilities with the maintenance staff from Denel Aviation, Lt Gen Gagiano said that a new support vision had been created with Denel Aviation to achieve specific service delivery outcomes. He also mentioned that the SAAF had met various aviation authorities, including the South African Airways (SAA) with their of pilots, air traffic controllers and wide spread of expertise in the avionic environment in the Reserve Force, to see if these could help alleviate the problem.

“We will not settle for second best, but persevere despite our challenges. Striving for air power is after all our goal; that is what airmanship is all about,” concluded Lt Gen Gagiano.

It is expected that the upgrades will be completed by the year 2011. The briefing was concluded with an aerial tour of AFB Waterkloof, which was an eye-opening experience for members of the media.
He Chief of the South African Navy hosted the gala evening at UNISA on 10 October 2008. This annual event is one of the most important events in the calendar of the Navy.

At this event the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu informed the stakeholders, friends of the SA Navy and other interested organisations about the Navy’s progress and thanked those who contributed to its success. In his opening speech he acknowledged the hard work, dedication and commitment of his team: “We are proud of the sacrifices and commitment of our soldiers in all these peace support missions whose paramount aim is to help create permanent stability and security on the continent, said V Adm Mudimu.

He indicated that the SA Navy had aligned itself with the Government’s objective of breaking the chains of poverty, disease and hunger to create an environment of economic growth and development for people on the African continent.

Among the many achievements of the SA Navy this year he mentioned Good Hope III, Exercise IBSAMAR 01, Exercise ATLASUR VII and the arrival of QUEEN MODJADJI, as some of the noteworthy items.

The highlight for the SA Navy in 2008 was the Presidential Fleet Review on 5 September in which the Navy was honoured to host former President Thabo Mbeki. On this occasion he commended the SA Navy for its efforts in furthering the Government’s foreign policy.

The Admiral told the guests that the SA Navy was engaged in conducting trials to ensure that the systems of our ships and submarines were optimally tested and crews trained to the highest standards of readiness to meet all maritime contingencies that might arise.

The guests were informed that even though the SA Navy might seem as if it was not really visible it is hard at work keeping invaders of our territorial waters at bay, and the submarines and the new ships needed continuous maintenance and therefore kept the crew busy, that is the normal way the navy must operate. He also informed the guests that the SA Navy was not only recognised locally but also internationally.

What better way to conclude this prestigious event than a marriage proposal? Everyone was pleasantly surprised when Lt Richard Dulamo asked S Lt Rachel Khumalo’s hand in marriage.
"A morning at sea" - Sailing with Captains of Industry

By Amn Lethube Phasha
Photos: LS Martin Venter

Most private companies do not have a clear understanding of the concept of Reserves and how they form part of the maritime industry.

As part of Operation BLUE SHIELD the SA Navy frigate, SAS MENDI, docked in Port Elizabeth Harbour on 22 November 2008. "A morning at sea" was planned for business leaders, school principals and the media in and around East London.

This was an initiative of the SA Naval Reserves as a way of engaging with the business community in the area, as well as school-going youth. SA Navy personnel present at the event were Chief Director Maritime Strategy, R Adm Bernie Teuteberg, Director Naval Reserves, R Adm (JG) Johan Penzhorn, and Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town, R Adm (JG) Koos Louw.

The main purpose of the event was to enhance relationships with the maritime industry and ensure that the captains of industry understood the voluntary Reserve service in order to avail their employees the opportunity of offering their services to the SA Naval Reserves. Once on board the guests were welcomed by the ship’s Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) Johannes Schutte, who reminded them that they would be sailing in the best frigate in the Navy. And to make sure that everyone is at ease Lt Cmdr Graham Walker spelt out the safety precautions to be adhered to while on board the SAS MENDI.

Director Naval Reserves gave a presentation on what the Naval Reserves were and their duties in the SA Navy and the role of Maritime Industry with regard to members who had completed their Military Skills Development System (MSDS) training and are ready for utilisation in the private sector. R Adm (JG) Penzhorn mentioned that this could be called a shareholders’ meeting of the people’s Navy, except that it was not in the boardroom, but on board a ship. After the briefing the deck was opened and to everyone’s surprise we had already set sail. While sailing the guests were given a tour of the frigate. By the end of this mini-cruise the captains of industry present said they now had a better understanding of how they could contribute by providing employment to these disciplined and motivated young citizens who would benefit any organisation and also ensure the full functionality of the SA Naval Reserves.

Cheer for festive season

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 25 November 2008 at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, handed over the goodwill parcels and hampers to senior members of the SANDF, Services and Divisional Warrant Officers as Christmas cheer to be delivered to families of our deployed peace ambassadors, members who will be on duty during the festive season and in the military hospitals.

The aim of the event was to illustrate and reaffirm to members that the leadership of the SANDF, the SANDF Spouses Forum and sponsors of the Goodwill Project and the nation cares for them. Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Joint Operations, expressed his gratitude to the SANDF Spouses Forum and the sponsors for acknowledging the vital role played by our deployed soldiers.

“"You are world-class entities and partners. Thank you for reaching out to our members and for appreciating their efforts in helping to conquer the odds and challenges that we face today in our region and beyond and ensuring that the SANDF is able to fulfil its obligations towards our people,” said Lt Gen Matanzima.

Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Joint Operations, receiving a goodwill parcel from Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum.
As yet another year draws to an end, it is appropriate to reflect on the accomplishments and problems encountered in the course of the year. For those who stood out during 2008, the SAMHS set aside a special twilight event to reward them for their contribution in striving to make the organisation a world-class entity. This was in the form of the 2008 corporate awards and gala evening.

Area Military Health Formation with the help of Senior Warrant Officer Milton Solomon and his team from GSB Thaba Tshwane, pulled out all the stops to ensure that the evening was the most unforgettable in the minds of all those gathered there. They transformed the NCOs Mess at the SA Military Health Training Formation into a stunning venue draped in snow-white satin cloth and complemented by a vast array of roses and candles on the tables.

In an endeavour to guarantee credibility, the SAMHS has committed itself to the implementation of the South African Excellence Model (SAEM) as its basic tool for self-assessment and to improve its performance. The implementation of the SA Excellence Model within the SAMHS is evaluated continuously within the context of the three year rolling internal audit strategy of the SAMHS. All SAMHS audits for a specific financial year as well as voluntary entries from any SAMHS Force Structure Element are considered for the Performance Excellence Awards. Stringent application of the SAEM scoring methodology is ensured. These steps form the scientific basis for the selection of winners.

- The recipient of the Performance Excellence Awards for 2008 was Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape, headed by Col A. C. Alberts.
- Institute for Maritime Medicine and Area Military Health Unit (AMHU) Western Cape came third and second respectively.
- AMHU Western Cape once again was awarded for being the most improved unit. Well done Col Phike and staff!
- The Combat Readiness award was scooped by AMHU Free State.
- The Health Promotion and Preventative award was conferred upon AMHU Northern Cape.
- The Quality Improvement Award was presented to the medical doctors at 3 Military hospital under the leadership of Col Mathee.
- Lt A. G. MacTavie from AMHU Northern Cape scooped the Clinical Excellence Award.

The excellence criteria for clinical service has been utilised as they are based on transformation principles that include customer satisfaction, effective human resource management of health care professionals and their supporting personnel, productivity, health promotion, Batho Pele principles and in-post training on principles.

