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Above: One of the highlights at the Africa Aerospace of Defence (AAD) Expo was a mini-war called “The Battle of the Ysterplaat”, demonstrating the capabilities of all four Services in the SANDF working together. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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FRONT COVER: The Gripen fighter aircraft were commissioned at the recently held Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo in Cape Town. (Air display performed by Lt Col C. Coetzee, Gripen test pilot from the Test Flight and Development Centre, AFB Overberg.) Read all about this historic occasion on pages 20 - 23. (Photo: 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

The SA Soldier Team would like to welcome the newly appointed Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, and the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu, into the Department of Defence. We hope you will be looking forward to reading SA Soldier every month.

It is a pleasure to announce the commissioning and official handover of the Gripen fighter aircraft at the recently held Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo 2008 in Cape Town. Read all about this international expo on pages 20 to 23.

Every year on 11 November at the 11th hour, military veterans’ organisations throughout the world pay homage to the fallen heroes of both world wars. The readers of SA Soldier are encouraged to pay tribute to them on Remembrance Day, 11 November.

Another worthy campaign is the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Let us support the campaign by wearing the white ribbon during the 16-day period. Let us unite and fight women and child abuse. Don’t look the other way. If you are being abused or if you know of anyone who needs help – speak out - get help!

South Africa’s 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign is held annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

We end this edition on a sombre note. We have lost one of our colleagues, Lt Col Fundile Siyongwana. He was responsible for the DOD Info Bulletins. Prior to that he was a journalist for SA Soldier. We will remember him for his inspirational writing. May his soul rest in peace. Please read the beautiful tribute (poem) written by Col Belinda Martin on page 9.

We also have to say goodbye to our Chief Photographer, F Sgt David Nomtshongwana. He has unfortunately been transferred back to the SA Air Force. But fortunately this is not the last of him as he will still be assisting SA Soldier in future from time to time. Thank you very much for all your hard work and brilliant photography!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
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AUTO PEDIGREE - You deserve a great deal!
I would like to highlight one of the issues that in our daily lives we often hear people talk about, namely cultural diversity. In SA we have celebrated Heritage Day throughout the country, but you will be left with the question of how often people accept each other. How often do people adapt to changes? What about UBUNTU?

I believe that as Africans we differ in our beliefs, ideologies and religion. Therefore let us not be ethnocentric. Let cultural diversity not be a barrier to successful communication. I believe as a human being we have a tendency to assume that our own cultural values and belief systems are better than those of others. However, if we are open to others, we can learn about other cultures and communicate much better.

Misunderstanding between people of different cultural backgrounds can have a major effect on relationships at workplaces. However, if we could use our cultural differences positively to learn about each other and to grow personally through our interactions with others it would be great.

Remember, change is an integral part of our modern lives, so the better you are able to adapt to change the better you will cope with life and its various demands, as we are social rather than solitary beings. Brothers and sisters, we as Africans may sometimes be able to work in a state of denial for a while, but at some stage you will feel the impact of change and you need to respond to it personally. If you resist, circumstances will often become worse and you will start blaming others or complaining about change.

I wrote this letter while I was deployed in the Sudan. At that time I never thought that South Africa would experience xenophobia related problems. We deployed with other African states, and as a soldier I have never experience xenophobia in any other African country, which left me with a question, my brothers and sisters: when will we accept and live with each other as Africans?

Pte Maropeng Perzeviniah
Thobakgale, 13 PRO COY

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**IT IS NOT ENOUGH**

**But how much property of the SANDF do we have for our own personal use**
**So when are you going to return them?**
Yes, it is not enough

**It is not enough for us the members of Defence Force**
**To talk about reporting all**
**Illegal activities**
**But how many outstanding military or civil-ian cases**
Do we have?
Yes, it is not enough …
Yes, it is not enough!

**R200-00 prize for the best letter**
**Proud men and women in uniform**

This poem is dedicated to our brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers in uniform deployed in the Sudan.

As we walk proud in our rainbow nation
Chanting the songs of peacemaking in our
Uniform we are like the greater giants of
Africa contributing and taking part in
Unit for we walk in the footsteps of our
Freedom fighters like Marcus Garvey,
Malcom X, Nelson Mandela, Mashela
And the words of wisdom by Bob Marley
Africa unite walk proud men and
Women with your head faced up and a
Smile of courage, discipline
and pride that
I am part of the solution but not the
Problem.

Dr Zwelithini Mbatha,
Mafatsane

---

WINNING LETTER

**The Way to Recognise Each Other and Adapt to Change**

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.
As a member of the public, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col C.J.C. Butler, Officer Commanding of AFB Ysterplaat, and his staff for their role in making AAD 2008 possible.

The exceptionally good conduct of members of the SA Air Force in public made a very good impression and this calls for a special mention. So did the smooth operations, excellent displays and overall professionalism displayed.

After events such as these there is often unfair criticism. I only heard compliments about AAD 2008. The usually vocal critics were either absent or too embarrassed to make unwar-

ranted statements.

There was constructive criticism though, which I would like to pass on to you - visitors armed with video cameras proposed that all background music and commentary cease while the Harvards were on display.

As I chose rather to view than photograph, it did not affect me, but I do understand the sentiment. It seems that there are more folks out there still madly in love with Pratt & Whitney radial engines than we could ever imagine. Some people wanted to record these engine sounds but could not do so on account of the music that was playing at the time.

It was very interesting to attend the stage performance on crime awareness by celebrities (civilian actors contracted to the Department of Defence) here at Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal in July 2008. The Industrial Theatre was an excellent initiative by the organisers in the Department, as crime within our midst is like a plague. This awareness campaign came at the right time for the Ladysmith Military Police as it was just a week after a crime prevention success was reported and this sent a clear message to the members of this military base that even SANDF management was saying enough is enough.

It is also unfortunate that we had to be educated by outsiders about how to look after our resources, eg not to misuse, not to steal, to report any criminal activity, to study the Code of Conduct and military discipline. Theft, such as of vehicle parts, rations and fuel has been the order of the day because members entrusted with controlling and reporting are just not interested in meeting their obligations. It was not even surprising to hear a person saying that he had taken an already cooked ration from the premises. It is an open secret that members know those who are committing crimes. However, they talk in the corridors about it, instead of looking after the best interests of our Department and bringing the perpetrators to book.

Be the eyes and ears of the Military Police. Do not assume all staff members are as honest as you are. Lastly, a policeman is only as good as the community he serves, so join hands. You will be treated with confidentiality and remain anonymous. Report crime to the crime toll-free number: 0800 222 091. Capt N. Ngcobo, A/Area Provost Marshal Ladysmith Military Police.
THANKING THE GIANT IN OUR LIFE

Kindly allow me to convey my heartfelt thanks to one of the giants in our Army family. Our family has experienced every move that the SA Army had us undergo as a blessed experience.

My husband continuously instils in our lives the fact that wherever we are, we are there to make love visible and to believe that success is the natural consequence of constantly applying the following basic fundamentals. Firstly, constantly work hard. Secondly, respect and treat others as you would want them to treat you. Lastly, humbleness is not a sign of humiliation; rather it is a sign of maturity.

In May 2008 my husband, Col J.P.M. Kobbie, was selected to attend a year-long course in the USA. For this we feel very blessed and humbled because we realise that it is an experience of a life-time. For this experience we need to say a big thank you to General Robert Mandita - the giant in our life - for the fact that he opted to let my husband further his learning in another part of the world with his family.

General, you know we are grateful and greatly appreciate your wisdom, calmness and loving support always. We thank you. Lilla Kobbie, wife of Col J.P.M. Kobbie (Proudly SANDF family)

A DISCIPLINED SOLDIER

My question to all serving members of the SANDF is: What is a disciplined soldier? How do we see a disciplined soldier? Someone said: “Charity begins at home”. That means if you were not taught how to behave, respect, share and reason, soldiering will not change you. Is it discipline or the military way of living to stand three hours on parade? The same goes for saluting and paying compliments. Please do not confuse military culture with personal discipline. To all MSDS members, you have what it takes to be real soldiers and I salute you for that.

Rfn T.L. Mashala (MSDS member), 10 SAI Bn, Mafikeng

SINGLE WOMAN SORROWS

As a woman I personally believe that being a single woman is the greatest experience of them all. It is the perfect time to be a little selfish and spoil yourself, spending time doing what you enjoy, going shopping whenever and wherever, free of worries that somebody is waiting for you.

Being single allows you to discover who you are. You will have an opportunity to experience what your likes are as well as your dislikes. The bright side of all this is that you get to know how to deal with life’s testing situations that are likely to arise and to know what to do when the stumbling blocks come your way, knowing that no man will come to the rescue no matter how difficult the situation might be.

Sadly enough, you will be stigmatised among your colleagues, even your best girlfriends, who in general will not trust you with men. Anyone they see you with will be labelled as your boyfriend, regardless of age, race, rank or even if he is married. You will be regarded as someone who does not have a life, especially if you are staying in a bungalow, because you said you were single. Everybody will start having expectations, such as no man must come to your room, they must not give you a lift, be friendly to you, or be your friend.

If one of these things I have mentioned happens, that will be a nice subject for gossip for a week or two, even if that puts you or your career in danger. They do not care.

Women, let us get our unique, special lives embraced by others and not destroy them by ourselves. I took note of the things mentioned on the basis of day-to-day experience, and thus my concern. Life is tough, we need to stick together, bad things are happening in our presence and we do not do or say anything about them. Some men abuse us; they violate our rights, break our hearts and destroy our lives. We see that everyday and yet we do not support each other. Instead of giving support to other women who are living the curse, we abandon them with laughter or more curses. We are not phenomenal

So for those who are single, I know its difficult sometimes, but please do not just jump into a comfort relationship. You will be hurt more than you can imagine. Live your life at large, let them talk, they will not stop anyway. Last, have faith; no person was meant to live alone. You may feel as if you are the only single person in the world and that you will be single forever, but this is not true. You are not an island; all you need is patience. L Cpl M.M. Nkiseng, Infantry School

DISCIPLINE GOES HAND IN HAND

I went around asking people what discipline meant to them and some surprisingly told me that I did not have discipline myself and I told them that I did have discipline and they said that I did not have it according to the military standard. I have realised that discipline in the military and civilian environment is absolutely not the same. I think that we should all try to live by the standard of military disciplinary codes since we are uniformed members, whether of high rank or low. What I have noticed is that all the bases or units are complaining about the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members’ discipline and most of the time they are talking about the women. When we see someone behaving in an inappropriate manner in the civilian environment they say we do not blame the person or child, but the parents. I have asked why the parents and the response was that the parents are the backbone of every growing human being.

Do not expect your child or your students to be disciplined while your life is not disciplined. When you show respect you will earn respect. Do not try to force a person to be disciplined, but coax him or her to be disciplined.
POSITIVE THINKING

Whatever comes into a person's mind, whether negative or positive, at the end of the day one has to make a decision. We are living in a world of challenges with regard to our families, workplaces, churches and organisations. I have found that in spite of the challenges one may still live because challenges are not there to destroy you but to shake you. Where are you in this life? Bill Ocean said: "Tough times never last, but tough people will stand".

