In memory of the late Secretary for Defence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Editor’s desk</td>
<td>From the Editor’s desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Letters to the Editor</td>
<td>Letters to the Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>News from abroad</td>
<td>The Secretary for Defence redeployed to a higher order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>News from abroad</td>
<td>SA soldiers are messengers of peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>News from abroad</td>
<td>For faith in the service of humanity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>OP CURRICULUM farewell parade</td>
<td>OP CURRICULUM farewell parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gunners rededicate symbol of supreme sacrifice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Minister approves new ranks for Warrant Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Festival of military brass bands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 minutes with Mr Mthobisi Zondi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>A prime example of women success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of positive values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign study visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>First woman submariner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>A day in a soldier’s life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Squadron to the rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Air Force infuses life into Durban Air Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Masters of the land battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Medical Battalion tackles disaster crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>ESALO Netball Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>Comrades Marathon up-run 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td>Badminton soaring to great heights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**POSTAL ADDRESS**
SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

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

**EDITORIAL BOARD**
Mr S. Dlamini (Chairperson)
Brig Gen K.D. Mangope
Col S.P. Zeeman
Cpln S. Vava
Ms N. Pienaar
Lt Col M.E. Dlali
Maj J.V. du Toit
Cdr P. Tshabalala
Ms J. Render
Lt S.E. Segone
Mr L.R.M. Netshirimbe (Secretary)

**EDITORIAL STAFF**
Editor: Ms Nelda Pienaar
Assistant Editor: Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Editorial Staff: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana, Sgt Elias Mahuma, L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Text Editor: Mr Eugene Muller

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

**Translation Consultant:**
Directorate Language Services

**Photo Processing:**
5 ASU Photo Section

**Distribution:**
Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: 012 355 6341

**Layout & Design:**
Mr Werner v/d Westhuizen

2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).
2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).
Above: Two Agusta A-109 helicopters (SA Air Force) approaching to land at the Durban Air Show. (Photo: WO2 Cristo Crous)

SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER does not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

COPYRIGHT: No article or picture in this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

FRONT COVER: SA Soldier dedicates its front cover as a tribute to the late Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela. Read more about his memorial service and funeral on pages 8 and 9. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
We start this edition on a sombre note. The Department of Defence has lost one of its principals - the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela. He tragically passed away on 24 August 2008. Please read about his memorial service and funeral on pages 8 and 9.

To the family of the deceased, may God continue to strengthen you in this time of great need in your lives. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

We also have to say goodbye to our senior journalist, Ms Nomonde Mahwai (previously Vuthela). She got married, resigned and moved to Polokwane. We wish her luck in her new endeavours.

On a lighter note, history was created in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in June 2008 when the SA Air Force Band took part in an international festival of military brass bands. Read all about the festival on pages 18 and 19. Also take a look on page 47 at some of the heart-warming letters received from Russian learners after watching our SA Air Force Band performing.

The Department of Defence hosted a two-day women’s visit to Lohatlha (SA Army Combat Training Centre). This earned respect for the women in uniform who have dedicated their lives to working in such a male dominated organisation. Read all about a day in a soldier’s life on pages 26 and 27.

… Now sit back and indulge in this Spring edition packed with a bouquet of informative articles to awaken your imagination.

Remember to embrace and celebrate Heritage Day!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

From the
Editor's desk

We start this edition on a sombre note. Die Department van Verdediging het een van sy leiers verloof - die Sekretaris van Verdediging, mnr January Masilela. Hy het tragies gesterf op 24 Augustus 2008. Daar is meer inligting omtrent sy gedenkdiens en begrafnis op bladsye 8 en 9.

Aan die familie van die oorledene, mag God julle versterk in hierdie tyd van groot beproeving in julle lewens. Julle is in ons gedagtes en gebede.

Ons moet ook ons senior joernalis, me Nomonde Mahwai (voorheen Vuthela) groet. Sy het getrou, waarna sy bedank en na Polokwane verhuis het. Ons wens haar alle voorspoed in haar nuwe lewensfase toe.

Op ’n ligter noot, geskiedenis is in Junie 2008 in St Petersburg, Rusland, gemaak toe die SA Lugmag Orkes aan ’n internasionale fees van militêre blaasorkeste deelgeneem het. Lees meer oor die musiekfees op bladsye 18 en 19. Kyk ook gerus op bladsy 47 na sommige van die aangrypende briefies wat van die Russiese leerders ontvang is nadat hulle die SA Lugmag Orkes se vertoning gesien het.

Die Department van Verdediging was die gasheer van ’n tweedagse besoek van vroue aan Lohatlha (SA Leër Gevegsopleidingsentrum). Die besoek het bevestig dat vroue in uniform wat hul lewens daaraan wry om in so ’n manlike gedomineerde organisasie te werk, respek verdien. Lees alles omtrent ’n dag in ’n soldaat se lewe op bladsye 26 en 27.

… Sit nou terug en geniet hierdie Lente-uitgawe vol insiggewende artikels om jou verbeelding aan te wakker.

Onthou om Erfenisdag te geniet en te vier!

Nelda Pienaar
Redaktrise
QUALITY, LOW KM VEHICLES!

Special discount to all
SANDF MEMBERS & SUPPORT STAFF!
proof of membership is required / terms & conditions apply

AUTO PEDIGREE, the largest used vehicle dealer in the country, offers you:
- Over 3,000 cars and bakkies to choose from
- FSH and guaranteed kilometers on most vehicles
- Quick and easy in-house finance and insurance arranged
- Top prices paid for trade-ins
- An unconditional 7-day exchange plan
- Optional 2-year / 40 000km warranty
- 24h medical emergency, roadside, travel and legal assistance

Visit any Auto Pedigree branch today

AUTO PEDIGREE - You deserve a great deal!
HE WAS NOT FROM MY LAND OF BIRTH

I lived next to this person I did not know
I could only tell he was not from my land of birth
He spoke a language I did not understand with his family
He looked humble and peaceful towards strangers
But more especially he seemed to have love and respect for his family
He played, danced and sang with his two beautiful children in their backyard
He seemed too careless about what people said
I had a certain trust in him
Although I did not know anything about his affair,
I can only say I saw him fix cars
At night when the lights where still on at his house. I knew he was not at home yet
When the kids started to make a certain noise of excitement.
I knew their dad was home at last
And a few minutes later the lights would switch off
and they slept peacefully
I lived next to him for many years
And all was fine between us
Until the day my land woke up to a day of hatred and inhumanity
This night his family waited all night for him to come back home
His children waited in curiosity, to have their usual excitement before they went to bed
I also waited for the lights to go off, but this day was not to be

Then I heard he was murdered
For not being from my land of birth
For speaking a different language with his family
But no one knew
He danced, sang and played with his two beautiful daughters
He fixed cars; he loved and respected strangers
I stayed next to him and his family for many years
And all was fine between us
Although we never talked, he seemed to be a noble person
The lights at his house are still on
His children are still waiting for him to come back home.

L Cpl J.K. Masakale, Area Military Health Unit Northern Cape

THE SANDF IS A NATIONAL ASSET OF SA

The SANDF is a national asset of South Africa. We created this national defence force 14 years ago, when we integrated Statutory and Non-statutory Forces into a single, united and professional defence force. We instituted the President of the country as its Commander-in-Chief. As a country and as a nation, we expect the SANDF to defend the sovereignty of the country to enhance stability by participating in peace support operations on the African continent and to support the people of South Africa. Currently, in practice, the Department of Defence is used as an important implementation arm of the government’s foreign policy.

It is a fact that what is expected from the SANDF in terms of fundamental responsibilities allocated by our government, and what is being provided in monetary terms to the SANDF, namely 1,2% allocation of Gross Domestic Products (GDP), is becoming impossible to execute. Something has to give in, whether it be the well-being and safety of the soldiers, obsolete or dysfunctional equipment, deteriorating facilities, or losing much needed skills.

It is imperative that urgent consideration should be given to re-review the SANDF budget allocation. The allocation of 1,2% of GDP, which compares to the lowest international benchmark of comparative countries, should migrate to 1,4% of GDP as soon as possible, and then be phased in to 1,7% of GDP over the next three years. In addition, the Strategic Defence Packages should be retained as a baseline in the budget.

Only then will we create a proud SANDF, capable of executing what government and our country are expecting of them.

Dr Gerhard Koornhof

SANDF WOMAN

She’s strong
She’s beautiful like grass
It always grows back abundantly
No matter how badly she has been treated
She delivers good fruit with every spoken word
And no insects can destroy it
She stands firm and brave
No amount of storm can destroy her

She’s like pure fountain water
She stays clean and bright
She’s the pillar of strength
The pride of Africa
This woman is
You …
Woman of the SANDF
Pte Maropeng Perzeviniah
Thobakgale, 13 PRO COY

THE SANDF IS A NATIONAL ASSET OF SA

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@mail.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.

Winning letter

Dr Gerhard Koornhof

SA SOLDIER • SEPTEMBER 2008
My experience was fun, interesting, enjoyable and loving. I went to the South African National Defence Force. I followed the Editor of SA Soldier magazine. It was a truly inspiring day. Nelda is the Editor and runs a very successful magazine. I learned there was more to editing than checking articles and layout. You need to start at the bottom, be a journalist and gain field experience before you can edit and be in the office.

You need to hunt down stories and search through more than 20 articles before choosing the perfect ones to be published. The Editor also has to know what sort of readers she has and print apt material for her readers. My experience was excellent and I now know you have to work hard to get to the top. At the end of the day I was tired and realised the work out there was tough and only the best could make it.

You need to work hard and still thrive in the real world. My career choice was right and I’d love to be an Editor by the age of 34 years. I heard a good quote: ‘The pen is your tool, use it wisely’. I love this career and wouldn’t mind hard work and the determination needed to get you to the top. I grew up knowing that I needed discipline and to follow the rules. The Department of Defence was a good choice and I don’t mind working hard. Katli Moloko, Sagewood School (Grade 9), Midrand

* On Take a Girl Child to Work (29 May 2008) Katlego (Katli) Moloko was the guest of SA Soldier for the day. In only one day Katli acquired knowledge about the style of the magazine and the military culture. She is a very pleasant person who portrays a positive attitude. Katli is very keen to become an Editor. She has the necessary self-confidence, passion and drive to achieve just that. You go girl! - Ed.

I salute you women of the nation, both the soldiers and the civilians. You gave birth to my Colonel (Col Visagie) and to all my superiors from Generals to Lance Corporals. The world was not the same without you; even God noticed that the world was not complete without women.

I am a recruit. I completed my 3 months of military basic training. As for you women, your basic training is for 9 months and more or less three years to teach me how to eat, crawl and walk at the same time. You are there to show me everything that is happening in my entire life and give direction if I lose my way.