The SAMHS Excellence trophy in Logistic Management is awarded annually to the unit that has achieved the lowest deviation from logistic
The School for Military Health Training is currently training 293 MSDS members to become emergency care technicians. Upon completion of their training the members will have recognised skills that will enable them to find employment in the health sector as paramedics, a highly sought after skill in South Africa. This will also contribute to the provision of medical support during the FIFA Soccer World Cup in 2010.

The Surgeon General’s Mohale Award was given to Capt Mohlomi, while the runner-up was S Sgt Seiso, both from the SAMHS HQ. This award seeks to give recognition to the person who has made the greatest contribution to the improvement of organisational performance and the positive portrayal of the image of the SAMHS. Mohale is a Sesotho term meaning “hero” and therefore embodies the African cultural concept of excellence. The successful candidate should display courage, resolve, determination, pride, morality, military valour, intelligence, judgement, Ubuntu, selflessness, insight and wisdom.

The evening was also used as an opportunity for friends and colleagues to reflect on the challenges faced during the year, and the rectification plans that could be be put in place to remedy the situation. Congratulations to all the winners!
In memory of fallen Gunners

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Commemorating those who died in combat is an old military tradition. 4 Artillery Regiment is amongst the units that through perseverance have maintained this tradition. 7 November marked the 29th Annual Gunners Memorial at the 4 Artillery Regiment memorial site. It was a way of paying tribute to their comrades that had died in service or combat.

"Today is once again the memorial service of 4 Artillery Regiment the event which we celebrate every year and which is aimed at paying tribute to those heroes and heroines who served with distinction and who ultimately paid the supreme price", said the Acting Commander of 4 Artillery Regiment, Maj J. Moraka, in his keynote address.

4 Artillery Regiment was initially named 4 Field Regiment when it was moved from its second location in 1975. In 1982 it was relocated again almost 8 km from where it had been. In 1984 a new unit, which included the memorial site bearing a Pro Patria, was built and completed. Its initial purpose was to honour soldiers killed in operations. Later it was changed to accommodate those that had died in service. To this end a wall built in 2006.

Chief Director Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, lays the first wreath at the Annual Gunners Memorial.

Members parading at the Pro Patria.
Remembering the fallen heroes of World War II

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: Col Mpho Mathebe

For every birth there is blood, freedom is never achieved freely. In pursuit of freedom, blood would be spilled and lives sacrificed. El Alamein battlefield in the Egyptian desert bears witness to this and memories of those who laid down their lives during World War II are remembered there.

El Alamein is a town in northern Egypt on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Matruh Governorate. In El Alamein is the Commonwealth war cemetery with graves of soldiers who fought as allies of British forces. This cemetery has monuments commemorating South Africa, British, Greek, New Zealand and Australian forces.

Rows upon rows of gravestones stand witness to the cost in human lives. There are parallel rows of gravestones. Each gravestone bearing an engraving of the deceased soldier’s emblem and name.

This event was graced by the presence of the Chaplain General, Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen, Brig Gen Kwena Mangope, Director Corporate Communication, and Col Mpho Mathebe, SA Defence Advisor in Egypt, who represented the SANDF for the first time during this occasion.

Brig Gen, Marius Cornelissen was honoured with the task of opening the ceremony with a Scripture reading and prayer which was followed by the wreath-laying ceremony which was held to honour those who laid down their lives on 25 October 2008. The SA Ambassador in Egypt accompanied by the SANDF representatives, followed by the British and New Zealand, Attachés laid the wreath where other commonwealth countries participated.

In an interview with SA Soldier, Director Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Kwena Mangope, said that the event was significant in remembrance of SA soldiers who laid their lives in this war. He is of the view that monuments should be erected in this African continent especially where South Africans laid their lives in pursuit of our democracy. This, in his opinion, will be a befitting acknowledgement and recognition of their sacrifice. He went on to say the SANDF must initiate and facilitate this process vigorously.

This journey of remembrance to Egypt was undertaken to demonstrate to the soldiers living today and those who have passed on, that we value your contribution as South African soldiers; you will forever be alive in hearts and our memories.

We salute and honour their hard work which today’s generation stand to benefit from. May their souls rest in peace.
Over 500 delegates from the former Non-Statutory Forces of Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA), the Azanian National Liberation Army (AZANLA), the South African Defence Force (SADF) and those from former Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (TBVC) came under one umbrella to form the South African National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA) at a conference held from 26 to 28 September 2008 at Booyens Hotel in Johannesburg (Gauteng Province).

After two days of frank talk and sober reflection, history was made as former enemies joined together in singing the national anthem on the last day of the conference. Delegates committed themselves to working tirelessly to achieve the objectives of the newly adopted SANMVA constitution.

The establishment of SANMVA is a milestone achievement for all veterans in the country as it comes almost nine years after the South African Parliament passed the Military Veterans Act Number 17 of 1999. This Act provides for the development of national standards regarding military veterans, their dependants and their entitlements.

At the end of the conference the executive committee of SANMVA was elected as follows:

**President:** Mr K. Maphatsoe (MK)
**First Deputy President:** Brig Gen (Ret) M.R. Fihla (APLA)
**Second Deputy President:** Lt Col G. Giles (CMVO)
**Secretary General:** Ms D. Phama (APLA)

**Deputy Secretary General:** Mr G. Biya (AZANLA)
**Treasurer General:** Mr F. Motseki.

The following were elected as additional members to the SANMVA Executive Committee:
- Maj Gen (Ret) M.Ramotshwana (VDF)
- Brig Gen (Ret) L. Bhengu (TDF)
- Lt Col (Ret) A. Ntabeni (APLA)
- Mr F. Smith (APLA)
- Mr M. Nxiweni (AZANLA)
- Mr V. Wauchope (AZANLA)
- Ms D Mbanjwa (MK)
- Ms T. Mvelase (MK)
- Mr D. Winter (CMVO)
- Mr L. Mantambo (BDF)
STOP HIV & AIDS
KEEP THE PROMISE
LEAD • EMPOWER • DELIVER
The open day of Exercise SEBOKA on 16 October 2008 at Combat Training Centre, Lohatlha showcased what the SANDF was all about. Although the exercise is an annual event, people cannot help reminiscing about the excitement of the firepower environment. At an approximate strength of 4 348 of the brigade with 1 180 Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members included, Exercise SEBOKA this year at a cost of R44 million.

In his presentation of the sequence of events during the simulated exercise the GOC of 43 SA Brigade, Brig Gen Lawrence Smith, said that the aim of the Exercise SEBOKA was to master critical aspects of combined arms doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures at a tactical level. It were also to integrate different teeth arms in order to conduct an intervention operation within the realities and demands of current and future African battle space.

Altogether 13 civilian contractors, and more than 18 SANDF units took part in the exercise. Included in the brigade was the SA Army with 3 795 members, The SAAF with 119 members, the SAMHS with 334 members, SA Navy with 3 members and the Military Police unit with 334 members. Some of the specialised battle equipment and weapons that were utilised included the Meerkat Mobile Mine Detection System, Hawk Fighter Jet Aircraft, Ratel ZT3 Missile Launcher and Armoured Cars, etc.

The day ended with a press conference addressed by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke. Both affirmed the SANDF belligerence and strength in the battle space. The Minister said that the exercise helped to clear doubts about expectations on the SANDF’s capabilities. He also said that he was proud to have young men and women taking

Tactical Readiness and communication are vital elements for success.

