Celebrating the Presidential Fleet Review
From the Editor’s desk

Letters to the Editor

News from abroad

The Presidential Fleet Review

Our Minister held an Imbizo

Health care to the people

Congolese tour of SANDF institutions

Women empowerment through participation

France decorates two SA Navy Admirals

The Chief of Army awards excellence

The pride of a new generation

SAMHS provides medical support to Dept of Health

Security forces hone their skills for 2010

Reserve Force Officer honoured by Bulgaria

Going beyond and above the call of duty

Induction and reorientation programme for PSAP

DOD strives for communication excellence

Transformation of Corporate Communication

Sappers support military discipline

The military reached out to Meerhof School

Manage your personal finances

Meet our own Iron Woman

SANDF Tennis team excels in Botswana

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Above: The SA Navy and the SA Police Service demonstrating their strength during Exercise SHIELD 1 in Port Elizabeth Harbour.
(Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana)

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FRONT COVER: President Thabo Mbeki, the Commander in Chief of the SANDF, on board the SAS PROTEA during the Presidential Fleet Review. Read more about this auspicious occasion on pages 10 to 12.
(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

This edition is packed with celebrations. We kick off by celebrating the Presidential Fleet Review. The SA Navy hosted the Presidential Fleet Review at Simon’s Town in Cape Town on 5 September 2008. Members of the media came in large numbers to record this momentous occasion. The hard work and long hours spent by the SA Navy members finally paid off as it showcased its operational vessels and demonstrated the competency and professionalism of its personnel. The SA Navy ensured that it was prepared and ready to fulfil its constitutional mandate of “defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa”. Read all about the celebrations of the Presidential Fleet Review on pages 10 to 12.

The Department of Defence celebrated its annual National Gender Conference in August and also opened its doors to men to attend this year. The theme for the conference was “soliciting male colleagues’ support in pursuit of gender equality” - thus women do need the support of their male counterparts. In her opening address Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management, pointed out that cognisance must be taken of the fact that military institutions around the world are predominately male, and as a result it would be pointless for women in Defence to continue meeting on their own, as their male colleagues’ support was critical in this regard. Please read more about this fruitful conference on pages 18 and 19.

We all celebrated Casual Day on 5 September. (Casual Day is a fund-raising and awareness-creating project benefiting persons with disabilities.) Please read on page 33 how the military reached out to the children at the Meerhof School for physically challenged learners. In Soshanguve the children at Luvuyo Orphanage Home were pleasantly surprised by military visitors on 5 September. Read about this thoughtful gesture on page 38.

This month we also bring you lots of sport, ranging from our own Iron Woman to ballroom dancing … See pages 39 to 45.

Happy reading!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

A bvaho
kha munwaleli


Musha sho ya vhupileli wa Afrika Tshipempe wo pembela maduchu a “annual National Gender Conference” nga Shunduthule, nuanala vha vhandu vho vha vho rambwi. Fungo kana tshiitwerwa tse tsha oho vha oho tshi khobvhelelela ndi tsha uri “u vhidziwa vhashumisani vho vhanna kha uithusa uri hu wantise vho dza vhadzamisa kha vhanna na vhudzamisa” - zwi tshi amba uri vha vhandu vhandzamisadzini vha toda ihuso lwaho vho vhashumisani ndi vhashumisa vhandu vho vhandu. Musi Maj Gen Ntiski Memela-Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management, vha tshi vula mushumo u vhandzamisa uri zwo faneli u thangeli u mishumo u vhupho ha mmbi ya vhupileli kha tiphasi lothe ndi fihela hune ha dalesa vhanna, vho do isa phudza nga u ambu uri a vholiuri urisi vhupho vha tshisadzini vha dzulele u ita mitangano yavo nga tshavo nga vhandzamisadzini vho vhandu na i todea. Vhalaani nga vhudala nga mulungana nga kha siatari 18 na 19.

Rothe ro pembela dvedha la “Casual Day” nga dzei 5 Thathamuhwe. (Casual Day ndi mishumo uva u adadza zwiililo zwa oho holefhalaholo na u toda theseleda ya u vhathusa.) Vhalaani nga zwo mmbi ya ita musi itshi thuva vhanna oho tshiikolo tsha oho holefhalilo tsha Meershof kha siatari 3. Vhena vha tshiikolo tsha dizistwana tsha Luwuyo ngiise Soshanguve oho takalela na u mangala musi vhandzamisa oho mmbi ya vhupileli oho tshi tsha daleda nga dzei 5 September. Vhalaani ga ha madalo nga kha siatari 38.

Ri ndo vha haflhu ra ni disela zwa mitambo nga vhudzhi nga uno nwedzi, u bua kha zwa musadzi a bhuvho kha lino o dzingidelaho “Iron Woman” u swika kha u danza ha “ballroom” … kha musiati 39 u swika 45.

Di phineni nga u vhala!

Nelda Pienaar
Munwaleli
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GAINING SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

Our personal journey through life provides us with many special experiences that become the building blocks of life. These experiences come to us in vastly different ways and at unpredictable times. They can be powerful emotional events or small enlightening moments.

I will never forget the days of my Basic Military Training, drill periods, antiquates, you name them. It sometimes hurts when its time for the parting of the ways after "basic training". Friends you miss, people you love and places you like the most. I met people; I have learnt different languages and cultures.

I have new friends all over the country and go places. And it is true that when you join the SA Army "you see the world". I will never forget my deployments to Ndumo Base, South African and Mozambican border (KwaZulu-Natal).

I just wish I could stay here forever; my heart fell in love with this Department. I did enjoy my days at school for a decade, but the 24 months that I am going to stay until December 2008 I will never forget. It always echoes in my mind. I wish I could go to the SA Army Combat Training Centre to meet all my friends, share stories and see their faces, but I have room for disappointment.

Potchefstroom is small but there is life, so I am inviting all the youth out there. Guys this is not about fun: the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) is tight basic life orientation that will take you to the next level.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

It is an interesting thought to imagine how many times a soldier peruses the Code of Conduct or rather how many soldiers can even cite the Code of Conduct. I raise this matter with considerable concern. A soldier should carry his Code of Conduct wherever he or she goes; it instils pride and honour. It is a guiding principle of a man and woman who lives a life spent defending a country and its people.

The Code of Conduct is an ethical canon of a soldier, not a mere rhetorical injunction articulating a restraint on the conduct of a soldier. What you do is an indication of what is going on inside you. For example, if you read too much comic material you end up becoming a comedian and no one will take you seriously. A soldier who makes an effort to read his or her Code of Conduct and the military prescripts has an easy transition to becoming a disciplined soldier. In actual fact the Code of Conduct is pocket sized and it is not a hard thing to carry around, and you can put it anywhere. It is quite disheartening to realise how many of our members do not have a Code of Conduct in their possession.

One thing is for certain: one will know what type of conduct is a direct transgression of the code.

To the 2007 Intake, think of the special experiences you have been blessed with in your life that have given you conviction and joy in your hearts. The Heavenly Father knows you all and loves you personally. As you contemplate such special experiences, do they not give you a sense of gratitude and the resolution to go forward with renewed faith and determination?

So, members of the 2007 Intake, you must learn because I have learnt that in these days of worldly intrusion into our lives, when the trials and difficulties may seem to engulf us, let us remember our own special experiences.

Let us brace up and face 2009 with pride. Let us move forward and enjoy our lives. SGT T.C. Maribe, Potchefstroom

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

The fact is you are what you read and I for one can recommend that one should read any material by prominent writers, such as Mark Gevisser or Fred Khumalo. However, if you come to think of it, the relevancy of their work to a fellow soldier can be far-fetched, therefore our common ground is the Code of Conduct. I wish to quote from the Code of Conduct: "I will obey all lawful commands and respect all superiors". Now if you subordinate yourself to this prescript, it becomes embedded inside of you. If you know by heart the above prescript and others, it will be difficult for you to sidestep the Code of Conduct because knowledge is power for as long you keep on reading.

The things that we normally take for granted are the ones that bring us down because we ignored reading at the main entrance the sign with big letters: DECLARE YOUR GOODS. Now all of a sudden I am interrogated for stealing my own laptop.

I vow not to let my Code of Conduct out of sight at any time. Capt C.G. Kganyago, DOD Log Sup Fmn
DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE SANDF

Discipline is fundamental to every being. It is the heartbeat of any defence force, without which all else comes to naught. Napoleon Bonaparte, the legendary French General, attributed his success to discipline. He famously proclaimed to his subordinates that hard work, dedication and loyalty were ingredients of the sum total of discipline. So vital is discipline that it is reasonable to argue that its anti-thesis is anarchy.

Discipline, in the context of expected behaviour in the SANDF has neither variation nor degree. It is not ambiguous. One is either disciplined or undisciplined in our field where lives could be lost because of ill discipline. Indiscipline is judged harshly, whereas discipline is invariably rewarded generously as was the case in the army of Napoleon.

There are times when I observe, very sadly, a glaring absence of discipline in the behaviour of some officers. It pains me to watch in disbelief as this is manifested in our structures. Clearly, we cannot say we have the kind of defence force we all wish to see when we still have officers who fail to observe and practise elementary military requirements. Also, we cannot say we have the kind of defence force we wish to see when we still have unscrupulous officers who for self-enrichment illegally cheat and gain undue advantage over others. Some questions that beg for answers, with a growing sense of urgency, are: Often, perhaps too often, some of our uniformed members are untraceable when they should be at a particular point during working hours. Where are they? Secondly, members disappear every Wednesday into thin air under the guise of participating in sport, when they actually do not. And then, when have Fridays and pay days surreptitiously become public holidays in the SANDF? Indeed, to be a member of the SANDF is to commit your life to serving our people and our country, and being willing and ready to pay the supreme price - "life" - in defence of our territorial integrity. It is to make a humble contribution to the lofty ideals of mankind and contribute to the course of peace and progress for all humanity. It entails solemnly declaring that you will abide by the aims and objectives of the SANDF as set out in the Constitution and other adopted policies. You are joining the organisation voluntarily and without motives of personal gain. It is a "calling".