Women, you are the directors of our lives. My mother is a shepherd and a protector. I was crying all night. She was suffering with me all night long, walking up and down around our shack. She breastfed me, my eyes filled with tears when my stomach was empty in the middle of the night. My mother would wake up and prepare appetising food for me. I would smile trying to show my mother how happy I was with her caring and support; my mother would smile back and give me a kiss on my cheek. This is the only way I know how to salute and compliment all women who have put their hands to raising you and me. Rfn M.M. Mapea,

*PROUD INFANTEEER*

It’s always spectacular and never boring
Infantry perform with glitz and coring
Instructors are proud and loud cheering from the crowd
Members in action received hard work injection
And those of you who might not know
Infantry did steal that very same show

With my heart never weary
Because it’s with Infantry
Always proud to say out loud
And my head never in the cloud
For all of those whose ears are close
And for those of you who do not want to know
Infantry even steal your show

This poem is short and not long
I decided to write, not sing a song
Infantry stand tall and strong
Do what you do to your utmost best
Never forget that you are not above the rest
Once again for those who don’t know
Infantry is the best, we don’t want your show.

*Cpl J.C.M. Goliath, Defence Foreign Relations*
The Secretary for Defence redeployed to a higher order

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma and Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

I am the grandchild of the warrior men and women that Hintsa and Sekhukhune led, the patriots that Cetshwayo and Mphephu took to battle, the soldiers that Moshoeshoe and Ngungunyane taught never to dishonour the cause of freedom," said President Thabo Mbeki.

Sunday morning, 24 August 2008, the nation learnt with great shock and sadness of the sudden passing of South Africa’s Secretary for Defence, Mr January Boy Masilela. The Department of Defence, family, friends and close associates from across the political spectrum mourned the falling of a warrior who had passed away under tragic circumstances following a motor vehicle accident on the N4 Highway near Bronkhorstspruit in Mpumalanga. Our Secretary for Defence’s death has robbed the nation of a humble servant of the people.

On Thursday, 28 August 2008, the DOD held a memorial service to bid farewell to its Accounting Officer and to salute this eminent son of the soil at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall. Many speakers maintained that Mr Masilela was a man of integrity and virtue who provided much needed civilian oversight and leadership to the DOD and the SANDF.

Through this article on your last send-off, I insist on one last final conversation with you, Sir. Family, relatives, childhood friends you grew up with in Mhluzi in Middelburg, your home you so dearly loved, and close associates you worked with during your term as the member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Local Government and MEC for the Department of Agriculture in Mpumalanga and as the Secretary for Defence, have attested to the fact that South Africa has lost one of its greatest sons. They described you as one who loved life, a friend to the earth who instilled the culture of togetherness. They all acknowledged your selflessness and celebrated the gentle and humorous person you were.

A portrait of you was placed on a tripod stand with lit candles in the hope that the flames would brighten your way and help you find good direction to a higher calling among the stars that light the sky. The value of a man should be seen in what he gives rather than in what he receives. The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, with whom you worked, testified about how great and wonderful you were in leading a life that exemplified brilliance and one that inspired adoration and emulation. The Chief Director Human Resources Strategic Direction and Policy, Dr Mary Ledwaba, described how inspiring you were around those working with you and that you went to great lengths to create a path for defence for years to come.

Reverend Frank Chikane from the Office of the Presidency said the following in connection with your loss: "You knew the plight of the South African masses and were always forthright in understanding the
revolution and the transformation of our society”.

At your funeral service at the West Park Cemetery on Sunday, 31 August, Maj Gen Vusi Sindane, who had known you for years as a friend and comrade, grieved for your lost life and recounted the days and times you were both in exile in the bush of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and Guinea Bissau. You sacrificed your teen years for the noble cause and the beauty of mankind.

Mathews Phosa praised you and said that you did everything that patriots were expected to do for their country and that you had blossomed through the ranks of the ANC and Umkhonto We Sizwe, knowing that the results of your actions could be the ultimate sacrifice of your best possession, life itself.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, said that you were a soldier at heart, willing to engage in many debates on defence and non-defence matters to ensure that we deepen and entrench our democracy. You may have departed, but your work and memory shall forever live with us.

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, with whom you worked closely as his principal policy adviser, said that you joined the Department in 1999 and served his office with loyalty and dedication until your untimely death. He affirmed that you were of the generation that stood the test of time.

Obituary

We have never been cold in your shadow because we had your sunlight on our faces. It might go unnoticed, but we have your love in our hearts. Mr January Boy Masilela was born on 1 January 1955 in Mhluzi Township in Middelburg, Mpumalanga. Upon completing his primary education he proceeded to Sozama Secondary School for his Senior Secondary Certificate. In 1975, in his early twenties, as a result of the burning desire to fight injustice, he became active in politics and went into exile. He received his military training in Angola while in exile as an MK cadre. His route into exile took him to countries such as Mozambique, Swaziland, the Soviet Union, the then German Democratic Republic, Uganda, the Sudan and Cuba.

He was a Commissar (Deputy Commander) in the Umkhonto We Sizwe Headquarters in Angola and Chairman of the Regional Political Military Council in Botswana. While in exile between 1982 and 1984 he furthered his studies and obtained a Senior Diploma in Social Sciences from the Moscow Institute of Social Sciences. Upon returning home he enrolled with the University of Pretoria for a Senior Management Programme in 2003. In 2006 to 2007 he enrolled with the University of Witwatersrand Graduate School of Public and Development Management and obtained a Certificate in the Senior Executive Defence and Security Management Course.

Colonel (Rev) Monwabisi Jamangile leading the bearers, while members of the National Ceremonial Guard present arms during the last send-off of the late Mr January Masilela to his final resting place at the West Park Cemetery.

He held the following senior positions:
1992 to 1994: Provincial Secretary General, Mpumalanga
1994 to 1996: Deputy Secretary General, Mpumalanga
1994 to 1997: Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Local Government in Mpumalanga and leader of the house
1997 to 1999: MEC for Agriculture in Mpumalanga
December 1999: Secretary for Defence (Director-General) in the Department of Defence.

He leaves behind his dear mother, his wife Mavis, six children, three grandchildren and three brothers.

"In the last few years we have walked this road with greater frequency, marching in the procession to bid farewell to the veterans of our movement, paying our last respects to the fallen spears of the nation from a generation now reaching the end of a long and heroic struggle. They fought a noble battle and lived their lives in pursuit of a better life for all who follow. The democracy in which we bury them and honour them is the sweet fruit of their lives of struggle and sacrifice,” said Dr Nelson Mandela.

Lala ngok’thula Dlambili
(May his soul rest in peace)
Deployed as a troop commander in the Sudan

South Africans are playing a very important role in the African countries’ peacekeeping mission. I salute the men and women who have left their families behind and sometimes risk their lives to join hands in peacekeeping missions. War is heartbreaking. I deployed as CMI Troop Commander (female Captain) in the Sudan with 7 SA Infantry Battalion between 4 November 2007 and 15 May 2008. When my feet touched the soil of the Sudan the first thing that came to my mind was that South Africa was my beloved country.

I worked with people from the following countries under Force HQ: Malawi, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Zambia and Rwanda. It was not easy doing this, in the first place because we were used to the previous contingent. It was very interesting to get to know the different cultures. The women of Kutum base were given an opportunity to attend International Women’s Day at Kassab IDP camp where they saw that the Sudanese women were trying very hard to improve conditions in their country through art.

I wrote this letter to encourage South Africans to stop killing foreigners. We must remember that there are a lot of South Africans currently deployed in other countries. I was deployed for six months and I came back home safely. When we walk down the streets of the Sudan they see South Africa as the country that leads by example regarding love and peace. The good reputation of our country in the rest of the world should not be destroyed in the blink of an eye. The work of confidence building will be very difficult if foreign countries do not trust us anymore. It is every person’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he or she takes out of it. Capt M.A. Phiri, 2 Signal Regiment

Op CURRICULUM III Community Based Projects

Peace cannot be achieved through the barrel of a gun only.” Such a strong belief has driven the Operation CURRICULUM III Chaplaincy in Burundi in seriously engaging with the following community based project:

Establishment of good relationships with the local religious and traditional leaders. For the first time in the history of Burundi an interaction between Operation CURRICULUM III Chaplaincy and the religious leaders of the neighbouring Rukaramu village has given birth to the Rukaramu Village Ministers Fraternal. Of 9 churches in the village, 6 are affiliates. Now the chaplaincy is in the process of getting the remaining 3 churches on board.

The latest development is affiliation of the local Islamic Religion to the fraternal. When the security situation allows, the fraternal rotates its meetings among the different churches of the village at least once a week on Fridays at 13:00. The agenda includes church visits and crime prevention at Modderfontein Base and Rukaramu village. With regard to church visits the chaplaincy and the Continent Choir visit local churches, and in turn the local churches and pastors also visit and preach at Modderfontein Base. On 4 May 2008 our Contingent was blessed to have a choir and a sermon from the Methodist Church of Rukaramu village. During a meeting held on 15 March 2008 the religious and traditional leaders of Rukaramu took a stand in reporting all criminal activities to the base. A community meeting (Imbizo) about crime prevention, prayers for peace in Burundi and the launch of the ministries fraternal was scheduled as a matter of urgency.

Music. OP CURRICULUM III is blessed with choirs that play a pivotal role in community-based projects. They have embarked on music because it is a spice of love and unity among nations. It is one of the tools through which peace can be achieved. As a community based programme the contingent choir recorded peace songs in Bujumbura in May 2008. These CDs will be sold at a reasonable price and the proceeds will be ploughed back into the community.

Church collections. Church collections will also form part of the humanitarian aid project, which seeks to develop the community of Rukaramu and Bujumbura. In the interdenominational revival church service that was held in Modderfontein Base on 17 May 2008, amounts of $1 067.00, R109.00 and 45010 FBU were collected as an offering and this was handed over to the chaplaincy as a contribution to community based projects.

Ministry by Word to the ex-combatants. Every second week the chaplaincy used to hold combined church services with the ex-combatants at Randa farm. The aim was to integrate them with the community in a more spiritual way. To cap it, the Easter Sunday was a combined fellowship with the choir of the ex-combatants at Modderfontein Base.

Conclusion. A special word of gratitude is due to the NCC, Col M.A. Mapheto, and the Commander of 14 SA Infantry Battalion, Lt Col M.J. Tyhalisi, and to all other Commanders and Contingent members who supported these community based projects. Thanks guys for realising the fact that peace cannot be brought about through the barrel of a gun only.

In James 2:14-16 the Bible says: “Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don’t have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, God bless you! Keep warm and eat well if you don’t give them the necessities of life.”

Furthermore in 1 John 3:17-18, the Bible says: “If a rich person sees his brother in need yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God?” My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.” Finally, one must always remember that “More blessed is the hand that gives than the one that receives”. Chaplain T.P. Oxabe, Op CURRICULUM III Newsletter
South African soldiers are messengers of peace

By Lt Col Frans Pale

Today the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) provides much needed peacekeeping messengers to trouble spots on the African continent and other strife torn areas of the world.

So high is the demand for SANDF soldiers in peacekeeping missions outside South Africa that the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, has called upon his men and women in uniform to double their efforts at peacemaking on the world, especially on the African continent.

In a recent interview with SA Soldier at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria Gen Ngwenya spoke on a wide range of issues regarding South African soldiers deployed abroad.

According to the Chief of the SANDF, the current admiration of South Africa by the world poses challenges that we need to overcome as a newly established democracy. “Our achievements in peacekeeping in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries have created expectations and people believe South Africa is capable of being everywhere where there are problems,” said Gen Ngwenya.