How do they last? They do not allow negative circumstances to control them. They take their position in the midst of bad times, they refuse to be consumed by doubt or speak negatively. They determine who they are, because in the tongue lies life and death. Surround your life with good things, people that will speak positively about you, motivate you and just pick yourself up and think constructive things.

There are people who think they are useless, that there is nothing they can do, who think they cannot achieve things that they want to achieve in life. You are the boss of your own life.

Therefore I will encourage you to be positive, you can do it. Hebrew 1:16 speaks about faith. Have faith and know that God is on your side. Stand firm, don't move, fight the good fight of faith and you will be blessing others.

Chaplain B. Siqaza, DOD TSU

LET US FORGET ABOUT THE PAST

The universe of life is really merciful and when we are willing to learn, we will receive our lessons lovingly and gently.

There are those times when what could be a deep valley turns out to be just a little ditch. This means we are down, but we can see our way up if we have stumbled. Our faces have not hit the ground.

A friend of mine always reminds me that to stumble does not mean you fall; it means you move ahead a little faster. Stumbling into a ditch does not render you helpless.

There is something for you to grab or hold on to. Hopefully it is something you have heard, seen or learnt from a past lesson. A ditch is life’s way of reminding you that there is a wake-up call for you so that you will not make the same mistake again. It is life’s way of pointing out the warning signs. You will see things you cannot ignore.

You will know there are real dangers that lie ahead.

You must be very careful and you will be required to make some hard decisions. Most importantly, you must be able to act decisively. If you do not recognise the signs the knowledge a ditch could very quickly turn into a valley - fight it. Your job is to figure out if the situation is to remain the same for the rest of your life.

What quality do you need to develop to have peace? Do you need patience, faith or a deeper understanding of who you are? If you can remember this, you will realise that every valley experience is an opportunity for you to come one step closer to your greatness.

Peace is a universal principle: one by which we must all learn to live.

The valleys help us to grow and develop the character traits we need to find peace within ourselves and in life, whatever the situation in which we find ourselves.

It is our attitudes and our consciousness that transform a temporary valley experience into spiritual growth and self-improvement.

Intellectual, fighter
Only you knew your pain
Dladla, the sun has set on you
Fresh water streams of the Magalies
Trickles over your still and motionless soul
Bye Dladla, go and prepare
The valleys of peace for us
You have done what is not easy
You have sacrificed your soul
For the freedom of your people
And so you died leaving us with your
Spear still held high
It will never fall

Goodbye Dladla
Sleep Mkhonto, you have your ranks
General of the people you served, Sleep
Sleep sleep. Col B.V. Martin, Pretoria

THE SUN SETS ON AN UNSUNG HERO

DLADLA (LT COL FUNDILE SIYONGWANA)

The sunset has sealed
Your eyes my brother
And the moon your lips
Just as serene and quiet as
Your life was so you left us
Very few knew, just how strong you
Were beneath those calm waters

Dladla, your mind dwelt in the land of kings
And in the land of peace,
Your brilliance shone in your smiling face
Never did you moan or groan in pain
Only you knew how unbearable it was
Never did it show in your face

A true soldier at war
In the reality of our life today
In this democracy that you sacrificed
Your entire youthful life

Never sought for gain
But for freedom from Apartheid pain
In the far away fields of Angola,
A commissar and writer
You were always there, to comfort
To counsel and to uplift our souls

Dladla, you will be sorely missed
Dladla the african sun has risen with you
Into our african sky
The continent which you so loved
And cherished, has swallowed you
Beneath the troubled earth
Where there is pain no more

Dladla, the unsung hero
The quiet, mighty man
The lone soldier
Mentor, poet, writer

Dladla, the sun has set on you
Goodbye Dladla
Sleep Mkhonto, you have your ranks
General of the people you served, Sleep
Sleep sleep. Col B.V. Martin, Pretoria

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 8 • S A S O L D I E R
Tribute to a fallen heroin

By Pte Itumeleng Makhubela

The SANDF has lost and laid to rest one of its youngest patriots following an incident in the line of duty. Rifleman Lesedi Boitumelo Monaisa (21) of 10 SA Infantry Battalion passed away following what was alleged to have been a scorpion sting at Mahla Military Base in the Sudan when she was deployed in support of the United Nations/African Union Mission. She was honoured with a full military funeral at the Roman Catholic Church in Ikageng, Potchefstroom, on 4 October 2008.

Members of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) are given the chance to deploy externally during their two-year contract, according to policy. A fit and rejuvenated force is chosen. Rifleman Monaisa was among those representing the SANDF. These members know and understand the hostile and volatile environment that they are being assigned to. It was unfortunate it got the best of her.

As this is a moment of grief, loss and sadness, the Department of Defence and its stakeholders would like to extend their condolences to the family of the deceased and hope they remain strong in their time of bereavement. It is such a tragedy that this young woman, who was supposed to be part of the future of the Department, has been taken prematurely.

Obituary

The late Lesedi Boitumelo Monaisa was born on 13 January 1987 in the Ikageng District of Tlokwe. She was the 6th child of Ms Dipuo and Mr Trupa Monaisa.

She started her Primary Education at Pudulugo Primary School, after which she went to Keagile and later to Tlokwe High School. She completed her studies at Potch Technical School in 2006.

In 2007 she started working as a soldier in the SANDF. She met her untimely death on 19 September 2008.

She is survived by her mother, father, brother, two sisters and her one and only daughter Kamogelo.

Rest in peace Mokwena.
In memory of an honorable man

By Lt Col A-L. Human,
SO1 Corp Com SA Special Forces

A part of history was concluded on 18 August 2008 when the SA Special Forces bade farewell to its founder. The first General Officer Commanding of the SA Special Forces, Maj Gen Frederich Wilhelm Loots, passed away on 12 August 2008 at the age of 91. He was revered, as an honourable man who had unswerving determination, was a pillar of strength, an example in word and deed, someone who stood firm by his principles, yet was a humble person.

Maj Gen Loots was born in Britstown on 26 April 1917 and was educated at the Theron High School. He joined the Special Services Battalion in November 1936 and attested in the South African Permanent Force (Infantry Corps) in March 1939. In 1947 he was appointed to the rank of Warrant Officer Class II and in 1951 he received his commission as an officer. Posts held by Maj Gen Loots were the Staff Officer of the Quartermaster General Section from 1951 to 1953, then Officer Instructors at the SA Army College from 1953 to 1954. He attended the Staff course from 1954 to 1955, became a Control Staff at the Staff College from 1956 to 1957, served as Staff Officer at the Army Headquarters from 1957 to 1959, was the Officer Commanding of the Army Gymnasium from 1959 to 1963, and the Officer Commanding South West Africa Command from 1963 to 1964. He was appointed as Senior Staff Officer Security and Administration at Military Intelligence in 1965, was the Director Military Intelligence from 1966 to 1970 and retired as Inspector General of the SADF on 30 June 1973.

Maj Gen Loots returned to Service in August 1974 with a view to establishing some form of a Special Forces Organisation. This eventually materialised as a separate operational formation under the direct control of the Chief of the South African Defence Force. Maj Gen Loots finally retired from Service on 25 April 1982.

Maj Gen Fritz Loots, as he was known to those close to him, lived according to two main beliefs. He often told the story that when he was a young boy his mother taught him there was no such thing as 'I can’t' and as a young man his father taught him to hold on to his principles and not veer from them. These life lessons were visible throughout Maj Gen Loots’ life like a golden thread and all who had the privilege to meet him unknowingly received a piece of this wisdom.

His parting words during his last days were a request to the Chaplain to convey the message to all on the importance of loving others, for love is eternal.
news from abroad

THANK YOU

This is an experience of a lifetime. On behalf of all Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members of 10 SA Infantry Battalion (10 SAI Bn) who are part of UNAMID (Ops Cordite) in the Sudan, I would like to thank the Officer Commanding of 10 SAI Bn, Lt Col Tshugulu, for having trusted us and given us support, courage and guidance throughout the whole deployment period. You are a true leader; nobody believed in us, as it was our first deployment, and said that we did not have the necessary experience, but you took the risk.

The first month was difficult. We had to acclimatise to the weather conditions, learn to speak Arabic and get acquainted with the values and norms of the Sudanese people and get used to their food. You made it easy for us by giving us your full support. Now I feel at home. The Sudanese people are friendly and approachable. Our mission is to give protection to the UNAMID police and to the vulnerable community, viz the internally displaced people, something we excel at. We have done 10 SAI Bn and South Africa proud. Thank you (shukrun).

Rfn T.L. Mashala, 10 SAI Bn, C-Coy Kutum (Sudan)

ARE MSDS MEMBERS THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY?

People often say Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members are the future of the Department of Defence, but at the SA Army it is not the case. People get hired and fired every three months. Do people not think it is easier to invest in people who already have the knowledge of the work rather than to hire new people and spend more money on training?

John Chipa, Soshanguve

FIRST DEPLOYMENT IN DARFUR

I am currently deployed in the Sudan as the Engineer Squadron Second in Command/Troop Commander. At first it was difficult for me to accept that I would find myself in the Sudan because they told me that I would be the first woman to deploy there as an Engineer. I wondered why they did not deploy there. I heard many stories of the place and then said I would not go there. Later I said you would never know what was on the other side of the bridge until you crossed it.

On 11 May 2008 I crossed the bridge. I am based at Zamzam camp and am staying with Rwandese. I had to stay next to them, as I was a woman among 40 men. Being among men was hard at first, but I learned that they were also supportive. My Commander is Capt Mabetwa who is always supportive of me, so when I have a challenge I talk to him and he helps me. Lt Qncongwane from 1 Military Hospital was also there for me. It was great working with him. If there is any uncertainty, I go to him then he helps me; he was a brother to me. All the Sappers I deployed with did their task extremely well and it was wonderful working with them too.

All the attachés we had were also supportive. I salute the Rwandese as they were like brothers and sisters to me and made me feel at ease. I have learned few words of their language. When I looked around the Sudan I found things somewhat different, but then in time I got used to it. Everything is Tamam “fine”, although it is difficult to communicate, but there are a few who understand English. There is much to be done in the Sudan, but I hope that things will change as time goes on. I have hope that our God will hear our prayers and help Darfur.

To all men and women of South Africa, I salute you for taking part in keeping the peace in Darfur. Keep up the good work!

I have been in Darfur now for five months and am looking forward to going home in November. I believe nothing is difficult until you try it. You will never know it unless you try it. To all the women out there, let us stand up for ourselves to show that we can also make a difference around the world. I am proud to be where I am today. I remember the time I was in a meeting with the Deputy Sector Commander for security of the camp, where I was given the chance to give my opinion. This was my first mission.

Lt M.M. Mamabolo, Engineer Squadron 2IC

MY FIRST MISSION ABROAD

Pte M.P. Thobakgale (left). A photo taken during my first mission outside the borders of South Africa when I was deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), working in the Bunia Military Police (MP) station sector with the Bangladesh Air Force members, where we were conducting searches as MPs during the rotation. Pte M.P. Thobakgale, 13 Pro Coy, Pretoria

SA SOLDIER • NOVEMBER 2008
WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

The UNAMID hybrid operation is a new mission in the history of peacekeeping. The situation in Darfur has seen women and children suffer the most. The management took a decision to increase the number of women in their ranks to enable a smooth relationship to develop between the affected women and the mission. The policewomen have been involved in their community policing. The military has also started introduce women in their patrols. It was also realised that women were more comfortable with women than men as based on their culture and traditions. As rightfully mentioned by these women, it is a good opportunity for women to relate to women on issues affecting them. This also gives our male counterparts time to interact with the Umdas and sheikhs, while we consult with women and children. In most instances local women will stare at us and ask questions such as how we find it possible to function as young women in a male dominated environment. We explain that it is quite simple. Takalani Shumani, email.