We must continue to be driven to recruit and produce quality officers because this is where the strength of the SANDF lies. Let us make our people proud of their National Defence Force. Let us be mindful that we will be assessed by the generation waiting to be born, who will rightly ask whether we have indeed uprooted careerism, indiscipline and corruption from the SANDF. They will want to know how many of us have lived the pledge we made. Col J. Khanye, AFB Waterkloof

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The members of Air Force Base Bloemspruit celebrated International Women's Day from 10 to 13 March 2008. What a privilege it was to be surrounded by many women of all ages. For me as a junior this was a great experience. Some of these women were part of the now so well-known great Women's March to the Union Buildings - 52 years ago: Mothers and grandmothers who fought the fight for us youngsters to live a better life for all. I have the greatest respect for these strong and courageous women who took on the government of the day for women's rights. As the Free State Premier said: "It is imperative that we commit ourselves to supporting all endeavours that are aimed at empowering women and enabling their development." This occasion afforded all these women an experience to bond with one another. We realised at this exhibition where we honoured our women who achieved something in life that the empowerment of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status were essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and sustainable development in all spheres of life. I want to quote this following poem by Mariana Hanekom of the Cape Town Labour Centre:

WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE SALUTE YOU!

With your eyes you have shed tears For the children of our land. With your ears you have listened to The heartaches and pains of others With your mouths you have given Voices to those without voices. With your hands you have picked up Those who fell. With your feet you have walked to FREEDOM.

WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE HONOUR YOU!

When nights lit up with fire, you were the water When spirits were broken, you healed them When hopes diminished, you brought it back When you were needed most, you were always THERE!

F Sgt Ethel Lemmetjies and F Sgt Camelia Lemmetjies explain to a male visitor the role and functions of the SA Air Force during the International Women’s Day celebrations at the Free State Premier’s Office.

When days were dark, you were the light

HONOUR YOU!

WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA, WE RESPECT YOU! F Sgt Ethel Lemmetjies (Photo: Brandon Jansen)
**MY FIRST DEPLOYMENT**

I am so excited; it is my first deployment outside the borders of South Africa. So far we are really enjoying the Congo and it is a good experience. I am 23 years old and only one year and a couple of months in the SANDF, and have been deployed for only one and a half month in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It makes me feel so special and I do not regret anything so far, especially being an “MP”.

I believe I can be the best, as God will never take me this far only to leave me. Thousands of people are still trying to join the SANDF and those who are in the SANDF are trying to be deployed outside the borders of Mzansi (SA), but because it is not under their control they are struggling. I managed to get into the SA Army and be deployed outside the country within two years of my contract. I will make the most of my service because I am the best UN MP and SANDF MP - Wow! Pte Fikile Muchavi, 13 Provost Company, currently at DRC (Kinshasa).

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**TODAY OR TOMORROW**

To All The Soldiers at Mzansi (SA)

Demonstrate the bond you have with your family or friends through an act of love and feel the bond of loving kindness. Your life changes the moment you make new congruent and committed decisions. One way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as an adventure. Reassure a loved one of the constancy of your love and experience the endurance of loving kindness. The thing you say can dictate all experience, so let your words be sweet and caring to all around you.

**WHAT KIND OF A GC**

What kind of a good man will I be?  
What kind of a good nation will we be?  
What kind of a good continent will we be?  
What kind of good universe will we be?  
If we do not talk about what we see

---

**WOMEN’S DAY IN THE CONGO**

Far away from home does not mean that Women’s Day is not celebrated in style. On the shores of Lake Kivu are the 91 female soldiers currently deployed in and around the Goma Base in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). They celebrated Women’s Day on 9 August 2008 with members from the different units and performed various items. Some of the men even joined in the arts performance having enthusiastically observed the women doing their thing. The group then enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant and in true South African fashion some dancing followed. (Lt Col Annelize Rademeyer, Pretoria)
Pre-training in these conditions is required if we are to do more peacekeeping in Africa, specifically in the Sudan. For some time now, the SANDF has been encouraging all military training institutions to conduct swimming lessons. It is very apparent that members who are elected to deploy in areas such as Darfur must have undergone the training. The rainy season in Darfur may take one’s life or equipment. Among several African countries South Africa is making its contribution in helping the people of Darfur to achieve the long-awaited peace. It is, however, worth noting that no peace agreement has been signed in Darfur and any lack of training for bad weather conditions may lead to ambushes by the enemies of peace in Darfur.

Capt Shumani, UNAMID Force HQ Military Public Information. (Photo: Cpl Makganye, RSA Com NCO in Kutum, North Darfur, Sudan)
Celebrating the Presidential Fleet Review

The SA Navy hosted the Presidential Fleet Review on 5 September 2008 at Simon's Town in Cape Town. This event was a way of honouring President Thabo Mbeki, the Commander in Chief of the SANDF, by presenting the fleet to him for inspection to assure him that the SA Navy was prepared and ready to fulfil its constitutional mandate of...
"defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa”.

This event followed that of former President Nelson Mandela who also inspected the SA Navy Fleet on 5 April 1997. It is also seen as a culmination of more than a decade of extremely hard work by members of the SA Navy to ensure that the vessels are operational and personnel are competent and professional.

Members of the media came in large numbers to record this historic event on the SA Navy calendar where much hard work and long hours finally paid off. The media breakfast was hosted at the Job Masego wardroom where we were allocated areas on the different ships.

Journalists boarded the combat support ship, SAS DRAKENSBERG. Its length is 146.35 metres, which makes it the largest ship ever designed and built in South Africa. It was launched on 24 April 1986. The ship’s maiden voyage was from the Durban port to Simon’s Town between 1 and 3 November 1987 after which the ship was commissioned on Armistice Day, 11 November 1987, under the command of Capt N.M. Smit and Coxswain WO1 H. Abels.

Photographers were privileged to be on board with the President and other top officials on the reviewing ship, SAS PROTEA. On board SAS PROTEA the President was met by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, and the Captain of SAS PROTEA, Capt (SAN) Theo Stokes. SAS PROTEA is a hydrographic survey vessel also known as the “White Lady”. It was commissioned on 23 May 1972 under the command of Capt A. Fawthrop. SAS PROTEA is 79.25 metres long. SAS PROTEA headed south so that the Commander in Chief could see “his” fleet. As the 21-gun salute was fired three Oryx helicopters, a Boeing 707 and three maritime patrol aircraft from the SA Air Force flew low over the reviewing ship flying the SA Flag.

On return to port the President and the other distinguished guests were taken to a luncheon at the Admiralty House. During the drive through town many shop owners and pedestrians waved as the cavalcade passed by. In other venues around Simon’s Town guests were also being hosted to luncheons in honour of the Presidential Fleet Review. The other luncheon venues were at Lower North Gun Battery and on SAS DRAKENSBERG. During the luncheon at the Admiralty House gifts were exchanged in honour of the event. The catering section of Naval Base Simon’s Town under Cdr C. Scholtz produced meals and refreshments of a high standard to all these venues.

After lunch it was time for the parade; the community attended a formal parade and learners came to see their President. Impeccably dressed in their white uniforms the sailors put on a remarkable display of discipline and finery.

The Commander in Chief of the SANDF, President Mbeki, addressed the members of the media. He began by saying: “I am privileged to be part of this occasion and would like to thank the SA Navy for the excellent manner in which it has organised the Fleet.”
He praised the men and women who had left their homes to serve their country with diligence and said that all of us who constitute our country’s national defence system must always remember that our Constitution determines that “the National Defence Force is the only lawful military force in the Republic”.

President Mbeki said that the importance of an effective military capability within this regional force could not be over-estimated. For a number of reasons naval power has become increasingly important, both in the region and on the continent.

The Commander in Chief of the SANDF also talked about the arms deal and said that SANDF vessels and aircraft were acquired honestly without resort to corrupt means. “I want to assure you that the new ships you sail and the aircraft you fly, given to you by our democratic order, were obtained without resort to corrupt means.”

In closing, the President said that decisions of the national Government were informed only by the Defence Review and the imperative to build a National Defence Force that would discharge the responsibilities prescribed by our Constitution: “I am privileged to commend our new Fleet to the nation, as well as convey to all the officers, men and women who sail its ships for peace, and operate their weapons of war, the best wishes of the people of South Africa.”

Besides the many invited dignitaries and guests, 200 learners from surrounding schools were also invited to the parade. These schools included Intsebenziswano High School, Groenevlei High School, Esangweni High School, Bergvliet High School, Ocean View High School, and Zwaanswyk High School.

On his departure the President also made personal contact by going over to the learners and speaking to them, including a young boy in a wheelchair. This opportunity for the learners to see the President of the Republic of South Africa in person was a huge event. “I am so excited to see the President; I always see him on TV. He is such a nice man,” said a learner from Esangweni High School.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Commander in Chief of the SANDF, President Thabo Mbeki (middle, front) with the Navy Command Council members on board the SAS PROTEA.

SA naval ships

Participating South African naval ships for the Presidential Fleet Review were:

- **(Valour Frigates)** SAS MENDI commanded by Capt (SAN) J.J. Schutte, SAS AMATOLA commanded by Capt (SAN) M.A. Girsya, SAS SPIOENKOP commanded by Capt (SAN) C. Manig and SAS ISANDLWANA commanded by Cdr M.A. Boucher.
- **(Fleet Replenishment Vessel or Combat Support Ship)** SAS DRAKENSBERG commanded by Capt (SAN) C.J. Coetzee.
- **(Hydrographic Survey Vessel)** SAS PROTEA commanded by Capt (SAN) T. Stokes.
- **(Warrior Class Offshore Patrol Vessels)** SAS GALESHEWE commanded by Cdr G.E. Hallet and SAS ISAAC DYOBHA commanded by Cdr J.A. Mbotho.
- **(River Class Mine Hunters)** SAS UMZIMKULU commanded by Cdr K.L. Mabula and SAS UMKOMAAS commanded by Lt Cdr M. Nkomonde.
- **(Inshore Patrol Vessels)** SAS TERN commanded by Lt (SAN) M. Botha and SAS TOBIE commanded by Lt (SAN) L.P. Mokhine.
- **(Type 209 Submarines)** SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE commanded by Cdr J.P. Beukes and SAS QUEEN MODJADJI I commanded by Cdr A.W. Souma.

Our Minister held an Imbizo on career development

Rustenburg was chosen as the area in need of some military education and for setting the record straight. The Ministry’s Office hosted an Imbizo at Olympia Park Stadium in Tlhabane Township near Rustenburg on 28 August 2008. The aim of the Imbizo was to create a platform for the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, to interact with communities and inform them about career opportunities in the Department of Defence.