A co-ordinated approach by members from the air and on the ground is under way.
Earlier during the month the SA Army Infantry Formation participated in the 2008 Exercise SEBOKA at the SA Army Combat Training Centre represented by 5 SAI Bn in Ladysmith KwaZulu-Natal and 8 SAI Bn in the Northern Cape. Both units conducted unit training on 28 September 2008 in preparation for the exercise. They also took part in integrated training with units from the other SA Army formations under the command of 43 SA Brigade. The infantry was responsible for the rear protection task, defile drills, bridge crossing, ambushes, battalion column right attacks and mobile operations.

Their fleet of vehicles included 113 Casspirs from the Main Ordnance Depot in Wallmannsthal with Motorised Infantry personnel and weapon carriers plus 41 echelon vehicles as part of 5 SAI Bn. 8 SAI Bn, as a mechanised infantry unit, consisted of weapon carriers with 107 Ratels and 38 echelon vehicles forming part of the logistical support that included pantries, diesel and water bunkers.

The second in command of 5 SAI Bn, Maj Lucky Sangweni, said that their primary role as a unit in the simulated exercise was to attack the enemy lines and secure all fields. This was the first time 5 SAI Bn participated in Exercise SEBOKA, and it was good opportunity for them to put the theoretical training into practice.

Maj Sangweni said this exercise resulted from being involved in external deployments for the past 3 to 5 years. The units also took part in Exercise PARABELLUM where the Junior Command Staff Practical Course learners exercised their different appointments. 8 SAI Bn continued to take part in Exercise SEBETSA of the SA Armour Formation.
Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm,” said Ralph Waldo Emerson. On 13 October 2008 the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane hosted a certificate ceremony for a group of 98 learners who successfully completed their Junior Command and Staff Duties Course (JCSD) Residential Module 2008, presented over the period 14 January to 17 October 2008.

The remarkable event was also aimed at acknowledging the accomplishments of learners on completing the last course on the career path of the SA Army officers. Talking to SA Soldier, Lt Col Abbey Chabalala (Course Leader), Directing Staff: JCSD Branch, said that the course focused on the tactical level of command and was a threefold, distance education module, followed by the residential module and then the practicals at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohathla.

When giving his address, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, mentioned that as learners and officers in the SA Army they had intellectual capabilities and had been given the toolbox of knowledge. “It is incumbent upon you to inculcate good officership, with the view to serving mankind and the wider interests of our nation,” said Lt Gen Shoke.

SA Soldier spoke to Maj Ansie Fox, Best Overall Officer. She said: ”The JCSD Course 2008 has produced the finest minds and as the shield of the nation, we need to maintain the ground, deter, defeat and destroy the enemy under any circumstances.”

As our conversation drew to close, she described the high light of the course. ”We went on Exercise SAFARI in Bloemfontein and in Potchefstroom where we were doing the tactical operational work. It was an eye-opening experience for most of the learners and, as a woman, I say where there is a will there is a way,” she concluded.
Disability Award Function 2008

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthshongwana

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management hosted the Disability Equity Unit of the Year Awards function at the Pierre Van Ryneweldt Hall at Air Force Headquarter in Pretoria on the 31 October 2008. The aim of the function was to award units that promote disability equity in line with legislative imperatives. Lt Col G. van der Neit of the School of Military Justice welcomed the dignitaries that graced the event. Deputy Director Disability Equity, Mr Kwazi Gombela, said that he was grateful and overwhelmed to be part of the occasion. The National Ceremonial Guard Band and the Terauh Choir from Prinshof School for the Blind entertained those present. On behalf of the Deputy Minister of Defence who could not attend the function and the Chief of the SANDF, the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, was the key speaker for the day. “What is our understanding when it comes to people with disabilities? How do we acknowledge people with disabilities?” These were his two major questions.

These questions were based on his experience interacting with people who were “differently abled or physically challenged”. He strongly believed that their physical condition had nothing to do with their mentality and as such the physical state of their bodies did not mean their brains were impaired. He urged people seriously to consider empowering people with disabilities by developing them, providing resources and getting them to do courses.

The two Gunners who were present at the Lohatla accident that claimed nine lives and who both lost limbs were also invited to share their experiences. Gunners R.M. Nkga and C.F. Pale of 10 Anti Aircraft Regiment in Kimberley are now at ADA Formation and will be transferred to the Personnel Corps. “I had a terrible experience, but thank God I am alive,” said Gunner Pale. Gunner Nkga felt honoured and happy to address people at the function, although at times she found herself asking God why that happened to her. The evaluation and nominating team chaired by Lt Col Martin Combrinck from the SA Army worked tirelessly to make this day a success. Lt Col Combrinck has been chairing the evaluation team since the commencement of the Disability Award function in 2006. He has been part of the Disability Committee as the SA Army representative since the inception of the Disability Committee in 2001. He has truly been promulgating disability equity in the SA Army and has worked selflessly to remove the barriers in the working environment of people with disabilities, and has further advocated the recognition of the values brought by people with disabilities. For his efforts Lt Col Combrinck was presented with a Commendation Certificate. The Staff Officer of the Bloemfontein RFIM Office, Col G.P. van Zyl, in absentia, was presented with a Commendation Certificate for his efforts in removing the barriers in the working environment of people with disabilities in the Northern Cape and Free State regions. Units that received awards included the following:

- The Department of Defence Disability Unit of the Year 2008 went to SA Army Support Base Bloemfontein Combined Mess.
- In the category Most Improved Disability Equity Unit Award of the Year 2008 the award went to the SA Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal Satellite Morebank Military Base Durban.
- In the category Most Accessible Disability Equity Unit Award of the Year 2008 the award went to 10 Air Defence Artillery in Kimberley.
- Air Force Base Langebaanweg was awarded the Ubuntu Disability Equity Award 2008.

Award winners, fltr Col J.W. Mienie with Ubuntu Award, WO1 J.A Germishuizen with the Commendation Certificate, Maj J. Minnie with Most Improved Disability Equity Unit Award, Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Lt Col G. van der Niet, MC, Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen N.E. Memela-Motumi, Lt Col Mazibuko with Most Accessible Disability Equity Unit Award, Lt Col G. van der Nest with DOD Disability Unit of the Year 2008 award.
Obtaining a nursing qualification is a special achievement

Article and photos by Lt Sello Segone, Acting Editor Milmed

The 2008 Nursing Graduations ceremony came short of only three distinctions to take the total to a hundred received at this year’s ceremony.

The grand ceremony was held at the famous Z.K. Matthews Hall, Theo van Wijk Building at Unisa on 7 October 2008. Those who came to witness the spectacle included the Chairperson of the College Council, Lt Gen Vijay Ramlakan, Surgeon General and Dr B.E. Zawada, Acting Director School of Arts, Education, Languages and Communication, at Unisa.

In addressing the excited graduates the guest speaker Brig Gen (Ret) Marietjie Swanepoel elaborated on all the dangers and challenges the nursing career encounters. Nursing research revealed that experiencing stress at work could lead to symptoms like sleeplessness, chronic fatigue and even depression. These symptoms ultimately result in nurses taking time off from work either by means of short leave periods or sick leave. Managing a ward with reduced staff because stress related leave could be disastrous as it usually leads to burnout or low morale.