In addition to requests to deploy soldiers on peacekeeping missions outside its borders, South Africa was also expected to host and train the recently launched Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Brigade. Gen Ngwenya said the primary aim of the SADC Brigade was to deploy the SADC soldiers to trouble spots on the African continent whenever the need arose.

While Gen Ngwenya acknowledged that there were certain incidents of indiscipline committed by deployed South African soldiers while on duty beyond our borders, the gist of his message was that such incidents should not overshadow the good work our soldiers were doing in countries such as Burundi and the DRC.

The Chief of the SANDF mentioned incidents where the SANDF was involved in keeping law and order in Burundi, while in the DRC our soldiers built a school in a village called Kindu and donated soccer kits to some villagers.

General Ngwenya said South Africa was engaged in peacekeeping missions to avoid wars in the world, especially on the African continent. He added that the kind of peace South Africa was encouraging beyond its borders needed to be extended to South Africa as well. He thanked the South Africa public, especially the business community, for contributing towards the annual goodwill visits to the South African soldiers operating abroad.

He also extended his appreciation to the Spouses Forum, a group of South African women headed by the wife of the Chief of the SANDF, Mrs Busisiwe Ngwenya. The Forum organises moral and material support for families of the soldiers deployed abroad.

Asked about SANDF trade unions and members’ affiliation to them, Gen Ngwenya said it was regrettable that while soldiers had the right to raise their grievances and were entitled to address the bread and butter issues related to their working conditions, there were those who used such platforms for political reasons.

“Soldiers cannot be soldiers and politicians at the same time. I am particularly perturbed by this turn of events. Recently members of the public witnessed soldiers demonstrating in public, and especially in uniform. This is a shame and a great embarrassment. Real soldiers should ask themselves whether they are politicians or soldiers. There is a need to act against individuals who are unruly,” the Chief of the SANDF warned.

General Ngwenya embraced the idea of one national veterans association. He said this would enable the veterans to address their common experiences with one voice. “Former soldiers need not feel unwanted and neglected. They are part of us and we need to interact with them.”

General Godfrey Ngwenya, Chief of the SANDF.
For faith in the service of humanity

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On Saturday, 26 July 2008, SA Soldier was among the guests to converge on the St George’s Church in Parktown in Johannesburg to join the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) members in celebrating the journey in the successful service of humanity. SA Soldier was present to witness the honouring of Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, Surgeon General of the SANDF, at his investiture as the Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospitallars of St John.

The Most Venerable Order of the Hospitallars of St John of Jerusalem has been doing humanitarian service for over 900 years since its founding in Jerusalem. The order is active in England, Scotland, Wales, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the USA and also in 35 other countries.

The solemn occasion was officially opened by the Chancellor of the Order of St John of the Priory for South Africa, Maj Ian Crowther. He said: "The main purpose of the ceremony is to honour members of the Order, including those who have been admitted to or promoted within the Order for their part in fulfilling the motto: For Faith in the Service of Humanity."

Besides providing ambulance services, first aid and home based care members also employ their skills in voluntary work in response to community based needs and contribute to the Transnet Phelophepha Training Project by visiting rural sidings and stations to provide medical and dental care.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Lt Gen Ramlakan said the relationship between the SAMHS and St John marked the commencement of an important venture in the service of humanity, one that symbolises the purity of life.

"St John has a special link with the SANDF and with the SAMHS, in particular, as both are equipped for any eventuality and we have a reservoir of well trained people. SAMHS has a pilot project aimed at attracting highly skilled professionals with critical skills to function in the military and St John has responded enthusiastically to our call and a number of its people have enlisted as reservists in the SAMHS," said the Surgeon General.

In conclusion, he applauded St John for working hand in glove with the SAMHS during Operation BATA. "It was truly an amazing experience to see them working tirelessly with our members without compromising. As we are responsible for the military health of the DOD, we are here to support the people and to give them access to a meaningful life, to fight and win."

As the DOD, we pride ourselves on improving conditions for human existence. Lt Gen Ramlakan joins the ranks of President Thabo Mbeki, the former Surgeon General of the SANDF, now Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
The largest exhibition of air, sea and land capability on the African continent

17 - 21 SEPTEMBER
Air Force Base Ysterplaat, Cape Town, South Africa

AFRICA AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE 2008

Rising to new dimensions

www.aadexpo.co.za
The Joint Operational HQ presented a farewell parade for the OP CURRICULUM contingent deploying to Burundi and an appreciation ceremony to thank the British Peace Support Team for their contribution towards funding the upgrading of facilities at the DOD Mobilisation Centre. The activities took place at the DOD Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein on 6 August 2008 under the direction of the Joint Operational Headquarters.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, and his entourage from other services and divisions attended the occasion. The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, and his entourage from other services and divisions attended the occasion. 

Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, Chief of Joint Operations, addresses the parade.

Pending the situation in Burundi, Lt Gen Matanzima said they were going to Burundi to promote peace and stability. He emphasised the issue of discipline of the deployed members and that some members might be repatriated on account of impishness. “We cannot be a source of ridicule,” said Lt Gen Matanzima. He also urged them to care for their equipment for future utilisation.

2 SA Infantry Battalion, as the leading contingent, was to be accompanied by members from the VIP Protection, SA Air Force and the SA Navy. Director Peace Support Operations in the Joint Operational HQ, Brig Gen John Church, said the deployment was a peacekeeping mission led by the African Union. He said that South Africa took a leading role in VIP Protection of political leaders and also in disarming, remobilising combatants and integrating them into society. "We started in 2001 with peace support operations, not well equipped and prepared for operations,” he said. "We went into the operation and performed very well. Since then we have improved tremendously in preparing contingents for combat and mission readiness.”
Brig Gen Church also acknowledged the contribution of the British Peace Support Team that has been funding projects for upgrading facilities at the DOD Mobilisation Centre. "It is with such help as we received from our British colleagues that we were able to make giant leaps towards putting well prepared contingents into mission areas in which South Africa was operating, and compliments that we received from the African Union and the United Nations prove that we are contributing in a professional way towards peace on our continent."

Some of the projects the British Peace Support Team has funded includes the upgrading of a hangar divided into two lecture rooms with a capacity of 1 200 members at a cost of R140 000, improvement of communication and IT equipment delivered during June to October at a cost of R 57 000, the upgrading of Glenhope farm to serve as a battalion HQ at a cost of R231 000 and, in addition, a Driver Simulation Training Centre to accommodate a driver instructor and simulator at a cost of R420 000.

Brig Andy Mantell, a member of the British Peace Support Team, said security was a prerequisite in the world, hence their involvement in peace support missions. These facilities will give thousands of soldiers the best training before deployments. Lt Col S.R. West of the British Peace Support Team had this to say: "British Peace Support Team (SA) recognises fully the value that improvement to training facilities brings to those undergoing pre-operational deployment training. Soldiers who feel valued are more motivated and this helps a better standard by those deploying. Ultimately we hope the facilities will help to build on to SANDF’s reputation in its operational theatres."

Fltr: Brig Gen Piet Burger, Director Education, Training and Development (now Director Peace Support Operations), Brig Andy Mantell of the British Peace Support Team, Brig Gen John Church, Director Peace Support Operations (now resigned) at the parade.

The Driver Simulation Centre funded by the British Peace Support Team.
Gunners rededicate symbol of supreme sacrifice

By Gnr Richard Hurst, Transvaal Horse Artillery
Photos: Carol Phillips

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the General of the Gunners of South Africa, on Sunday 22 June 2008 officially rededicated a howitzer to symbolise the supreme sacrifice made by members of the SA Heavy Artillery during the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

“The significance of the gun is to remind us of our military history and the sacrifices made by others in securing the freedom of South Africa. In addition the current SANDF generation are reminded that they may be required to emulate past heroes in times of national need,” said Maj Gen Andersen.

The gun was one of six presented to the Union Government of South Africa by the Government of Great Britain and brought back to South Africa by Maj Gen Sir Henry Timson Lukin, who commanded the first South African Brigade at Delville Wood.

The restoration of the gun was undertaken by the Gunners Association, Johannesburg branch, with a team led by Gunners Frank Louw and A.J. Brookes who dedicated most of their spare time to the fourteen month project.

Gunner Dominic Hoole, Chairman of the Gunners Association, Johannesburg branch, and Capt Albert Pestana, the Commanding Officer of the Transvaal Horse Artillery, pointed out that it was important for the country, the City of Johannesburg and the Gunners Association that these memorials were well taken care of in remembrance and respect for those who did not return. The rededication ceremony included a parade of the Transvaal Horse Artillery led by Capt Bezuidenhout with General Andersen’s escort party comprising Lt R. Ngwenya and Lt M. Potgieter.

“As General of the Gunners I am proud of the fact that the guns have been restored at the National Gunners’ Memorial in Potchefstroom, Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. The Gunners Association and the SANDF are to be commended on their achievements,” concluded Maj Gen Andersen.

Minister approves new ranks for Warrant Officers

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Minister of Defence, Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, approved the new warrant officers ranks in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) that came into effect on 1 June 2008.

According to the new ranks, Warrant Officer Level 1 (WO1) became Master Chief Warrant Officer (MCWO), addressed as Master Chief Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Level 2 (WO2) became Senior Chief Warrant Officer (SCWO), addressed as Senior Chief Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Level 3 became Chief Warrant Officer (CWO), addressed as Chief Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Level 4A became Master Warrant Officer (MWO), addressed as Master Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Level 4 became Senior Warrant Officer (SWO), addressed as Senior Warrant Officer.

In an interview with SA Soldier, the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Frederik Johannes Strauss Scheepers, said the new ranks were aimed at providing an extended career path for warrant officers in the SANDF.

"The new ranks are substantive and no longer relate only to an appointment to a post. Once appointed to a post, the warrant officer is also promoted and can no longer revert to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1," said MCWO Scheepers.
History was created in Saint Petersburg, north of Russia, on 8 to 13 June 2008, when, for the first time, the SA Air Force Band took part in an international festival of military brass bands.

More than a thousand of the best military brass musicians from South Africa, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkey, Armenia, Montenegro and Lithuania crammed into the city of Nevsky and filled the surroundings with their beautiful melodies.

The opening of the festival took place on 11 June. There were concerts by individual bands at the key sites all over the city. Most of the bands, including the SA Air Force Band, did not perform on the day as it was raining heavily and these concerts were scheduled for outdoors.

Luckily, the festival fell on a holiday for the city of St Petersburg. And, there were open-air concerts at Murinsky Park, Babushkin Garden, Kapella Courts, the Square at Peter and Paul Fortress, Summer Garden, Malaya Konyushennyana Street in Moscow.

The Palace Square was the main area in St Petersburg where the military brass bands entertained the residents of the city with familiar tunes. Additionally, the Gala concert at the Ice Palace, an innovative building, attracted more than a thousand people and tourists to the central hall of the city.

All the bands were given a slot to showcase their unique techniques, the originality of their military uniforms and to play tunes, while thousands of spectators watched and cheered the participants.

The SA Air Force Band performed several musical pieces by South African artists, such as Burn-Out by the legendary Sipho (Hotstix) Mabuse, Special Star by Mango Groove,
Can-Can, Ukhazi, Khayelitsha Beat, Daar onder in die Kaap, Ndihamba Nawe, Pata Pata and TV Medley. The latter is a miscellany of television melodies from 7de Laan, Ally MacBeal and Noot vir Noot.