Schools from around the neighbourhood were temporarily interrupted as they flocked into the stadium to hear what the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) had in store for them. The Mayor of Rustenburg, Mr Matthews Wolmarans, said he appreciated the efforts of the Department and was grateful to Ms Wendy Matsemela, Member of the Defence Portfolio Committee, for organising the day. "We are dealing with national security so we need to revive the moral fibre," the Mayor of Rustenburg said.

In his opening address the Minister of Defence called for a moment of silence in memory of the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, who had passed away. He said the learners were invited to discuss issues about national security and that the SANDF did not engage offensively, but rather defended and promoted peace and stability.

He explained that part of the plan to revive the SANDF took the form of initiatives to train people that came into the National Defence Force for various career possibilities. Leading Seaman Dineo Maleka, a PRO at the Navy Office, is an exemplary person acquired through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) four years ago when she joined the SA Navy. She was able to highlight the roles of the various Services and Corps in the SANDF.

Different tents bearing the colours and logos of the various Services were erected to give learners an overview of the military. They also had a chance to interact with Minister Lekota and ask questions. To attract them to join the SANDF, Mayor Wolmarans said a regional office would be set up to handle enquiries.

Leading Seaman Dineo Maleka speaking about career possibilities in the Department of Defence at Olympia Park Stadium. Behind her on the podium, fltr: Member of the Mayoral Committee, Mr Kebareng Bogopane, the Mayor of Rustenburg, Mr Matthews Wolmarans, a Member of the Defence Portfolio Committee, Ms Wendy Matsemela, and the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.

Leading Seaman Dineo Maleka speaking about career possibilities in the Department of Defence at Olympia Park Stadium. Behind her on the podium, fltr: Member of the Mayoral Committee, Mr Kebareng Bogopane, the Mayor of Rustenburg, Mr Matthews Wolmarans, a Member of the Defence Portfolio Committee, Ms Wendy Matsemela, and the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota.
A step closer to providing quality health care to the people

Article and photos by Lt Sello Segone, Acting Editor Milmed

KwaZulu-Natal hosted the landmark ceremony between the Department of Defence (DOD) and the Department of Health. To witness the signing of the memorandum of understanding all the role players were present who saw to the success of the ceremony. The DOD was led by the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, flanked by the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, and other general officers of the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS). The delegation from the Department of Health was led by the Minister of Health, Ms Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, flanked by the MEC of Health in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Peggy Nkonyeni.

The ceremony was held at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital. This move lays the foundation for the two departments to support each other wherever possible and practicable in the provision of health care services. The agreement stipulates, among other things, that the DOD will provide health assistance wherever possible and practicable to the National Department of Health, and or the nine provincial Health Departments, as

After the signing of the memorandum of understanding, fltr: The MEC of Health in KwaZulu-Natal Health, Ms Peggy Ms Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, and the Surgeon General of the SANDF,
The Minister of Health, Ms Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, in conversation with the Warrant Officer of the SAMHS, WO1 Moses Sebone, and the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, during the hospital tour.

and when requested.

The National Department of Health will also encourage its nine provincial departments to make their facilities and specialised equipment available to the DOD for the purpose of training its members and to provide optimum health care to DOD patients.

In addition, the DOD undertakes to liaise closely with the Department of Health before and during the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament in South Africa to ensure optimal health care at the time.

In their speech to those present, both ministers emphasised the fact that the memorandum addresses the desire and determination to tackle and resolve common challenges facing both departments and assists in taking the delivery of health services to another level in line with a quest of a better life (and health) for all.

Minister Tshabalala-Msimang also pointed out that “one of the most pressing challenges that continues to hamper the delivery of public health care in this country is directly related to limited physical infrastructure, which inevitably makes it difficult and at times impossible to access health care. Once it comes into effect the memorandum will help alleviate this particular challenge, as we will now be able to refer our patients to military hospitals, while taking responsibility for the associated costs”.

As the rest of the world already knows, in less than two years from now, South Africa will host one of the greatest sporting events on the globe, the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament and such a collaboration therefore takes health-care preparedness for this event to a higher level.

While thousands of guests arrive in 2010, they will do so with a full sense of confidence that their health-care needs will be properly taken care of, even in the event of disasters, something nobody has control over.

The collaboration also allows for greater access not only to hospitals, but to ambulance services as well.
In playing its part in bilateral relations with foreign countries for international co-operation, the SANDF hosted the Chief of Defence Staff of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lt Gen Dieudonné Kayembe, and his entourage on their visit in South Africa from 4 to 10 August 2008. His visit included a tour of SANDF institutions.

In his presentation Col J.J. Huysamen, Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Military Strategy, depicted the SANDF as being defensive and non-threatening in exercising its powers and functions.

The constitutional imperatives are enhancing and maintaining comprehensive defence capability: to provide self-defence in accordance with international law against any external aggression, which endangers the stability of South Africa.

Promoting peace, stability and security in the region and on the continent: to provide external deployment to enhance security in support of the decisions of the National Executive.

Supporting the people of South Africa: Supporting the population of South Africa by means of operations other than war during periods when the responsible government departments do not have the capacity to do so.

In a presentation aimed at briefing the DRC delegation on transformation management, human rights and equity practices in the DOD, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management, said: “Transformation within the DOD refers to the continuous improvement that would result in the achievement of a cohesive, mission-ready force with a shared value system, the building of an efficient, just, caring and better performing organisation as well as the creation of a disciplined, credible, legitimate and representative force”.

The Chief of Defence Staff of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lt Gen Dieudonné Kayembe (left), and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, at Defence Headquarters during the Congolese delegation’s visit.
The eighteenth Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) was officially opened at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria on 15 July 2008. As the opening guest speaker Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi represented the Chief of the SANDF.

The programme was attended by senior officers and directors and ran for about 21 weeks. Lt Gen Mgwebi said that the ENSP focused on national security issues in the subregional and continental contexts.

Foreign delegates attending the programme included Brig Gen C.T. Kafuwa from Malawi, Brig Gen F.W. Mugisha from Uganda, Capt H.E. Frey from Argentina, Col E.K. Mosweu from Botswana, Col M. Ben Rhouma from Tunisia and Col T. Lubaya from Zambia.

One of the aims of the ENSP was to increase non-SANDF participation to 50% of the programme members, hence the attendance of Dir S.O. Ndlovu from the SAPS, Mr K.K. Maitisa from Armscor, Mr M.A. Plaatjies from the Department of Correctional Services, Ms G. Khulong from the Department of Health, Ms M.C. Mostilanyane from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms D.K. Khosa from the Department of Land Affairs and Mr M.H. Mabitsela from SITA.

“I urge all of you to make the maximum use of the opportunity to interact with your colleagues and lecturers,” he said. He added that they should grasp the opportunity to improve themselves and their organisations. 

Non-SANDF members who attend the ENSP. Fltr: Ms Danisa Khosa (Dept Land Affairs), Mr Kith Maitisa (Armscor), Ms Grace Khulong (Dept of Health), Mr Hope Mabitsela (SITA), Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi (C HR), Mr Moses Plaatjies (Dept Correctional Services), Mr Paul Choshi (Dept of Public Works), Mr Rogers Hlatshwayo (Dept Social Development), Dir Sithembiso Ndlovu (SAPS), Ms Kgomotso Motsilenyane (Justice and Constitutional).
women empowerment through participation

By Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra and Bibi Morgets
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Department of Defence (DOD) celebrated the fourth annual Gender Conference in style when influential women opened the doors for men to attend. The theme for the conference was “soliciting male colleagues’ support in pursuit of gender equality” - thus women do need the support of their male partners.

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management hosted this National DOD Gender Conference, whose objectives were to facilitate dialogue and build consensus on how to mainstream gender in the provision management, and employment of SANDF forces as directed by national legislation, including the regional and international instruments ratified by the Government.

In her opening remarks Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, Chief Directorate Transformation Management, pointed out to the delegates that cognisance must be taken of the fact that military institutions around the world are predominately male, and as a result it would be pointless for women in Defence to continue meeting on their own, as their male colleagues’ support was critical in this regard.

Maj Gen Memela-Motumi spoke about the essential task of her Chief Directorate in the SANDF and said that its main mandate was to see to it that the interests of women were recognised and that fairness was achieved. “These women are also subject to the same training as men, so women should be granted the same opportunities regardless of gender.”

Armed with feedback since the DOD Gender Mainstreaming Plan of Action 2007, R Adm (JG) Laura Jansen van Vuuren, Director Equity Strategic Direction, said: “For gender equity to be achieved, active involvement is demanded of all members of the DOD”. She said that the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, had issued an instruction that the recruitment of women be increased to 40%, starting from 2009.

In putting the discussions into perspective and summarising the conference, Dr Monica Juma, Executive Director Research, emphasised the importance of the role of male colleagues within and beyond the DOD by saying it was crucial to the advancement of gender equality. She also pointed out that consensus was reached that gender mainstreaming was grounded in the constitutional imperative and DOD policy. Dr Juma further encouraged the participants and the DOD personnel to regard the National DOD Gender Conference as a valuable tool for facilitating reflection, monitoring progress, addressing
dent that women do play a major role in any society, and therefore should be given leadership role opportunities.

Talking to the delegates during the conference the overall impression was that women in Defence were ready to play their role with regard to policy, planning and implementation to ensure peace and prepare for defensive combat. The National Defence Force had excellent policies to promote gender equity. All musternings are open to women, but now is the time to fully walk the talk, as may be seen from the example of Seaman Ntombizanele Georginah Mohloboli (20), who has completed a General Submarine Knowledge introductory course, which developed her as a specialised submariner. "As one of five women that were given the opportunity to be trained as submariners it was a great privilege and honour. It shows that the future of women within the SANDF is bright and going very far," she said.

The envisaged outcome of these deliberations is the development of a comprehensive Plan of Action to embrace an organisational culture to promote gender equality in the provision, management and employment of SANDF Forces. The concept of gender mainstreaming was emphasised as a valuable tool for facilitating paradigm shifts.

In closing the conference, the late Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, praised women of courage and vision and said it was an honour to have been invited to such an insightful festival of ideas. He also stated that progressive and democratic societies were judged by the status of their women, and that it was unacceptable for women not to be represented in all decision-making structures of the DOD.

As an organisation, we must perhaps note the significance of the Secretary for Defence’s passing away during Women’s Month. We also acknowledge his contributions to the advancement of women within the Department. May his soul rest in peace.
France decorates two SA Navy Admirals

Article and photo by F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

In presenting these decorations, France salutes your successful efforts in employing your talents in the service of your country in a constructive spirit.” These words were uttered by the Ambassador of France, Mr Denis Pietton, during the occasion of the medal ceremony held at the French Embassy in Pretoria on 24 June 2008.