She also appealed that the health care professionals be trained to manage serious trauma cases. She indicted that such were reported often at health care facilities due to the increased community based violence.

“Keeping this in mind, health care professionals will have to be alert in recognising spouse and child abuse,” cautioned Brig Gen Swanepoel concluding her speech.

The first group to ascend the stage was the 18 members (main campus 2007) who studied a certificate for the two-year course leading to enrolment as a nurse. They produced three distinctions and honours by Sgt Z. Ndinganiso. The next group (satellite campus Bloemfontein 2007) had 19 members sharing four distinctions.

Front, fltr: Surgeon General Vijay Ramlakan, Officer Commanding Nursing College, Col Fazeka Mabona and Brig Gen (Ret) Marietjie Swanepoel with proud graduates in the background.
A proud CO Marlene Changalroyen receiving her trophy from Col Susan Wijburg.

Lt Matsie Molepo receiving her trophy from Col Susan Wijburg after obtaining four distinctions and passed *cum laude*.

with Cpl K.S. Gaanakgomo scooping the honours.

Satellite Campus Cape Town 2008 also prides itself with 21 members with five distinctions and honours by Pte S.P. Ndabandaba.

The Diploma in Clinical Nursing Science: Health Assessment, Treatment and Care, Group W saw 34 members pass with a massive collection of 41 distinctions, Group X saw 32 members also collect 41 distinctions with Ms A.F. Makobe and Ms. P.V. Masemola passing *cum laude*. Group Y boasted 19 distinctions from 25 members.

The Diploma for the four year course leading to registration as a Nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and Midwifery, group 2007, saw 49 members achieve a total of 32 distinctions with Lt M.E. Molepo, Lt Z.P. Zwane, 2Lt Fortuin and 2Lt Wylbacht passing *cum laude*. Group 2008 had 47 members collecting 23 distinctions with CO N. Chengalroyen, CO G. Leew, CO Van Tonder passing *cum laude*.

“To obtain any qualification is a huge achievement, but to obtain a nursing qualification is an even more special achievement, you have shown through your hard work and dedication during this course that you are worthy of joining the time-honoured and revered profession of healing,” Dr Zawada congratulated the happy graduates on their new profession. Altogether 22 trophies were awarded to students who did exceptionally well in their respective fields.
Centralised voluntary intern induction programme

By Ms Karin Swart,
Assistant Director PSAP ETD
Photo: Cpl Riaan Calitz

The DOD supports the initiative of Government to expose graduates to the broader Public Service through voluntary internships. Internship is a process in which a graduate is given workplace experience and/or an opportunity to realise the practicality of the work skills for which he/she has studied. It is a planned, structured and managed programme which is occupationally based, and may vary between three and a maximum of twelve months, with remuneration.

A well-defined formal induction process has been recognised as one of the cornerstones of organisational investment in human capital. In fact, the process of HRD starts with employee induction.

Although employees enter an organisation with their own set of skills, values, experience and knowledge, they must still be developed in order to meet the unique requirements of their Department. It is therefore evident that HRD commences the moment a new employee joins the DOD, because that person immediately starts to learn new and unique methods, values, processes and procedures.

The Intern Induction Programme has been designed to introduce interns in the DOD by providing knowledge and understanding of the Public Service and the DOD.

CD HRD (PSAP ETD) presented for the first time in the DOD a formal centralised Intern Induction Programme in Pretoria over the period 15 to 18 September 2008, 22 interns from diverse working backgrounds attended this workshop presented in Pretoria Ladies Mess AFB Waterkloof.

Objectives of the Programme

The Intern Induction Programme was designed to introduce interns appointed to the DOD with the requisite knowledge and understanding of the Public Service and DOD.
Many of us believe that experience is the best teacher. On Friday, 12 September 2008, the Department of Defence hosted a delegation of Southern African Defence Security Management students (SADSEM) from the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) Centre for Defence and Security Management at the Defence Head-quarters in Pretoria. The aim of the visit was to acquaint the students with the DOD and to give them an overview of the South African defence environment.

Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, the Head of Communication, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, Director Ministerial Liaison, and Dr Thobekile Gamede, Deputy Director-General, Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning welcomed the students.

To the students, this visit to the DOD was a fact-finding mission and Mr Nick Sendall, the Chief Director Defence Policy, and Mr Sagaren Naidoo, the Acting Director Defence Policy Formulation, kept them on their toes when they gave presentations on the SA Defence environment, civil-military relations, post apartheid defence formulation, the 1996 White Paper on defence, SA’s approach to security, Defence role, function and missions, and military doctrine on the politico-strategic level. At the end of the presentations it was evident that the students had a better understanding of the situation. SA Soldier caught up with Ms Martha Robinson, Project Co-ordinator from Wits Centre for Defence and Security Management. She said: "Our visit to the DOD is to gain insight and knowledge on key security and defence issues and how the SA Defence sector is structured and how defence carries its mandate through the government". The course members were from various SADC countries.

We also conversed with Ms Paballo Thebe, Assistant Human Resource Intelligence Officer of the Lesotho Ministry of Defence. She said: "Our SADC region means business when it comes to security and defence matters for the common good of the region.

We need to see what we can do together in contributing to the reconstruction and development of our region gallantly sharing our experiences as other parts of our continent face underdevelopment and some are in misery and plagued by conflicts."
The Reserves as a Human Resources strategic issue

By Brig Gen John Del Monte
Photo: Jennifer Render

There are increasing signs that the Reserves are gaining in importance as a critical component of the SANDF. The Reserves are appearing with more frequency on the agendas of the parliamentary committees. Numerous activities of the Reserve Force Council are expanding in focus. The various strategies in the DOD include the Reserves as a factor, and with greater prominence. Generally one gets the feeling that, as I predicted to skeptical students at the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) some 10 years ago, “The Reserves will become a crucial contributing factor to the success of the SANDF”.

Yet while the importance of the Reserves has increased, the concomitant remedial interventions to improve the lot of the Reserves have not matched this growing enthusiasm. In the writer’s opinion, the Reserves remain the most vulnerable component of the SANDF. This is unfortunately not unique to South Africa. Reserves worldwide share the same major adverse tendencies, i.e. lack of resources, but growing levels of utilisation, especially in the provision of specialist skills for peace support operations and homeland defence.

The strategic challenges lie largely in the broad generic human resources environment, which has been slower to respond than one would have wished for. Currently planners are hard at work identifying and analysing these issues, but the solutions will ultimately lie in the SANDF’s capacity to implement the solutions.

The current state of the Reserves: The bulk of the Reserves lie within the SA Army. It follows therefore that the largest challenge will fall on the SA Army to address the impact on resources. The SA Air Force Reserve is currently showing a bias towards technical utilisation and are managed well, while the SA Navy intends to utilise its Reserve more broadly, including seagoing billets, and is managing its Reserve not in units, but centrally. The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) is in limbo to an extent as its development is dependent on the finalisation of the force structures of the other Services. SAMHS has to design and develop itself to support the other services.