GREEN SOLDIERS SUPPORT OPERATION CURRICULUM

By Lt Cdr Werner Kwak, Environmental Planner Op CURRICULUM, and Ms Adré Aggenbach, ECOps Programme Manager

Op CURRICULUM is used as a benchmark to ensure that the DOD devotes itself to making the African continent and SA aware of their commitment to preserving the natural environment and ultimately the sustainable environmental management of military operations. In the initial phase of integration, ECOps proved its support by achieving the set objectives of the military mission.
Posts for Military Integrated Environmental Management (MIEM) were negotiated during this cycle, namely an Environmental Planner and an Environmental Officer. Lt Cdr Werner Kwak was the Environmental Planner for the entire duration of Op CURRICULUM. He was responsible for participating in the Joint Operational HQ Verification Team to verify handing and taking over procedures during each rotation phase and to establish environmental systems. During phase 3 of the mission he had to remain in the mission area with the newly rotated Environmental Officer to assist with the implementation of the established systems. In addition he acted as the rear link for advisory support and staff inspections from SA and had to confirm the establishment of environmental related service contracts. The termination of the operation in phase 4 required the deployment of the Environmental Planner to the mission area to advise the Force Commander on the rehabilitation and closure of the base as part of the Exit Strategy.

ECOps required initial financial expenditure as part of the implementation process that in the end not only proved cost-effective, but minimised the environmental impact and the associated risks involved. It was vital that the Environmental Officer, guided by the Environmental Planner, complete an Environmental Baseline Study (EBS) to determine impacts and aspects of the Environmental Management System.

The effects obtained by the EBS resulted in the drafting and implementation of a detailed Environmental Management Programme, which included, *inter alia* an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), an Environmental Contingency Plan and an Environmental Awareness Plan. The IWMP was implemented and monitored to ensure effective command and control of all waste generated within the mission area.

Uncontrolled movement or disposal of any type of waste in the mission area was prohibited and the IWMP addressed the various waste streams. Rehabilitation was activated at an early stage to ensure adequate time for rehabilitation requirements to be put in place.

Continuous environmental monitoring is needed for an update of environmental intelligence, the EBS, plans/risk assessments and contractual compliance. Integration is achieved by environmental awareness presentations, constant monitoring and measurement of impacts, communicating environmental slogans, distributing pamphlets and implementing an approved Environmental Support Plan.

On completion of the first six months of deployment of the African Union Special Task Force (AUSTF) in Burundi for Operation CURRICULUM, a rotation of forces takes place. Deployed forces are held accountable for functions relating to environmental management. It is therefore imperative that the handing and taking over process includes specific details, such as contained in the Environmental Closure Study and the Implementation and Verification Task Team Report.

The Environmental Officer and Planner executed an Environmental Closure Study prior to the rotation of forces and assessed the extent and significance of each contingent’s impact in the mission area. The result of this study determined whether the contingent could hand over to the incoming force or if a rehabilitation/clean-up of the area should take place prior to departure. An independent, but detailed Implementation and Verification Task Team Report had to be compiled on the implementation of ECOps by the Environmental Planner after every six months prior to forces rotating and this included environmental impacts, incidents and the progress/status of all rehabilitation plans. Ultimately the outcome of the report was meant to help determine if an Environmental Compliance Certificate could be approved by the Environmental Officer and the AUSTF Commander.

This integration in Op CURRICULUM has resulted in an opportunity for environmentally qualified soldiers to be employed as environmental officers in peace support operations. It not only allowed a wealth of operational experience and knowledge to be shared among combatants operating within the respective areas of operation, but also ensured that invaluable operational expertise and experience in sustainably managing the natural environment were gained by the younger leader group for continuous implementation and enforcement.
DOD trains inspectors of the Angolan Armed Forces

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said: “Despite all the ghastliness that is around, human beings are made of goodness and Godliness - the ones that ought to be held in high regard are not the ones who have military prowess or economic prosperity, but the ones who have committed to try to make the world a better place.”

With a view to exploring ways and means of reviving Angola, the meeting between the former Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and his counterpart from the Angolan Armed Forces, Gen Kunai Paihama, on 1 November 2007, has made positive strides and has fulfilled a number of objectives to achieve human security and defence and promote democratic practices and good governance.

On 25 September 2008 SA Soldier visited a group of eight delegates from the Angolan Armed Forces’ Inspector General who are attending the Performance Audit Inspectors Course presented by the RSA Inspector General Department of Defence (IG DOD) at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane. The IG DOD, as part of the DOD structure to provide skills-based capability, has advanced broadly in paying attention to creating an efficient DOD administration and good governance.

On our arrival we witnessed first hand the IG DOD mission in practice and the ideal of brotherhood between South Africa and Angola. We conversed with the course leader, Col Antonio Andre, the Chief of Staff: Directorate Performance Audit. He gave us a briefing on the Performance Audit Inspectors Course and said that it was designed especially for the Angolan Armed Forces Inspectors and is presented in Portuguese.

“The course comprises theory and practice. We teach them performance audit, introduction to internal audit, a quality manual based on ISO 90001, report analysis, anti-corruption and anti-fraud techniques. We also teach them how to audit combat readiness by means of the effectiveness module at the Institution of Maritime Technology in Cape Town,” said Col Andre.

Having witnessed the mission in practice, we caught up with the Inspector General, Angolan Armed Forces, Gen Sapilinha Sambalanga. He expressed his gratitude to the SA DOD and SANDF for being a force for good and for helping brother countries like Angola become experts in meeting the defence and security challenges. “South Africa is well developed and every structure in place so that civil control is effective. We decided to send our inspectors to be trained by the IG DOD so that we could implement the same system and control in our armed forces by means of inspection, auditing, monitoring and evaluating our DOD,” said Gen Sambalanga.

We also interviewed one of the delegates on course, Brig Gen Julio Chipa, 2IC: IG Angolan Army. He had this to say: “Angola is on its way to recovery, reconstruction and development. Countries like South Africa have demonstrated their commitment to the consolidation and well-being of its citizens and good governance. The most successful nations are driven by good values with an enhanced capacity for development, such as creating efficient administration and institutional cooperation between government, security sectors and business sectors. As IG delegates on course we are going to take what we have learnt at the IG DOD and integrate the components to suit our system in order to create efficient practices and good administration,” said Brig Gen Chipa.
The first fruits of Mission Thebe

Article and photos by
F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The South African Government’s effort to assist fellow African countries was again visible when the first trained Rapid Reaction Battalion was officially handed over to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Mission Thebe was initiated by the signing of a joint declaration on 22 August 2007 by the Ministers of Defence of South Africa and the DRC. Among other things, this agreement is aimed at supporting and assisting the government of the DRC to reform its armed forces and training staff in logistics, finance, intelligence, human resources and in the medical field.

The training of the first battalion took place in one of the towns that was not affected by war in the DRC, viz Lubumbashi, at the Mura Base. In February 2008 the DRC Minister of Defence handed over more than 900 members, five of them women, into the supervision of Col Piet Sereko, Commander of Mission Thebe, to start with their training.

Despite the challenges in terms of resources and the language barrier, history was made on 3 October 2008 when the first of three battalions was officially handed over by the newly appointed RSA Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, to the DRC Minister of Defence and War Veterans, Mr Chikez Diemu.

The trained battalion will be expected to provide security and stability, especially after the withdrawal of MONUC in 2009. The troops from the DRC were trained in different fields, such as light intelligence and light 120 mm artillery and introduced to the development of the Rapid...
Reaction Force concept.

Speaking to the soldiers on parade and guests, Minister Nqakula emphasised that South Africa would honour its obligations and that the changes in South Africa would not affect the agreement made previously. He emphasised that peace and stability were the only way to have a better continent. The South African Government did not believe in resolving different issues militarily. He said that through negotiations we could achieve the desired outcome. With a smile on his face he looked at his DRC counterpart, and said: "Dear colleague, we see you as an instrument for peace. The elimination of poverty and underdevelopment needed a conducive environment to operate in, of which the South African Government will help make our region and continent a better place for its people". Minister Nqakula concluded by handing over the shield to Defence Minister Diemu and said that it was the symbol that the Battalion belonged to the people of the DRC and its government.

In his response, the Minister of Defence of the DRC said that one's best friend was the one who came when one was in trouble. "We did not forget what the South African Government did during the democratic elections in 2006; convey my gratitude to your people." He added that South Africa had shown that when you give a man a fish the next day he will be hungry again, but show him how to fish and he would be able to sustain himself in future. "This was shown by South Africa's sending members of the SANDF to train our soldiers. This day means a lot to us," said Defence Minister Diemu. He agreed with Minister Nqakula that no development without peace was possible. He thanked Col Sereko for his commitment and his team. I know it was tough, but the results were sweet as honey. We know that the battalion will be fruitful," concluded Minister Diemu.

During the handing-over parade, the certificates and awards were given to the members who had excelled in different categories. One of the female soldiers received an award for the soldier who displayed the most perseverance during the training. After the parade there was a demonstration, inter alia, of a 120 mm mortar being fired and a simulation attack was staged for the attendees.

SA Soldier spoke to the members who were involved in the training of the DRC troops. They were excited about the achievement and the opportunity given to them of making a difference to other fellow soldiers. At first they thought it would be difficult to achieve the aim the mission, but through co-operation they made it! WO2 David Hlalele, one of the members who assisted with the training, said that he was happy that the morale of the soldiers on parade was high. We need to look at the issue of language in South Africa so that we are able to assist other countries better," concluded WO2 Hlalele.
Bringing festive cheer to our deployed soldiers

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma and Pte Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: F Sgt David Nomshongwana

As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same, to the good of all living beings. The happiest of people do not necessarily have the best of everything, but they make the most of everything that they have and think of others in need,” said Dr Nelson Mandela.

The SANDF Spouses Forum and Massmart Holdings Limited hosted a breakfast briefing in Pretoria on 22 August 2008. The aim of the occasion was to reaffirm and appreciate the SANDF’s vital role in helping to bring peace to the continent. Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, Chief of the SANDF, welcomed the guests and mentioned that the SANDF was the shield of the nation and belonged to the people of South Africa.

The then Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the SANDF Spouses Forum and the sponsors. He said that humanity could live together on the basis of the idea that we all have something in common, ie “to influence each other positively in order for the ideals of peace and prosperity to foster goodwill to all living beings,” said Mr Lekota.

SA Soldier conversed with Mr Graham Rebello, Massmart Channel Executive: Massmart Holdings Limited, who mentioned that Massmart had adopted the leading role in facilitating the building of relationships between sponsors, valued suppliers and the SANDF.