These medals were awarded on behalf of the President of France by the French Ambassador to the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, and R Adm (JG) Alan Green, Director Military Strategy and Planning Division. These highest French decorations, the Legion d’Honneur and the Ordre National du Mérite, were in appreciation for the work done by V Adm Mudimu and R Adm (JG) Green within the SA Armed Forces, in the SA Navy and in the Joint Staff Division. Their contribution in reconstructing the SA Armed Forces has assisted these forces to adapt to the modern world and has led South Africa to a new position in the world.

In his response the Chief of the SA Navy mentioned that he was aware that such a medal was awarded to naval personnel that had distinguished themselves by contributing towards professional and exceptional services in their navies. He said that he was proud to accept the medal on behalf of the SA Navy and cherished the good relations and co-operation that existed between the two navies. V Adm (JG) Green also thanked the Government of France for the medal he received.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, addresses the guests after receiving his medal, while the French Ambassador, Mr Denis Pietton, and R Adm (JG) Alan Green, Director Military Strategy and Planning Division, listen attentively.
The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, awarded Private Victor Pheko with his Good Service Medal Bronze for ten years’ service.

By Pte Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoele

We came here today to show our unreserved appreciation and admiration of our fellow comrades-in-arms who just received medals,” said the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, after presenting 82 medals to recipients at the SA Army Headquarters in Pretoria on 3 September 2008.

During the parade many medals were awarded, including the Southern Cross Decoration, the African Union Medal and the Unitas Medal. The ceremony was well received among the various guests who came to support their loved ones who were given recognition for their contribution to the SANDF.

The Chief of the SA Army said the success of any military organisation depended on order and discipline, therefore the parade symbolised discipline. He cited the wearing of medals and insignia on uniforms in the profession of arms as an old tradition.

After waiting for almost eighteen years, Private Victor Pheko was finally awarded his Good Service Medal Bronze for ten years’ service. A chef at the Kiepersol Officers’ Mess in Pretoria, he had already received two medals before being badly injured when he was deployed at the Swaziland border. The medals were the General Service Medal and the Unitas Medal.

“The SA Army is honoured to bestow upon you these medals as the most tangible way of showing our appreciation and acknowledgement of your service to the people,” said Lt Gen Shoke.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, presents medals to the well deserved recipients at SA Army Headquarters.
today I woke up in a place that said to me, be who you want to be. I woke up in a place where it’s the size of your heart that counts, not your fists. A place where my brother is my brother, no matter what. And I realised that I’m stronger than I was yesterday," International Marketing Council, South Africa-Alive with Possibility.

The DOD and the SANDF present themselves as offering an opportunity and being a guiding pillar of the youth development programmes of our Government and are ready to rise to the challenges of sustainable youth development to meet the needs of our present generation of young people so that the world of tomorrow can blossom to witness and see the benefits of our efforts.

A passing-out parade for the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members was held at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane in Pretoria on 20 August 2008. The parade was held to celebrate the allegiance of young men and women who stood the test of time by successfully completing the Senior Personnel Clerk Human Resource Service During Operation Course.

Maj Gen Aaron Ntshinga, GOC Training Command, said in his address that the social, political and economic landscape was characterised by a continuous and urgent necessity for change and soldiers in a modern defence force need to respond promptly under any circumstances. “Our country needs a committed and well-disciplined force that will contribute to the service of our nation, the continent and the world at large,” said Maj Gen Ntshinga.

The top achievers who excelled on the course earned the respect of their peers and were rewarded for their hard work, discipline and courage.
SAMHS provides medical support to Department of Health

A shortage of doctors and health care professionals in hospitals in Mpumalanga during February 2008 triggered an urgent call from the Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang. She requested the Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, to provide doctors and health practitioners from the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) for deployment in the area.

The SAMHS Director External Operations, Brig Gen Petrus Oelofse, assisted SAMHS in determining the needs of the Rob Ferreira and Witbank Hospitals. Col Hendrik Coetzee, the Head of Internal Operations at Mobile Military Health Formation, with members of SAMHS Reserve visited both hospitals. After the backlog was noted and the situation at these hospitals was investigated, Director Military Health Reserve Force, Brig Gen Kop Matseke, acquired surgeons from the Reserve Force for these hospitals. On 18 April 2008 the Chief Surgeon of 1 Military Hospital, Col Herman du Plessis, in collaboration with Col Coetzee, visited both hospitals and discussed in depth the administration and exact requirements of the surgery.

This followed the ministerial employment of the SANDF in terms of section 18 of the Defence Act (Act 42 of 2002) which was authorised on 25 April 2008 and in terms of which SAMHS was to assist the Department of Health in dealing with the shortage of health care workers in Mpumalanga Province until 31 October 2008. Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga and Area Military Health Unit Gauteng deployed three operational emergency care practitioners from each unit to Witbank Hospital and Rob Ferreira Hospital respectively on 24 April 2008. They provided emergency care in casualty departments, which released doctors to other departments. In Rob Ferreira Hospital the Chief Surgeon of 1 Military Hospital, deployed with three surgeons, Lt Col Lawrence Baloyi, Maj Joann Vosloo and Maj Pierre van Rooyen, for pre-operation and selection of patients, operations on the second day and post-operation visits on the third day. This health care support was carried out in July 2008 in the Rob Ferreira Hospital. The same principle and protocol were applied by Lt Col Thula Ngcobo (a surgeon) in Witbank Hospital.

Planning for the deployment of more surgeons in these Provincial Hospitals appears to be essential.
Security forces hone their skills for 2010

While the FIFA Soccer World Cup 2010 kept everyone talking about preparations, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) had to come up with a strategic concept to support this event.

A joint effort in this regard was identified as crucial to the success of the mission. The involvement of all government departments playing their different roles in the plan was acknowledged as an effective way to support such major events hosted by South Africa.

The SANDF in conjunction with other government departments provided the force structure for Exercises SHIELD 1 and 2. The integrated inter-departmental command, control, coordination and operational procedures were established for Operation KGWELE. Through the previous exercises that were conducted in 2007 and 2008 in Cape Town Exercise GREENPOINT helped prepare for the FIFA Soccer World Cup 2010.

Although the SANDF is involved in the security plan, the SA Police Service (SAPS) still plays the leading role in internal security issues.

Exercise SHIELD 1, a joint exercise between the SAPS, SANDF, government departments and the other security agencies, was held at Port Elizabeth Stadium over the period 27 July to 3 August 2008.

The exercise was aimed at honing our security-related skills to ensure a safe environment in host cities during major events, including securing the national airspace, the maritime environment and other strategic key points.

The amalgamation of the different forces was tested through the use of the Conflict Simulation Centre, which provided valuable experience and information when simulation exercises were conducted during Exercise SHIELD 1. This centre assisted in dissimilar scenarios, which
MICSSA 2009 is on track

Article and photo by Bertus Celliers of Armscor

The fourth Military Information and Communication Symposium of South Africa (MICSSA) 2009 was officially launched at the State Information and Technology Agency (SITA) in Erasmuskloof, Pretoria on 20 August 2008.

MICSSA is a joint effort of Armscor, the Command and Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division and SITA and is unique on the South African events calendar since it embodies both information and communication technologies. MICSSA 2009 will again provide an ideal opportunity to promote new technologies, trends and policy issues under the theme of Interoperability: Big Words or an Achievable Goal?

South Africa will see the need for interoperability rise to prominence with events such as the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament where the SA National Defence Force will support the SA Police Service in various ways. In this regard MICSSA 2009 is well timed to explore some of the core issues that must be resolved to make interoperability an achievable goal.

MICSSA 2009 will be hosted from 20 to 23 July 2009 at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria. Please visit the website: www.micssa.co.za for more information.
Brigadier General John Del Monte, Vice-Chairperson of the Reserve Force Council, has been awarded the Order of the Golden Lion in the Knights Class by Bulgaria.

By Lt Col Godfrey Giles,
Communications: Reserve Force Council

Brigadier General John Del Monte, Vice-Chairperson of the Reserve Force Council (RFC), has been honoured by Bulgaria by being awarded the Order of the Golden Lion in the Knights Class.

He was informed on 6 November 2007 by the President of the Association of the Bulgarian Army (ABA) as follows: "Please be informed that this is the highest award of our Association, which in fact includes Reserve Officers willing to play a more active role in the formation of the foreign policy and relations of our union (UROS) and in internal and international business as well".

The ABA, which falls under the UROS, is a statutory body in Bulgaria dealing with Reserves and Veterans of that country. The President of Bulgaria is both the Patron and of course the Commander in Chief, as well as the first recipient of this new Order. The owner of this Order is the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

This award is a new award of the "new" Republic of Bulgaria and is awarded as a limited edition to only 43 persons, of which the first 33 have been approved. Two lower classes of the Order exist, namely "The Golden Palm" class and "The Silver Palm" class, in which the criteria for awarding these orders are less restrictive.

In the case of Brig Gen Del Monte, the award was made for the development of good and friendly relations between the Bulgarian and South African Reserves and the introduction of South African Reserve officers to their Bulgarian counterparts, with the aim of improving friendship, future relations, opportunities and co-operation.

Brig Gen Del Monte travelled to Sofia in February 2008 to receive his award. A photo and article appeared in the local press the next day.

He has been building friendly relations with the Bulgarian officers in Wesseling/Brussels since Viterbo in 2006 during the Confederation Interallied Officers Reserve (CIOR) congresses and again in Riga (2007) where he used his free time to explain the status and workings of the RFC and "advised" Gen Zlatan Stoykov and Lt Col Konstantin Popov on the RFC and Reserve matters. Generally it was non-strategic, non-political low-level stuff, but they thought otherwise.

The award was presented to him by Lt Gen Topolev, the Chairperson of UROS, while Lt Col Popov, the President of the ABA, presented him with the centenary commemoration medallion of the ABA.

Other recipients of the Order included Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Mr Simeon Nikolov, Minister of Defence, Mr Spas Panchev, Deputy Minister of Defence, General Zlatan Stoykov, Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, Lt Col Konstantin Popov, President of the ABA, and Maj Gen Georgi Karachenov, 1st Vice President of the ABA, to name but a few.

Brig Gen Del Monte also briefly met with the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Spas Panchev, who presented him with a beautiful illustrated book on Bulgaria.