There is in the writer’s opinion a tendency to speak of the Army Reserve generally, especially when improvements are commented on. This can be misleading as only the SA
Infantry Formation is showing real significant improvement and is often used as an example. The improvement shown by the Reserves in the SA Infantry Formation stems from exclusive resourcing that was given to them so that the Infantry could develop a peace support capability in its Reserves with which to bolster the South African deployments into Africa. Attention is being given to the Engineering Formation because of its utility value in peace support operations, which is only a secondary function of the Reserves. The other formations are seriously underdeveloped and their strengths have fallen below what many believe is their critical level and resources are not available to make a significant intervention. The rhetorical question is: "Without the substantial intervention required to develop the Reserves of these Army formations now, will they survive to rejuvenate the Reserves whose leaders are still too white and are growing older.

Appropriate leaders are urgently needed if the Apex 24 priority of the President is implemented and this should result in a significant influx into the Reserves in the future. New ways of feeding the Reserves with recruits and leader group members to supplement the MSDS as a feeder system must be sought and implemented as a matter of urgency. Fortunately the DOD has realised this and workshops have been held and are no doubt still going to be held to address this issue on the instruction of the Chief of the SANDF and the DOD Workshop held in April 2008.

HR Development. The Education, Training and Development (ETD) of the Reserves does not only refer to courses but to formation level training as well. Generally, courses are not adequately user-friendly for the Reserves. This in turn impacts on the qualifications required for promotion and for the Reserve member to fill the leader posts within the unit and sub-unit and indeed to fill operational posts, which limits the deployment of the Reserves. Sufficient resources should be made available for continuous and non-continuous training.

**HR Management.** Generally, this issue stems from the very slow emergence of updated policy and regulations, the sub-processes to manage and administer this policy and the lack of adequate knowledge about Reserve administration at operator level and higher. The Persol system works, but the human interface must be improved.

Associated with the HR development issue is the fact that the Milqual system has not coped and has a backlog. This means that the integrity of information provided is such that it cannot adequately support ETD, career planning and management of course administration.

**Conclusion**

Brevity prevents detailed discussion of the entire ambit of shortcomings of the generic HR Management chain and it is not the intention of the writer to delve into this, but nevertheless there are important issues such as leave policy, medal administration, etc. The bottom line remains the allocation of sufficient resources to the Reserves.

However, if we can get our feeder systems going and improve the flow and training of the leader group and if we can train and administer our body of Reserves adequately, we can achieve the amended mission of the HR Strategy, viz "ensuring well managed mission ready Reserves (my substitution of ‘HR’) through the application of sound generic HR management practices" in support of the amended HR Strategic Vision "mission ready Reserves (my substitution of ‘HR’)".

**The Author**

Brigadier General John Del Monte was appointed as the first post 1994 Regular Director of Defence Reserves at Defence HQ in 1999. After retirement he was appointed by the Minister of Defence to the executive of the Reserve Force Council where he serves as one of its vice-chairmen.
Double citizens of the City of Johannesburg paraded through Orlando

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On Saturday, 8 November 2008, members of the public, civic dignitaries, diplomatic representatives, ex-serviceman and military veterans witnessed tradition during the centenary celebration of the annual Freedom Regiments of the City of Johannesburg annual parade in Orlando East (Soweto). Members of the Freedom Regiments Association of Johannesburg took to the streets of Orlando East to display their truly double citizenry of the City of Johannesburg.

The march past by the defenders of our glorious nation, with massed pipes and drums beating, flying colours, and marching columns parading through the streets of Orlando East was a symbolic token of trust placed in the SANDF by the City of Johannesburg, which brought much excitement to the locals.

As part of the centenary celebrations of Johannesburg the colourful military celebration culminated in the commemoration service and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the fallen heroes and heroines who lost their lives on duty, in war and in the armed struggle for freedom and democracy.

Expressing her pride in the status accorded the SANDF, 21 SAI Bn and several Reserve Force units their right of entry to the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Nkele Ntingane, Speaker of the Johannesburg City Council, said that this historic parade was taking place at the same venue where the City had been honoured to confer the
freedom of the city on our much loved former President, Nelson Mandela, who was the SANDF’s first Commander-in-Chief in the new democratic South Africa.

‘21 SAI Bn has a historical link with the city of Johannesburg and its people.

Reserve Force members drawn from units represented here today, you are truly double citizens and the City is proud to be associated with you. As soldiers who serve on a part-time basis, you have shown us that you can successfully fulfil the roles of being both soldiers and economically active citizens of our country,” she concluded.

Fostering good relations

The Department of Defence and the Order of St John fostered their relationship and took it an even higher level. This was in a form of a signing ceremony held on the 23 October 2008. The Delegation from the DOD was lead by the Surgeon General (SG) of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vijay Ramlakan. In his speech to those who came to witness the spectacle the SG encouraged long-lasting co-operation between the two organisations. The Order of St John acts as a force multiplier to the SAMHS on the home front in times of unforeseen disasters. St John is a Level 1 BEE contributor and has been awarded the SABS ISO 9001:2000.
The sky is no limit

By Pte Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

lying was never one of the skills that man was equipped with, but the SA Air Force gives an opportunity to live that dream. Through various initiatives the SA Air Force invites young men and women to play a major role in the operation and maintenance of aircraft.

Lt Mpho Makgobathe is one of the young pilots who make the SA Air Force the success that it is. The 25-year-old lieutenant from Soshanguve has expressed his dedication and devotion to his work; to him flying is by far the best thing that has ever happened in his life. The adrenalin rush and the excitement of a flying aircraft fascinate him.

Before he could complete his civil engineering studies at the then Pretoria Technicon (now Tshwane University of Technology) in 2002, he joined the SA Air Force at Air Force Base Swartkop, 41 Squadron, where he trained to operate and fly different aircraft, particularly the Cessna Caravan C 208.

Lt Makgobathe explained the systematic process of getting an aeroplane off the ground, for which teamwork is imperative. The ground crew makes the final inspection of its serviceability before take-off, while his duties include setting up instruments, making radio calls, etc. It is an interesting job to him, but it has its own challenges.

You must always prepare thoroughly, manage time effectively and be willing to knock off late. Not knowing your duties and drills would hamper your abilities in this job because it would be difficult to catch up owing to the pace of this fast, dynamic environment. He expressed his joy at this rare opportunity given to him.

“Follow what you want, don’t let any pressure get to you. Go out and research more about what you want to do,” he said to SA Soldier.
**Keeping aircraft serviceable**

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma

Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A Soldier came across a young soldier with extraordinary courage. This young patriot has determination and an inspiring attitude towards life and has grown in maturity to be a soldier at heart and an asset to the SA Air Force. He will stop at nothing to realise his dream of becoming a qualified aircraft mechanic.

Cpl Patrick Mdaka (25), an aircraft mechanic at 41 Squadron at AFB Swartkop in Pretoria, is originally from Pienaar in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, and currently lives in Soshanguve. He has been part of the blue pride culture since 2005 when he joined. Military discipline is manifested in this young man with his vibrant personality. He strives to be part of the SAAF culture and its values of excellence.

Patrick joined the SAAF in 2005. After Basic Military Training he enrolled at the Tshwane South College (formerly known as Centurion College) where he studied Drawing and Aircraft Maintenance in N1 and N2. In 2006 he continued with his N3 studies in Mathematics and Engineering Science. He proceeded to 68 Air School to study Technical Training 1 (TT1) and Technical Training 2 (TT2). While in this environment he was introduced to aircraft technical mechanism and was later transferred to 41 Squadron at AFB Swartkop where he is currently stationed as an aircraft mechanic.