“As sponsors we really appreciate our soldiers’ unselfish service and self-giving and support of fellow brothers and sisters on our continent and in advancing peace. We appreciate the SANDF’s workforce that continues to carry the baton and flag of peace within our borders and beyond on our continent. We hope in some small way that the gesture of receiving the goodwill parcels over the festive period will go some way to putting a smile on their faces of our members and their loved ones at home to show that we care for them,” said Mr Rebello.

Ftr: The Chaplain General, Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen, gives a donation on behalf of the Chaplain Services to the then Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya.
The then Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, commended the sponsors for their commitment and contribution, saying it would not go unnoticed. He said the Goodwill Parcel Project was a sign of giving back to the community and must get the recognition it deserved.

"Since 1994 our democracy has been striving for peace on the African continent. The SANDF has become instrumental in ensuring this," he said. He also said the United Nations and the African Union had congratulated the SANDF on their well disciplined soldiers.

As an attempt to keep the soldiers' spirits high, Mr George said they had already managed to transport some of the parcels. Some of the sponsors who gave their pledges included Sanlam, Old Mutual, the Absa Group, SA Army Foundation, SAFI, Liberty Life, Clinix Health Group, Metropolitan, SAAF, Absa Consultants, Novare, Maxi Credit Solutions, SAMHS, Avbob, Chaplain Services, Bible Society of SA and Joint Operations.

Packing of family hamper packs

On Friday, 10 October 2008, SA Soldier was again invited to witness the packaging ritual involved in family hampers (commodities and gifts) for the Goodwill Parcel Project 2008 at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane. In an interview with SA Soldier, Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, said that SANDF soldiers shared a general responsibility for all humanity in building a better world.

"It is hoped the Goodwill Parcel Project, the Spouses Forum, Massmart Holdings Limited and other contributors will be an inspiration to sons, daughters, mothers and fathers in uniform that aid the desperate souls on our continent or elsewhere in their unselfish, self-giving for the cause, which creates happiness and gives purpose to life and human existence," said Ms Ngwenya.

Gala evening

At the Gala evening held at the St George’s Hotel in Pretoria, the Goodwill Parcel Project yet again provided proof of the selflessness of people supporting peace and prosperity. On 12 September 2008 high-profile members of the SANDF and the private sector were invited to pledge their support to the deployed soldiers as way of uplifting their morale.

The Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers (Chairperson of the Goodwill Parcels Project), said that through various sponsorships the project stood at R4 000 000 this year. As he was the programme director at the gala evening he called upon the representatives of the various organisations to give their pledges.

Mr Paul Myeza, Managing Director of Sanlam, said he was grateful for the efforts of the sponsors because he believed it was the right thing to do. He said that they had high esteem for and also prided themselves on the troops deployed to solve Africa’s problems. His hope was to see the end of peacekeeping missions one day, but until then they would still lend a hand.

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Mr Graham Rebello, Massmart Channel Executive: Massmart Holdings Limited, and Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, witnessed the packing of family hampers for the Goodwill Parcel Project 2008.
During September this year Cape Town played host to some big guns! The fifth South African Armour Symposium was successfully presented in Cape Town on 16 September, while Air Force Base Ysterplaat hosted a variety of local and international military and military related exhibitors who participated in the African Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo from 17 to 21 September 2008.

The Armour Symposium, generously sponsored by members of the Defence Industry in South Africa, was very well attended and supported. The symposium was opened by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, who emphasised that an armour capability formed an indispensable part of any army and that an organisation like the SADC Brigade needed light and mobile forces, including armour, with a rapid deployable capability for early entry and sustained operations in a conflict area. He concluded by expressing his wish that the outcome and result of this symposium would add value to the process already in motion to further develop land doctrine for the employment of armour and mechanised forces during peace, conflict and war, thereby creating a relevant and ready Army for 2020 and beyond.

The symposium focused on the multi-role deployment of the Armour in the African Battle Space and provided much food for thought for future planning and development in the SA Armour. Guest speakers covered subjects ranging from the politico-military and peacekeeping challenges through to product related developments. To add value to the intellectual exercises during the symposium, delegates thereafter also visited the AAD Show where they could appreciate, among other things, the contribution made by the SA Armour Formation in terms of the static display and demonstrations. The live mobility demonstrations were presented in the most severe weather conditions, such as only the good old "Cape Doctor" could provide, and truly displayed the excellent terrain capabilities of our vehicles. The new Ratel ZT3A2 anti-tank missile system and the Olifant Mk2 main battle tank were also on display while an electrically driven version of the Rooikat armoured car was one of the mobility demonstration participants.

Under the spotlight at the symposium, speakers stressed the indispensable role of armour in both its conventional warfare role and in Operations Other Than War during peace support operations. It is foreseen that these operations will be required by the SADC Brigade as part of the African Standby Force. Emphasis was placed on joint, inter-agency and multinational doctrine encompassing defence, diplomacy and development. The importance of simulation and experimentation in training and the requirement of commonality in terms of vehicles used in SADC countries to enhance military interoperability and logistic support was stressed, which in turn also affects industry support.

The specific need for a light armour reconnaissance capability was highlighted again. A concept doctrine in this regard has already been presented to the Joint Landward Defence Capability Board. What the mix of light, medium and heavy armour should be, additional to the intricacies of size and support elements required, were also extrapolated. Food for thought and planning!

Summarising at the end of the symposium the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Armour Formation, Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys, confirmed that the SA Armour was ready and keen to take the next steps towards greater integration with the mechanised infantry and to take part in dedicated integrated force preparation exercises. The ultimate aim of the SA Army Armour Formation is to be ready for early deployment of armour force elements to any RSA peace mission, in any theatre of conflict, in order to serve the best interests of South Africa and secure peace on the African continent.

The General Officer Commanding Armour Formation, Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys (left), hands over a memento to the former Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, Lt Gen (Ret) Louis Fisher.
The four Gripen fighter aircraft hovered down like gentle rain from heaven to the AFB Ysterplaat air tarmac to the cheers of curious onlookers, including local and foreign guests, and a contingent of members of the press on 17 September 2008 at the recent Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo 2008 in Cape Town.

The occasion also marked the commissioning and official handover of the Gripen fighter aircraft to the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlos Gagiano, by the then Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.

Speaking to over 400 local and foreign business dignitaries at the Gripen commissioning Mr Lekota said the Gripen would be used in peacekeeping missions in South Africa and on the African continent.

He said the Gripens, which replace the 21-year-old Cheetahs, will be the icons of South Africa’s air capability for several decades to come.

He cautioned that the possession of these advanced aircraft alone does not impart anything more than a latent capability. "The recruitment, training and retention of skilled personnel such as pilots, technicians, fighter controllers and a host of others are critical if that latent capability is to be realised."

Mr Lekota reiterated the importance of acquiring the Gripens as they would be used to encourage peace on the African continent. "The imperative to defend South Africa and her people and our commitment to collective defence, peace, security and the furtherance of Africa’s development make fighter capability a key component of South Africa’s defence capability."

He added that the Gripens would be powerful symbols of these national commitments and providers of vital operational capabilities if they should ever be required on the African continent or beyond.
The Battle of the Ysterplaat

By Bibi Morgets
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Africa Aerospace of Defence (AAD) Expo had so much activity to offer, but today could have been the highlight and the first to happen in the history of the AAD. The mini-war called "The Battle of the Ysterplaat", demonstrated the capabilities of all four Services in the SANDF working together.

This battle showcased the capabilities and the importance of the different Services and demonstrated the magnificent training these soldiers undergo so that we have fit and skilled soldiers who operate both on the ground and on air.

Saturday, 20 September 2008, was the first day for the AAD to be open to the public. In spite of being cloudy and windy the day turned out to be a huge success. The Ysterplaat community and neighbouring locations gathered in large numbers in support of the air show as they came to broaden their aviation knowledge.

Children were captivated by the colourful merry-go-rounds and the food stalls displayed on the sides of the pathway, as aircraft in the skies showcased their skills. This was a well-planned day by the members of the AAD. People congregated in the area demarcated for the public as the mini-war commenced. It started with the Dakota aircraft dropping six parachutists. The role of these pathfinders is to search for information on the ground to signal to incoming soldiers that soon land with a Hercules C130 aircraft. The Hercules C130 aircraft lands, soldiers and Geckos exit from the back of the plane and take their positions in the field to hide in order to attack the enemy from the best positions. Bearing in mind that war is a messy business back-up plans of a high standard are always put in place, which is why the participation of the SA Medical Health Service (SAMHS) is pivotal to any operation. A CASA 212 aircraft flies over the camouflaged soldiers dropping more equipment for the extra weapons needed. As the show progressed we were fascinated by how "medics" operate in war. One would think that SAMHS members belonged only in hospitals and sickbays, but they play major roles in circumstances where soldiers are in need of emergency medical attention in a war situation. The Oryx helicopters brought in the soldiers who descended swiftly by rope and who held a stretcher to their waists to give assistance to the injured soldier on the ground.

As the sounds of shootings echoed through the place, gunpowder smoke covered the landscape - children and adults were given an adrenalin rush. A young onlooker, Ntobizodwa Mthimkhulu, said: "This is exactly what we see in Hollywood movies. I always thought it was fiction, but today the SANDF showed me that it is real and war is not a very nice place to be. I'm privileged that we grow up in a country where there's peace and stability."

After all the drama that took place I now understand the meaning of the SA Army motto: "We train as we fight". This has been the best demonstration of a war scenario. To our South African soldiers, perhaps we don't always appreciate your great efforts to keep this country in one piece, we are proud of you and thank you.
A country that does not invest in its youth is heading for failure. A statement often made is: "Children are the country’s future leaders". It is a great honour to serve an organisation that not only protects the country, but also focuses on the development of future leadership.

The AAD Youth Development Programme participated in the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Expo at AFB Ysterplaat in Cape Town from 17 to 21 September 2008. The theme for the event was "Enriching young minds, because our youth matters". This special unit is monitored by Col Bobby Keller who is also the Chairperson of the AAD Youth Development Programme. This initiative started as a hobby for Col Keller and was prompted by his passion for children. In 2006, after many years, the need to host such a unit had become essential within the Department of Defence.

Today this unit focuses its energy on grooming the learners of this country and also makes dreams happen for those children lost in despair. The Youth Development Programme has also served as a recruitment tool for the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) since 2008.

SA Soldier caught up with Col Keller at the AAD to talk to him about his expectations for this year’s proceedings. Col Keller explained that during the five days of the AAD the stall would be visited by 1 200 children identified by the Dinaledi Special Project. These are learners who excel in Mathematics, Technology and Science, and is meant to increase interest in and build a career in aviation.

The learners are introduced to various parts of the aviation industry. First they are taken through a process of building an aircraft using cardboard, after which the virtual aviation of the computers takes place. This is where those who want to become pilots fly the airplane on computers. Selected personnel in various career paths offer talks about the vast career choices in the Department. It is rounded off by goodie packs offered to the learners.

During our talk Col Keller mentioned that he was honoured to be one of the delegates to fly in an Oryx helicopter to the Alta du Toit School, a school that focuses on mentally challenged learners and is the largest such school in the Western Cape Province. This was done to present a R30 000

SIMULATION PROGRAMME. Young Falcons learn how to fly ...
First SANDF woman to complete the French Joint Staff and Command Course

By Col Pat Masisi

When Col Jerry Masisi was appointed as a Deputy Defence Attaché in France, Col Pat Masisi thought about how she could benefit from her husband’s deployment by not stagnating in her career and also gaining insight from the foreign defence force so that she could plough back the skills and knowledge acquired during the deployment in Paris.