During his visit Brig Gen Del Monte, who also represented the SA Legion of Military Veterans, was afforded the opportunity to interact with the various veterans’ associations of Bulgaria, namely the Royal Association of Military Veterans, the Bulgarian Military Veterans’ Association and the Bulgarian Association of Military Invalids. Plaques were exchanged as a gesture of friendship and solidarity.

Our congratulations to Brig Gen Del Monte and we thank him for all his efforts in representing the RFC at various CIOR congresses and meetings. We salute you, Sir!
Going beyond and above the call of duty

By Bibi Morgets
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

he Department of Defence Headquarters (DOD HQ) Unit held its Medal Parade at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria on 29 August 2008. This event was in honour of deserving uniformed members who dedicated their lives to serving the country, particularly the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The medals that were awarded were in the following categories: the IPhrothiya yeSiliva (PS) Silver Protea, the Military Merit Medal, the General Service Medal, the Tshumelo Ikatelaho, the Unitas Medal, the South Africa Service Medal, the Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service, the Good Service Medal (Gold), Good Service Medal (Silver), Bar to the Medalje Vir Troue Diens (20 Years) and Good Service Medal (Bronze).

“One of the highlights of the parade was to award the Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service to the two longest serving members. The medal recognises SANDF members who have distinguished themselves by loyal and faithful service of 40 years. Maj Gen Roy Andersen and Col Karel van der Linde, you have indeed come a long way, but the passage of time has not dampened your spirit and courage in serving the people of South Africa,” said Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff.

Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg expressed his gratitude to Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves, saying: "Through your tireless efforts the deployment of the Reserves under the One Force Concept, both internally and externally, has been significantly successful.”

Our photographer, Sgt Elias Mahuma, was among the recipients of the Good Service Medal (Bronze) and thus raised SA Soldier’s banner.

In closing, Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg said: "I would like to express the SANDF’s appreciation to the families of our members who support their husbands, wives, sons and daughters of the SANDF. Your understanding of the nature of the soldiering career gives our members the necessary motivation to carry out their duties with great zeal and enthusiasm. For this we shall forever be in your debt."

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff, presents Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of Defence Reserves, with the Medal for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff, congratulates Sgt Elias Mahuma, a photographer of SA Soldier, on receiving his Good Service Medal (Bronze).
Departmental induction and reorientation programme for PSAP

By Ms K. Swart, Assistant Director PSAP ETD

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development, Public Service Act Personnel: Education, Training and Development (CD HRD PSAP: ETD) presented a Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme to PSAP on salary levels 8 to 12 in August 2008.

It is a government imperative that all Public Service employees must undergo induction and reorientation. Induction and reorientation are divided into three categories, namely:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Public Service: Massified Induction.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Department of Defence (DOD): Departmental Induction.
- Knowledge and understanding of a specific job: Functional and job related induction.

It is the wish of the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen D.M. Mgwebi, that induction and reorientation programmes be presented to all PSAP in the DOD, irrespective of years of service. Hence, it is compulsory for all employees on salary levels 8 to 12, to attend a centralised departmental induction and reorientation programme, with first priority given to new entrants to the DOD.

CD HRD (PSAP ETD) and identified ETD subject matter experts from the Services and Divisions compiled a departmental induction and reorientation programme for PSAP on salary levels 8 to 12 in the DOD.

Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme

Twenty-eight employees, including three uniformed members from diverse working backgrounds, attended the Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme presented at the Ladies’ Mess AFB Waterkloof in Pretoria over the period 18 to 21 August 2008.

The objectives of the programme were:

- To assist in the creation of employer and employee expectations (the right type of employee for the DOD, so as to fit the culture, values and DOD objectives).
- To reduce anxiety, uncertainty and possible turnover (the initial job decision of the employee is positively confirmed and experienced).
- To create a positive image of the DOD as a desirable employer, which leads to increased loyalty towards the DOD - a high standard of professional ethics is promoted and maintained.
- To encourage socialisation, and create a feeling of belonging, as well as acceptance by colleagues.
- To initiate a developmental process and encourage productive input.
- To promote efficient, economic and effective use of resources.

Feedback from participants

All participants were ecstatic about being afforded the opportunity to attend a professionally designed programme that allowed networking and provided information of great value. Ms I. Deats, a Control Personnel Officer from SAMHS, indicated that although she has been in the DOD for more than ten years, she has gained new and relevant information that has increased her knowledge and understanding of the DOD. Ms T.R. Hlongwane from Defence Policy,
Strategy and Planning indicated that as a new employee in the DOD she had been given the opportunity not only to network between Services and Divisions, but said that the topics presented were of great value and were relevant to her need to gain an overview of the core business of the DOD.

**Way forward**

Senior managers on salary levels 13 and above. CD HRD (PSAP ETD) will ensure that PSAP entering the DOD as senior managers receive a briefing and a “CD” with the content of the Departmental Induction Programme.

PSAP on salary levels 8 - 12. CD HRD (PSAP ETD) will annually coordinate and present two departmental induction and reorientation programmes in Pretoria to target new and existing employees on salary levels 8 - 12, who have not previously received Departmental induction.

PSAP on salary levels 2 - 7. CD HRD (PSAP ETD) will develop and make available to PSAP on salary levels 2 - 7 learning material on Departmental induction and reorientation. It is envisaged that this will take place via the Intranet and the distribution of a “DVD” in the DOD. A special intervention will be required for the delivery of this material.

Monitoring and evaluation. Participation in Departmental induction and reorientation will be included in the Annual Report on compliance with the Skills Development Act as it affects ETD of PSAP.

Maj Gen M.K. Mokoena, CD HRD, was delighted to state that the tremendous effort put in by presenters from Services and Divisions reflected high professional ethics and was of a high standard. Continuous collaboration will contribute to the successful development and delivery of a Departmental Induction Programme of high quality.

* For more information about the programme contact Ms K. Swart at tel no: (012) 355 6107.
DOD strives for communication excellence

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma and Capt Michelle Cronjé, SO2 Com Plan: DCC
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) presented the fourth Operational Communication Workshop to Corporate Communication functionaries in the Department of Defence (DOD) in Pretoria in July 2008. Defence Corporate Communication Strategy, Policy and Planning took the lead in facilitating the workshop, with Capt Michelle Cronjé as the course leader and co-ordinator.

The aim in presenting the workshop was to empower communication functionaries with deployable corporate communication capabilities and skills to render excellent communication support during operations and to continue extensive communication with civil society and strategic stakeholders of the DOD. It was also aimed at creating awareness of the value of effective marketing of the DOD and defining the DOD service delivery credibility, planning visits and events and supporting DOD communication campaigns, handling the media, crisis communication, protocol and the goodwill parcel projects. Communication experts from all Services and Divisions shared their Operational Communication knowledge in the field of operations other than war with the students.

As communication functionaries we are driven by a common journey towards communication excellence in shaping and influencing the image of the DOD and the perceptions of our external publics about the DOD, both domestically and internationally. All components of the DOD must reflect public diplomacy and the art of selling the DOD with one voice, carrying the same DOD theme, and providing the same message.

Students were astounded at the presentation of the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, WO1 Johan Scheepers, and WO1 Johan Pretorius, Joint Operational HQ Warrant Officer, who presented the Goodwill Parcel Project of the SANDF. Most students were communication functionaries at Unit and Formation level and they alluded to the fact that they never knew about the project. The aim of the Goodwill Parcel Project is to sponsor with a gift those soldiers deployed on peacekeeping missions or on duty in Ops offices over the festive period. Furthermore, families of deployed soldiers on peacekeeping missions over the festive season receive a food parcel. This great initiative, initially only sponsored by the warrant officers of the SANDF, has grown phenomenally since 2000 and now comprises the DOD and private businesses that contribute. It is encouraging to know that the DOD has a tangible way of caring for those deployed over the Christmas period and it means a lot to the soldiers and their families who are recipients of the gifts.

Media training was once again the highlight of the workshop and students...
Transformation of Corporate Communication in the DOD

By Col Marthie Visser, SSO Corp Com Strat, Pol & Plan
Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

An Information Seminar was held in Pretoria in July 2008 and attended by communication functionaries from all Services and Divisions. The seminar formed part of the Work Study on Transformation of Corporate Communication (Corp Com) in the DOD.

Defence Corporate Communication in the DOD has over the years been faced with a continuous challenge to retain a pool of trained and skilled Corporate Communication functionaries. This is the direct result of a lack of a dedicated career dispensation that can ensure optimal recruitment, placement, training and career management within the Corp Com environment.

As a result of this situation a Task Team was established to investigate a Career Dispensation for Corp Com in the DOD. As this investigation progressed, it became apparent that apart from the afore-mentioned it was also necessary to develop a policy, doctrine and business strategy for Corp Com. The broad aim of the Information Seminar was to gain information on national and international trends impacting on the business of Corp Com in the Department and to benchmark against best practices.

Subject matter specialists were invited to share their knowledge and experience with attendees of the seminar. The guest speakers included military analysts, members from other government departments, the academic world, the media and government parastatals.

The topics presented by guest speakers were the following: Concepts of Corp Com, Public Relations and Marketing, Internal Communication, Reputation Management and Stakeholder Engagement, New Media, Prevailing Trends in the Media, Government Communication, Public Confidence in Institutions, the Reputation of the DOD during Peace Support Operations, The Image of the SANDF since 1994, Public Information in United Nations’ Peacekeeping Operations and Corp Com as a Management Function in the South African Police Service.

Many conclusions and lessons were drawn from the seminar, which will be incorporated in the Corp Com Work Study processes to fulfill the vision for DOD Corp Com, viz to “Strive for Communication Excellence.”

Prof Ronel Rensburg from the University of Pretoria, a guest speaker, focused on Internal Communication and Reputation Management at the Information Seminar. Front row, fltr: Col Lenie Rohrbeck, Acting PA of the Head of Communication (HOC), Mr Sphiwe Dlamini, HOC, and Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, Director Ministerial Liaison.
The SA Army Engineer Formation presented their Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Warrant Officers (WO) Competition at the School of Engineers from 28 to 31 July 2008.

The event is traditionally concluded with a bridge-building competition between all the units of the Formation. This year the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) team of 2 Field Engineer Regiment in Bethlehem won with a time of 12 minutes. The two teams from 19 Field Engineer Regiment, the Reserve Unit in Durban, came second and third.