His work entails fixing aircraft, aircraft servicing and maintenance, ensuring that aircraft are in perfect flying condition, making sure that aircraft ground support equipment is in perfect working condition and the maintenance of aircraft safety equipment.

SA Soldier asked him where his interest in aviation originated. He said: "I always wanted to experience the fascinating world of aviation. It all started in childhood and my parents used to buy me toy aircraft which I often used to disassemble and reassemble and that stimulated my desire," said Cpl Mdaka enthusiastically.

Asked if he had a message for our youth, he replied: "A career as an aircraft mechanic is demanding and requires hard work and dedication as there is zero tolerance for mistakes or errors. Aviation is exciting and might not be a priority or option for other people, but if one has the heart, make it yours. Whatever you want to do, trust yourself and you’ll reach your goal. I have been presented with an opportunity to live my dream, so anyone can."
Hepatitis ("Jaundice")

By Brig Gen (Dr) F.T. Meyer, Director Medicine

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection. There are five main hepatitis viruses, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of parenteral contact with infected body fluids (e.g. from blood transfusions or invasive medical procedures using contaminated equipment). Hepatitis B is also transmitted by sexual contact and medical waste. The symptoms of hepatitis include jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), dark urine, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Hepatitis simply means an inflammation of the liver without pinpointing a specific cause. Someone with hepatitis may:
- have one of several disorders, including viral or bacterial infection of the liver
- have a liver injury caused by a toxin (poison)
- have liver damage caused by interruption of the organ’s normal blood supply
- be experiencing an attack by his or her own immune system through an autoimmune disorder
- have experienced trauma to the abdomen in the area of the liver, e.g. owing to contact sport or a motor vehicle accident, etc.

Hepatitis is most commonly caused by one of three viruses: the Hepatitis A, B and C viruses.

In some rare cases, the Epstein Barr Virus (which causes mononucleosis) can also result in hepatitis because it can cause inflammation of the liver. Other viruses and bacteria that also can cause hepatitis include hepatitis D and E, varicella (chickenpox), and cytomegalovirus.

**HEPATITIS A**

In children, the most common form of hepatitis is hepatitis A (also called infectious hepatitis). This form is caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), which lives in the stools (faeces) of infected individuals. Infected stool can be present in small amounts in food and on objects (from doorknobs to diapers). Food handlers can be a source of the infection.

The hepatitis A virus is spread as follows:
- when someone ingests anything that’s contaminated with HAV-infected stool (this makes it easy for the virus to spread in overcrowded, unsanitary living conditions)
- in water, milk, and foods, especially in shellfish

Because hepatitis A can be a mild infection, particularly in children, it’s possible for some people to be unaware that they have had the illness. In fact, although medical tests show that about 40% of urban people have had hepatitis A, only about 5% recall being sick. Although the hepatitis A virus can cause prolonged illness up to 6 months, it typically only causes short-lived illnesses and it does not cause chronic liver disease.

**Prevention:**

Passive immunisation by normal immunoglobulin is given to travellers to third world countries, and household contacts of acute cases. Active Immunisation is done by cell culture-derived vaccine. It recently became available; but is not in general use.

**HEPATITIS B (also called serum hepatitis)**

It is caused by the hepatitis B virus and can cause a wide spectrum of symptoms ranging from general malaise to chronic liver disease that can lead to liver cancer. The hepatitis B virus spreads through:
- infected body fluids, such as blood, saliva, semen, vaginal fluids, tears, and urine;
- a contaminated blood transfusion;
- shared contaminated needles or syringes for injecting drugs;
- sexual activity with another infected person;
- transmission from HBV-infected mothers to their newborn babies;
- sharing of needles, razors;
- tattooing and acupuncture

**Prevention:**

Hepatitis B is one of the only STI’s, which has a preventative vaccine. The vaccine consists of three injections and takes 3 to 6 months to complete the course. The vaccine is routinely used during concurrent health assessments to immunise soldiers in the SANDF. The following also help to prevent transmission:
- Practice safer sex - use a condom when having sex.
- Do not share needles, syringes or injecting drug use equipment.
- Do not share toothbrushes, razors or other personal items.
HEPATITIS C

The hepatitis C virus is spread by direct contact with an infected person’s blood. The symptoms of the hepatitis C virus can be very similar to those of the hepatitis A and B viruses. However, infection with the hepatitis C virus can lead to chronic liver disease and is one of the leading reasons for liver transplants in the world. The hepatitis C virus can be spread by:

- sharing drug needles;
- getting a tattoo or body piercing with unsterilised tools;
- blood transfusions (especially ones that occurred before 1994; since then the blood supply has been routinely screened for the disease);
- transmission from mother to newborn; and
- sexual contact (although this is less common)

DIAGNOSIS OF HEPATITIS

All of these viral hepatitis conditions can be diagnosed and followed through the use of readily available blood tests.

Signs and symptoms of Hepatitis

Hepatitis, in its early stages, may cause flu-like symptoms, including:
- malaise (a general ill feeling)
- fever
- muscle aches
- loss of appetite
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- jaundice (a yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes)

But some people with hepatitis may have no symptoms at all and may not even know they’re infected. Children with hepatitis A, for example, usually have mild symptoms or have no symptoms. If hepatitis progresses, its symptoms begin to point to the liver as the source of illness. Chemicals normally secreted by the liver begin to build up in the blood, which causes:
- jaundice
- foul breath
- a bitter taste in the mouth
- dark or “tea-coloured” urine
- white, light, or “clay-coloured” stools

There can also be abdominal pain, which may be centered below the right ribs (over a tender, swollen liver) or below the left ribs (over a tender spleen).

PREVENTION OF HEPATITIS

In general, to prevent viral hepatitis you should ensure the following:

- Follow good hygiene and avoid crowded, unhealthy living conditions.
- Take extra care, particularly when drinking waters contaminated by sewage.
- Remind everyone in your family to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet and before eating.
- Use antiseptic cleansers to clean any toilet, sink, potty-chair, or bedpan used by someone in the family who develops hepatitis.

TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS

When symptoms are severe or laboratory tests show liver damage, it's sometimes necessary for hepatitis to be treated in the hospital.

Important contact numbers for medical Treatment

Area Military Health Unit (AMHU) Gauteng Facilities

*Request for private medical treatment 012 319 3309
*Emergency request 012 082 880 8440

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<tr>
<td>Air Force Gym sickbay</td>
<td>012 351 4082</td>
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<td>012 355 1301</td>
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<td>Doornkop sickbay</td>
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<td>011 970 3046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krygkor/Armascor sickbay</td>
<td>012 355 5690</td>
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<td>Lenz Sickbay</td>
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<td>Murray Hill sickbay</td>
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OTHER AMHU’S CONTACT NUMBERS

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<tr>
<td>AMHU Western Cape (Cape Town)</td>
<td>021 799 6899</td>
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<td>021 469 2700</td>
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<tr>
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<td>013 756 2495</td>
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<td>AMHU Limpopo (Polokwane)</td>
<td>015 447 8052</td>
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<td>AMHU Northern Cape (Kimberley)</td>
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MILITARY HOSPITALS

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<tr>
<td>3 Military Hospital (Bloemfontein)</td>
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Education
a tool to success

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Education liberates us from ignorance and poverty. The Armscor ABET Certificate ceremony was held on 28 October 2008 at the Armscor Lapa in Pretoria.