She decided not to accompany her husband as a spouse only, but also to be a prospective military student at the Ecole Militaire (French War College), and commenced learning the French language first and then continued with the French Joint Staff and Command Course. Despite the many obstacles and challenges encountered, she finally made it when she obtained the first and second degree in the French language in both the oral and writing levels, which is the standard required by NATO for further deployment anywhere internationally, including the Diploma in the French Staff Course.

Col Pat Masisi has for many years had the edge in achieving quite phenomenal results in life. As a woman she always set herself high standards and high goals, and she is not afraid to face challenges, no matter how hard. However, these standards needed to be maintained and sustained by continuous studies, so when she joined the SANDF in 1998 she intended diversifying her career and facing new challenges in the SANDF.
Preliminary language orientation course

The course normally takes off in February with a five-month French proficiency language course. This is an intensive language proficiency phase designed to enable Anglophone and non-French speaking officers to understand the main military staff command course in French.

Six months of intensive French classes brought her language skills up to postgraduate level. She started the course on 8 February and it lasted until 24 June 2005. In this time she was mainly doing the language part of the course. She was the first female officer from the SANDF in a group of 52 officers from different foreign countries. It was a daring challenge, which needed so much determination. She was mindful that she was representing her country and that she had to succeed, which amounted to additional pressure on her. Unfortunately at the end of June 2005 she was informed that her proficiency level in French was below the standard and she was withdrawn from the course.

She was called back in 2006 and repeated the language course and passed in the first degree in the oral and written examinations in 2006. She continued up to the second degree level and was able to obtain a second degree in the NATO STANAG 3001 level 2 certificates in both written and oral French. During the language phase she was the only female student officer among a group of 52 male officers. This time around she succeeded in reaching the international phase, which took place in July 2006. She was still the only woman during this phase in which, 66 students came from the Francophone countries to join them. Altogether there were about 113 foreign students from 78 countries.

She was the first woman from the SANDF and the first woman from South Africa to complete the French Joint Staff and Command Course at the Ecole Militaire in Paris, France.

International Session

The International Session commenced in July 2006. It was an interphase, which allowed interaction between the Anglophone and Francophone foreign officers who awaited the commencement of the military phase in September when the French officers joined up. The aim was to harmonise language and cultural differences. Familiarisation visits within France were organised to historic sites to further deepen the overall aim.

The highlights of this phase were the visit to Verdun, the World War I battlefield and other historical places in France. The French students joined in September 2006, only two women reporting from the French Defence Force. (Now at least there were three female officers among 364 men on course.) That was the beginning of the real Joint Senior and Command Staff Programme at the Ecole Militaire.

From January to March 2007 Col Pat Masisi joined the marine group because there were only seven students from the medical core. They could not form a group and were swallowed by the other Services. She chose working with the Navy and benefited much by working in this group as the marines were broad-minded and confident, which added to the value of the course. Next they visited Lisbon in Portugal and other places of marine interest in France.

“From the South African Embassy in Paris, I would like to thank the Ambassador, Ms Maria Sibanda-Thusi, for her unfailing support during my presentations on the cultural and international day at the college. The following transferred officials also made it possible for me to succeed in all the tasks that were imposed on me by the college by offering their support logistically, psychologically even physically, namely, Mr Joseph Moshesh, Mr Marius Conradie, Ms Evelyn Frank and Ms Seipei Deane. They were at all times ready to assist irrespective of who I was. They were truly South Africans.

“I would like to encourage my fellow officers to nominate themselves for this course. I know that the French language is complicated, but this was the best opportunity I ever had. The course consisted of 15 modules, 2 supplementary modules, and I had to write an article which was compulsory for the French students and optional for the foreign students. I tried my luck and submitted an article about women,” said Col Pat Masisi.
Get to know our health columnist

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Dr Lethlhonolo Magdelene Majake is a regular columnist of SA Soldier on health issues, particularly those related to preventive medicine. In the following interview and in honour of the role played by women in South Africa SA Soldier tells you who Dr Majake is, and what makes her tick.

Born in 1982 at Kalafong Hospital in Pretoria, Lethlhonolo is undoubtedly one of the young women professionals with a passion to help improve the status of women and achieve gender equality in South Africa.

SA Soldier: You are a regular contributor to SA Soldier on health matters. What does this mean to you as a medical professional?
Dr Majake: I highly appreciate the opportunity granted to me to communicate with the readership of this magazine on preventive medicine. As you know, preventive medicine is far more effective than treating a patient with a condition that could have easily been prevented. However, some conditions are unavoidable, irrespective of the medical knowledge one has at hand.

SA Soldier: You speak highly of your late grandmother in your biography. What are the valuable lessons you learned from her that are significant in your life today?
Dr Majake: My late grandmother, Kekulu Magdalene Pilane, was not only a dedicated nursing sister for 40 active years, but was also a nurse at home and in her community. I have learnt from her that to succeed in life you need to practise what you preach. She taught me not to be afraid to express myself. She was a woman who epitomised power, yet at the same time she was a symbol of beauty, elegance and womanhood. Though she became a widow in her mid-thirties she managed to achieve tremendous success for women. (Dr Majake’s grandmother passed away on 21 July 2008.)

SA Soldier: You come from a relatively well-educated family. What are the pressures and influences you experienced from such a background?
Dr Majake: Growing up among parents and relatives who are achievers served as a motivation and helped me persevere in my early academic years. I always knew that I had to do something valuable with my life, yet I was never told what to become. Hence, the pressure I felt was always self-imposed. I also felt fortunate generally because I had so many mentors in my family who continued to serve as my support system.

SA Soldier: You are about to embark on married life; do you foresee any change with respect to your career because of your being a wife?
Dr Majake: My fiancé was raised in a family with women who challenged the stereotypes of society, yet they continued to be functional and successful wives. So, in my view, any change that is foreseen will surely be a positive one. It is unfortunate that certain sectors in society still continue to make women feel guilty about wanting to be the best in the working world. With the correct support system, women can excel at work and in their traditional roles as women.

SA Soldier: Having worked for the South African National Defence Force for a brief period, what are the military principles you have adopted in achieving success?
Dr Majake: Apart from the additional clinical experience I gained at 1 Military Hospital, I had the opportunity to learn more about the culture of the SANDF, for example respect and discipline. These are the qualities that everybody needs. It does not matter whether you are in the army, the corporate world or merely operating a small business enterprise. Hard work and humility are guarantees to ensure success.

SA Soldier: What message do you have for women in general?
Dr Majake: Women undergo tertiary education and obtain the same qualifications if not higher ones than their male counterparts. Yet women still have limited leadership roles in society. We also have seen instances where women get into their rightful positions, but are then hindered, unappreciated or underutilised. My message to women is that we need to continue to strive to obtain what is rightfully ours (gender equality) and to achieve that we should give each other the required support. Women should believe in themselves and understand their rights. Anyone or anything that attempts to compromise or demean women should always be challenged. Women must continue to strive for the upliftment of their status, while at the same time celebrating their femininity, bearing children and becoming mothers.
Going beyond the extra mile

By Bibi Morgets and Amn Lethube Phasha
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The motto for this year is: "go the extra mile" and thus it of vital importance that we strengthen our ties with our neighbouring countries. The accreditation of twelve countries was held at the South African Defence Intelligence College in Pretoria on 3 September 2008.

The countries accredited were Algeria, Chile, China, France, Kuwait, Mozambique, Pakistan, Spain, Russia, Vietnam, Egypt and Turkey. The military attachés from these countries will be in South Africa for a period of one year to help maintain a good working relationship between us.

Chief Defence Intelligence, Lt Gen Maomela Motau, addressed the attachés. He began his speech by paying tribute to the late Secretary of Defence, Mr January Masilela, and acknowledged the crucial role the latter played in creating ties with his foreign counterparts. Lt Gen Motau said: "Through his commitment he has set high standards in diplomatic engagement." He added that Mr Masilela had seen the Department beginning to play a crucial role in multinational institutions, peace missions and humanitarian aid.

In welcoming the attachés he reminded them that they were key instruments in defence diplomacy and in building South African defence relations abroad. Before he proceeded to address the attachés individually, he said: "To all of you, please enjoy your stay in our country. Always remember that to us as the SANDF you are valuable colleagues and partners in pursuit of peace and stability".

Brig Gen Mamudo Ibraimo Alegy from the Republic of Mozambique told us in an interview that he was ecstatic to be given the responsibility of building ties between the two countries. His plan was to build and enhance a brotherly relationship by consolidating friendship.

In conclusion, Lt Gen Motau urged the attachés to begin negotiations for an extended term that would see them staying well beyond 2010. He reminded them that our country had been entrusted with the responsibility of hosting the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament and that he was certain none of them would want to miss such a historic event.

Senior members of the SANDF with the incoming military attachés who are on tour duty in South Africa.
A wise sportsman once said: "If life doesn’t offer you a game worth playing, then invent a new game." The SA Army hosted its annual Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers Skills Competition at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg from 8 to 12 September 2008. The prestigious event is a skill-at-arms display in various contests, which separate those who can from those who try.

The event attracted great interest from the SA Air Force and the armed forces from our neighbouring countries that came to compete and to get the feel of the intensity of the event. During an interview with SA Soldier, WO2 Hassen Jafarie, Regimental Instructor of Air Force Gymnasium, said that for the SA Air Force its first participation in the event was a learning curve and an eye-opening experience. "We are very enthusiastic about this prestigious event; come 2009 we will be waiting in full force," said WO2 Jafarie.

We also caught up with WO1 Julius Kamphenga of the Malawi Defence Force. He said that the formation of the SADC Brigade has given rise to events such as these that advance and enhance our Force’s aspirations for greater unity. He also expressed gratitude to the SANDF for hosting this event. "Events like these bring us together. As the SADC forces we need to know each other, as our cultures and customs differ. As envisaged by the African Union and SADC, we need to determine our state of readiness and this will also help in encouraging closer military co-operation and increase transparency and unity among our forces," said WO1 Kamphenga. Sgt Victor Tautona from the Botswana Defence Force said: "The skills evaluation is a test of skill, persistence and endurance. It opens doors for learning, and in any competition there must be a winner. If one does not win now, there is always a next time, so to lose must not dampen the spirit of unity and friendship."

**Individual Competition**

**AFRICA TROPHY WINNERS**

- **Fittest Member Africa:** Cpl M.S. Mzimba (SA Air Force)
- **Best Shottist Africa:** WO2 M.T. Maphalle (Training Formation)

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The SA Army Infantry Formation Pace Stick Team.
Soldiers displaying their skill-at-arms during their shooting evaluation.

SA Army Foundation invests in disciplined soldiers

Article and photo by Lt Col (Res F) Elize Lizamore, PRO SA Army Foundation

It has become part of the tradition of the SA Army Foundation to sponsor the annual SA Army Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers competition held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

The Marketing Manager of the SA Army Foundation, Mr Angel Ramphele, was proud to present this year’s five winners with a cheque of R2 000 each. The competition was tough, but it was here where “the tough gets going” and our soldiers proved to be true soldiers once again. The winners in the five categories for 2008 were: WO1 S. Louw (Best Warrant Officer), S Sgt R.C. Els (Best Staff Sergeant), Sgt P.M. Mvandade (Best Sergeant), Cpl D.J.P. de Bus (Best Corporal) and L Cpl S. Madlakemela (Best Lance Corporal).