The annual recreational day was presented on 28 July. Sports played included volleyball, soccer, golf and netball. The first Inter-unit Choir Competition was also presented that same evening. The School of Engineers Choir came out tops, with the choirs of 35 Engineer Support Regiment and 1 Construction Regiment in the second and third places respectively.

The much anticipated "Unique Engineer Corps Codes" took place on 30 July under a shroud of secrecy, as no one barr the organisers knew what to expect. Each of the five units competing entered a team comprising at least two women and a rank grouping across the spectrum.

The first event was a 5 km orienta- tion course in which five waypoints and a compass bearing had to be reached using a GPS and a compass to collect information. The School of Engineers crossed the finish line in the fastest time. This was followed by a boat race in which the teams had to assemble and inflate the boats using a handpump, fit the outboard motor, connect the fuel line and race across a dam to collect equipment (to be used in the next event) and race back to where they started. The team from the Engineer Formation HQ came first.

To end the day's events a hook and line event together with a power tool combination took place. This entailed hoisting a piece of equipment from a table over a 4 m gap, using bomb disposal rigging and techniques. Once the equipment was safely on the other side a diesel generator had to be started, power cables connected and an electric chainsaw had to be used to cut two poles of different lengths into twelve equal pieces. Once again the School of Engineers triumphed.

After all was concluded the standings for the "Unique Engineer Corps Codes" were as follows: the School of Engineers triumphed with the Engineer Formation HQ (Sappers Heights) in the second place and 2 Field Engineer Regiment in the third.

In his speech at the Sports Day the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen Luvuyo Nobanda, indicated that he believed that winning was a habit that should be created. "You do not only pray for it, but you also execute (do) it," he said.

Mobility is the key - nine teams participated in the bridge-building competition that was won by the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) team from 2 Field Engineer Regiment.
The military reached out to Meerhof School

By Capt Patricia van Zyl
Photo: Maj Johannes Adams

In celebrating Casual Day the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Support Formation Headquarters, Maj Gen Robert Mandita, decided that his staff should pay the Meerhof School for physically challenged children a visit. (The school is situated in Meerhof, which is a residential area on the shores of the Hartebeespoort Dam.)

The school has already been in existence for many years; it was first a hospital for terminally sick children. However, the Department of Education later decided that the children could not sit and wait to die, but must be kept busy, so it was decided to provide them with education. Later it was changed to the school we know today.

The school consists of 250 learners with different needs that range from learning difficulties to children that are physically challenged. 86 of these children are transported daily to and from the town of Brits, which is approximately 40 km away. The school has 26 teachers who have been selected on the basis of the special needs of these learners. The school is currently struggling financially because subsidies to the school were cut.

The Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer, Capt Patricia van Zyl, organised the visit. The Vice-principal, Mr Kobus van der Merwe, welcomed the members of the SA Army Support Formation Headquarters to the school where they enjoyed tea and snacks. During the visit Col Neville January investigated the needs of the school. After the welcoming we went to see how the learners participated in sporting activities. Col January then spoke to all the learners to inform them of the reason for the visit. The learners invited their guests to join them for a concert they had organised.

The SA Army Support Formation Headquarters made a financial donation, while the members of the Headquarters donated food and clothing. The day was a learning experience for the members of the SA Army Support Formation Headquarters.
Manage your personal finances

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Ms Madie Haynes

Imagine what it would be like if you could not understand your personal finances or even be unable to read and write and knew very little about the world around you.

To meet the social and economic needs of the 21st century, the DOD Centre for Competence Development Training presented a Plan and Manage Personal Finances Core Competence Module and Money Skills Course to members of the DOD Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) in Pretoria on 12 and 13 August 2008.

The aim of the course was to present essential personal financial skills, how to compile a personal budget, saving and investments, the danger of debts and how to manage them. All of which is of pivotal importance considering our current economic climate. Through such training the Department empowers its employees' personal budget skills.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Ms Hanlie van Zyl, Training Officer at the DOD Centre for Competence Development Training, said that as part of the DOD Training Command they had created a friendly learning environment that accommodated everyone, including members from disadvantaged areas and also those with disabilities. "We make an effort to create education excellence and to use our career development opportunities available in the DOD working environments in order to reap benefits that far outweigh underdevelopment," said Ms Van Zyl.

Mr Fitzgerald Matlala, Senior Training Officer at the DOD Centre for Competence Development Training, told SA Soldier that this centre offered members of the DOD a diverse range of skills to enable them to grow and lead active lives. "We help members to make sense of their personal matters. Our programmes are in line with new initiatives of the Department of Education to teach and empower disadvantaged people who never had the opportunity to go to school. We help them to achieve a purpose driven life," concluded Mr Matlala.

* For more information on the programme contact Ms Madie Haynes at tel no: (012) 392 2635 or Mr Victor Phantshang at tel no: (012) 392 2613.

Attendees of the personal and managing finance course.
Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga, under the command of Col S.J. Phalafala, participated in the annual Lowveld Show recently held in Nelspruit.

The three objectives of the unit were to advertise the unit and the professional services provided by the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS), to promote the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) among learners who visited the show and at the same time to forge bonds between the unit and the private organisations and other government organisations in and around Nelspruit.

The Lowveld Show held special open days for schools in and around Nelspruit. Many learners visited the stalls, whose main focus was on career development.

Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga had three tents at the show. In all three of them pamphlets that concentrated on professional careers in the SAMHS were distributed to learners.

In the first tent the Dental Department displayed the dental profession and also explained to the visitors why it was important to look after one’s teeth. The Dental Department launched competitions for children to win hampers with dental products.

In the second tent the Nursing/Medical Department and the Environmental Health and Pest Control Department were displayed. The Nursing Department had a display with a slide show and the Pest Control Department displayed different pest control products. The Environmental Health Department had a poster display. The third tent had an exhibit of the profession of Operational Emergency Care Practitioners. The "Ops Medics" displayed their operations medical bags and also gave demonstrations on how to resuscitate a patient.

The unit also had a Mfézi ambulance at the show. This was a huge attraction for the learners, who were eager to climb into the ambulance.

This was the first year that Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga participated in the show, which was held from 30 July to 2 August 2008. It was a huge success and the unit plans to participate again in the future.

The display of the Environmental Health and Pest Control Department.

Candidate Officer Tlou explains CPR to the children in the tent of the Operational Emergency Care Practitioners.

Learners visiting the exhibition of Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga at the Lowveld Show.
Air Force Museum honours women in the Air Force

By Capt Leon Steyn
Photos: WO2 Deon Rowles

A new display and exhibition opened on 8 August 2008 at the Air Force Museum Swartkop in Pretoria honouring women that served in the SA Air Force after World War II.

The end of World War II led to the disbandment of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the last women's camp at Valhalla being closed on 1 April 1947. The majority of the women returned to civilian life, but a nucleus of former members were accommodated in the Women's Auxiliary Defence Corps and utilised in the Air Force.

The Women's Defence Corps (WDC) was established on 28 November 1947. Regulations, however, made severe distinctions between members of the WDC and male members of the Permanent Force, of which the most demeaning regulation was one concerning seniority - "Precedence: Male members of the Force take precedence over those of the WDC of the same rank, irrespective of the date of appointment or promotion to the rank". By early 1949 the Air Force had four officers and thirty other ranks in the WDC. On 9 May 1949 the decision was made to cease recruiting women for the WDC Permanent Force.

This was the beginning of a gradual phasing out of women in the Permanent Force. However, the WDC remained for nearly two decades longer and was only disbanded on 1 May 1971, when women were permitted to join the Permanent Force. The Civil Defence College in George was established in 1970 to train young women. An organisation had to be created that would be "manned" by Permanent Force women.

Seven women were recruited for this purpose in 1970, the most senior being
Cmdt Hilda Botha (SA Army). No provision was made at this stage for the use of women anywhere other than in the Permanent Force. The first intake consisted of 128 single young women who started their training at the Civil Defence College (later known as the SA Army Women’s College) on 1 February 1971.

About a third of these women indicated that they would have liked joining the Permanent Force and the College become the recruiting source for the South African Defence Force.

In 1973 three candidate officers (Adie Horn, Nancy Jennings and Annette Eloff) and five airmen (L. Muir, H.C.A. Heunis, H.P.J. Barnard, E.E. Swanepoel and H.C. Breytenbach) were recruited to the SA Air Force. All had completed their initial training at the SA Army Women’s College at George.

On 3 October 1972 the Minister of Defence decided that women could be recruited for direct entry into the Services, but that they would first be required to undergo the particular Service’s basic training. On 19 January 1974 the first direct intake of 33 Air Force women into the Permanent Force started their basic training at AFB Waterkloof. A number of the initial intake continued to serve in the Air Force for many years and rose to senior positions.

Subsequent yearly intakes yielded a similar number of members that rose through the ranks. Basic or regimental training for women was eventually transferred from Waterkloof to the SA Air Force Gymnasium in Valhalla in 1976. Women from these subsequent intakes were utilised effectively in the various SA Air Force musterings, eg Command and Control (Air Traffic Controllers, Mission Controllers), Personnel and Finance functionaries, Supply and Support, etc. Women selected to become air hostesses aboard SA Air Force VIP transport aircraft were for many years the only women that could then be identified as part of an aircrew, albeit in a non-combat role.

In the late 1980’s consideration was given to the training of women as pilots. Socio-political pressure in most western nations brought about the introduction of equal opportunities for women in the military and the armed forces moved cautiously forward and began training women for combat roles.

In order to adhere to the Equal Opportunity policy, the Air Force embarked on a programme to train women aircrew members. The first woman flight engineer commenced her flying training in 1995, followed by the recruiting of the first group of women for training as SA Air Force pilots in the same year. The first five women to qualify as pilots in the SA Air Force received their wings at Central Flying School at AFB Langebaanweg on 11 December 1997. They were Lisl Bennett, Renét Venter, Kerryn Swemmer, Tanya Livingstone and Velma Scholz.

The Air Force Museum is keen to expand the exhibit. Women that served during the era are welcome to visit and view the exhibition and to consider donating items of interest or historical value to the museum at Swartkop. Members can contact the Research Officer, Capt Leon Steyn, at tel no: (012) 351 2282/2290 for more information.
Defence Inspectorate cares for orphanage children

By Pte Itumeleng Makhubela

A s a way of uplifting communities and restoring human dignity, the Defence Inspectorate Division had embarked on a tour through Soshanguve where they organised a joyful Casual Day for children at Luvuyo Orphanage Home on 5 September 2008. The pleasant atmosphere gave the children a feeling of being loved and cared for.