The event was an opportunity to exchange cultural creations from different countries. It also opened a window of diversity for many young people. The President of the St Petersburg Regional Public Organisations, Mrs Olga Prigozhaya, said: "the festival was a unique event in the city, where annually, many magnificent musical compositions are designed according to the techniques of master musicians."

She also praised the originality of national costumes and the culture of the military music of different countries.

This musical event was introduced in 1994 by the first President of Russia after the collapse of the Cold War (1991-1999), Boris Yeltsin.

Nowadays, the day is regarded as a holiday for freedom and peace, and is also celebrated as a symbol of national unity and democracy.

The SA Air Force Band entertaining the large crowd in the rain on the Palace Square, St Petersburg.

Bottom: Flight Sergeant Jansen van Rensburg stretching his arms in the xylophone solo that dazzled the Russian audience at the concert at the St Paul and Peter Fortress, St Petersburg.
Meet Mr Zondi

By Mr Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Department of Defence (DOD) is a unique government department. As a non-military member (also known as a PSAP member) of the Department, to work in this department and make a visible positive impact in the corporate sector of this industry you need to have a combination of commitment, dedication and nerves of steel. It is precisely because of the uniqueness of the Department that it is now a norm that the DOD employs the best there is in the job market.

SA Soldier would like to introduce the Head of Supply Chain Integration in the DOD, Mr Mthobisi Zondi. He joined the DOD in May 2008. “Though I have just recently joined the ‘military’ it feels like I have been here six years now,” said Mr Zondi. He is not only academically qualified, but is richly experienced in the industry of logistics.

SA Soldier: Can you tell us briefly about your background?

Mr Zondi: I was trained as a mechanical engineer. I started my career working for a textile factory in Cape Town as an engineer-in-training and moved up to become Engineering Manager.

I later moved into freight logistics for Transnet Marine Division (previously Portnet) for the better part of my career as a logistician. I occupied a number of positions within Transnet, but the one prominent role was that of Chief Operations Manager for the port of Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal.

SA Soldier: What role did you play as Chief Operations Manager and is there any special or specific milestone you made?

Mr Zondi: In a couple of months I have been through a number of job titles, but my primary task is basically threefold. First is the management of the Logistics Intervention and Repositioning Programme; second the implementation of the governance, risk management and compliance (GRC) function throughout the Defence Materiel value chain; and third there is the management of the in-service support supply chain activities for SANDF capability systems.

SA Soldier: Are there any challenges that you are to prioritise?

Mr Zondi: The challenges in all three of these areas are very similar, viz. the fragmented approach of supply chain management, the mismatch between skills and job requirements, and the inadequacy of the operating systems. These are at the top of the list. The last position I occupied at Transnet was that of Executive Manager: Capacity Planning in which I was responsible for the development of a capacity plan for the container business in South Africa. I then moved on to join Petro SA (the national oil and gas company) as Executive Manager: Logistics. In this role, among other things, I was responsible for the rationalisation of the Logistics Division, which included the development and rolling out of the Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) Programme.

In the meantime I collected a few degrees along the way. My postgraduate qualifications include an MSC in Maritime Logistics, an MSC in Transport Economics and a Masters Degree in Business Admin. Like most people, I spent some time in Europe studying and working.

SA Soldier: What motivated you to leave the private corporate environment for Government?

Mr Zondi: Contribution. I have a lot to contribute, and I feel that Government is the ideal platform to maximise the impact, given its far-reaching influence.

SA Soldier: What does your role in the DOD entail?

Mr Zondi: In a couple of months I have been through a number of job titles, but my primary task is basically threefold. First is the management of the Logistics Intervention and Repositioning Programme; second the implementation of the governance, risk management and compliance (GRC) function throughout the Defence Materiel value chain; and third there is the management of the in-service support supply chain activities for SANDF capability systems.

SA Soldier: How do you intend to address these challenges?

Mr Zondi: The plan is to effect short-term interventions, while developing long-term repositioning solutions. This entails addressing the “burning operational” issues through tailor-made interventions on the one hand, and the process of re-engineering the operations model on the other. A global intervention programme has been developed, the idea of which is to utilise internal and external resources to effect corrective action as planned. Parallel to this is a process of rationalising the DOD supply chain, looking at such aspects as centralisation and localisation of activities, and ensuring that adapted models are practical, conducive to operational execution, and that they fall within the regulatory framework.

The processes of gap analysis, skills development and/or transfer, and systems enhancement are an integral part of this programme. The aim is to capacitate the DOD service delivery system while modernising the operational processes at the same time.

Critical to all the above processes is the involvement of key stakeholders. Internal stakeholders include Services and Divisions, while external stakeholders include other government departments, institutions and industry.

SA Soldier: So what do you foresee as the odds of your plan succeeding?

Mr Zondi: It will take a combination of commitment, dedication and a good support system. However, like everything else, it is doable.

His task might seem like a “Kilimanjaro” of challenges, and by the end of this interview SA Soldier was convinced that Mr Mthobisi Zondi had the nerves of steel necessary to keep him going and ultimately conquering the summit.
A prime example of women success

By Lt Col Frans Pale
Photo: Lebogang Tlhaole

When you enter her office for the first time at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria her smile is like that of an innocent child, but with a curiosity and willingness to help others achieve their goals.

Her secretary, Ms Carol Hendricks, describes her as a woman of strong character, intelligent and very easy to work with. "You can relate to her in many ways. She is an asset to the Department of Defence (DOD)," said Ms Hendricks.

She is Dr Thobekile Gamede, simply known as "Thobs" in both her social and professional environments. She is currently the Chief Director of Policy, Planning and Strategy for the DOD.

Although she is humble, down to earth and eager to achieve operational excellence for the DOD, she hates mediocrity and does not want to be associated with failure.

"Obviously, one cannot achieve operational excellence without adequate factors, such as human, financial and physical resources. We need to get people and processes right. Some processes are cumbersome and do not add value," said Dr Gamede.

Asked about the overall responsibilities of her Division, Dr Gamede said she was in charge of monitoring, evaluating and reporting institutional performance to all agencies: "We account to bodies such as Parliament, the Treasury and the Auditor General".

On challenges facing women in a male dominated society, Dr Gamede said women should be more assertive and should not censure themselves too much. "To my sisters, I say do your homework and profile yourselves. Women should also learn to communicate clearly and avoid speaking in parables and hope that other people, especially their subordinates, know what they mean," added Dr Gamede.

Commenting on celebrating Women’s Day (9 August) in South Africa, Dr Gamede said women needed recognition for their hard work every day. "Society should not wait for Women’s Day to acknowledge women. I get upset when men try to be nice to me in August, when they barely acknowledge my contributions in other months. Let us celebrate this day by deepening the debate on women’s issues at a social level and at the workplace. Women definitely want an opportunity to excel," said Dr Gamede.

Having started her career as a high school teacher and lecturer at the University of South Africa, Dr Gamede obtained her Honours Degree at the University of Pretoria. She then obtained a Masters Degree at Wits University and finally got her PhD in Policy Studies from the University of Pretoria.

In 1998 she joined the National Department of Education as Chief Education Specialist. She subsequently worked for the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature where she was responsible for supporting portfolio committees before she joined the DOD.
Adoption of positive values

By Bibi Morgets
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

A charter of positive values of the Moral Regeneration Movement was adopted at the Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria on 29 July 2008.

Religious groups, traditional healers, government and non-government officials and the youth attended this prestigious event. This long overdue project was to reflect the diverse journeys and cultures that brought us to liberation and democracy, and was meant to commit us to the ideals and ethical values that unite us in our diversity.

The positive values were aimed at developing a caring society through the revival of the spirit of UBUNTU and the realisation of the values and ideals enshrined in the constitution. It was hoped that this would instil respect and promote a sense of pride in our communities and give direction to our future generations.

In welcoming the guests, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, said: "It is not by chance or favour that this charter is launched on our premises as this is one organisation where values and discipline are major role players in military conduct".

The Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Dr Gwendoline Ramokgopa, said that the City of Tshwane was honoured to host such an event. She encouraged the nation to commit itself to the charter and to take responsibility for each person.

Ms Zandile Mdhladhi, the Moral Regeneration Movement Chief Executive

Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka adopting the charter of positive values.

Fltr: The Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Mluleki George, Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, and the Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement, Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa.
Officer, said: "It is imperative that a nation should adopt this process, because while there are various ethical codes within institutions in different departments, we do not yet have one common moral charter which serves as a common guide to all regarding ethical behaviour. The charter will therefore assist in shaping and promoting the standards that build a stronger nation."

"Nations are a reflection of the kind of leadership they have." These were the words of Rev Mautji Pataki, Ecumenical Secretary of the SACC, Limpopo Province. The Patron of the Moral Regeneration Movement, Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, affirmed that as government working alongside its social partners they believed the adoption of this charter of positive values was a step in the right direction, as it would empower the government with a mirror through which people will re-examine their state of morality, using the charter as a guide.

"Let the charter remind people of the basic human responsibility that requires them to be concerned when they see families struggling and unemployment caused by abuse," said Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka, as she concluded her speech.

In closing the event Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, the Moral Regeneration Movement Chairperson said: "Parents should actively participate in the charter so they can teach their kids these values, bearing in mind that children are a reflection of their parents. Let us, like Madiba, be an example to our neighbours."

I sure hope that this charter will transform us as individuals and bring light to our nation, remembering that South Africa belongs to all who live in it.
Sixteen programme members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 17/08 and three senior directing staff members of the SA National Defence College visited Belgium from 17 to 24 May 2008. The aim of the foreign study visit was to allow the members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the national security policy and strategy of Belgium, the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The ENSP 17/08 group arrived at Brussels International Airport on Saturday, 17 May, and were met by the South African Defence Attaché, Col Rebecca Hadebe, and members from the Belgian Armed Forces who went to great lengths to ensure a highly successful and memorable visit. Following a bus tour around Brussels, the visitors booked in at the Club Prince Albert, an imposing all-ranks mess in the city centre. During the afternoon the visitors were hosted at the South African Embassy. Various briefings on Belgian-EU-South African relations were given by members of the South African Embassy, followed by a hearty South African function.

On Sunday members were hosted at a function by the South African Defence Attaché. On Monday, 19 May, the group visited the port city of Antwerp, the world’s fourth largest port. The visitors were briefed at the Flanders provincial government head office by Mr Johan Beke and Col Jacques De Kimpe of the Belgian Defence Force. This was followed by a visit to the Flanders regional parliament and lunch at the provincial defence headquarters. The Antwerp Diamond Museum was also visited, and the importance of the diamond-cutting industry to Belgium’s economy was soon apparent. During the afternoon there was a bus tour through the vast port of Antwerp.

On Tuesday the group visited the Belgian Defence Force Headquarters’ Queen Elizabeth Barracks where they were briefed by Maj Gen Albert Husniaux of the Royal High Institute for Defence and members of the Belgian Defence Force’s strategy directorate. This was followed by a guided tour of the federal parliament in Brussels. The next day the visitors were briefed on NATO’s transformation and new security roles. During the afternoon the visitors travelled to Liège in southern Belgium where the Liège University’s Space Centre was visited, and an actual satellite being tested prior to launch was observed.

Thursday, 22 May, was spent at the Club Prince Albert with an intensive series of briefings by various Belgian officials and academics on the EU’s Security and Defence Policy. This was followed by a briefing on Belgium’s foreign and national security policy and economic and social policies, respectively. The next day was spent visiting the port of Oostende, including a briefing at NATO’s maritime mine warfare school, called “Eguermin” (the French abbreviation for “Mine Warfare School”). Enriched with a wealth of knowledge, the group left Brussels for South Africa on Saturday, 24 May.

Belgium is world-famous for its fine chocolates and lace. Programme members availed themselves of the opportunity to stock up on such gifts for people at home and to do some sightseeing after-hours. Great appreciation is also due to Col Hadebe for having arranged a “cultural evening” for the visitors at a historic brewery in the town of Mechelen. Were the Belgian beers great!
First woman submariner

By Ensign L.A. Benjamin, Acting Internal Communications Officer
Photos: Able Seaman B. du Plessis, Navy News

Petty Officer Candice Chetty made history by being the first woman to qualify as a submariner in the SA Navy. She joined the SA Navy in January 1997 and completed her Basic Training at SAS SALDANHA. After Basics she completed her Chef’s course and was staffed as a chef at SAS SCORPION where she worked until 2000. In 2000 she was transferred to Naval Base Simon’s Town where she joined the Naval Harbour Master and in 2002 she was staffed at Southern Floe Mess where she worked for a year. She was staffed for the first time on board the SA Navy frigate, SAS AMATOLA, in 2003 and remained there until 2007.

She was offered an opportunity to work on submarines in 2007 after discussing the matter with her career manager. “I thought about it for about a week and decided to grab the opportunity with both hands. I took one day at a time as I had no experience working in a submarine. I could not compare it to anything,” confessed PO Chetty when asked what her expectations were. In August 2007, she completed a two-month General Submarine Knowledge Course and she also completed the one-week of Submarine Escape Training in Germany.

When SAS QUEEN MODJADJI I sailed, she carried out her duties as a chef as usual and was not bothered by the size of the galley. PO Chetty is passionate about her cooking duties and feels comfortable being in the kitchen as her zone and doing what she knows best, which is cooking for the ship’s company. She was accustomed to sailing for long periods and being away from home, so the adjustment was not that great. During emergency exercises (fire and flood) she assists the medic on board.

PO Chetty said that she enjoyed working with the other submariners as they treated her with respect and were very supportive. She said that thus far it had been great working on SAS QUEEN MODJADJI I and she looked forward to memorable times with the crew.

Commander Souma congratulates Petty Officer Candice Chetty on qualifying as a submariner.
A day in a soldier's life

By Bibi Morgets
Photos: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In honouring the women of Mzansi (South Africa) the Department of Defence hosted a two-day women’s visit to the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha on 14 and 15 August 2008. The SA Army Combat Training Centre was established on 15 January 1978. It was initially known as the SA Army Battle School until October 2000. This centre is one of the world’s four biggest combat training centres.

“You’ll never know another man’s world until you walk a day in his shoes.” This is a statement I have come to appreciate after the visit. Most women came in large numbers from different provinces to get a personal feel of the military environment. This visit changed their misconceptions about the organisation. Most importantly, it earned respect for the women in uniform who have dedicated their lives to work in such a male dominated organisation.

On arrival at the centre we enjoyed a light lunch and women of the SANDF briefed us and gave presentations, each explaining what kind of work each unit did. Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, gave an outstanding presentation, highlighting challenges they faced as women in the bush. “It is not easy here as we sometimes run out of water for a couple of days and we have no proper ablution facilities. We use a spade when the need arises,” she said. There were certain things that stood out about Brig Gen Mpaxa: her voice, her passion and undying love for what she did and her radiant beauty. Many would not have associated...
the SA Army with such beauty, but this woman defies that opinion. During the presentations on sexual harassment issues a number of questions were raised. Women wanted to know how the military dealt with such matters within the military environment. Col Daisy Tshiloane, Senior Staff Officer (SSO) Gender Equity, assured the visitors that there was a policy in place to deal with harassment of women and that drastic measures were taken against the perpetrators. Ms Dumisa Seshabela, Director Communication and IT in the North West Department of Economic Development and Tourism, wanted to find out how the SA Army ensured the sustainability of the soldiers they trained so that the organisation did not experience a skills shortage. "We acknowledge the mistake of not implementing a clause in the contracts of workers. The organisation is a democratic one, hence it becomes difficult to keep people in the Department against their will, but we are working on a strategy to sustain the soldiers we train," replied Maj Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief Director Army Force Preparation.

As the afternoon progressed it was time for us to become soldiers for the day. We were given ratpacks (dry ration food packs) and water bottles to prepare us for the long journey we were to embark on. We put on our combat gear, including the battle jacket and steel helmet and got into the Ratel vehicles for a shooting range experience, which to most of us was rough. We viewed the historic places in the vicinity of Lohatlha and headed back to our camp. Sleeping in a tent was not so comfortable, but was a place we all learnt to call home, at least for the night. It was a learning curve too.

I had a short interview with one woman at dinner, Ms Ntokozo Khoza, a representative from the Limpopo Province. She said: "I now know the price that comes with wearing the uniform, but most importantly I understand the sacrifice these women go through for us as a country and I admire them for that. I would also love to join the SANDF and contribute to making this a female dominant organisation".

In conclusion, our experience as soldiers in Lohatlha has given us a newfound respect for all people who serve our country in uniform, especially our women. This visit has transformed all the women that were present at Lohatlha for the better because we now understand that we are not in competition with our male counterparts, but need to work with them to achieve the common goal of bettering our beloved country.

I hope that these women of influence will take what was learnt back to their communities to empower women to take charge of their places in all spheres with integrity and humility. Let the young and the old grasp the opportunities provided to us by our Government and follow in the footsteps of Brig Gen Mpaxa who made history by being the first female Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha. Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi! (Praise to the women)
17 Squadron to the rescue

On the morning of 22 July 2008, a fire broke out in the Kruger Park flats in downtown Pretoria. This was happening as the Tshwane Metropolitan Council was evicting renters in arrears from a block of flats and the adjacent Schubart Park flats. As the Metro Police and South African Police Service were on the scene, the fire was spotted early. The help of the SA Air Force was called in to help evacuate people stranded above the fire zone.

The call went out to 17 Squadron based at Swartkop and at 11:45 the Squadron went into overdrive. In just 15 minutes the two Oryx helicopters tasked were in the air and on their way north. The Second in Command of the squadron, Lt Col Dave Keijer, praised the teamwork and dedication afterwards and commended everybody at the squadron for their efforts. The normal sequence for a tasking takes about an hour to accomplish. A third helicopter was also dispatched, but returned owing to the congested airspace around the building.

After circling the block of flats to assess the situation the helicopter crews went to work and in a combined effort with the police helicopters, 13 persons were lifted to safety, 9 by the SA Air Force helicopters. One of the rescued persons was a woman living on one of the top floors. She had been standing outside on the small balcony and threatening to jump in order to escape the inferno. Sgt Itumeleng Namane was hoisted down to her and calmly convinced her to be hoisted to safety.

The crew involved in the rescue consisted of Lt Col Dave Keijer, Capt Stefan Hanekom, Capt Bianca van Vollenstee, Lt Xolani Vundla, F Sgt Jacques Pretorius, F Sgt George Sales, Sgt Tebogo Mogorosi and Sgt Itumeleng Namane.

Congratulations to 17 Squadron on a job well done!
Eight SA Air Force aircraft proved their mettle at the 53rd annual air show that took place at Virginia airfield, Durban, on 12 and 13 July 2008. They provided a splendid display to about 30 000 spectators.

The SA Air Force was represented by the following aircraft and helicopters: C130 Hercules, Agusta LUH 109, Oryx, Rooivalk, BK 117, Silver Falcons - PC7s, CASA and the Mirage III.

According to Capt Ntsiki Mantshongo, the media liaison officer of the SA Air Force, the highlight of the involvement of the SA Air Force was when the C-130 crew feigned to be stuck on the runway. They blocked the aircraft traffic, much to the amazement of the crowd.

The aircraft commander, Lt Col Dave Owen, talked live with the audience commentator, and to their relief the crowd was surprised to discover that it was a simulated exercise.

According to the popular show commentator, Mr Brian Eminnis, the C-130 display showed that “the SA Air Force is in control of its destiny and is second to none in that regard”.

Similarly, the chopper mass display ignited the viewers’ attention as they flew 50 feet above the ground to the thunderous music of “Stand up for the champion”. The crowd cheered frantically.

The publicity officer of the event, Mr Ray de Vries, said that the presence of the Rooivalk was the cherry on top as this helicopter was seldom seen publicly.

Before the start of the show, the Silver Falcons helped a civilian team of YAKS (a group of ten civilian pilots) by training them in formation and aerobatic flying.

The Silver Falcons’ team had spent some time with orphans as part of reaching out to the community.

Ninety Durban learners were introduced to the Siyandiza aviation awareness programme.

The organising committee of the show said afterwards that without the participation of the SA Air Force the event would not have been such a huge success.
A memorial dedicated to those who served on Avro Shackleton units of the Royal Air Force and the SA Air Force was unveiled by the President of the Shackleton Association in the United Kingdom, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 4 June 2008.

The Shackleton Association was founded in 1987 by John Botwood to establish a bond between those interested in the Shackleton and to preserve the memory of those who flew and maintained the aircraft.

The need for a long-range extra endurance maritime reconnaissance platform led to the establishment of the Shackleton. The German Navy of World War II taught the British some harsh lessons in the North Atlantic in the opening stages of “the Battle of the Atlantic” when the loss of ships became unacceptably high on account of enemy action in the form of surface raiders and submarines. The Shackleton aircraft served for 40 years between 1951 and 1991, including the Cold War period, initially in maritime reconnaissance, search and rescue roles and anti-submarine warfare. However, it was also used as a stop-gap Airborne Early Warning platform for many years.

This year was also the 60th anniversary of the production of the Shackleton squadrons with thousands of personnel involved over the years in operations at home and around the world. The Shackleton was also often referred to as “10 000 rivets flying in formation” and in its latter years as “The Grey Lady”.

Although Shackleton 1722 no longer flies, it was the world’s last flying example and it stands as an icon of aviation preservation.

memorial dedicated to those who served on Avro Shackleton units of the Royal Air Force and the SA Air Force was unveiled by the President of the Shackleton Association in the United Kingdom, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 4 June 2008.

The Shackleton Association was founded in 1987 by John Botwood to establish a bond between those interested in the Shackleton and to preserve the memory of those who flew and maintained the aircraft.

The need for a long-range extra endurance maritime reconnaissance platform led to the establishment of the Shackleton. The German Navy of World War II taught the British some harsh lessons in the North Atlantic in the opening stages of “the Battle of the Atlantic” when the loss of ships became unacceptably high on account of enemy action in the form of surface raiders and submarines. The Shackleton aircraft served for 40 years between 1951 and 1991, including the Cold War period, initially in maritime reconnaissance, search and rescue roles and anti-submarine warfare. However, it was also used as a stop-gap Airborne Early Warning platform for many years.

This year was also the 60th anniversary of the production of the Shackleton squadrons with thousands of personnel involved over the years in operations at home and around the world. The Shackleton was also often referred to as “10 000 rivets flying in formation” and in its latter years as “The Grey Lady”.

Although Shackleton 1722 no longer flies, it was the world’s last flying example and it stands as an icon of aviation preservation.
In the modern world, living in new times and in a new century of new challenges, the SA Army Infantry Corps signals the new chapter of a new age in its quest to fulfil its mandate and mission with an excellent combination of high mobility, fire power and combat operational agility.

On 27 June 2008, SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane was the place where the SA Army Infanteers, Regular and Reserve Force members and support elements throughout the country assembled to celebrate the SA Army Infantry Corps parade presented by the SA Army Infantry Formation. It was also a festive occasion as various units’ colours were proudly displayed.

The General Officer Commanding Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Thembekwakazi Nkabinde, in his address shared the state of affairs of the Infantry Corps and its core component of the landward capability and said that the Infantry Corps stood for shared values, its vision and a fundamental purpose, which was reflected in what the organisation believed in, what it existed for, what it aspired to and what it took responsibility for.

He quoted Sir Mike Jackson who once said: “The most powerful secret in creating a great organisation is having every single person think in a common way about the meaning of success and how it is delivered. Building a great organisation is more than getting the right people and equipment; without a common frame of reference for success, there is no chance of success”.

The Infantry Corps has come a long way in wielding its sword in pursuit of national defence and in fulfilling its international obligations in the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the continent. Infantry soldiers are masters of the land battle and are a unique group of combat-ready landward forces operating primarily on foot and on the ground. They have tactics and drills in land warfare for use when they make to make contact with and destroy the enemy and have the ability to take and hold the ground.
Attitudes and opinions on leadership, management and motivation

By Kenneth Seanego, Directorate Corporate Communication
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A quantitative survey was conducted by Inspector General (IG) DOD (DPA - Centre for Effect Analysis) in July/August 2007. The aim was to obtain up-to-date self-reports and ratings of different dimensions of the Department of Defence (DOD) members’ perceived psychosocial combat readiness.

The perceived psychological combat readiness indicates that two aspects of combat readiness can be identified, namely a psychological dimension (psychological attributes) and a material dimension (the quantity and quality of military equipment). This study only focused on the psychological aspect.

The survey was conducted among a representative DOD sample consisting of 5 810 regular uniformed members. The sample was representative of the DOD population in regard to Services/Divisions, gender, population demographics and rank groups.

In examining the psychological aspect, the research team concentrated on four categories, including motivation, leadership, management and the perceived psychosocial combat readiness index. The results of the survey were reported under the following four categories:

First order factors related to motivation

The focus in this category was on members’ pride and willingness to be deployed on military operations, their confidence in their chain of command, credibility and professional capacity and in the appropriateness and quality of weapons. As a result, all respondents indicated that they would like to be deployed in military operations. They have, however, indicated a moderate level of confidence in the chain of command, the credibility of other members and the quality and appropriateness of the weapons.

First order factor related to leadership

This category was intended to examine the presence of transformational leadership principles in the DOD. It focused on the managers’ ability to establish a supportive work environment, their readiness to ensure that subordinates were well trained, the involvement of people in achieving unit objectives, participation in social responsibilities, people orientation and cohesion. In response to all these leadership principles, the entire DOD sample indicated that they did not experience significant problems with the application of the leadership principle concerned. Most of them were inclined to respond neutrally/moderately.

First order factor related to management

This first order factor was used to measure organisational results against the people’s contentment with fringe benefits, stress deficiency, perceived group well being, human resources management and communication. In terms of the sub-groups, the results indicated that:

- The respondents in all sub-groups were well or reasonably well (moderately) informed on the goals of the DOD and their units.
- Respondents in most of the sub-groups expressed dissatisfaction with Human Resource Management or border on the level of negativity. The exceptions were Joint Operations Division, SA Army (in particular its operational function), SA Air Force Support Function and warrant officers, among whom moderate levels of satisfaction were recorded.
- Respondents in most of the sub-groups were inclined to report above average stress levels. The exceptions were Joint Operations Division (in particular its operational function) and warrant officers, whose mean scores were...
Best practice in managing military waste

By Cdr A. Liebenberg, A/SSO Environmental Services

The management of waste remains one of the major environmental issues throughout the world today. Ever increasing urban and industrial development is leading to levels of waste and pollution, that seriously threaten the natural resources upon which humankind depends for its survival.

International acceptability in terms of environmental practice is closely related to a country’s acceptability as a trading partner and its ability to participate in international affairs. International commitments to principles of sustainable development include consideration of waste and the use of renewable resources. It is therefore important that the management of waste be internationally acceptable.

Perceived psychosocial combat readiness index

Of all the sub-groups, based on Service or Division, the Services’ support and operational functions, population and rank groups, only one sub-group, namely Joint Operations Division and in particular its support function, rated its perceived psychosocial combat readiness as high. The readiness of all the others can be described as moderate or sub-optimal.

Conclusion

With the exception of Joint Operations Division, which measured positively, the present overall perceived psychological combat readiness or military readiness of the entire DOD across all Services or Divisions, rank and population groups, can be defined as moderate or sub-optimal. Adjustments to becoming fully combat or militarily ready were required.

The results for the First-order served as a clear indication of where interventions should be focused to improve perceived psychosocial combat readiness in the DOD. It appeared that the entire DOD sample reported poor Human Resource Management, dissatisfaction with fringe benefits and sub-standard stress deficiency.

It is important for the DOD to act on the findings of the survey in order for the DOD members to perceive the exercise as worthwhile.

Way forward

The qualitative researchers from IG DOD (DPA - Centre for Effect Analysis) are currently conducting focus group interviews in order to identify the cause of sub-optimal results.
extends over the entire life cycle of a product or system from "cradle to grave" and covers prevention, generation, collection, treatment and the final disposal. It therefore represents a paradigm shift by moving away from waste management based on its impact and remediation to waste management focused on prevention and minimisation.

Some military activities generate waste that is difficult to dispose of, both in terms of cost and strict legal requirements. Effective measures to deal with such unavoidable waste will remain necessary, but much greater attention must be directed to the introduction of preventative strategies aimed at waste minimisation and prevention. This will contribute to the protection of human health and should result in the support of the military mission by reducing the environmental liability of the military commander. In addition to these advantages created for the sustainability of the environment, the discarded products derived from applying IWM measures can also be considered as a potential resource in other areas of the military or the economy of the country.

This guidebook will assist and guide environmental and waste managers at different levels of the DOD to develop plans and programmes on waste management. For more information contact Lt Col Zukile Mali at 012 339 5311.
In June, 7 Medical Battalion hosted Exercise WAY-SIDE 2 at the Air Force Base in the Ditholo Training Area at Hammanskraal, outside Pretoria. This was subsequent to the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Course that took place a month before. The main objective of the exercise was to prepare the SANDF and other state organisations for disaster management, with specific reference to the FIFA 2010 World Cup Soccer Tournament.

The Officer in Charge of the exercise, Lt Col Sipho Ngqukuvana (Head of the Department of Chemical, Biological and Radiation Defence Wing) said the exercise was instrumental in teaching how to handle disaster incidents. It also taught detection methods and how to use detection equipment in a disaster situation.

About 30 SA Navy Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members participated in the exercise, and members from the SA Police Service, Emergency Service Unit and others were also involved. One of the most important requirements was physical fitness because of the heavy equipment utilised.

A scenario involving a plane crash and casualties was staged, with the casualty station and the mass decontamination station helping during the simulated disaster. People with severe injuries were treated at the casualty station. In cases of chemical contamination the survivors had to go through a decontamination process at the decontamination station. During disasters of this type various organisations will operate according to the hot zone, the warm zone or the cold zone.

A patient was taken from the hot zone to the warm zone where the cutters removed 90% of the contamination from the body. He then passed through to the casualty station to be cleansed and to receive further treatment in the ambulance. Lt Col Ngqukuvana cited an incident in which the same method was applied successfully in Durban.

"It was interesting and an opportunity to learn," said Seaman K. Tsebe, a Navy logistics member from Simon’s Town. He also urged others to explore the different fields.
SA Translators’ Institute Seminar

By Ms N.P. Ndwandwe, Directorate Language Services

One of the services rendered at the Directorate Language Services is the translation of documents into different languages at the request of clients, ie the members of the Department of Defence.

The South African Translators’ Institute (SATI) is a body to which translators, interpreters and editors (language workers) can be affiliated. SATI holds an annual seminar for language workers, and seven language practitioners from Directorate Language Services attended this year’s seminar on 11 June 2008.

This year the conference, which was held at the Deutsches Altersheim in Pretoria, deliberated on the benefits of having a collective website for standardised terminology and lexicography in South Africa, which could be used by all language workers, especially indigenous language translators.

This prospect was most welcome as many members struggle to find sources that give the correct meaning, especially in our indigenous languages. Many translators have their own terminology lists, and the development of a website would encourage them to share these lists with others.

UKUBALULEKA KOKWAZI UKUFUNDA ULWIMI

By Ms N.P. Ndwandwe, Directorate Language Services

The importance of being able to read your language

By Ms N.P. Ndwandwe, Directorate Language Services

Have you ever thought how the blind feel when they are unable to access information because they cannot read? Someone who cannot read, even if he is not blind, sees only meaningless scribbles or pictures, which he cannot understand. If you ask that person what is written, he will tell you something very different to what is really there.

I would like to motivate those who cannot read their own languages or the language they use at work to try to learn how to read, as it is very important to be literate. Yes, you could ask someone to read something for you, but how can you be sure that the person is giving you the correct information? What if the person is swearing at you?

Even worse is that you cannot read about your rights. You could even lose your job, not knowing that it is your right to have an interpreter help you understand the language used in your workplace, which could have been why you got into trouble in the first place. Some people do not inform their bosses that they are illiterate, so what happens then if the boss hands you a duty sheet? You might not do what you are supposed to do because you do not understand, and you could end up being at loggerheads with your boss.

Some people do not go to get help as they are afraid that their secret will come out or because they do not know where to get help, and that usually aggravates the situation. So please take action now and go and get help. Arm yourself with all the knowledge you can. It is your right to do so!
Operation Winter Hope

The Cape winter this year was exceptionally cold and wet! If you had a roof over your head, warm clothes and a hot meal in your tummy, considered yourself fortunate, as there were many Capetonians who did not enjoy these comforts.

“Operation Winter Hope” was initiated in 2007 by Lt Col Johan Conradie of the Defence Reserves office in the Western Cape, and was hosted last year by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants’ Mess of the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes).

This year the Unitie Association, under the chairmanship of Cdr Ken Newton, hosted “Operation Winter Hope”. Members of the Unitie Association, Dukes and Cape Town Highlanders combined their efforts to donate food, warm clothing and blankets.

Chaplain Tony Bethke of the Cape Field Artillery and Chaplain Anthony Gregorowski of the Dukes ensured that the items were appropriately distributed. The Defence Reserve office in the Western Cape donated the items collected to the ACVV, a local welfare organisation, which manages welfare projects and which will distribute the items to those who need them most.

The Cape Town Highlanders volunteered to host the function in 2009. It is envisaged that as this initiative becomes a regular event on the annual Reserve Force calendar in the Western Cape more and significant donations will be offered.

Arbor Week 2008

By CPO K. Linderoth, Ecological Manager, Naval Base Simon’s Town (courtesy Equus)

Arbor Week is celebrated between 1 and 7 September each year. It originated in Switzerland about 500 years ago to make people aware of the value of trees in nature. The Americans started to plant trees in 1872 in areas where there were few trees or none at all.

In South Africa, Arbor Day started in 1970. In 1996 the Government gave permission to the Department of Water and Forestry to change Arbor Day to Arbor Week. During Arbor Week in 1997 more than half a million trees were planted. The tree of the year for 2008 is the Diospyros whyteana, commonly known as the bladder-nut.

The purpose of Arbor Week is to increase knowledge of indigenous trees, in particular, and to emphasise the importance of planting trees and their usefulness to us and to get the youth and the community involved in planting trees in their areas.

The value and significance of trees

The value and significance of trees can never be underestimated. They have many uses. Without trees we would not be able to exist on this planet. They provide (and do the following):

- Food for the people (fruit and nuts).
- Food for animals (leaves and fruits).
- Nutrition for soil by fixing nitrogen and providing humus.
- Wood for cooking and heating.
- Poles for fencing and other uses.
- Medicinal roots, bark and leaves.
- Building material, for example planks and poles.
- Wood for carving and woodwork.
- Shelter from the wind for people and animals.
- Counteract air pollution by trapping dust particles.
- Stop soil erosion by stabilising the soil.
- Reduce noise in industrial and urban environments.
- Temperature control: a tree has a cooling effect due to transpiration.
- Create new improved microclimates on the leeward side of windbreaks.
- Release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.
- Recreation - they provide places where we can play, have picnics, walk or just sit and enjoy them.
- Beautification - they bring beauty to streets, parks, gardens and schools.
focus on youth

Children soar with Oryx at Swartkop Airfield

By Airman Nwabisa Dlevu, Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 Cristo Crous

The Reach for a Dream Foundation is an organisation that strongly believes that the power of dreams brings hope and healing to South African children. The Reach for a Dream Team held an outing at 17 Squadron, Swartkop Airfield, for 30 children in poor health on 3 July 2008.

The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage children of all income groups and of any race and colour between the ages of three and eighteen years to use their dreams to fight life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, leukaemia, cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy, kidney failure and HIV infection.

The children visited 17 Squadron where they were treated to snacks and drinks. Capt Bianca van Vollensteen then explained the functions of the different helicopters they had at the base. She also informed the youngsters of all the safety precautions.

Present at the outing was Ms Leonie Gagiano, wife of the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, who is a volunteer at the Reach for a Dream Foundation. She joined the organisation in March 2008, after having been diagnosed with cancer five years before. Her passion for the work comes from within.

Ms Claire Pretorius, Dreams & Outings Co-ordinator, said that spending a day in this manner took the children’s minds off their daily routine.

Kieran van Rooyen (11), and Martin Oosthuizen (11), said it was their second time at Swartkops and that they had always enjoyed flying and examining the of helicopters.

Captain Bianca van Vollensteen from 17 Squadron with some of the young visitors inside an Oryx helicopter (SA Air Force).
Promoting health conciseness and well-being

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In pursuance of the DOD’s objectives with regard to the promotion of a socially healthy military community, the DOD Log Support Formation hosted the men’s health awareness day to highlight the seriousness of men’s health and well-being at the DOD Main Ordinance Depot at Tek Base on 17 June 2008.

The other objective the awareness day was to educate men on the physical consequences of alcohol and drug abuse, to promote health conciseness, prevention and eradication of gender based violence, constructive male involvement in reducing the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS and fostering healthy relationships in order to build healthy families and communities.

SA Soldier spoke to Capt Mpho Modikoane, a social worker at DOD Log Support Formation, who said that men should take a stand on their health and the health of their families. She said the effects of intoxication and substance abuse could compromise an individual’s health. “By hosting Men’s Health Day we want actively to engage our male counterparts as partners in their intimate relationships, inspire them to be advocates for HIV and AIDS prevention, teenage pregnancy and sexuality. He said that this event had been worthwhile to the youth, as illustrated by the turnout and participation in the programmes.

Love Life also recruits young people from schools for training as Ground Breakers (peer educators). Asked if he felt the youth were still ignorant after the information he said, “They’ve got information, but they also have other challenges to deal with.”

Society as a whole should take responsibility for the youth.

Great initiatives like this are just a step in the right direction to coach the youth to take charge of their future in a responsible manner.
In an attempt to have fit and healthy soldiers in the Defence, the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) held the Eastern and Southern Africa Liaison Office (ESALO) Netball Championships at the Thaba Tshwane Sports Ground from 8 to 10 July 2008. This was indeed a great way to keep fit through sports.

Women from Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe came to battle it out on the netball court for the title of winners of the ESALO Championships.

The championships were held in South Africa for the first time. This sporting event provided an excellent opportunity to show the visiting competitors that the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) was against the xenophobic attacks that the country experienced recently in the past few months.

“I came here to win goals for my country, and as a goal shooter in my team it is my responsibility to make that happen,” said Cpl Monica Malwa from the Zambian Army Headquarters Communication Service. She also encouraged more women soldiers to take part in sports.

Able Seaman Tina Mashilo from the South African team expressed her regret that South Africa did not take the trophy. She was nonetheless hopeful that next year South Africa would work harder to secure the winning trophy. “We had a good time and made new friends; after all netball is a friendly game,” said Able Seaman Mashilo.

SA Soldier caught up with the organiser of the event Sgt Maj Lorraine van Heerden, who has been actively involved in the Pretoria Military Sports Club since 1977. She said: “This is an open invitation to all women in our National Defence Force who are still willing to participate in sport. We do need more women in our netball team to ensure that we arm ourselves for next year’s games.” She congratulated the Zambian team on winning the ESALO Netball Championships Trophy.

Results
8 July
Zambia vs Zimbabwe (69-41)
Botswana vs Swaziland (55-31)
Lesotho vs South Africa (46-35)

9 July
Swaziland vs Zambia (24-58)
South Africa vs Botswana (37-54)
Zimbabwe vs Lesotho (34-37)
Zambia vs South Africa (75-31)
Botswana vs Zimbabwe (46-39)
Lesotho vs Swaziland (39-37)

10 July
Botswana vs Zambia (31-53)
Zimbabwe vs Swaziland (39-36)
Lesotho vs Botswana (31-57)
South Africa vs Zimbabwe (38-47)
Swaziland vs Lesotho (49-39)
Swaziland vs South Africa (36-41)
When the Durban City Hall clock struck 05:30 on 15 June 2008, thousands of runners began their epic journey of 87 km to Pietermaritzburg. It was a journey that stretched body and mind to the limit, a journey in which athletes experienced many highs and lows, one in which all men and women were equal, based on equal distance to cover and hills to climb to reach the same “finish”. This is an event that has evolved to embrace the diversity of our country in all its abundance and it belongs to the people of South Africa.

A total of 11 192 athletes entered this year’s 83rd comrades. Of these 8 613 runners completed the race before the 12 hour cut-off-time. Altogether 142 DOD runners completed the race on Father’s Day.

The SANDF had a special stand at the “Oval” in Pietermaritzburg where all the families and friends of the runners got together to watch the race as the runners entered the stadium. The National Flag and SANDF Flag identified the stand. Banners were displayed in front of the stand for easy identification. A water point was placed 40 km from the start race line. Lt Col Craig-Mackie and his team from the KwaZulu-Natal Military Athletic Club assisted the DOD runners with their personal needs and also provided warm soup to the runners. Members from the Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal provided physiotherapy services at the SANDF stand located at the “Finish” line and assisted people who needed medical care on completion of the race.

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Cpl Frank Nkoane from SANDF Athletic Club Mpumalanga (ASB MPL). His overall position out of 8 613 runners who finished was 341st in a time of 07:22:08 seconds.

In the second position was Cpl Nhlanhla Dladla, also from SANDF Athletic Club Mpumalanga (ASB MPL) in the same time of 07:22:08, an overall position of 342nd, thus they crossed the finishing line together and shared the same time. The third position was S Sgt Tannant Mayimele from the National Ceremonial Guard (5 SFR) in a time of 07:23:47, an overall position of 360th, and in the fourth position was CPO Patric Willcock from SANDF Western Province (Simon’s Town) in a time of 07:28:14, an overall position of 416th. These runners obtained their silver medals for finishing under the seven and a half hour cut-off time.

The first SANDF woman was WO2 Sandy de Beer from SANDF Athletic Club KwaZulu-Natal (ASB Durban) in a time of 08:14:36. Her overall position was 952nd and she finished in the 29th position among the female runners.

The first Defence Reserve Force runner was Mr Magnus Michelsson of Natal Carbineers Athletic Club in a time of 06:43:45. His overall position was 86th, an excellent achievement.

The following runners obtained their green numbers by completing their tenth Comrades:
- Cpl Phillip Mpanza from SANDF AC KZN Durban (ASB Ladysmith) - 08:38:09.
- S Sgt Sipo Magwijana from SANDF AC Limpopo (5 SFR) - 11:29:11.
- Mr Elsherine Rafferty from SANDF AC Free State - 11:37:44.
- Cpl Jacob Tlhagale from SANDF AC Free State (ASB Bfn) - 11:42:54.
- Col Zirk Lourens and Mr Richard Hammil from SANDC Athletic Club Pretoria completed their 24th consecutive Comrades Marathon in 09:39:00 and 10:14:05 respectively.
- Lt Col Chris Steyn also from SANDC Athletic Club Pretoria, Chairperson of the SANDF Road Running Association completed his 17th race in 07:45:17.
- The last SANDF runner to make the cut-off time of 12 hours was WO1 Peet van Huyssteen of the SANDF Athletic Club Free State (AFB Bloemspruit) in 11:57:59.

To the true Comrades, who have found that all have become one and are revered by all, and that that in itself is the miracle called “The Comrades Marathon”.

The Comrades Marathon is not just a race...
By WO1 Manny Gounden
Photos: Sgt Dalen van der Walt

Players representing Western Cape, Northern Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and Boland competed in the singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches during the SANDF Elite Badminton Championships held in Bloemfontein in June 2008.

Coaching and physical fitness tests were also incorporated between games at the championship by Sgt Annes de Bruyn, the coach of SANDF Badminton. Capt (SAMHS) Greta Prinsloo, the Chairperson of SANDF Badminton, lectured on the role of a manager/coach. WO1 Lourens Bester, the SANDF and Badminton SA referee and umpire, gave expert tips on umpiring and court rules.

Mr Roelf Dednam, the current Protea/Free State player who represented South Africa at the Beijing Olympic Games was invited to speak on strategy, goal setting (long and short term) and team commitment. Valuable advice was gained from Mr Dednam who has travelled and played in 25 countries with his brother Chris, also a Protea player.

The awards ceremony was held at the Olive Ranch outside Bloemfontein. The special guests at the function were Mr Larry Byron Keys, Prof Martin and Engela Dednam. Mr Keys is the Badminton Confederation Africa President and President of Badminton South Africa. Prof Martin Dednam is the Chairperson of Free State Badminton.

Mr Keys in his address stated that badminton was a fast growing sport in...
Badminton soaring to great heights

Article and photo by WO1 Manny Gounden

WO2 Johan de Klerk who works at AFB Waterkloof, 5 ASU, was accorded the great sporting honour of participating in an international badminton referee’s course in Prague, Czech Republic, in June 2008. At present he has SANDF Colours for Badminton as a player and as an official.

Badminton Europe extended an invitation to Badminton South Africa to select one member to undergo this extensive international referees course.

When WO2 De Klerk was informed that he was unanimously selected to represent South Africa he was overwhelmed. He was one of ten people in the world to be selected for this course.

Bulgaria, England, Germany, Mauritius, Israel, Scotland, the Czech Republic and Hungary sent representatives.

They were instructed by two of the best referees in the world, one from Denmark and one from France.

The valuable experience that WO2 De Klerk gained will place him in good stead to raise further the standard of refereeing here in South Africa and abroad. With this course behind him, WO2 De Klerk can be called upon to referee in any part of the world.

WO2 De Klerk has been umpiring for 11 years. He is an accredited SA international umpire and referee. He is also accredited to umpire in Africa.

As an accomplished player he has won the open doubles at the SANDF Championships held in Bloemfontein for the last eight years. His drop and slice shots have left many an opponent amazed. They have found such shots unplayable.

His humble and approachable personality has made for a popular person on the badminton courts wherever he has played, umpired or refereed.

The Chairperson of SANDF Badminton, Capt (SAMHS) Greta Prinsloo, said: “WO2 De Klerk has always been a great asset as a player and an official in all SANDF matches. His pleasant disposition and playing skills have also made him an asset to development players who seek out his expertise.”

In conclusion she said: “I want to thank the head committee of SANDF Badminton for your total commitment and cooperation. The organising of any tournament requires careful and strategic planning. I am grateful to have a dedicated team that has supported me over the years.”

Mr Keys and Prof Dednam presented the medals and prizes at the award ceremony.

Winners

Women’s Singles: WO1 I.L. du Toit (CMI Bloemfontein)
Women’s Single Plate: Maj A. Coetzee (3 Military Hospital)

Men’s Singles: Sgt A.J.D. de Bruyn (AFB Waterkloof)
Men’s Single Plate: S Sgt E.A. van Coller (School of Armour)

Men’s Doubles: S Sgt K. van Wyngaardt (3 Military Hospital) and WO2 A. Ramsden (1 Special Service Battalion)

Women’s Doubles: S Sgt T. de Bruyn (DCMM) and S Sgt N. Jonck (School of Armour)

Mixed Doubles: Sgt A.J.D. de Bruyn (AFB Waterkloof) and S Sgt T. de Bruyn (DCMM)

WO2 Johan de Klerk on the badminton court.
The SANDF Spouses Forum

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

A feminine spirit was felt at the SA Army College on 19 July 2008 during Spouses Forum. The event was graced by spouses of high-ranking officers of the SANDF. The involvement of women in defence and motherhood was, among other things, discussed during the day.

Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, Ms Charlotte Shoke, Ms Yvonne Mudimu, Ms Sandy Africa and Ms Lizette Cornelissen were introduced to the Thembisa High School learners who were invited to enjoy the day. It was wonderful for mothers to gather under one roof to share their experiences of parenting. As one would expect of the SA Army Band, they gave a remarkable performance, so that almost everybody felt compelled to "hit" the dance floor.

Ms Makgabo Tshenkeng and Ms Letlhogonolo Mabena are young inspirational women who gave exciting speeches and shared their life experiences with the audience. Ms Tshenkeng is an international Communication student at the University of Pretoria. She had been chosen as the finest speaker at a conference in the USA. Ms Mabena is also a student at Tshwane South College where she is studying Marketing. She is also a poet.

The former Human Resources Director Acquisition and currently the Director Separation, Brig Gen Kefilwe Mathibe, and her successor, Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, were also invited to advertise career possibilities within the SANDF. She said the SANDF was undergoing transformation and rejuvenation through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS), while also balancing gender scales in the recruitment.

A Director at the Department of Arts and Culture, Ms Rosemary Mangope (the spouse to the SANDF Director of Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Kwenza Mangope) gave some interesting insight into parenting styles. She illustrated the different ways that parents choose to raise their children and how they eventually grow up. The spouse to the Chief of the SANDF, Ms Ngwenya, closed the forum by thanking everyone for coming. "I urge you young women to beware of the dangers in society," she said.
Women giving back to the community

By Lt Col Gerda Tredoux, Training Command SO1 Support
Photo: Neida Pienaar

The women from Training Command and units under its command wanted to give something back to the community and had a wonderful opportunity to open their hearts and purses to Tshwane Haven, a place of safety focusing on children in crisis.

Ms Karen Bruyere from Tshwane Haven, one of the guest speakers at the Rags to Riches Women’s Day, is a most remarkable woman. Eleven years ago she started to do volunteer work at Mobau.

At that time she adopted an 18-month-old baby girl weighing only 3.5 kg who was expected to live for only another three months. Through love, care, healthy nutrition and “doctoring” this little girl called Beauty is now 11 years old and functioning normally in a suburban primary school.

Over the last eleven years Ms Karen Bruyere and her three caregivers/assistants have cared for 86 children, including premature babies, babies with severe malnourishment, dwarfism, HIV, brain damage, fetal alcohol syndrome and many other diseases. Most of these babies were abandoned at birth.

During her talk and slide show, Ms Bruyere had the 80 guests in tears as she told them about children with shaken baby syndrome, raped babies and other terrible deeds that were done to babies and small children. She also brought three babies, a toddler and her other adopted little girl, Lulu (9), along. These children really touched everyone’s hearts.

The cost of running the haven is prohibitive as food, clothing, medicine, medical attention, bedding, housing and all other running costs must be paid. The women from Training Command and its units really showed compassion, empathy and sympathy and donated a stack of food, clothes, bedding, baby products and other gifts. It was wonderful to see how women responded to children in need.

The Women’s Day was not only a day of tears and sadness, but it included fun and games with “golf-crochet”, an inspiring talk by Ms Adele Nel from In-Essence on the body-mind-soul connection and some delicious refreshments.

Great prizes were also won by the best dressed women. The theme in this case was “Rags to Riches” and the games themselves.

Any person who would like to know more about Tshwane Haven can call Ms Karen Bruyere on 082 510 8386.
Leading ladies!

By Chaplain Diana Willemsen, SAMHS HQ

maybe you do not feel like a lady of excellence. You may feel more like a victim than a victor. You may feel more like a woman in failure than a woman in faith.

If you think that excellence has escaped you, that virtue has finished, it is time to change your mind. Let’s go on a journey through the Bible and linger a little at Proverbs 31 and see the kind of woman God ordained you to be. The Bible is full of wonderful stories about wonderful women who represent many of the trials and triumphs that the women of today can identify with.

According to Proverbs 31, a virtuous woman is more precious than any jewel. Her value is beyond appraisal both to her lover and to her Lord. Naomi’s little maid seemed like an insignificant girl, going absolutely nowhere, but she was a woman on a mission, placed there by God Himself. Tradition taught her to be silent in the presence of a man, but something inside her challenged her to speak great wisdom. Every woman must understand that she has a purpose being in the place where she is. Many women will be world-shakers as they mother their children, nurture friendships and encourage their husbands. They might not be famous, but they are very significant.

A virtuous woman is one who "does good and not evil" and challenges us to talk less and listen longer… She is a vigilant woman that accepts the realities of life and works hard. She is a cook, a home manager, a real estate buyer, an investor, a seamstress and a fitness buff! Sounds familiar? …

Yes, with all the requirements of modern day life, this is a very tall order. Look at the woman with the alabaster box who was the only woman in a seriously male orientated environment. Like her, we must face our fears and survive the stares of our peers who either do not approve of who we are, or sneer at us because of who we once were. If we are going to reach our goals in Christ, or in life, we must press through regardless of public opinion and intimidation with the knowledge that every step is moving us closer to our destiny. Even so, we have to realise how badly the world needs our ministry. Like this woman our service can make a difference to the entire atmosphere of our working environment.

Your success lies in the attitude of your heart. The infirm woman was a woman that was taking charge of her life without need of recognition, status or fame. It is not what others say about her, nor even what is said to her that determines a woman’s destiny, but what she says about herself. All she sought was a position on her knees.

Bitterness and arrogance can make a woman ugly. Michal, King David’s wife, was so bitter that she resented her husband’s happiness. She reminds us that when a woman’s heart is bitter, her eyes are blind. Her bitterness was not to be blamed on herself only, but also to a large extent on her father and her upbringing. Her story teaches us that if your past has limited you, shake it off before it destroys your future.

There are few things more attractive than a woman who knows exactly what God made her to be, who can share her gifts unashamedly and enjoy and celebrate who she is. To discover this is never too late. Naomi was a lady who realised her destiny at a later stage in her life. Until Naomi found purpose, she was a bitter woman. Her sense of destiny and purpose gave her peace. You are never too “used up” to be of service in God’s Kingdom.

A virtuous woman is a giver, a godly woman who cultivates generosity. She is decorated with strength and honour, for life is not for the faint-hearted. To live well one must develop spiritual, physical, mental and emotional strength. Dorcas was a lady who gave herself to others until she broke down herself. But God never forgets a labour of love. You may help someone who rises and walks away without a “thank you” for your sacrifices, but God is different. He never forgets and when you need Him most He will turn up. Even in the case of Tamar, a young lady crushed like a rosebud, God sent someone to pick up the pieces of her broken heart. Although she had good intentions of caring for her brother, it did not prevent her life from becoming shattered with unwanted impurity. If no one comes to pick you up, pick yourself up, walk past the agony and focus on your destiny!

It is important though to remember that you cannot keep on giving and be restored at the same time. Peter speaks to the women of our generation when he says there comes a time when you must put all others aside and allow God to refurbish you. Trees do not continue to bear fruit without rest. In the privacy of your closet allow Him to renew and restore you. And after restoration growth will follow.

But, in growing strong remember not to leave behind your femininity, your grace, your gentleness, and your tender heart. Strive for honour and integrity. Stay cheerful and optimistic. In the days to come one will surely face uncertainty, but face those days and celebrate what God will do for you.

I hope I have sketched the course towards the virtuous woman God wants you to be. May your children indeed call you blessed. May you gain the praises of those around you. And most of all I pray that you may grow in your love and fear of the Lord.
Dear Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine corps,

Can you play for us again? Thank you for playing for us!

I love your music!

Sofia

Thank you for coming to our school. Your music was cool.

Kristyn Nichols

1st grade 1B Class
DON’T LOOK AWAY
ACT AGAINST ABUSE

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THIS CAMPAIGN

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

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline</td>
<td>086 132 2322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Line</td>
<td>080 006 5555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Help Line</td>
<td>080 001 2322</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.