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, paid tribute to our Sergeant Majors and praised them for shaping, forming, drilling and coaching our troops to become soldiers of whom every South African can be proud.
The annual National Heritage Day was held at one of the world’s acclaimed heritage sites at Maropeng on 24 September 2008. This was made possible in conjunction with the Department of Defence, Department of Arts and Culture, Provincial Government and the West Rand District Municipality. Maropeng Heritage Site was chosen to celebrate Heritage Day as it bears evidence of the first humans, which is why it is called the Cradle of Humankind.

The day began officially after a parade by members of the National Ceremonial Guard who welcomed dignitaries on stage. The Guard of Honour was followed by the National Culture, who said the Maropeng Heritage Site has been a place of discoveries since 1947 and has revealed traces of human origins that suggest that all humankind has come from one family. He said the aim of the day was to celebrate in the spirit of the ancestors as a way of protecting and preserving heritage. He also said that cultures were not fixed in time, but changed as they were dynamic and because they impacted on one another, especially with new technologies.

“Our traditional dance performances have changed over time and have given birth to modern and contemporary dances that are popular among youth. Not only have our dances witnessed changes, but they also evince a cultural interface that has produced hybrid dances that portray the multicultural nature of our society. These new dance forms demonstrate to us that change and transformation are constant and enriching,” Dr Jordan said. He said South Africa was an extremely diverse society which had come from a past of conflict on account of differences. Therefore aspects of heritage must be presented to everyone by disseminating, conserving and educating people to change their mentality and attitudes towards other cultures. Through arts and dance South Africa must be able to create a new identity.

“The South African government continuously strives to promote reconciliation, tolerance and democracy. Promoting these values needs to be kept in mind as we commit our heritage and educational structures to recording, conserving, teaching and presenting the rich stories of our diverse people,” said the minister.
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he disposal of redundant or unserviceable ammunition presents a major challenge within any military organisation. Such ammunition is normally disposed of by its collective destruction at a demolition range by using PE4 explosives containing classified poisonous substances.

This practice has a negative impact on the environment on account of the physical destruction of the surrounding areas, noise pollution, veld fires, and the contamination of the soil and underground water by hazardous substances and heavy metals.

Instead of continuing to destroy ammunition in this way the team from the Ammunition Sub-depot Naboomspruit, under the leadership of the Chief Technical Officer, Lt Col Gert Prinsloo, has implemented a project that they believe will set the trend for future ammunition disposal methods in the Department of Defence (DOD). It entails the destruction of redundant ammunition in the most environmentally friendly manner possible. At this unit situated in the North West Province, ammunition is dismantled into its various sub-components. The potentially dangerous components, such as charges, detonators and explosive parts are destroyed, while other components consisting of copper, metal and plastic are dismantled and sold as recyclable scrap in accordance with DOD policy and regulations.

During 2007 some 230 000 pieces of redundant ammunition, ranging from small arms to rockets, mortars, aircraft rounds, bombs, illumination mortars and smoke generators were dismantled. The saving on explosives for the normal demolition of these devices was in excess of R500 000 over the period. In addition to bringing about a financial saving, this practice has also contributed to safer working conditions, and has dramatically minimised the negative impact on the environment by reducing the Department’s carbon footprint through the reduction of smoke and other explosive emissions to the atmosphere.

The team has received the first and second place in the DOD’s productivity competition and has been awarded the Conservamus Floating Trophy for their important contribution towards Military Integrated Environmental Management (MIEM) for 2007.

* For more information on this project, contact the Regional Environmental Manager, Maj Hennie Davel at tel no: (015) 299 3087.
SANDF members undergoing conversion training at SAPS

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

On 20 September 2008, SA Soldier was afforded the opportunity to visit the SA Police Service (SAPS) Training College in Pretoria to meet some of the SANDF members who are undergoing conversion training at the college. Members of the SANDF are seen to be excellent candidates as they have the experience, military discipline, expertise, security skills and knowledge to fill the SAPS static environment vacant posts.

In 2003 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SANDF and the SAPS was signed. In the MOU the two organisations agreed on the interdepartmental transfer of redeployable SANDF personnel to the SAPS Protection and Security Division. Before these members can be transferred to the SAPS they undergo conversion training for a period of three months at SAPS training institutions to orientate them to the police service and general principles of the SAPS.

SA Soldier caught up with Cpl Vusumzi Gemfana from General Support Base Bloemfontein. “I joined the Defence Force in 1993. I am very happy with the new opportunity for a career move. I must say I am looking forward to being a member of the SAPS and my military experience will be a bonus in my new career, as we will be utilised in the static environments,” said Cpl Gemfana.

Asked about the conversion training Bdr Lebo Maribe from 4 Artillery Regiment said: “The SAPS is basically a civilian orientated structure, but I have to say the standard of military training we had is superior to that of the SAPS. Since our arrival here on 20 July 2008 we have responded very well and the training is interesting as we are taught about general policing principles, the law and criminal justice,” said Bdr Maribe.

Lt Col Gawie Nienaber, SO1 Preparation, Advice and Support: Directorate HR Separation, clarifying concerns raised by the trainees during their orientation period.
unveiling of
King Dinuzulu's Statue

Article and photo by WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban

he Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sibusiso Ndebele, unveiled the statue of King Dinuzulu in a heavy downpour and freezing cold at Botha’s Garden in Durban on 20 September 2008. It was one of the highlights of the 2008 KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Programme.

Parts of KwaZulu-Natal were transformed into a ‘winter wonderland’ after snowfalls blanketed several areas of the province. Temperatures plummeted into the low teens as Durban experienced its coldest September in recorded history. However, the extremely cold and rainy weather did not dampen the unveiling ceremony or the attendance.

The Chief of the SANDF appointed the Chief of the SA Army as the Chief Executor to provide ceremonial, logistic and technical support for this historic event. Representing the Chief of the SA Army was Brig Gen Robert Mandisa, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation.

The assembled guests also witnessed the Mayor of eThekwini Metro (Durban), Councillor Obed Mlaba, rename Berea Road as King Dinuzulu Road in honour of the king.

Premier Ndebele in his address said: “The statue of King Dinuzulu is a unique statue that symbolises nation-building and national reconciliation. The unveiling of the statue of King Dinuzulu therefore affords us all an opportunity to take a deep look at our collective past and what it can do to shape our present and the future. We are telling the story of the Zulu people and the people of KwaZulu-Natal.”

SANDF'S ROLE

The National Ceremonial Guard led by the SA Army Band of Durban formed up and marched along Berea Road. They drew tumultuous applause from the crowd in heavy raincoats and sheltering under umbrellas. History was in the making and not even this bleak weather was going to keep the crowd away.

The National Ceremonial Guard and the SA Army Band conducted themselves on parade in a manner befitting a well-disciplined and professional military force.

Logan Maistry, the Premier’s spokesperson, said: “The presence of the SANDF here today is really appreciated. The spectacular display by the National Ceremonial Guard and the SA Army Band added to the success of the unveiling ceremony. It was also an opportunity for the people of KwaZulu-Natal to witness the support that is being received from the SANDF today.”

Chaplain Mabandla Nkayi from Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal, who did the opening prayer, spoke with deep conviction of the significance of this event and the recognition of the history the Zulu people.

KING DINUZULU

The story of King Dinuzulu is a story of courage, determination and socio-political transformation. He was a king who experienced it all, but who kept on fighting for the dignity of his people, their land and the royal house.

King Dinuzulu was born in 1868. He became the King of the Zulus in May 1884 following the death of his father, King Cetshwayo, in February of the same year. During his time King Dinuzulu was known as ‘the modernising king’. The historian, Prof Jeff Guy, wrote in his book “A View from Across the River” that King Dinuzulu straddled the traditional Zulu and modern African essence of being an African. The ceremony was the culmination of years of research, consultation and the implementation of the legacy of a man that Harriett Colenso once described as “walking this earth as if he owns it”. Such was King Dinuzulu - fearless, majestic and always reaching out.

SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

There were global issues at play. Dinuzulu ascended the throne in 1884 and, unbeknown to him, he stepped into these. The superpowers of the time met in Brussels to stage the biggest colonial scramble for land.

By 1885, a microcosm of the Brussels conference took place in Zululand, with the Boers, the Germans and the British all claiming land in Zululand. The scramble for Zululand was made worse by the Zulu civil war of 1884-1888 between uSuthu and Mandlakazi, when brother had turned against brother. Berlin and London had themselves taken a keen interest in the scramble for Zululand by 1886. So Dinuzulu got attacked from all quarters. He had to spend his time defending whatever remained of the legacy of King Shaka. He was humiliated many times by the British authorities, especially Governor Arthur Havelock. On 9 November 1887 Havelock had a conference with the king. As the king was telling him that he was the rightful successor to the throne of Shaka’s kingdom, Havelock simply replied: “Such a thing is now impossible. Dinuzulu must know and all Zulus must know that the rule of the House of Shaka is a thing of the past”.

The reconciliatory tone of King Cetshwayo was met by resistance and missed opportunities by the British and the colonial authorities in Natal, who
During the singing of the National Anthem, fltr: The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr S‘bu Ndebele, King Goodwill Zwelithini and Col Godfrey Nethidongololo, Officer Commanding GSB Ladysmith, with King Dinuzulu’s statue in the background.

saw no road to reconciliation. They did not recognise Dinuzulu, and neither did the successive colonial, union and apartheid governments recognise any Zulu king until the democratic government did so, broadly from 1994. The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government specifically did so in 2005 with the passing of the Traditional Leadership and Governance Act.

THE COLENSO SISTERS

Dinuzulu was diplomatic despite all the insults and kept his options open. He availed himself of diplomatic missions to the Boers of the New Republic led by Lucas Meyer in Vryheid, despite the fact that the Boers had grabbed land at eMakhosini, the cradle of Zulu history. Dinuzulu was a patient and respectful politician. He continued to show respect for the English and had the unwavering support of the women of Bishopstowe, viz the Colenso sisters Harriett, Agnes and Frances.

The Colenso family forms a permanent feature of the story of the Zulu people and the people of KwaZulu-Natal. They are proof that it is dangerous to define society and politics according to racial stereotypes. In Dinuzulu’s struggle it was not black against whites. It was more the politics of alignment based on principles.

FIRST ARREST

In 1888, after Zululand had been annexed after the Zulu civil war, Dinuzulu was arrested. Now a converted Christian, Dinuzulu was tried and sentenced for treason. A period in imprisonment on St Helena followed. The St Helena years of course were years of mass transformation on the part of the king in particular and Zulu society in general. The king exchanged traditional garb for suits, learned to read, write and play the piano and became orientated to more collaboration with the amakholwa communities, prominent among whom were the likes of Dr John Langalibalele Dube, Magema Fuze ka Magwaza, the Colenso sisters and Dr Pixely ka Isaka Seme.