The Deputy Director Internal Audit at Defence Inspectorate Division, Ms Makgotla Nkuna, maintained that her passion for helping and caring for people, in particular children, prompted her to undertake such an initiative of reaching out. They identified the homeless centre through Child-Welfare after processing a list to select the most deserving.

Their members made contributions of various items and also funded some of the treats. Clothes and food were also donated. The Founder of Luvuyo Orphanage Home, Ms Lindiwe Nokwali, said she was able to establish a homeless centre with the assistance of the church and the community.

There are currently 22 children living in the centre. Ms Nokwali said the orphanage was also a "drop-in centre" where some other children also came after school for assistance with their homework. She is a child-minder for young mothers who are still attending school and has managed to organise sponsors for the day-to-day running of the centre.

The Christ Centre Church, through a company called Octane and the Jewish Union Ladies, occasionally offers to buy things and make donations to augment the centre's funds as far as they can. After being commended for doing great work Ms Nokwali said: "We want land so that we can be able to upgrade it and provide storage facilities".

Despite their need for a solid family structure, the children seemed to be well groomed and gave a remarkable performance of plays and dances. A social worker was also available to liaise with community members and give advice on adoption for those who were interested in doing so.
Meet our own
Iron Woman

By Chaplain Riaan Labuschagne, Prince Alfred’s Guard
Photo courtesy Marathon Photos

Rifleman Fundiswa Mbande is the first, and to date the only, African woman in the world to have finished an Ironman Triathlon. The 24-year-old Rifleman, who did not know how to swim or cycle just two years ago, successfully competed in one of the world’s most arduous races.

Ironman South Africa is an annual triathlon famous for its gruelling length and race conditions. Competitors have to run a full marathon of 42.2 km, cycle for 180 km and swim 3.8 km in the open sea.

“The discipline I have learned from soldiering played a great part in helping me to reach such a state of physical and mental fitness,” said Rfn Mbande.

Currently she is a member of Prince Alfred’s Guard (PAG), Army Conventional Reserves (ACR) Unit in Port Elizabeth. She is also a driver (Samil 50, Casspir and Mamba), a Battalion Signaller and one of the first women members to qualify as an Air Assault soldier.

Asked why she joined the SANDF, she replied: “I was encouraged by a member of the SA Army and a family friend to join the SANDF, because he knew I could not resist a challenge.”

Her opportunity to join the SANDF came in 2004 when SANDF members had a recruitment drive in Peddie, a small rural town in the Eastern Cape where she was living with her widowed mother. A few months later she left for Port Elizabeth as a Military Skills Development System (MSDS) volunteer.

When she was not accepted as a recruit for the Permanent Force she did not give up her eagerness to join the military. She applied to Col G. Lombard, the Officer Commanding PAG, to become a Reserve Force member. After her acceptance into PAG in 2005 she completed her Basic Military Training at Group 6 in Port Elizabeth.

In 2006 she made the selection for the Air Assault Course in Grahamstown. A prerequisite for this course was that troops had to be able to swim, which she and several other recruits could not do. Col Lombard solicited the help of a South African Ironman official, Mr Paul Wolf, to improve the troops’ swimming techniques after their completion of the Basic Water Orientation Course. By the end of 2006 Rfn Mbande had successfully completed the Air Assault Course.

She met Mr Wolf again at the unit later that year when he encouraged her and four other members of PAG to enter the MTN Corporate Triathlon in January 2007. The event consisted of a 380 m swim, a 4.2 km run and an 18 km cycling race.

Rifleman Fundiswa Mbande with her colleagues after completing the Ironman Triathlon.

>> on page 43
SANDF Tennis team excels in Botswana

Article and photo by
Lt Col F.H. Joseph

The Botswana Defence Force hosted the first-ever CISM ESALO Tennis Championship during the week of 6 to 12 July 2008 at the Botswana University in Gaborone. It was the first time SANDF tennis players participated in a CISM ESALO Tennis Championship, and with great success.

The tennis tournament consisted of four participating countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Each country was playing against all the other teams to determine an overall winner.

Each country had to select two of their best players to participate in a play-off to determine a best overall male and female player. These players were grouped into two sections with a knock-out system in play to determine the overall winner. Players from the same country were in a different category and there was a draw to determine who got to play whom, and this applied to both male and female teams.

The SANDF Tennis team was supported by the Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (DPTSR), Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe. The Chief of Mission SANDF was Capt Kena Lobelo. The team had the privilege of meeting the High Commissioner of South Africa to Botswana, Mr Dikgang Moopeloa. He and the Military Adviser, Col Debbie Khumalo, even arranged a small welcoming function for the players at the Embassy. Col Khumalo congratulated the players on their achievements during the week on the Friday before they departed for South Africa.

The week was a huge success, with the SANDF winning all the trophies. South Africa won with 15 points. Botswana was the runner-up with 9 points, while Lesotho came third with 8 points. Zimbabwe ended fourth with 4 points.

The ladies’ singles was won by Lt Col Harriet Joseph from Joint Operational Division (SANDF) and the men’s singles was won by 2 Lt Leon Wiltshire of the SA Air Force HQ.

The Botswana Defence Force arranged for a cultural day at a cultural village for the players to witness a customary court and it was an eye-opener for most of the players, taking into consideration that the old people were still in charge of all activities happening in the village. The arrangements was done very professionally and the Botswana Defence Force was congratulated on the way they organised the week.

The motto of CISM: “Friendship through Sport”, was visible for the whole week among players from the different countries and gifts were exchanged on the last day of the tournament.
he screeching mynah birds in the picturesque suburb of Durban North were somewhat surprised recently to have their cacophony interrupted by the shrill whistles of officials at the National Masters Hockey Championships.

This annual event sees more than 650 hockey players over the age of 35 (men) and over 30 (women) participating in provincial colours in 9 pools (6 men and 3 women) of six teams each. This year a team from Zimbabwe also joined the championships. As has become usual, the only non-provincial team was the men’s side, proudly displaying SANDF colours.

This year the team consisted of eight SA Navy players, three SA Air Force members and a member from the SA Military Health Service. Two former serving members made up the balance of the 14-man squad.

Making the SANDF team even more unique is the fact that the only time they play together is at these championships, as five of the players are from the Cape area, while the other nine are from the Gauteng region.

The SANDF team had mixed fortunes this year, with three draws and two losses. It was pleasing to be able to hold the strong Southern Gauteng team to a draw on the Astroturf and also to be able to master the difficult grass field conditions no longer familiar to those playing league hockey.

The SANDF team is grateful to its main sponsor this year, Germanischer Lloyd, which was able to ensure a well turned out and supported team. Support was also forthcoming from Sigma Logistic Solutions, ATE, BAE Systems, the Institute for Maritime Technology, Reutech Communications and Siemens.

The SANDF Masters team gratefully acknowledges the support of these institutions and looks forward to next year’s tournament at White River, Mpumalanga.
With an unbelievable sense of purpose, an unmistakable passion for her role and a solid sense of what constitutes a remarkable woman, WO1 Jean Ann Schäfer is undoubtedly a role model for women, young and old.

At the age of 65 she is defying her age by proving to everyone that age is nothing but a number. She has always led a very active lifestyle. At sixteen she was a member of the Cape Peninsula U/21 Women’s Hockey Team and remained such for two years. In 1963 she was selected for her province, Albany, and played provincial hockey for seven years. It was during this time that she was selected to represent her province to play against two international teams, namely those of the Netherlands and Australia.

WO1 Jean Ann Schäfer dancing the night away with her dance partner Brian Schmidt (7 times undefeated SA Champion).

This year during the Republic Dance Teacher’s Association Bronze Medal Exam she was awarded bronze medals in both dancing categories with a mark of “Highly Commended” and a “Highly Commended Plus” mark for the waltz and foxtrot. Our eyes will be set on her forthcoming silver medal exam with her new partner Rodney Brown. (He is the landscape architect who designed the gardens at Defence Headquarters.) WO1 Schäfer says: “Ballroom dancing lets a woman feel like a princess and a man like a Latin lover.”

Her military career commenced on 1 August in 1981. She was stationed at 101 Battalion ONDANGWA. Because of her passion for her work of serving her “Tiffies” the title of “Ma Van Die TDK” was bestowed on her by a Technical Service Corps (TSC) Senior Staff Officer, Col Roelie Janse van Rensburg. As Staff Sergeant she was awarded the Chief of the SA Defence Force Commendation Medal, now known as the Military Merit Medal. On the award of her Pro Patria Medal she joined the MOTH at Field Marshal Shellhole and was eventually appointed as their first woman Shellhole Sergeant Major - quite an achievement in a predominantly male Shellhole.

Since her retirement on 31 October 2003 she has been serving as a Reserve Force member and is presently serving at Defence Reserves in the capacity of Warrant Officer Policy and Planning. All this goes to show that if you believe in something, anything is possible - what a phenomenal woman who defies her age with every stride.
members from Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape, South-East Cape, West Coast and Western Cape participated in the SANDF Regional Championships that were played in Port Elizabeth from 25 July to 2 August.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SANDF Bowls Association (SANDFBA) was held on 25 July. At this meeting the members placed their faith in the Committee as they re-elected Lt Col A. Beukes as President, Lt S. Carroll as Vice-President, WO1 D. Hamer as Secretary and WO1 F. Schutte as Treasurer. The remaining members of the committee were also largely re-elected. During the AGM the members also accepted the new Constitution of the SANDFBA.

Western Cape showed that they were now a force to be reckoned with in bowls by winning the rinks, pairs, team singles, open singles and overall competitions. The only other region to win a competition was Limpopo, which won the trips competition.

During the awards ceremony a number of other awards, eg the best dressed team and administrator of the year were also presented. Following a selection process, headed by selectors from Eastern Province Bowls, an SANDF team, consisting of eight players and a manager, was selected to participate against a team consisting of Eastern Province provincial bowls players. The selectors proved to be very competent as the SANDF team was able to beat their Eastern Province opponents. While the members of the SANDF team were competing against Eastern Province a mini-competition between selected teams from the four Services was also being played. The SA Navy won the Inter-Services’ Competition.

Bowls is not only a recognised international sport, with international competitions, such as the Bowls World Cup and the Tri-Nations (South Africa, England and Australia) but is a very diverse sport in that not only the physically abled persons of all ages and genders are able to participate, but also physically handicapped persons, eg the blind and those in wheelchairs, etc are also able to participate in the sport.