The occasion was hosted as a gesture to thank and award the learners who proved that where there is a will there’s a way.

The ABET learners sang beautiful tunes specially prepared for the occasion. Among the invited guests was a representative of the Gauteng Department of Education, Mr William Tshabalala, who said: “Human empowerment is crucial in a world where technology is growing fast,” and also emphasised to the learners that the doors of learning and education were open to all.

SA Soldier spoke to Ms Mary Malaza who received her certificate in Level 4 Mathematics Literacy. She said she was encouraged to study and reach her goals because she had seen the importance of education. Moving from cleaner to “tea lady” within the DOD had been challenging, and if you cannot read or write it becomes a stumbling block.

She was proud of her achievements thus far and would not stop the race she started in 2002 with the ABET course. She encouraged the youngsters to study and wanted them to know that life without education was difficult.

To all graduates, may the light you acquired shine upon the people you’ll be interacting with in future and don’t ever give up.
Canines help to combat crime

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The high crime rate at the SA Armour unit at the Tempe Military Base in Bloemfontein led to the establishment of a K-9 Section. The section comprises 10 dog handlers and 8 dogs, four of which are guard dogs, two patrol dogs and two sniffer dogs. The dog section was established under the leadership of Maj Piet du Plessis, Officer in Command, and Sgt Boffie Boshoff, Kennel Master and Instructor from the SA Army Intelligence Corps. To qualify as dog handlers these members did the course at the Military Veterinary Institute at Potchefstroom the past year.

During the day they train the canines, retrain the handlers, do kennel maintenance and administration, comb and feed the dogs. They patrol the unit lines, post the dogs in the stores and transport parks for night duty and conduct searches for narcotics at the living-in quarters.

SA Soldier visited the section at 1 SA Tank Regiment and had the opportunity to speak to the Kennel Master and K-9 Instructor who said that since the inception of the K-9 Section nothing had been stolen and no theft had been reported in recent months.

"The Section prides itself on having a tight-knit team of dedicated and committed members that strive to provide the best service to the Armour units," concluded Sgt Boshoff.

Trooper Sean Shipway demonstrates the capabilities of Xantos, a patrol dog.
SANDF's Sevens Rugby Tournament

By Itumeleng Makhubela
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF Rugby Association hosted an International Sevens Rugby tournament over the period 29 September to 04 October 2008 in Potchefstroom. Col Louis Buys, Vice President of the SA Rugby Management and Selection and team manager in an interview with SA Soldier indicated that the tournament was the first of its kind. The teams that took part in the tournament included those of Russia, the United Kingdom (Royal Navy and Air Force), Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the SANDF, the South African Police Service and Correctional Services.

The SANFRA Executive Committee under the leadership of Col Pieter Oberholzer, the President of the SANDF Rugby Association, organized the tournament. The association ineter alias, develops rugby in the Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp districts where the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy have a coaching clinic for children and other young rugby players. Col Buys said the tournament was well organized and professionally managed with all the teams participating in good spirit.

Neil Powell, Captain of the Springbok 7 SAI and a team member of the Leopards, a local rugby team, assisted the SANDF teams. Asked about his view of rugby in the SANDF Col Bys said: "We saw a big improvement in the game of Sevens Rugby". They do however, have challenges such as operational responsibilities, deployments, courses, etc that hinder the effective managing of the teams.

"We wish all OC's would realize the importance of sports in their units because it enhances physical abilities, sportsmanship and promotes esprit de corp", said Col Buys.

He added that they would like to see inter-subunit and unit rugby competitions on a weekly basis. "It is with the assistance of a patron like Lt Gen Temba Matanzima that we are moving in the right direction, namely of having rugby played at all levels", added Col Buys.

Maj Warren Chanda, team manager of the Zambian Defence Force rugby team said that rugby in their country was one of the most prominent sporting codes after football. He added that the Zambian team was able to compete on international level with other teams and had the potential to grow. Their team had participated in 2005 in South Africa. In the Plate final match the SAPS lost 17 - 24 to the Zambian team. The Russian team beat the Royal Navy 37 - 7, and won the final cup match.
Defence Corporate Communication's social responsibility to disadvantaged communities

By Lt Col Frans Pale

It was joy and jubilation at the Attridgeville Association for people with disabilities, Lebuwe Centre. Over 65 people living with disabilities received groceries, items of clothing and a DVD machine from Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) in the Department of Defence (DOD) on 17 October 2008. The gesture from the DCC emanated from the DOD's commitment to social responsibility to disadvantaged communities, especially during its official Casual Day on 5 September every year.

Members from the Directorate Corporate Communication with the members of the Attridgeville Association for people with disabilities, Lebuwe Centre.

Action Cricket

Article and photo by Lize Pienaar

The Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants of Army Support Base Mpumalanga challenged each other on the action cricket field on 19 September 2008. The aim of this occasion was to promote mutual relationships between the different rank groups and to build esprit de corps.

The Warrant Officers were (of course!) full of self-confidence while the Staff Sergeants were a little more humble about the event. After a very stressful match (and some suspicion about the impartiality of the score-keepers!), the Warrant Officers won the match.

It was with a heavy heart that S Sgt Alistair Redmond handed over the winning trophy to WO2 Wally Smal.
Article and photo by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Army Support Base (ASB) Potchefstroom and the Potchefstroom Lions Club hosted a successful charity ball on 31 October 2008 at the Madiba Banquet Hall in Potchefstroom. In partnership the ASB Potchefstroom and the Potchefstroom Lions Club were committed to supporting all groups in the community.

The ASB Potchefstroom staff provided their expertise in the presentation of the ball and provided a venue as a collection point for sponsors and donors. Entertainment during the evening was presented with the finesse and high standards associated with a traditional military ball to ensure a fun filled and memorable evening for the guests. It was a token of appreciation for their contribution and commitment to the community. This event was started in 2002, and has become an excellent fund-raising opportunity for members of both ASB Potchefstroom and the Lions Club, both of which are actively involved in the community. The proceeds of this charity ball will be donated to organisations that serve the needs of children and the needy.

Guests, included the District Governor, Lion Derek Edwards, and the special guests, Pieter and Susan van Niekerk, from the SA Guide Dogs Association for the Blind. The former President of the Lions Club and Officer Commanding ASB Potchefstroom, Col Phillip van Dyk, expressed his sincere gratitude for the support and attendance. He urged the guests to begin giving and encouraged those who were already donors to continue giving.

"A life of giving, not just money, but time and spirit repays. Giving is not about the receiver of the gift but it is about the giver," said Col van Dyk. He told the attendees that those who gave would not get wounded feet or scars on their hands from giving.

The membership of the "Potch" Lions Club consists mainly of Department of Defence personnel whose primary focus is assisting the charities for the blind. The club donated an amount of R20 000 this year to purchase and train two guide dogs.

In his speech the current Lions Club President, Lt Col Graham de Lange, indicated that the needs of the community were great. The Club has identified several projects to tackle these challenges. The love box project is aimed at provision of toiletries, toys and essentials for traumatised children and assisting various Non-governmental organisations with food parcels.

"When you are aware of a need and you turn away without doing anything about it, you become a hearer and not a doer. We need to be active in projects that make a difference in peoples lives," said Lt Col De Lange. "The fact that we are all placed within a certain community places a responsibility on all of us to render a service to improve the living standards of all," concluded Lt Col De Lange.