SECOND ARREST

A poll tax was imposed in 1905 and Bhambatha and many others rebelled against it. In 1906 Dinuzulu was again implicated. He was arrested in December 1907 and tried in 1908 in an unfair trial. He was sentenced to a heavy fine and four years’ imprisonment.

KING DINUZULU’S DEATH

In 1910 the Union of South Africa was born and General Botha became its first Prime Minister. One of his first acts was to release the king from prison. He sent him into exile to Middelburg in the then Transvaal (now Mpumalanga) where he died on 18 April 1913 at the age of 45. On his deathbed he said: “Bury me with my fathers at Nobamba”, which wish was honoured. While it can be argued that General Botha’s act of releasing King Dinuzulu from prison in 1910 was based on a prior friendship, it did in fact set the tone for future race relations in South Africa.

THE STATUE

The statue is meant to give recognition to traditional leadership by the democratic government in general and, in particular, recognition of a king who saw and experienced it all, but kept on fighting for the dignity of his people, their land and the royal house - the House of Shaka. The two statues face one another in Botha’s Garden - two giants in our history.

CONCLUSION

The road to reconciliation is long and winding. It constitutes getting to know the past, and understanding what happened, how it happened, why did it happen, when it happened and who did it.

* Acknowledgement: This article was researched with assistance from the Premier’s Office, KwaZulu-Natal.
Diversified SANDF unites on Heritage Day

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

It was a day when every ethnic group came together to showcase their culture’s uniqueness through art and dance. Heritage Day at the DOD Logistic Division on 19 September was a meaningful cultural interaction in the SANDF. Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane, Chief of Logistic Division, said the essence of the day was to celebrate the diverse cultural spectrum that God had given to the people.

“We are assembled here today in a rich and impressive tapestry of colour, custom and tradition to mark national Heritage Day under the theme ‘Celebrating Dance, Our Heritage’,” said Col Vuyisile Thafeni of the DOD Logistic Division in his keynote address. He said that the word heritage had a number of meanings, but more importantly, heritage referred to traditions, customs and practices inherited from our ancestors. “Flowing from this definition, dance is an important part of our intangible heritage from our ancestors.”

He emphasised the issues of South African’s low self-esteem and not taking pride in our rich cultural diversity. South Africans are a self-critical nation. “We are always hard on ourselves.” He strongly condemned the tendency of seeking affirmation from people outside the country about things concerning South Africans and encouraged people to appreciate and embrace their heritage and cultural diversity.

“Let me be bold and say, outsiders and/or strangers, whoever they may be, cannot be entrusted with the task of defining who we are or of telling our story to the world. We are the only people who can tell our story to the world with the necessary eloquence and effectiveness,” Col Thafeni said.

The other challenge was to address Human Resource policies with regard to cultural diversity and practices. This is because some of the policies do not accommodate cultural beliefs, which, however, may affect a person’s well-being. Col Thafeni cited an example of members not being able to get leave as a result of utilising the services of a traditional healer or having a calling to become a traditional healer.

“As we speak, we have a WO1 who has gone for training as a traditional doctor. She could not be booked off sick because current policy does not view ‘calling’ or ‘Ukuthwasa’ as an illness for which a person can be booked off. She has not been receiving her pay for the past two months now, with the attendant suffering. I think the sooner we realise and perhaps accept that the SANDF and indeed South Africa is part of central or western Europe, the better it would be for all of us. We do not need to preach diversity, we need to genuinely embrace diversity.”

The day was followed by rhythmic dances of an artistic nature from the participants of different ethnic groups, including competition and displays. People expressed their true devotion to the love they possessed for their beliefs and values that serve as a day-to-day guide in their everyday lives.
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Celebrating a day at the races

By Bibi Morgot
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The much awaited event of the year finally arrived, namely the "Day at the Races", hosted by the SA Army Foundation at the Turffontein racecourse in Johannesburg on 11 October 2008.

Treated like royalty for the day. Guests were given a chance to try their luck by betting on their favourite horses. On the side was a buffet with excellent food. We were able to interact with one another as this was an ideal platform for networking. This was indeed a day worth all the waiting.

Thank you SA Army Foundation for a day well celebrated!

The purpose of this social gathering was to acknowledge and thank those who had established the many partnerships involved in the SA Army Foundation over the years. It further served to encourage the sponsors to continue working together with the SA Army Foundation.

SA Soldier was among the invited guests on the list and everyone was treated like royalty for the day. Guests were given a chance to try their luck by betting on their favourite horses. On the side was a buffet with excellent food. We were able to interact with one another as this was an ideal platform for networking. This was indeed a day worth all the waiting.

Thank you SA Army Foundation for a day well celebrated.

Front, fltr: Maj Gen Les Rudman, Chief Army Corporate Service, Maj Gen Louis Diulani, Chairperson of the SA Army Foundation, Lt Gen Solly Shoke Chief of the SA Army, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, General Manager of the SA Army Foundation, and Ms Maud Williams, Manager of the Rainbow Holiday Club, with members of the SA Army Foundation and their business associates during the Day at the Races at Turffontein racecourse.
A career of commitment at sea

By Lt Glenn von Zeil,
SA Naval Reserve

WO1 Gerald Heydenrych recently retired from service in the SA Navy after 48 years. His career began in 1960 when he was drafted into the Army Gymnasium. Subsequently he was transferred to the SA Navy in 1961. He was part of the first group to complete its basic training on board the SAS BLOEMFONTEIN. He later qualified as a diver and torpedo and anti-submarine rating.

He also served on board SAS WALVIS BAY, SAS VRYSTAAT, SAS VAN DER STEL and SAS PRESIDENT PRETORIUS. He was a member of the first ship’s company of the SAS PRESIDENT STEYN, which accompanied the frigate from the United Kingdom in 1963. In 1965 he attended an UC1 course at the HMS Vernon, and on his return to South Africa was employed at the Warfare School. In 1968 he requested an interservice transfer to the SA Air Force at Langebaan where he served on board the air-sea rescue launches (crash boats) and later rejoined the SA Navy after this function was incorporated at SAS FLAMINGO.

His diving career included completing the following courses: Diving Instructor, Diving Supervisors IEDD, USDD, EOD, and Demolition. He also spent time as Warrant Officer in Command of the Diving School. He completed his full-time military career in 1990 as the Warrant Officer in Command of ODT. The following year he served in a civilian capacity (PSAP) as a tug master until his retirement in 2008. During this period he was also a member of the Naval Reserve.

WO1 Heydenrych remembers the camaraderie which the Navy embodied and has fond memories of his fellow crew members. “While at SAS FLAMINGO I observed a three-year-old boy run and slip off the Langebaan jetty. I stripped down and dived into the water to rescue him. Thereafter I applied CPR, which fortunately revived him,” recalled WO1 Heydenrych.

“After an explosion in the engine room of the George V - 400 nautical miles off Walvis Bay - the SA Navy was requested to provide medical assistance to treat a badly injured crew member. I used my knowledge and skills to transfer medical supplies and a doctor, Lt Cdr Jordan, from a crash boat via a life raft to the George V in heavy seas.”

Some of WO1 Heydenrych’s most memorable moments were the towing and rescue tasks assigned to him, especially towing the powerful tug, John Ross, from Cape Point to Simon’s Town with the Umlazi after a rope had become entwined in her propeller and helping to combat the oil spill that threatened Table Bay and surrounding areas when the MV Treasure sank.

During his career he was awarded the Chief of the Navy’s Commendation on two occasions, the Pro Merito Medal, Military Merit Medal, Pro Patria, and Good Service Medals (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

WO1 Heydenrych looks forward to his retirement and plans to enjoy his time cray fishing in Kommetjie and angling in Simon’s Bay.

WO1 Gerald Heydenrych at home in Glencairn overlooking Simon’s Bay and the sea he has served.
Anchoring friendship through sport

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The Directorate Physical Training, Sport and Recreation successfully hosted the bilateral military games between the SANDF and the Zimbabwe Defence Force at AFB Hoedspruit in Limpopo in September 2008.

The SANDF team was represented by the Limpopo region with players from ASB Polokwane, AFB Makhado, 15 SA Infantry Battalion, AFB Hoedspruit, 5 Special Forces Regiment and 7 SA Infantry Battalion. The staging of such events has proved to be a tool to foster the motto of CISM: Friendship through sport.

The SANDF teams participated in various sporting codes, namely golf, pool, tennis, soccer, volleyball and tug-of-war. The SANDF defeated their Zimbabwean counterparts in various entertaining encounters.

The Chief delegate from South Africa, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, in his address during the prize-giving ceremony could not have said it better when he spoke about a subject close to his heart (sport). He said that soldiers meeting in the sports arena contribute to the greater value to save the world. “The aim of hosting this bilateral military games is, among others, to create friendship through sport. It is not about winning, but participation and sport can be regarded as a theatre of dreams,” said Brig Gen Sedibe.

After all the formalities, music altered the moods of the audience as the SA Army Band from ASB Polokwane kept them on their toes with stirring sounds.

Results

**Golf:**
- 1st place: SANDF
- 2nd place: Zimbabwe

**Pool:**
- 1st place: SANDF
- 2nd place: Zimbabwe

**Tennis:**
- 1st place: SANDF
- 2nd place: Zimbabwe

**Volleyball:**
- 1st place: Zimbabwe
- 2nd place: SANDF

**Soccer:**
- 1st place: Zimbabwe
- 2nd place: SANDF

**Tug-of-war:**
- 1st place: SANDF
- 2nd place: Zimbabwe

**OVERALL WINNER:** SANDF
Trilateral Games in Nelspruit

Article and photos by Lize Pienaar, Com Officer ASB Mpumalanga

The Army Support Base Mpumalanga hosted the first Trilateral Military Games in Nelspruit in October 2008. The countries participating were South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland, and 280 sportsmen and women took part.

The aim of these friendly matches was to compete with the defence forces of our neighbouring states and to give the members the opportunity to be exposed to sports at international level. The Trilateral Games were unique as Mozambique participated for the first time. In previous years there were Bilateral Games between South Africa and Swaziland only.

The sporting codes involved were soccer, volleyball, pool, road running, endurance walking and pistol shooting. Athletes from different units all over South Africa came to Nelspruit to represent the SANDF.

The overall winner of the games was the SANDF, with Swaziland in the second place and Mozambique third.

The soccer teams of the SANDF (yellow) and Mozambique (red) wishing each other well before the match.

Maj Jabulani Mlambo (Swaziland) and Lt Col David Kriel (SANDF) ready to challenge each other in a game of pool.

Results

Soccer

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Volleyball

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Road running

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Endurance walking

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Pistol Shooting

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Pool

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The Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, implemented an initiative at the unit by demolishing the old stone walls which were in the shape of a castle and replaced it with a nine-point star-shaped wall. The historic unveiling of the refurbished stone cairn coincided with the stone piling ceremony of SA 43 Brigade in Lohatlha on 29 September 2008. The newly erected structures include a wall displaying the coat of arms and the history of the stone piling.

After 14 years of democracy preceded by four commanders at the SA Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha, Brig Gen Mpaxa felt that the time for change had come. Some of the changes envisaged are the names of mess and accommodation facilities in the unit. The "Castle Wall", in particular, was demolished as it represented the old regime and only five provinces. The nine-point star, however, encompasses some of the elements in the new coat of arms.