* Any SANDF member interested in playing bowls can contact WO1 David Hamer at tel no: (012) 315 0081 or cell no: 079 508 3711.
Championing chess

By WO1 Phil Garbett

A keen corps of contestents, in what is probably the world’s most popular sport, gathered at Pretoria on 13 August 2008 to champion their King of Games.

This selected group of chess players from the Department of Defence participated in the annual individual closed chess championships of the Pretoria Military Chess Club (PMMC) at the SA Army Headquarters in Pretoria.

After six rounds of the fast-moving Swiss tournament the clear winner and gold medallist was Col Johan Coetzer, a military legal practitioner with the Chief Defence Legal Services.

The runner-up and silver medallist was Lt Col Sean Stratford, a member of the Directing Staff at the SA National Defence War College, and Maj Frank Stemmer, a former champion of the competition, took up the third position and was awarded the bronze medal. All participants received a certificate of participation.

As there are many chess players in the Department all potential champs, chumps alike, are invited to contact the PMMC Liaison Official, WO1 Phil Garbett, at tel no: (012) 312 1152 for more information.

Sports day for our MSDS members

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: F Sgt David Nomthongwana

Various schools of the Department of Defence joined forces to organise a sports day at the SA National Defence Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane on 16 July 2008. This Military Skills Development System (MSDS) Inter Unit Sports Day was specifically organised for MSDS members attending the School of Catering, the Military Police School, the Personnel Services School and the School of Signals. This sports day was held to maintain the morale of the MSDS learners undergoing training at these schools.

Staff Sergeant Stella Ngwenya from the Military Police School said the concept of the Inter Unit Games came about when the schools convened to discuss how they could facilitate a continuous sports programme. She said this was also a way of getting MSDS members to enjoy being part of the SANDF.

The SA Army Foundation provided sponsorship by donating a thousand rands, while ABSA bank (Valhalla branch) provided squeeze bottles.

“Organising the event was challenging because it was done ad hoc and classes had to be stopped and block programmes amended,” said S Sgt Ngwenya. Organising equipment from different units was also a challenge.

The MSDS members at the Military Police School were the overall winners of the day. They won most of the sporting codes (soccer, netball, touch rugby and relay run) except for the volleyball that was won by the MSDS members at Personnel Services School.

An exciting moment during touch rugby.
The road to success is long and hard, but through commitment and dedication, believe me, there is nothing that succeeds like success,” said Capt Josh Cloete, the Basic Sport Administration Course Co-ordinator and Facilitator, speaking to SA Soldier during the Sports Day held by the course members at the Military Health Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane.

During the event, as a journalist, I was made to realise that the Basic Sport Administration Course marked the commencement of an important sporting venture in the Department of Defence and in fact a course like this was long overdue and members from various Services, Divisions and units were grateful and proud to be part of the course, as it will equip them with skills in administering sport in their respective units. As part of Joint Physical Training, Sport and Recreation (JPTSR) Training Centre to promote a healthy military community the course is open to everybody, young and old.

“The four-week long course is presented by JPTSR Training Centre and comprises three components, namely theory, a written exam, portfolio of evidence and the practical execution of a sports day. The course covers physical training instructors, life water orientation, life guards, sport generic coaching, sports marketing, events planning, sports committees and sports logistics and other sport related activities,” said Capt Cloete.

SA Soldier and participants experienced a fantastic day of fun and learning, with something for everyone, both young and old. It was a well-rounded day with sports competitions in various categories and SAFI Thaba Tshwane deserves compliments on sponsoring the event with beverages. All the units of the Military Health Training Formation provided teams to participate in tug-of-war and potted sports and teams were registered with their pseudonyms.

The overall winners in the potted sports were the Highlanders with the Falcons in the second place and the Stallions third. The Tigers won the tug-of-war with the Highlanders as runners-up.

For more information about the Basic Sport Administration Course contact Capt Josh Cloete at tel no: (012) 674 6263 or cell no: 074 143 4963.
Moral values as our rich heritage

By Chaplain (Dr) R.M. Ngwanya

The Deputy President of South Africa, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, marked a historic cross-over to equality during the adoption of the charter of positive values of the Moral Regeneration Movement. Thousands attended this momentous occasion held at the Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria on 29 July 2008. The number of people who attended showed the people’s commitment to moral principles.

This - our rich heritage

Moral values are our rich heritage that any household, a society, a community, a country, or a church must uphold. It is through such moral values that our society was built. Societal protection in terms of dignity, commitment and dedicated individuals should be a unified effort. This unified struggle seeks to affirm healing and recognition. When an individual is aware of these ground rules, then commitment to the spirit of UBUNTU will be realised.

Young adults and the rich heritage of values

A community with moral values gets positive acknowledgement. Individual values should be matched with national values. Young people should differentiate values. There are general categories of values, but listed below are the major four.

Knowledge-based values" - I value philosophy because it gives me great insight into life. Aesthetic-based values" - I prefer classical music because it sounds much better than country music. Instrumental values" - I must have a job because it allows me to achieve certain extrinsic goals. Moral values" - I believe it is wrong to lie because lying shows disrespect for other people. The latter involves both a moral judgment and a moral rule. This is important. "I believe it is wrong to lie" and this is a moral judgment. To support this judgment, there should be a reason, "because lying shows disrespect for other people".

A moral value refers to how one should act (be honest, self-disciplined) while other values refer to what one wants to accomplish in life (a lot of money, fame, a family, friendships, peace in the country). Because an individual cannot "have it all" or "be all things", priorities must be set and choices made. Setting priorities often leads to a conflict of values. You may want to be successful in your career, but you may also want a more relaxing lifestyle and more time to spend with friends and family. Here, the value of success may be in conflict with the value of family. Stop reading for a moment, think about it and then write down an important value con- flict you are experiencing in your life right now. Some examples of moral values are integrity, respect, caring, justice, virtue, and openness.

Young people should respect the ethical principle, which is above the moral rule. A moral rule is specific in that it will guide one’s actions. It tells one what to do in a specific situation. A moral rule does not tell one anything about why; instead it applies it to a specific situation. The moral rules are often the outcome of our religion, social norms, politics or culture.

Ethical principles, on the other hand, tell one how to decide when faced with competing moral rules, norms, and values, and these types of principles are found in normative ethical theories. An ethical principle is much more general than a moral rule, so that it can be used in many different situations to help decide which rule to act on in a specific situation.

Being a moral person is more than following accepted codes of conduct, whether business, religious, political, or simply holding a belief in the importance of ethics. It requires one to know how to make good moral decisions by using ethical standards and critical thinking and being aware of the implications of one’s decisions. Because moral values are our rich heritage, young people should acquire the ability to evaluate ambiguous and incomplete information and have the intellectual skills to implement their moral decisions.

Morality has a price, as we must sometimes choose between what we want our nation to be and what we ourselves desire. Sometimes the right to do as one desires as an individual might not necessarily be the right thing to do. Therefore, the youth as the young lions of the nation must be on guard. Although our society is multicultural and multi-religious with many moral value systems, this does not mean fitting into someone else’s value systems, but identifying some commonalities.

In conclusion the message of moral values, as a rich heritage, is to get South Africans to instil African pride in our children. As the President said: "I am an African." The pride of being an African should be within us.

Let us therefore reconcile so that we heal each other. The strength of character of our people is not just about doing good, it involves hospitality, respect and humility, which is part of our rich heritage.
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TOLL-FREE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE

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<td>Child Line</td>
<td>080 005 5555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Help Line</td>
<td>080 001 2332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Stop</td>
<td>086 001 0111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Gender-Based Violence</td>
<td>080 015 0150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batho Pele Gateway Call Centre</td>
<td>1020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are being abused, or know of someone who needs help, don’t look away – get help.
What could you do with an extra R5 000, R10 000 or even R20 000 pm?

Looking for a second income, but just don't know where to start?

We have a fantastic investment and business opportunity for you.

MAKE MONEY PART-TIME
Investment & Business Opportunity

The long-term performance of the JSE has been outstanding. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index has provided an annual return of 22.5% over the past 30 years doubling (on average) every 4 years. CityPress “Money & Investing” - 2007

Investing in the Wealth Creator Subscription Plan from as little as R225 per month, allows you to hold shares in an empowerment investment company, which can take advantage of BEE share deals such as SASOL. There is no contractual term and you can sell some or all of your shares at any time.

We give you everything you need to get started - You Choose!

1. **Option 1: Investment Opportunity Starter Pack (R99)**
   - Investment Pack including DVD, Wealth Booklet, Business Manual, Folder & Postage
   - R100 cash back on sign-up

2. **Option 2: Investment Business Opportunity Starter Pack (R249)**
   - We sign-up your 1st member for you within 3 months or R250 cash back

We've made it easy for you!

**TO SECURE**
Deposit R99 or R249 before the end of November 2008

**Bank:** FNB
**Branch Code:** 261550
**Account No:** 62155351358
**Acc Name:** Forexlab
**Reference:** Your Name

**FOR DELIVERY**
SMS 0828242148 or
**E-mail** forexlab@icinetwork.net
**Name**
**Postal Address**
**Cell no**
**Date of deposit**

**No contractual obligations!**
**Cancel at any time without losing your investment!**

**Stratequity**
**ICI**
**DSA**
**RSA**
**Forexlab**

**Testimonials**

“ICI changed my life because I earn what I have never earned in my life.”
Elizabeth Mahlangu

“As someone who has been working, I realised that earned income will not give me financial independence, and when I saw ICI I was very excited and took it with both hands.”
Mos Maja

“When I joined ICI I was not working for 18 years. I was totally dependant on the family, but now with ICI I'm totally financially independent. I’m driving now my C220 Mercedes Benz and my kids are in the private school.”
Pauline Cardoso

“When I first saw this business opportunity I realised I didn’t have to wait until 60 to retire. With my share portfolio and my ICI business, much sooner will my money work for me.”
Aliza Beukes

“I started with ICI because I wanted to earn passive income. Within 3 months I was buying shares through the commission money which I was earning. This is an exiting opportunity. My department of the month is 12000; I only know 20 of my department the rest I don’t even know them.”
Mike Tshishongha

“Through network marketing anything is possible, now I’ve just bought myself a new Mercedes Benz A Class.”
Emelda Mahlangu

“Luckily I was introduced to ICI and my whole life changed.”
Pieter Pretorius