Members of ASB Potchefstroom and the Lions Club with Thawnton and Ronnie from the Guide Dog Association. These guide dogs were donated by the Potchefstroom Lions Club through the Brightly coloured sight project.
Venturing into marketing from the law environment proved to be very challenging for Mr Angel Ramphele, Marketing Manager for the SA Army Foundation. He nonetheless embraced this challenge, though not knowing the nature and culture of the organisation he found himself in a tight corner and had to learn the military etiquette.

SA Soldier was privileged to chat to Mr Ramphele, known to many as "Big Brother," in his office. As we entered his office we were welcomed by a smile as he ushered us in. I remember his positive aura and calm. As we chatted about things in general I soon realised he had changed our roles, he was actually interviewing me, but I soon turned the tables on him again and put him on the hot seat.

He is a man of many talents, and having travelled the world he was able to assure me that experience was indeed the greatest teacher. He spoke highly about the position he has held for the past decade and said the road had not always been easy but he was ecstatic about the success the foundation had achieved thus far. Some of his job descriptions include selling the products in the SA Army brochures, product designing and delivering services to their members. The SA Army Foundation caters for of all SANDF uniformed and non-uniformed members and retired members. SA Army Foundation added Veteran Military Association to its stable, which was recently launched.

The SA Army Foundation is a special unit designed for the SANDF members. 44 thousand members belong to the foundation, which is undoubtedly growing in leaps and bounds. Part of the foundation’s essence is sponsoring cultural and sporting events. Prior 1994 elections it was well known for its resorts and leisure facilities, today the foundation has spread its wings in all spheres and has gone into partnership with different businesses. It offers loans, insurance and cellphone contracts to the members. Apart from all this the Marketing Manager has to see that the members receive products at a reasonable price taking into account their salaries. I asked, "How much the joining fee was, to which he replied that just R10 needed to be paid every month and he affirmed there was no age restriction.

Among other responsibilities the foundation also sponsors the Goodwill Parcel Project for deployed soldiers both externally and internally.

Mr Ramphele tells about some of the highlights of 2008, for example sponsoring the armour symposium in Cape Town, the building of the Sports Recreational area in GSB Polokwane, known as the Tswelopele Project. Here they installed the satellite dishes and gave TV sets with satellite dishes to the deployment and operational areas.

With so much work that has been done and more that is still to come it is evident that the SA Army Foundation is in most capable hands. To the members of the foundation, be assured your monthly contributions are put to good use.
Col (Dr) Kosie Oschman, Officer Commanding of 1 Air Servicing Unit (1 ASU), recently completed his book “Vernuwe Jou Lewe.” Col (Dr) J.J. Oschman will inspire and motivate you through the question: “What must you do to renew your life?” Throughout the book he uses simple, practical and straightforward, easy-to-understand style how to release your potential to achieve success and happiness in life.

In the book Col (Dr) Oschman helps you to look deep inside yourself to become a renewed person in all areas of your life. His book can assist you in making your dreams come true, while shedding light on practical ways of looking at, understanding and win any form of adversity, worry, depression, discouragement, fears, problems, stress, loneliness and insecurity. If you read and apply the methods that are laid out in his book, your ability to master yourself in all vital areas of your life will bring amazing transformation within your life. He gives direct actions in the book helping any reader achieve a happy, satisfying and worthwhile life. He believes that this practical book will help people to produce a victorious life.

For over fifteen years, as his part-time hobby Col (Dr) Oschman focused his attention on studying and doing research on human potential as they relate to achieving success in life and business. Through this research he developed all the success breakthroughs necessary to help individuals achieve their desires and dreams.

The motto of Col (Dr) Oschman in life is: “My passionate desire in life is to share positive thinking, give fascinating self-motivation ideas, and give powerful think big inspirational messages and to help individuals developing their true human potential. By applying these life success essentials and big thinking attitude we will be able to live in abundance and victory to fulfill our true purpose. Remember happiness lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort, not money.”

His vision is to share positive thinking, super-success principles helping individuals to create lives of prosperity and abundance through maximising human potential.

Because of his diverse personal and professional experiences, he is able to coach on a deep and compassionate level. Naturally optimistic, non-judgemental and unconditionally supportive, Col (Dr) Oschman uses his creative skills and abilities to help individuals design their life purpose through their dreams and then bring them to life. He presents messages that inspires, motivates, challenges and empowers individuals to discover their personal purpose, develops their true potential and manifests their unique leadership abilities. It is his passion to teach and empower others to reach their full potential.

Col (Dr) Oschman creates a new life experience for people as totally a new adventure.

Learn today how easily you can create the new life you desire and deserve through his book.

The book can be purchased directly from Ms Sandra Oschman @ R100,00 per copy. Her contact numbers are 079 901 9010 and 012 355 5685.
MSDS Application Coupon - SA AIR FORCE

(THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO OFFER EMPLOYMENT)

Please complete the following:

I would like to be considered for one of the following occupations in the SA Air Force (mark with an x):

**DIVERSE SUPPORT**
- Catering
- Language Practitioner
- Material Support Clerk (Admin/Supply)
- Firefighter
- Nature Conservation
- Musician
- Sport Officer
- Air and Ground Load Master
- Protection Services
- Personnel

**COMMAND AND CONTROL**
- Airspace Control Operator
- Telecommunications

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**
- Construction Machine Operator
- Bowser Driver Operator
- Material Support Clerk (Technical)

**STUDENT ENGINEER**
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Aeronautical engineering

**APPRENTICE TRAINING**
- Mechanical
- Electronic
- Electrical
- General Support Trade

**PILOT / NAVIGATOR TRAINING**

Biographical Information

First Names: ____________________________
Surname: ______________________________
ID Number: ____________________________
Citizenship: ____________________________
Tel (H): ________________________________
Tel (W): ________________________________
Your Cell No: __________________________
Parents Cell No: _________________________
Any other contact No: __________________
I will be ________ years of age on 1 January 2009
Postal Address: _________________________
Code: _________________________________
Nearest major city: _____________________
Height: ____ m  Weight: ____ kg

Do you wear prescription glasses/contact lenses?  yes ☐  no ☐
Have you had any eye surgery?  yes ☐  no ☐

My subjects, symbols and levels are as follows:

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Fax: +27 12 312 2138

Website: www.af.mil.za

Province, Gender and Race (for statistical purposes, please mark with an X)
- Gauteng
- W Cape
- N Cape
- Mpumalanga
- Free State
- KZN
- E Cape
- North West
- Limpopo

Marital Status
- Single
- Married

Gender
- Male
- Female

Race
- African
- Indian
- Coloured
- White

National Senior Certificate: Busy with ☐  Completed ☐  Year of Completion
My grade: 11 ☐  12 ☐  Technical University of Technology ☐  University ☐
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
DON’T LOOK AWAY - ACT AGAINST ABUSE
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

WEAR A WHITE RIBBON FOR THE 16 DAYS FROM 25 NOVEMBER TO 10 DECEMBER

TOLL FREE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE

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CHILD LINE 080 005 5555
AIDS HELP LINE 080 001 2322
CRIME STOP 080 001 0111
STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE 080 015 0150
BATHO PELE GATEWAY CALL CENTRE 1020

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