"The SA Army and the DOD as a whole should be proud to have people who are for change because we are living in a changing world," Brig Gen Mpaxa said. "Tactics and past ideologies cannot be used to lead in the future."

On behalf of the Chief of the SA Army the event was graced by the attendance of the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Support Formation HQ, Maj Gen Fltr: Maj Gen Robert Mandita, GOC SA Army Support Formation, Brig Gen Lawrence Smith, GOC 43 SA Brigade, and Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, during the historic unveiling of the stone cairn and stone piling ceremony.

Members of 43 SA Brigade piling rocks to commit themselves to the success of Exercise SEBOKA, in which they pledge to look after equipment and to ensure own safety and other’s safety.
Robert Mandita. He thanked people for their efforts and contributions. He said that after 22 years of the "Castle Wall", the much appreciated nine-point star wall now replaces it.

The General Officer Commanding of 43 SA Brigade, Brig Gen Lawrence Smith, officiated at the 2008 Exercise SEBOKA the stone piling ceremony as it served as a motivation for conventional force soldiers. "Among tradition and customs in the SA Army, the rock piling ceremony is most probably one of the most meaningful and touching customs we maintain," he said.

"By piling rocks at this ceremony, we commit ourselves to the success of this exercise. We pledge to look after our equipment and to ensure our own and other's safety. We promise to keep our common goal in sight and contribute towards achieving it. We undertake to retain our dedication and commitment when things get tough, when we are tired and have gone without sleep for days, when we become short tempered owing to pressure and things are not always going according to plan, and when we experience failure," said Brig Gen Smith.

The history of the stone cairn

The first Officer Commanding of the military base at Lohatlha, Brig Frans van der Berg, initiated the stone piling tradition in 1978. The idea originated from his study of an inauguration custom of Israeli armour troops. It was found that the Zulus had a similar practice.

Brigadier S.W.J. Kotze suggested that every member under training had to lay a stone that later formed a huge cairn. The stone piling had to be combined with an oath. The entrance to the military base was identified as a suitable location to erect the monument. WO1 "Slangvel" Burger suggested the building of a castle shaped wall around the stone piles and to have flag posts erected for the various units participating in the training exercise.

The aim of the piling ceremony was to serve as a motivation for conventional force soldiers. Before piling a stone, the individual has to make a three-fold promise to him or herself:

- Commit to effective training.
- Accept personal responsibility for all equipment received and allocated.
- Commit to his or her calling as a soldier, and never to hesitate to protect South Africa and her citizens.

After the first democratic elections in 1994, this tradition was maintained. Keeping up with transformation and with the initiative of Brig Gen Mpaxa in August 2008, without disturbing the existing piles of rock, the castle shaped wall was replaced with a nine-point star. A commemoration wall was also built displaying the coat of arms of South Africa and the history of the stone piling.

(History from Dr Kriek van der Merwe: Part 1 Order of 78 of 81 Special Armour Brigade; compiled by Ms Hanna Coetzter).

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A DAY ON THE GOLF COURSE

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole


This occasion was not only designed as a cool-down session in the DOD, but also as a communication and strategising platform for the members in a relaxed atmosphere.

During his opening and welcoming address, Lt Gen Mgwebi encouraged the women golfers that were present to pull up their socks and challenge their male counterparts who were present. He said: "We need to see more women taking charge in all male dominated fields, both in the work environment and on the golf course."

After all the sweating on the golf course the players were treated to dinner where special players were presented with awards for their performances.
SA Special Forces caring for people with disabilities

By Lt Col A-L. Human, SO1 Corp
Com SA Special Forces

The South African Special Forces are the “guardians” of a very special girl at the Casa Caritas Home for children with disabilities in Kempton Park. Deshimane Fonete is the daughter of a Special Forces Operator. She was injured at the age of 13 when a stray bullet hit her near a shooting range at Phalaborwa during the late 1990s.

The accident left her paralysed and disabled and she had to be enrolled in a special care home. Casa Caritas was chosen as an ideal home for her specialised needs. A fund was subsequently established to care for Deshimane and the SA Special Forces has been involved in monitoring her care and progress ever since. She celebrated her 21st birthday in 2007 and she is close to the hearts of the Special Forces family.

This year SA Special Forces decided to honour Casa Caritas Home and the staff for their selfless commitment and special care, not only of Deshimane, but of a large number of children with severe disabilities.

Casa Caritas, a non-profit organisation with a governing body consisting of volunteers from the community, was established in 1973. At present Casa Caritas has 45 full-time residents and five day visitors being cared and catered for. At least 44 staff members, including one registered and two staff nurses, are required to render the above services. Among the residents are seven welfare cases for which they are fully responsible financially as these children have no one to contribute to the cost of their care.

With this in mind the SA Special Forces paid a visit to Casa Caritas during the annual Casual Day on 5 September 2008 to hand over groceries and basic items, such as nappies and powered milk as a small contribution to their needs as part of the Department of Defence initiative to get involved with schools or institutions for children with disabilities.
By Col Heidi Gunter, OC School of Signals
Photo: Cpl Niel Otto

Helen Keller once said: “When one door of happiness closes, another opens: but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

Using this as our guide the School of Signals took up the initiative on Casual Day by reaching out to our community, thinking wider - outside the box - to make a difference at the New Hope School in the lives of the learners with special needs.

The School of Signals, as part of the SA Army Signal Formation, adopted the New Hope School in Menlyn, Pretoria, in 2007 and has hosted thus far two Casual Day events for its learners. The New Hope School was established in Pretoria in 1971 and is today one of the largest learning centres in the country to make provision for the education and treatment of learners with special educational needs. Almost 70 teachers and therapists work in this educational environment, which accommodates learners of all races, classes, beliefs and cultures. You can visit their website at: www.newhopeschool.co.za.

Planning

The SA Army Signals Formation Casual Day project entailed giving the learners an opportunity to have a fun-filled day by presenting a “Survivor Day”. This year’s event was bigger than the previous year, as it included wheelchair racing and, for those who could walk on their own, obstacle crossing, leopard crawling, push-ups, target shooting with paint balls and water slides, including mental perseverance, imagination, creativity and understanding between fellow competitors.

Various civilian companies made donations (funds and promotional items) towards this day. Kestrel, Pinnacle Micro, ADS, Global Communications and the SACS Non-commissioned Officers Club were open-hearted in respect of our “Survivor Day” as presented at the New Hope School.

On the day of the event volunteers from the School of Signals, learners on courses and volunteers from the SA Army Signals Formation took part in the events and supported the participating teams. Winning team members received prizes and each learner received a water bottle sponsored by XON and a medal as a souvenir.

As a training institution, we have many members from other units on course. We motivated all learners on course to buy Casual Day stickers.

The project has enabled us to build and sustain effective social relationships with people with disabilities. We do not always realise and accept that people can help themselves to a certain extent. An example that will always be close to the soldiers’ hearts and minds is the words of the children in wheelchairs: “Miss (teacher), you must not forget about my brake, you cannot push me, first release my brake.” “Miss, you must not forget to put my brake on”.

When the day came to an end we realised how much we had learnt from one another by working effectively together as a team, sharing similar values, respecting and trusting one another, and having fun together. High morale and esprit de corps contributed to the success of the project.

Initiatives

In the course of 2008 the School of Signals has also recruited SA Army Signal Formation soccer team members to visit the New Hope School on a monthly basis to teach and train the learners with disabilities about soccer techniques.

During 2007 and 2008 facilitators from the School of Signals attended the Beginner Sign Language Course that was presented by the Tshwane Sign Language Centre at the Naval Mess in Pretoria, and attendance at future courses is planned.

The facilities of the School of Signals are in the process of being upgraded to make them more user-friendly to learners with disabilities and to staff members. (These projects are still subject to the receipt of the necessary funds.)
Decision determines destiny!

By Chaplain Ben van der Walt, Unit Chaplain Air Force Gymnasium

On the basis of this devotion all the readers are invited to reflect upon the role of universal values in the process of decision-making.

The Chaplains of the SANDF are a group of dedicated spiritual leaders who deliberated on the topics of values and decision-making and opted for simple, handy turnaround models as part of a spiritual strategy for our nation.

In Matthew 14:22 - 33 we read about the disciples of Jesus who were in great distress. They experienced the danger of drowning and were proceeding "down to hell" (according to their ancient understanding). Expecting the evil spirits to fetch them at any time, they saw a figure on the water ..., and thought it was time. Jesus calms them down by telling them: "It is me!" Peter "tested" the situation and asked Jesus to command the storm to subside.

As Chaplains we subscribe to a holistic approach to achieve a value-based life. As members of the SANDF we have shared ethics and common values and we should subscribe to the principles of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others, as you wish them to do upon you" and UBUNTU: "We are, because of others". These are of vital importance.

We identified six universal values: Love, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Professionalism. We believe when a community reflects the first five values life will be a better place for all.

There are many decision-making models, but we chose a practical hands-on model. We pray that when you look at your hand, you will be reminded of these five steps.

1. STOP Are you focusing on what was not done, rather than what can be done? Peter for a moment did not think of the storm. He only realised the supremacy over the storm that he could experience in the presence of Jesus.
2. OPTIONS Peter had some options: He could wait, or he could ask Jesus to command the storm to subside.
3. EVALUATE Peter investigated the options (under a microscope). Then he could make a decision he could live with …
4. DECIDE There is only one way for your dreams to come true: You must wake up! Some people feel threatened by this remark! Peter was not forced, no one expected it from him, not even Jesus, but he was willing to step out of his "boat", while others "wait for their ship to come in …". Noah also did not "wait for his ship to come in". In obedience he built the ark, to be saved, many years later.
5. GO When you use your hands to do anything, visualise the steps in the decision-making process.

Many people make no mistakes because they do nothing and will never be what God has called them to be. May God bless you in your life on your journey of decision-making!

When people grow old they regret the things they did not do more than the things they did. Peter has only one chance to do something, which has never been done before. What he did inspires many people to do what God has called them to do. Do not opt for walking on water now … God gave Peter that desire. He might call you to be the first one to do something else. We do not know …. History will tell us! Position yourself for the blessings of God and may our Father grant you all that you ask in His Name! AMEN.
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(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

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 ☐

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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 ☐

SA Air Force Headquarters
Directorate HR Services
(Recruitment Section)
Private Bag X199
Pretoria 0001
Tel: +2712 312 1164 / 2148 /
2609 / 2904 / 2985
Fax: +2712 312 2138

Website: www.af.mil.za
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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THIS CAMPAIGN

• Wear a white ribbon for the 16 days from 25 November to 10 December.
• Collect the special “16 Days” postcard, free of charge, at your nearest Post Office. There is a special tear-off section on the postcard, which you must sign and post back. It will cost you nothing but it could make a big difference. For every signed card returned, R10 will be raised for victims and survivors of abuse.

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 Lifeline 086 132 2322
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 AIDS Help Line 080 001 2322
 Crime Stop 086 001 0111
 Stop Gender-Based Violence 080 015 0150
 Batho Pele Gateway Call Centre 1020

If you are being abused, or know of someone who needs help, don’t look away – get help.

the dplg
Department: Provincial and Local Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA