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Above: The SANDF Commander-in-Chief and President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, lays a wreath during a parade held at AFB Bloemspuit on 16 October 2009 in memory of those who lost their lives during peace missions. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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FRONT COVER: The Commander-in-Chief honours the SA peacekeepers. The President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, with the Brigade Commander, Brig Gen Ashton Sibango, inspecting the parade held in celebrating ten years of peace missions. Read all about this memorable parade on pages 13 to 15. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)
From the Editor’s desk

In this edition we are still bringing you news about the SANDF’s celebrations of 10 years of peacekeeping. On 16 October a parade was held in honour of our peacekeepers in Bloemfontein. The SANDF Commander-in-Chief and President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, laid a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives during peace missions and awarded medals during this memorable parade. Read all about this auspicious occasion on pages 13 to 15.

Also read the captivating article: SANDF celebrates a decade of peacekeeping by Mr S.B. Mkhwanazi on pages 16 and 17.

Do not forget to pay tribute to our fallen heroes of both world wars on 11 November, Remembrance Day. (Every year on 11 November at the 11th hour, military veterans’ organisations throughout the world pay homage to them.)

Let us also remember to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. This annual campaign starts on 25 November 2009 and ends on 10 December - International Human Rights Day.

On pages 34 and 35 you can read all about the Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP), which was presented at the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) in Pretoria. This pilot programme is definitely worthwhile attending, but be ready for lots of after-hours of research and work to complete the almost fifty assignments (portfolio of evidence). This programme focuses on the whole spectrum of Public Administration. After successful completion of this programme one can enrol for a Masters degree in Public Administration at the University of Pretoria. Enriching and tiring, but definitely rewarding! I attended this noteworthy pilot programme; read all about it on pages 34 and 35.

And now I am off to a well-deserved break at the South Coast! Until next month!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
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Love her … when she is jealous.
Out of all the men she can have, she chose you.
Love her … when she has annoying little habits that drive you nuts.
You have them too.

Love her … when her cooking is bad. She tries.
Love her … when she looks scary in the morning.
She always fixes herself up again.
Love her … when she makes you watch corny love dramas while the sport is on. She wants to share the moments with you.

Love her … when she asks if she looks fat.
Your opinion counts, so tell her she’s beautiful.
Love her … when she looks beautiful. She’s yours so appreciate.
Love her … when she spends hours to get ready.
She only wants to look her best for you.

Love her … when she buys a gift you don’t like.
Smile and tell her its what you always wanted.
Love her … when she cries for absolutely nothing.
Don’t ask, tell her its what you’ve always wanted.
Love her … when she suffers from PMS. Buy chocolate, rub her feet and rent any movie with Vin Diesel (trust me this works).

Love her … when she asks you to handle the kids.
She trusts you for better judgement.
Love her … when whatever you do is not pleasing.
It happens and will pass.
Love her … when she stains your clothes.
You need a new shirt anyway
Love her … when she argues. She only wants to make things right.

All these things form part of a woman’s character,
This woman is part of your life and should be treated as the queen she is.
Take time to make her feel special in every way
LOVE HER for the woman she is – start today!

Lt B.M. Sebitloane, J Op HQ

ERRATUM
In the Article “Suicide not a viable option to problems”, SA SOLDIER October 2009, page 34, the writer erroneously stated that the Corporal involved was stationed at 10 Air Depot, where in fact he was stationed at 101 Air Supply Unit, Centurion. Our sincere apology for any inconvenience caused.
The Lesotho Border recently came under the spotlight again. This time Operation INTEXO took place under the supervision of the Regional Joint Task Group of the Area Support Base in the Eastern Cape.

This operation was supported by Lt G. Daniels and WO2 F. Grundling, both from the Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape, who rendered excellent service.

The Regional Task Group Eastern Cape executed their mission at the Lesotho Border from 2 to 7 August 2009. The aim of the mission was to do reconnaissance to re-establish previously dilapidated units and get them to adhere to security prescripts on the Lesotho Border during the 2010 World Cup.

The SANDF will also reinstate the military as core functionaries when they replace the police to protect South Africa’s borders. The operation also took place with the intention of exploring the area in order to establish which type of military ambulance would be appropriate for border control in the specific circumstances.

Lt Daniels and WO2 Grundling stated that the exercise was a great experience and essential in determining how to enhance border security.

Lt C.A. Cloete, Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape

When he was only four years old, the highlight of the week in little Hercules’s life was the day when Dirk, the gardener, took him to watch the high school Cadet Corps during their weekly drill period. On those evenings his long-suffering parents were put through the same drill paces, up and down the passage in their home.

On 24 July 2009 a parade was presented at Ammunition Subdepot Naboomspruit not only to commemorate the change of command in the unit, but also to celebrate the career of the outgoing Officer Commanding, Col Hercules Petrus Louw.

Col Louw was born on 25 July 1949 at Upington and matriculated from Upington High School. In January 1970 he started his Basic Training as a National Serviceman at the School of Armour. Although he had known, since the age of four, that he wanted to be a soldier, his father insisted on his first obtaining a civilian qualification and on completion of his National Service, he started an apprenticeship with ISCOR. In 1975 he successfully completed the five-year course (within three years) and qualified as an artisan in electromechanics. He was immediately appointed as a Training Officer at ISCOR in Pretoria and became part of the planning team for the Sishen/Saldanha Project. In 1986 he was appointed as an instructor at the ISCOR Training Centre in Sishen and advanced to the post of Head of Facilities Management of the Sishen/Saldanha Project.

While honouring his father’s wish that he should have a civilian qualification, he also honoured his own dream by joining the Reserve Force at Regiment Orange River (Armour Corps) in 1971, after completing his National Service. In 1986 he was appointed as the first Officer Commanding of the Industrial Commando that came into being under his guidance and leadership.

The call of the military won out in 1988 when he finally turned his back on a very successful civilian career and joined the Permanent Force as a temporary Lieutenant Colonel. His first post in the Permanent Force was as SO1 Operations at Group 21 in Vryburg. He soon advanced to SO1 Force Support, after which he became Acting Officer Commanding of said Group. On 1 October 1997 he started the huge task of closing down Group 21 and 3 Military Area (Taung Military Base) as the Officer Commanding Closing-down Headquarters.

On completion of this task he was appointed as SO1 Force Support at Group 20 in Mafikeng, with the specific task of rectifying the weapon account of the Bophuthatswana
QUO VADIS

"When will I see you again?" These are the words of a song I used to sing many moons back as a young officer when I left for my tours in the 80s to Namibia and here I am again to share the spirit of UBUNTU with all fellow South Africans. In the past few days with the lovely spring weather we have witnessed what no other nation can imagine. Some of our soldiers turned on the very oath they made to serve (so help me God). In Pro Patria, the Preamble concludes with "Nkosi sikelel ’iAfrika. Morena bolo- ka setlhaba sa heso. In my previous article, ‘Proudly South African’, I alluded to the process to unite this diverse coalition from the past to the present and into the future, which will definitely demand leading from the front. Now I stand in awe and ask, Quo Vadis!

We can quote many statements on leadership, but to do that would be foolish. We know what is expected of soldiers and we know that we must at all times display unassailable personal integrity and demonstrate the highest morals. "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" - this is our job and our calling. We were not trained to defy the preamble and to disgrace the flag we honour and salute. We must never display recklessness and expose ourselves to unnecessary risks that will reduce our status as soldiers. We are that which others do not want to be. We have gone where others fear to go and did what others failed to do. We have seen terror and enjoyed the taste of love, we have cried, pained and hoped, but most of all we have lived times others would say were best forgotten. We are proud of what we are; we belong to that which is older than any nation. We go back in history. We are the beginning of history, we are the "Soldiering". And if the mission requires it, we will storm the very gates of hell right behind those who lead with honour and respect.

Man has two supreme loyalties, to country and to family. So long as their families are safe, they will defend their country, believing that by their sacrifice they are safeguarding their families also. But even the bonds of patriotism, discipline and comradeship are loosened when the family itself is threatened, according to B.H Liddel Hart: Sherman, 1927.

There are no excuses; this is what I was taught as a leader and a soldier. I was trained never to blame others when something goes wrong. Blame no one but oneself. We as leaders and soldiers must accept the responsibility and do what is good for the organisation and the individual.

After the organisation of troops, military discipline is the first matter to present itself. It is the soul of armies. If it is not established with wisdom and maintained with unshakeable resolution, you will have no soldiers. Regiments and armies will only be contemptible, armed mobs, more dangerous to their own country than to the enemy. It has always been noted that it is with those armies in which the severest discipline is enforced that the greatest deeds are performed (Maurice de Saxe: Mes Reveries, xviii, 1732).

A BEAR: How do you know I am a diplomat? CHINESE WOMAN: Why, by the skilful way you hide your claws.

"The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority" (Kenneth Blanchard). Together we can achieve more. UBUNTU! Col R.G. Lourens, Pretoria

THE DREAM OF A FOUR-YEAR OLD

First and foremost I thank the SANDF for encouraging the youth. These mothers and fathers within the Department sacrifice their lives and show great patriotism, as they guard the outskirts and borders of this country. That’s what Mrs Mangodongo of the SA Navy said at the exit workshop held in Bloemfontein on 22 August 2009. She added that good health in general was most important to keep the Department fresh and young. She stimulated and empowered us. I wish each individual at Tempe a fabulous new month. Moeketsi Lazarus Mohlomi, Botshabelo

Officer Commanding who always put his unit and the SANDF first. His loyalty and commitment will be sorely missed. We wish him a happy and long retirement with his wife, Suzette, and his sons, Juan, Eugene and Hercules Junior. We also wish him success with any enterprise he might undertake in the future.

Col Louw handed over command of the unit to Lt Col Sindile Tikana who will act as Officer Commanding until an Officer Commanding is appointed. We also wish Lt Col Tikana much success in his time as Acting Officer Commanding. Ms A.J. Olivier, Naboomspruit
LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES

To spread a little happiness, that is up to me
Especially when that happiness is absolutely free

Let me spread some peace, To cancel out some hate
A little bit of calm, With those who have need

Can never be too late
Let me share my hope
When anger would consume me
Let me search my heart
Let me share my strength
With those who cannot cope
To find and soothe the anger
That is tearing me apart

When jealousy makes me nasty
And rules my life
Let me see the waste of time
That brings me only strife
Through grace that I receive
In blessing from above
Let faith be my reminder
That brings me only strife

Let me never hesitate to spread a little love.
Masango Zungu, 121 Battalion

DYNAMITE IN A SMALL PACKAGE

The Joint Tactical Headquarters Northern Cape made history by appointing the first and only dwarf secretary in the Joint Operational environment.

Ms Johanna Burger was appointed as the Secretary of the Officer Commanding, Col L.P. Venter, on 1 June 2007. The unit took major steps to accommodate Ms Burger through physical changes at entrances and toilets, as well as by transporting the member between work and home. All of these have made the environment friendlier for people with disabilities.

According to Ms Burger, people tend to think that a person of small stature does not have the ability to function like others. However, personnel at the Joint Tactical HQ Northern Cape realised very quickly that Ms Burger was a very independent person with her own ideas.

HERO JOURNEY

I should like to talk at length about the grace of God. There are two kinds of grace, common grace and grace. Common grace is the grace of God that is enjoyed by everybody. God gives His sunlight to both the saved and the unsaved (evil) and sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. God’s common grace has made wisdom come even from the mouths of sinners. That is why God is telling His children in Matthew 23 v 3: “So practise and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practise what they preach”. The good and bad thing about the world is that it tells people what to do, but doesn’t tell them how. South Africa tells her people not to steal, not to kill, not to cheat, etc. Every South African knows that, but they do not have the wisdom not to commit these sinful acts.

The good thing about the grace of God is that whenever He commands us to do something He always gives us the power to accomplish it by means of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is only given to people who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Knowledge alone is not enough, wisdom is also needed. Knowledge is the accumulation of facts, but wisdom is the application of those facts. The Bible says the beginning of wisdom is to fear God. To fear God is to do all He commands. According to Biblical scholars 613 deeds and commandments are required of Christians. A person with knowledge is just like a trained soldier who goes to war without weapons. You cannot kill the enemy even if you are well trained. You must have weapons. Therefore it is essential for everyone to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour so that they will be given the Holy Spirit to experience God’s best.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.
Sgt Z.L. Nshongwana, AFB Durban

Ms Johanna Burger appointed as Secretary in the Joint Operations environment.

HARD TIMES FOR MSDS MEMBERS

Now hard times have arrived for the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) 2008 intake.
I gave up everything to serve in the SANDF, but now am watching and waiting for my name to be called. I dropped out of school and pledged myself to serve the country. However, the SANDF is going to throw me out just like that. My fellow students are now graduating; maybe I would have been one of those if I had stayed. I thought I could build a future in the SANDF, but it seems like the aim was just to observe. Why does the SANDF have to ruin our futures like this, as young as we are? What do you think we are going to do out there? From the knowledge and training we acquired, do you think it will help out there in civilian life?

Don’t think so, because even a mere licence is not recognised. I am appealing to the SANDF on behalf of all MSDS members that it should give contracts at least to those members who have abided by all the rules applying to an MSDS member. Rfn M.J. Mathapo, SA Army Combat Training Centre (MSDS member)
HERITAGE DAY IN THE DRC

Another Heritage Day has come and gone. Unfortunately for the members in Mavivi Base in Beni in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) it was no public holiday since we fell under United Nations (UN) jurisdiction. Nevertheless the day was still celebrated proudly by us South Africans the following day.

On Friday, 25 September 2009, a function was held to celebrate the day. The evening began with the NCC delivering a speech emphasising that we must not forget our traditions and where we came from. Different groupings made their appearances on stage to explain their different cultural backgrounds, traditional clothing, the food they eat and not forgetting how they dance.

COMMUNICATION STEERS MILITARY OPERATIONS

The success of any military operation lies in communication. For the communication to be effective, a signaller must be committed. This is what is happening at the RSA Engineers base in the DRC.

The Signal Troop at the RSA Engineering base in Goma (DRC) plays an exceptional role in the operational field. It is doing all it can to achieve its objectives and thus to provide a reliable and effective communication service to its clients (RSA Engineers).

The services that are rendered by the Engineers are tactical communications, satellite telecommunications, registry, library, power supply, battery charging, field post office and information technology.

All of the signal services depend on a team of eight members under the command of 2Lt M.R. Matsimela from North West Signal Unit and S Sgt Keet from 1 Signal Regiment, the troop NCO. L Cpl J.M. Legodi from 21 Signal Unit ensures effective, reliable and non-stop satellite telecommunication. The member is doing her best to get telephones up and running and sometimes she even assists own forces (i.e. RSA Aviation) with satellite communication. The member is doing her best to get telephones up and running and sometimes she even assists own forces (i.e. RSA Aviation) with satellite communication. The members in Goma get their mail within 48 hours of the arrival of mail from SA. This is a lot of work as all the mail for RSA Battalion Operation, A Coy, B Coy, C Coy, D Coy and Engineers is sorted by one person - S Sgt De Beer. He even works after hours to ensure that members receive their parcels from loved ones in time. The dispatching of parcels is also being processed with exceptional commitment.

I would like to compliment Smm E. Moagi who is currently at Osso farm where the RSA Engineers element is deployed. He is a Military Skills Development System (MSDS) member and his first deployment, but his performance is like that of a long-service experienced signaller. He approached me and asked for a chance to be deployed to Osso farm. The member was given the opportunity and he really proved himself worthy. In that element he is running all signal services alone, from tactical communications to power supply.

The team that is providing effective and continuous tactical communications and power supply in the main base consists of Cpl Z. Lakay, Cpl H.P. Marokana, Cpl K.H. Moshabane and Smm S. Ramoliki. Special thanks are due to my functional commander, Maj P.J. Moroamodishi, for the support that he showed us. As a signal troop detached to the client unit we rely much on the support of the Signal FSE commander where equipment supply, LAN service and generator service are concerned.

Bravo to the Signal Troop in RSA Engineers Base - "Certa Cito". 2Lt M.R. Matsimela, Signal Troop Commander, RSA Engineers Squadron, DRC
An improved and larger hamper is awaiting the families of SANDF members who are deployed externally, beyond the borders of South Africa.

This year more sponsors donated food and beverages for the goodwill parcels than ever before. Massmart co-ordinated sponsorships from Huletts, Simba, Nampak Corrugated, Colgate-Palmolive, Snackwox, Unilever, Oceana Group Limited, Premier Foods, Nestle, Tiger Brands, Kelloggs, Cadbury, Bokomo and Bull Brand to donate food parcels for the families of the deployed SANDF members.

The contents of the new 2009 goodwill hamper for the families of members deployed externally, beyond the borders of South Africa. The SANDF Spouses’ Forum obtained sponsors for the forum. The goodwill parcels were packed by the staff of 10 Air Depot, assisted by the senior warrant officers of the SANDF.

Ms Busiswe Ngwenya, Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum and wife of the Chief of the SANDF, sincerely thanked all the sponsors for their generous contributions and the superb hampers.

“The deployed members are making great sacrifices and these goodwill parcels for their families are only a small token of our thanks for their efforts and sacrifices,” Ms Ngwenya said. Col T.K. Davies, Officer Commanding of 10 Air Depot, and his staff who provides storage and helped to pack the hampers, hosted a function on 14 October 2009 to thank the sponsors and the SANDF Spouses’ Forum represented by Ms Elizabeth Magalefa, Ms Anthea Schoeman and Ms Faith Malinga, all three also generals’ or admirals’ wives.

Senior Warrant Officers from all the Services also attended the occasion under the auspices of the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF.
A dream comes true

By Lt Sello Segone
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

"It was like a dream come true! Here was a man I had seen on television, heard about on the radio, read about in the papers, and he was walking solemnly on the red carpet as we stood to attention. My hands are tightly grasping my rifle. The command comes loud and clear by Lt Col Andre September to salute as he approaches. I do this with pride and honour in the company of my fellow riflemen. I do it for my Commander-in-Chief, the President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma."

These were the feelings that ran through the minds of the members of the Guard of Honour on 22 October 2009 when President Zuma visited the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Headquarters to be briefed by the Surgeon General on the structures of the SAMHS, the state of readiness, and the contingency planning in place to support the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

The President was accompanied by the former Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, and the Director-General in the Presidency, Mr Vusi Mavimbela.
South Africa does not live in isolation. If it has to enjoy its hard earned democracy then it has the responsibility to keep the African continent stable politically and economically. Considering that South Africa emphasises the principles of UBUNTU, which is about putting people first, it is not surprising that South Africa is a pioneer in peace missions for the sake of securing a better life for all in line with these UBUNTU principles.

The involvement of South Africans in peace missions has brought hope to disillusioned people in the various conflict stricken countries. Peace missions include preventative diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, peace building, humanitarian assistance and intervention.

The SANDF has spent a decade participating in peace missions. To celebrate this worthy deed by our soldiers on 16 October, the SANDF brigade parade under the command of Brig Gen Ashton Sibango and CWO Joachim Pretorius was held in Bloemfontein in honour of our peace "angels". This parade was held in AFB Bloemspruit and the Bloemfontein City Hall. On 15 and 16 October the streets surrounding the city hall were closed from approximately 11:00 to 13:30.

WO2 Dick Shadrack Mkhonto was awarded the Star for Bravery Gold Medal for performing great deeds of exceptional bravery by putting his life in danger during MK military operations.

The Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, salutes during the singing of the National Anthem and the official opening of the parade.

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Commander-in-Chief honours the South African Peacekeepers
The SANDF Commander-in-Chief and President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma, was invited to attend and to honour our tireless and fearless peace warriors. The Commander-in-Chief laid a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives during peace missions. After parade inspection he gave medals to the following soldiers:

- **Star for bravery in Gold**
  WO2 Dick Shadrack Mkhonto was awarded this medal dated 25 July 1996 for performing great deeds of exceptional bravery while putting his life in danger during military operations before 1994 while serving in the Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK).

- **United Nations Dag Hammarskjold**
  The Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) established the Dag Hammarskjold as a posthumous award to members of peacekeeping forces who lost their lives in peacekeeping operations under the operational control and authority of the UN. These two medals were symbolically presented to the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Chiefs of the Services in which the deceased members served.

  In his speech the Commander-in-Chief commended the soldiers: "Members on parade, you have been excellent ambassadors of our country in the quest for peace. In difficult circumstances you have earned yourselves a place in the hearts of many".

  President Zuma confirmed that the SANDF was the spear and shield of our nation. He urged the nation to invest in our National Defence Force. "Investing in the SANDF means we are investing in the creation of conditions for democracy, strengthening of democracy and defending democracy," said the President. He indicated that the perception that intensifying democracy reduced the security threat was incorrect; what reduced the threat was investing in the defence of our democratic state.

The members on parade represented all the Services and Divisions of the SANDF that participated in peace missions, and the colour company consisted of Service and Regimental colours of Services and Units that participated in peace missions.
The members on parade represented all the Services and Divisions of the SANDF that participated in peace missions, and the colour company consisted of Service and Regimental colours of Services and Units that participated in peace missions. The mass band comprised four service bands under the direction of Lt Col Matthys Pienaar, Director of Music of the SAAF Band. Two Augusta 109 helicopters from 87 Helicopter Flying School based in AFB Bloemspruit performed the flight salute. The SA Army Artillery Mobilisation Regiment performed the 21-gun salute under the command of Maj Frans van Niekerk. The SA Navy performed precision drill.

In view of the fact that our country does not live in isolation, its economic development and security are linked to Africa’s stability. In pursuit of a better life for all the SANDF will continue to be deployed on various peace missions and thus render political, economic and humanitarian aid to various African states.
SANDF celebrates a decade of peacekeeping

By Mr S.B. Mkhwanazi, Acting Director of Communication in the Office of the Secretary for Defence

When young men and women enlist in the National Defence Force they demonstrate a patriotic zeal to serve and defend the country in times of peace and war. They do this fully aware that in executing their duty they might pay the ultimate price, namely death. Destruction of property and killing the enemy becomes part of their professional development and certainly the reality that they may perish in battle remains etched in their minds. But uncharacteristically, members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) have a humbling and different story to tell. Since the advent of democracy theirs has been a life of duty to preserve life, property and help build relations in many troubled parts of the African continent in support of government foreign policy.

Admittedly some of the soldiers could not return home as they fell in the line of duty in the peacekeeping theatre of operations in pursuit of the national obligation to contribute to international conflict resolution. Such is the tale of 10 years of the SANDF’s experience in United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations, as September 2009 marked a significant milestone for the country and its primary institution for national defence, the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. It was in September 1999 that South Africa took a small, but important step to participate in international peace support operations. More precisely on 5 September 1999 the first member of the SANDF was deployed as a Capital Liaison Officer in Kampala, Uganda, in support of the initial stages of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This was of course followed by the deployment of SANDF specialist unit components, such as air handling teams, airfield crash and rescue teams, fire-fighting teams, aero-medical evacuation teams and the command and support unit under the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC). This deployment laid the critical foundation of the UN mission. Considering treacherous terrain such as the Great Lakes region, it may have been a gamble for the UN to request a novice in peacekeeping to deploy troops in the DRC, bearing in mind past UN failures. However, such was the UN’s confidence in the SANDF that SANDF staff officers assumed duty in crucial headquarters positions in MONUC. They did not disappoint, but distinguished themselves with their dedication, discipline and professionalism. With over 3 000 troops currently deployed in peace missions on the African continent, South Africa has become one of the largest troop contributing nations to peacekeeping missions of the UN and the AU and perhaps it is no exaggeration to say that peacekeeping in Africa without the SANDF’s...
involvement is unthinkable.

Success in peacekeeping is rarely quantifiable, but the SANDF’s successes need to be placed in proper context if they are to be understood and appreciated. For decades prior to 1994, South Africa was a pariah state because of its apartheid policies, which undoubtedly oppressed and brutalised the majority black population. To sustain the racist system, the erstwhile government used the state apparatus, including the military, against its own citizens and the neighbouring countries.

Needless to say, the South African Defence Force (SADF) of the old order was not synonymous with peace, but with destruction and death. However, today South Africa is regarded by the international community as a symbol of peace and reconciliation, thanks to the vision of its leaders, black and white, who despite the country’s painful history, brokered a negotiated peaceful settlement that gave birth to democracy and aspirations for a better life for all. With peace at home came the immediate need to ponder strategically the role of South Africa’s military in a post-apartheid era in pursuance of the country’s new foreign policy. Undeterred by the transformation challenges faced by the DOD, Cabinet approved in 1998 the White Paper on South Africa’s Participation in International Peace Missions. It is this environment that shaped the birth of the SANDF. The integration of the former seven armed forces into the SANDF was a powerful demonstration of the government’s commitment to national reconciliation, unity and transformation. A National Defence Force with a defensive posture, rather than an offensive one, became an instrument of peace and a defender of human rights - this is the mantra of South Africa’s armed forces.

Perhaps it was no accident that when a free South Africa took its rightful place in the family of nations as a trusted member, and was called upon to play its role in international multilateral organisations, government was confident that the DOD would not shirk its duty or flinch, but would be committed to playing a critical role in support of diplomatic initiatives in pursuit of the Africa’s renaissance project. South Africa’s successful hosting of the SADC countries that were here to participate in a peacekeeping field training exercise, Exercise BLUE CRANE, further enhanced government’s confidence in the DOD’s capability and capacity to fulfil its secondary function of honouring the country’s international obligations.

More importantly, Africa has been the focal point of the country’s foreign policy based on the belief that SA’s security and economic prosperity is linked to that of the Southern African subregion and the continent at large. It follows that to ensure the success of the project of Africa’s renaissance conflicts and political instability would have to be eradicated. With merely 10 years of experience in peace missions, South Africa is regarded by the international community as an honest and trusted peace broker in Africa, and the role of the SANDF in peace support operations has been pivotal and has grown beyond what the country had originally envisaged.

The SANDF entered uncharted terrain and somehow even defied textbook UN peacekeeping models. Mindful of the May 1994 genocide in Rwanda that claimed lives at an estimated rate of a million in 100 days, the DOD was swift in responding to the Commander-in-Chief’s order (former President Nelson Mandela) to deploy troops to protect the returning exiled political leaders to Burundi, amid a shaky ceasefire agreement.

Under the auspices of the AU, their mission was boosted by troop contributions from Ethiopia and Mozambique. Deploying troops for VIP Protection duties is really unorthodox peacekeeping! Today, it should be acknowledged that the SANDF played a key role in ensuring that the Rwanda genocide was not repeated in Burundi and today a democratically elected government rules Burundi. The same could be said about the DRC. South Africa continues to play a critical role in helping to find a lasting peace settlement in the DRC, in the Sudan and in the Central African Republic. As a matter of objective analysis, we should agree that when the SANDF is called upon to discharge its duties, be it in peace support operations or humanitarian assistance in countries affected by natural disasters or otherwise, it has always distinguished itself. The SANDF has never failed to deliver on government ordered commitments.

Indeed, we should not lose sight of the fact that this tenth anniversary of the SANDF’s participation in peace support operations comes at a time when the state of readiness of the SANDF to discharge its constitutional mandate to defend the country and its people is being questioned by some sections of the population. It has not been plain sailing for the DOD in the past decade due to the challenges it has had to face, including budgetary constraints. Dwindling financial resources have only served to inspire innovations in the SANDF’s planning for operations to meet national and African expectations and discharge government’s “ordered commitments” at home and abroad. With hindsight, the past decade has been an eventful period for the DOD in general, and the SANDF in particular, as the latter entered the theatre of international peace missions without the luxury of being able to sit back and learn, but it had to hit the ground running. Africa and the proudly South African nation salute the SANDF!

A fitting tribute to mark this 10th Anniversary of SANDEF/RSA participation in peace missions is the honour bestowed on South Africa to host the SADC’s peace support Exercise GOLFHINO at the SA Army Combat Training Centre, Lohatlha, in the Northern Cape, that was held over the period 1 to 29 September 2009. This peacekeeping exercise was a further enhancement of South Africa’s stature as she could depend on her experience of the last decade of peace support operations on the continent, following on from Exercise BLUE CRANE in 1999, BLUE HUNGWE in Zimbabwe in 1997, TANZANITE and BLUE RUVUMA in Tanzania in 2002, THOKGAMO in Botswana in 2005, and now, on South African soil, SADC Exercise GOLFHINO.
The SANDF celebrates Heritage Day

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: Lt Amanda Brand, SO3
AMHU Limpopo Corp Com

he SANDF endeared itself to the hearts of over 5 000 spectators at the Ntwampe Sports Ground in Moroke Village during the National Heritage Day celebrations on 24 September 2009.

The jubilant government dignitaries, traditional leaders and members of the public were treated to a spectacular drill by the Army Support Base Polokwane Band and the air display of the Silver Falcons from Air Force Base Makhado.

This was the very first military Heritage Day display in the Greater Sekhukhune District, and military equipment was exhibited to the broader public that had never seen such things before. Two Silver Falcon aircraft were seen in an aerobatic display, much to the delight of the spectators in the stadium.

The air show was preceded by a Guard of Honour of the National Ceremonial Guard for the then Acting President, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe, and other government dignitaries on the podium. Immediately after the dignitaries were seated and the pre-parade announcements were made, the ASB Polokwane Military Band and the National Ceremonial Guard gave a performance, wheeling and executing impressive drill movements to a cheering crowd.

The National Salute, which included the Guard of Honour, the singing of the National Anthem, a 21-gun Salute by 4 Artillery Regiment and the National Flag fly-past by the two Augusta 109 light utility heli-
copters, followed the drill display. Acting President Motlanthe commended the Department of Arts and Culture for supporting small entrepreneurs in the arts and culture environment and expressed his appreciation of their potential.

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana, urged the public to help the government to support local craftsmen and artists, especially those under-exposed in the rural areas to realise their potential in the crafts market. A jubilant Limpopo Province Premier, Cassel Mathale, used the opportunity to introduce the nation to the province’s rich cultural landmarks such as the Mapungubwe Heritage Site, the rich history of culture of the Va- Venda, Ba Pedi and Va-Tsonga tribes and also the rain-making capabilities of Queen Modjadji of the Ba-Lobedu clan. Mathale narrated the tale of the battle between the British and King Sekhukhune in 1878 at the Tšate Heritage Site, where the statue of King Sekhukhune I has been erected.

Extending a hand of friendship

By L Cp1 Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

In his ongoing attempt to foster good relations with the international community by means of co-operative governance and multilateral and bilateral agreements, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF, has invited his counterpart, Gen Aronda Nyakairima, Chief of the Ugandan People's Defence Force, for a goodwill visit over the period 8 to 10 September 2009. The visit was aimed at enhancing existing relations with the Ugandan Armed Forces.

The visit included a tour to some military installations in the country and a visit to one of South Africa’s historic sites, the Apartheid Museum. Gen Nyakairima and his entourage were given an overview presentation of the SANDF. This involved the overall functioning of different services and divisions within the organisation and how they cohesively worked together to attain the SANDF’s primary objective, viz to defend and protect the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people.

Links between SA and Jamaica

By L Cp1 Ally Rakoma
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of Defence Staff of Jamaica, Maj Gen Stewart Emerson St Leonard Saunders, accompanied by Lt Col Trevor Leckie, Capt Maxwell Gordon and Mr Audley Rodrigues, the Jamaican High Commissioner in South Africa, visited South Africa to meet with the senior leadership of the SANDF at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 22 October 2009.

The visit was a confidence building measure aimed at establishing sound military relations between the two armed forces and was a gesture of goodwill. This visit can also be seen as a milestone in the establishment of links in matters military.
South Africa is mostly known for its diverse cultures, beliefs and norms, but mostly for its unique experiences over the recent past to achieve a democratic dispensation, which it can share with other countries. As the country has become a beacon of hope with regard to the integration of a previously divided society and the formulation of arguably one of the most advanced constitutions in the world, it is only normal that other countries will come to South Africa to learn about it.

On 7 October 2009 Mr Tsepe Motumi, the Acting Secretary for Defence, welcomed a high-level delegation from the Nepalese Parliament representing different political parties from Nepal. This visit was aimed at learning how South Africa achieved democracy, with particular attention paid to the integration of the different armed forces into one National Defence Force within a constitutional democracy.

Mr Motumi extended a warm welcome to the Nepal delegation and emphasised how much of an honour it was to host this first high-level delegation. He said: “It is with great pride that we announce that gender equality, equal opportunities and representivity are objectives that constitute a very high priority, not only in the South African Department of Defence, but also in the broader Public Service at large. The SANDF has participated in the United Nations Political Mission in Nepal for the past three years, which we can safely say was one of our proudest moments.”

He touched on the fact that the Constitution flowed from a process begun at Convention For A Democratic South Africa (CODESA), in which all the diverse political and social groupings participated. He highlighted the fact that South Africa and Nepal were two multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious countries and shared remarkable similarities with respect to their historic backgrounds. “The SANDF has shown eagerness and willingness to share its experiences, insights and expertise with other communities who share similar values and norms,” said Mr Motumi.

Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief Director of Human Resources, briefly explained the transition that led to the integration of forces after years of political strife in South Africa. The Joint Military Co-ordinating Committee (JMCC) was established to facilitate the integration of the SADF, MK, APLA, and the armed forces from the Bantustans by means of the CODESA negotiations. This process led to the formation of what is known today as the SANDF. However, this transition came with great challenges with regard to the mind shift of the soldiers, as new policies had to be formulated and ranks had to be altered within the new structure.

The White Paper on Defence was also formulated, the purpose of which was to inform its citizens and other states, particularly those in Africa of South Africa’s new policies on defence.

One of the most important aspects in the White Paper was transparency and freedom of information. Some issues of importance mentioned in the White Paper were gender representation and affirmative action within the military.

One of the reforms in the White Paper was civil control within the military when the Ministry of Defence was established. To ensure civil control the post of Secretary for Defence was established. Members were to be trained in civic education, focusing on the constitution and the bill of rights, cultural diversity and military professionalism.

The integration took a decade to complete as there was not enough time to finalise the Certified Personnel Register. Another peculiar issue was the demobilisation of military veterans to avoid a socio-economical crisis. However, with all these challenges the integration was very successful and it made the SANDF fully functional in achieving its great goal.
The role of the Defence Reserves should not be underestimated in its support of the Regular Forces.

The International Reserve Symposium held recently in Pretoria confirmed and elaborated the principles governing the utilisation and preparation of the Reserves. The theme of the symposium was "Enabling dynamic and adaptable SANDF Reserves that meet the needs of the SANDF".

In his keynote address the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, stated that he was proud of the marketing strategy of the Defence Reserves and said: "We have taken note and indeed are impressed with the way in which the Reserves of the SANDF market themselves to all communities in South Africa. Not only do they succeed in profiling themselves, but they manage to enhance the profile of the greater National Defence Force very effectively".

He also stated that Defence Reserves should not be viewed as an isolated part of the SANDF, but should rather be seen as an integral part of the defence establishment and part of the National Defence Force design.

Mr Makwetla urged that the "One Force" Concept should be adopted by the Reserves and Regular members in the SANDF to aid their working in unison. One of the key principles in the establishment of the SANDF since the democratic elections of 1994 was that the SANDF would consist of full-time and regular components, as well as a part-time or Reserve component. Furthermore, it is understood that the relationship between these two components is the primary tool towards providing affordable defence capacity and capabilities," said Mr Makwetla.

Even though there are some challenges to overcome in the Reserves, for example an inadequate feeder system, the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, said the Reserve Force was generally in good shape. The SA Army has so far deployed 16 infantry companies and four engineer troops on peace missions. He stated that sterling work had also been achieved in terms of the number of deployed Reserve members during the last financial year, including 7 897 members in the SA Army, 601 in the SA Air Force, 369 within the SA Military Health Service and 298 in the SA Navy.

The symposium was also a platform to embark upon key issues or topics such as the legal protection of Reserves and incentives and employer support that faced Defence Reserves not only in South Africa but also abroad. An emotional tribute was held on the last day of the symposium in remembrance of the lives lost during 11 September 2001 attacks on the USA.
The aim of this year’s conference was, among others, to integrate gender criteria in all defence and military policy, plans and processes, including mission statements and the establishment of structures to advise, execute, monitor and report on gender matters in all Services and Divisions. This year it also included the capacity building of the PSAP by concentrating on lower level skills and competencies that have to be accelerated in order to enable PSAP to be considered for senior posts in future.

The Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, recognised PSAP views within the DOD during her closing remarks on the final day of the conference when she outlined the important role of the PSAP in the DOD. "I am glad that the PSAP made themselves available this year to put forward their challenges with regard to gender mainstreaming in the DOD through their constant engagement with the Transformation Management Directorate. It is important for them and all other Services and Divisions to help measure and implement gender mainstreaming as an effective tool to address the gender balance within the Department," she said. Maj Gen Memela-Motumi oversees the successful implementation of the gender balance within the DOD.

Various speakers from Services and Divisions described the daily challenges they faced in managing gender parity.

The Defence Secretariat, which includes the high-level decision makers of the SANDF, has promised to look into the following:

- Increasing the representivity of women in all ranks in the DOD with a view to affirming women and disabled people through recruitment, selection, appointments, exposure to education, training and development opportunities and promotions.
- Staffing of women in vacant Senior Management Service and Medium Management Service posts as a priority to redress the current gender imbalance.

Among others, Mr Phillemon Mogale, the PSAP group facilitator, requested the DOD to revisit both the Defence and Public Service Act and Regulations to find a common understanding, including the restructuring
of PSAP administration to be developmental and accountable to the acceleration of the implementation of the Programmes of Action, target dates and performance indicators to be set. He also requested accessibility to both DOD opportunities and resources.

The SA Army was first to present its challenges at the conference. The SA Army called upon the DOD to consider manufacturing gender friendly battle equipment that would not endanger the lives of women when they needed to operate it. The SA Army also requested the senior SANDF managers to consider placing more women in supportive roles than combat roles, as well as at all management levels.

“Gender forums should be decentralised to the unit level with equity committees to set clear guidelines together with the supporting structures in order to solidify the process. It is equally important for the representatives, including the General Officers Commanding, Officers Commanding and other unit members to attend the gender forums in order to make informed decisions,” the SA Army delegation said.

The SA Air Force, on the other hand, suggested that it should have its own gender conference before the annual DOD Gender Conference to address challenges such as the exploitation of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and the Reserve Force members. The SA Air Force also pointed out that education and training in gender mainstreaming should be accessible at unit level. They further asked that people should be recruited on merit and on the basis of their skills to prevent nepotism, such as where family members of senior officials had easy access to the recruitment system.

According to the SA Navy they are the only Service to have started implementing the 2008 Gender Conference resolutions. They consequently provided the delegation with the latest update on their gender mainstreaming, includ-

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The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) hosted its first International Military Nursing Conference in Pretoria from 17 to 21 August 2009. Attending were military health representatives from neighbouring Southern African Development Community (SADC) and local Military Health Practitioners.

This conference under the direction of Brig Gen Nompumelelo Madlala-Msimango, Director of Nursing in SAMHS, was an important milestone in the history of the SANDF as it was the first conference of its kind where military nurses from South Africa could benchmark the strategic position of nurses with those from the SADC.

The objectives of the conference were to define and clarify the strategic position of the South African military nurses within the country, as well as the military nursing profile, the professional practice of nurses, and the role and function of the military nurse in terms of her responsibilities as nursing practitioner, nursing officer and non-commissioned officer in the SANDF.

Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango expressed the hope that this conference would lead to the development of a sustainable career for military nurses that would be recognised by the Government.

The conference served as a platform to develop and promote a special working relationship between military nurses from South Africa and those from SADC and African Union (AU) countries. Various speakers outlined challenges facing military nurses on both internal and external deployments.

In his presentation on the military nurse as the backbone of the SAMHS, Maj Thabo Mokhathi drew from the collective experiences of Col (Dr) Chris Naidoo, Chief Specialist Maxillo-facial Surgeon at 1 Military Hospital and the Head of Research of Project Phidisa, during their Operation BATA and Operation ITHEMBA expedition. He outlined the importance of deploying military health practitioners in areas of conflict.

"With the dawn of a democratic order in South Africa, our country has been warmly welcomed into the international arena. The responsibility of peace support has necessitated the deployment of South Africa’s uniformed health care members to countries such as the Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The contribution of these members to maintaining stability and peace, especially in Africa, has paid dividends in terms of the recognition and goodwill that South Africa has received," said Maj Mokhathi, the Site Study Co-ordinator for the Project Phidisa Research Programme.

Addressing the delegates on the preparation of the combat ready nurse, Lt Col Annette de Kock, SO1 Nursing Mobile Military Health Formation HQ, and Lt Col Kgalalelo Kegakilwe, SO1 Health Doctrine Development in the...
Brig Gen Nompumelelo Madlala-Msimango, Director of Nursing in SAMHS (second from left), flanked by, from the left, Col Fezeka Mabona, Officer Commanding SAMHS Nursing College, Lt Col Zuziwe Maso, SO1 Tertiary Nursing 1 Military Hospital, and Col Lindiwe Nkoko, SSO Occupational Health Safety, salute during the closing ceremony of the first International Military Nursing Conference.

Joint Operations Division, both agreed members should be thoroughly prepared for deployment.

They were adamant that there should be a revision and updating of nursing related issues in pre-deployment training programmes and post-deployment support. Provision should also be made for all the nursing post-deployment evaluations and the review of the deployment structures for nurses in all mission areas.

Speaking to SA Soldier about his impression of the first International Military Nursing Conference, CO Ndala Matabane, a fourth-year nursing student at SAMHS Nursing College, said the conference had unlocked a wealth of knowledge for him. He also stated that he would like to receive the necessary training to enable him to be deployed to any foreign mission in order to plough back to communities less fortunate so that they could receive adequate medical supplies.

Lt Col Tendai Makuyana, Chief Nursing Officer in the Zimbabwe Army Medical Directorate, praised Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango for initiating this benchmark of SADC Military Nursing.

"The conference has enlightened us a great deal because all presentations as well as the research papers delivered will help the various countries to establish comprehensive health care institutions. The lesson learned will be passed on to fellow military nurses in the region to improve the health care system, not only in the military but overall among communities," she remarked on behalf of the SADC Military Nursing.

"The presentations assisted us as nursing practitioners to understand our responsibilities and to be able to define ourselves as military nurses. The presentations also set a skills matrix for military nurses. However, there is a major concern about the capacity within the SAMHS due to the shortage of health care professionals such as doctors and specialists. The SAMHS must therefore improve the recruitment and retention of the military nurses by urgently addressing the remuneration and utilisation of nurses," said Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango, who effectively retires at the beginning of November 2009.

Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango stated that some of the proposed resolutions could be implemented immediately while others would require the participation and intervention of the higher command and control authorities.

International delegates who attended this historical Military Nursing Conference included representatives from countries such as Botswana, the DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Heidelberg came to a virtual standstill as the SA Army Gymnasium bade farewell to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the SA Army Training Formation, Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo, during a colourful farewell parade on 3 September 2009.

A spectacular four-stage parade was prepared for the “jovial” senior officer, as Brig Gen Nelwamondo is known by those who have closely worked with him at the SA Army Training Formation.

The highlight of the day was when six well-built and strong men drew a chariot designed especially for the occasion, to usher Brig Gen Nelwamondo straight to his new responsibilities, which included his new challenges in the People’s Republic of China, where he will be deployed as a Defence Attaché.

Addressing the spectators at the main SA Army Gymnasium parade ground, the visibly moved GOC said he was honoured and proud of his success in dealing with the culturally diverse group of competent people who were working tirelessly to achieve the organisational aims and goals of the SA Army and the DOD as a whole.

“Since my inception as the GOC of the SA Army Training Formation, I have had a personal vision of ensuring the transformation of the Formation by including all people irrespective of race, gender, creed, status and social orientation. This vision is aligned with the National Government imperative, but today I am proud to announce that the Training Formation has successfully achieved this. We can proudly call ourselves a fully transformed Formation.”

He also said that the goal was achieved by appointing skilled, competent people in strategic positions to ensure that the Formation operated effectively and efficiently, and working towards promoting Gender Equity by ensuring that women were also given opportunities that they were previously denied.

He also cited the example of Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa who became the GOC SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatla.

Brig Gen Nelwamondo singled out Col Gideon Holtzhausen, Chief of Staff at the SA Army Training Formation, who was one of the people close to his heart in the working environment. He led him and others to believe in themselves and gave them the freedom to express their views on pertinent issues to the betterment of the formation.

Col Holtzhausen stated that they would never forget the way in which Brig Gen Nelwamondo let them develop themselves and that he taught them that a mission command was a way of life. He also said that Brig Gen Nelwamondo’s leadership style and approach to issues involving the advancement of the Formation were exceptional and that he taught them to stand on their own feet. “You also taught us that when the going gets tough and the tough get going, to be strong,” Col Holtzhausen said.

Lt Col André Grobbelaar, the
Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo inspects the parade during his farewell parade at the SA Army Gymnasium.

acted one's future and life is a journey, we must walk it. All staff members of the SA Army Gymnasium, Commanders and soldiers will be missed, but in the world, as small as it is, our paths will cross one day and I'm going to miss you all”. Brig Gen Nelwamondo gracefully received gifts from the SA Army Gymnasium staff and the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Heidelberg Office.

Also present at the event were representatives from the Department of Correctional Services, the Office of the Mayor of Ekurhuleni, the Metro Police Department and leading religious leaders.

Abridged Curriculum Vitae

Brig Gen Vuledzani Abel Nelwamondo was born on 12 August 1961 in Thohoyandou in Venda. He attended both primary and secondary schools in Thohoyandou, where he also obtained a BA in Administration and Political Science.

He joined the former Venda Defence Force in 1983 where he completed his NCO courses and was promoted to the rank of Corporal and Instructor. In 1986 he did his Officers Formative training and became a Transport Officer. In 1987 he served as Platoon Commander. In 1988 he was appointed as Company 2IC and served as Company Commander from 1989 to 1992. After completing the relevant Combat Officers Training he served as Battalion Commander from 1993 to 1996.

In 1993 he served as Councillor with a grouping of Integration Forces for the SA National Peacekeeping Force in Pretoria to oversee the integration process and to help curb the violence of that period. He served there until 1996, whereafter he was transferred to 1 SA Infantry Battalion in Bloemfontein as SO1 Research and Development. He held this post until 1997.

Thereafter he was transferred from 1 SAI Bn to Wallmansthal as Integration Battalion Commander to oversee the integration process. He served at Wallmansthal until the end of 1997 and was then transferred to Military Base Heidelberg as Unit Commander of the School of Signals, where he served for one year.

From 1 School of Signals he was transferred to 73 Brigade as Officer Commanding. Thereafter he was transferred to the Directorate SA Army Acquisitions, Defence Headquarters, as SO1 Research and Development on Combat Systems. During that period he completed his Senior Command and Staff Duties Course at the SA Army College in Pretoria. (CV courtesy of the SA Army website: http://www.dod.mil.za/saarmy/trainingformation/training/commandgroup

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SA Air Force awards top students

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole

Twenty-one SA Air Force students received their wings in recognition of their successful completion of the various wings programmes. The SA Air Force wings parade took place at Swartkop Air Force Base on 11 September 2009, to award the achievers for their ability and potential in the aviation industry. The wings included those of pilots, navigators and flight engineers. The recipients also included women.

After a spectacular show by the Air Force’s Silver Falcons Aerobatic Display Team, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, officiated at the parade and presented the wings to the respective recipients.

He expressed his pride in the high-flying standards set by the SA Air Force, ones that only dedicated members could attain to. He also referred to the improved demographical representation of the students that has seen more previously disadvantaged groupings taking an interest in aviation. "The standard of flying and knowledge set by the SA Air Force is high and indeed equal to the best in the world," he said.

"This is one of the main reasons for the ongoing siphoning-off of the skills and expertise from the personnel base of the SA Air Force by sectors of the domestic and foreign aviation industry and by civilian airlines and air forces abroad," he added. Recipients were commended by the Chief of the SA Air Force for their proficiency badges and all the technical staff and instructors were congratulated on a job well done.

The highest overall achiever on course was 2Lt M. Louw who scooped the Air Command Floating Trophy, the Air Force Board Floating Trophy and the Inkwazi Floating Trophy. 2Lt F.P. Hugo won the SA Air Force Association Floating Trophy. The Fifth Dimension Technologies Floating Trophy was won by 2Lt T.L. van der Bijl.
Despite challenges that face the SA Air Force, progressive planning has been done to improve the situation within the SA Air Force (SAAF). Dilapidated buildings, unserviceable aircraft and loss of personnel have posed some major challenges to the effectiveness and capabilities of the SAAF. Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SAAF, held a media briefing at the Air Force Gymnasium on 11 September 2009 to present several short and long-term resolutions to the problems of the SAAF.

The SAAF, in conjunction with the SA Police Services (SAPS), was jointly responsible for the provision of airspace security during the recent FIFA Confederations Cup. The SAAF also co-operated well with the aviation community. Lt Gen Gagiano said some of the aircraft, which included the C 130 and the Oryx helicopter, were also successfully utilised recently during Exercise GOLFINHO in Lohatlha.

The SAAF has adopted side-by-side training, a three-tier pilot training system that will allow instructors to identify potential at an early stage to avoid unnecessary expenditure on training. Lt Gen Gagiano said this would improve effectiveness and efficiency in instruction and student lessons. It would also be much more cost-effective and will prevent fruitless spending.

Nine dual seat Gripen fighter aircraft have been delivered to the SAAF from the Saab factory in Sweden. These aircraft will be subjected to acceptance tests by pilots and then be shipped to Cape Town. The remaining single seat aircraft will be delivered in the third quarter of 2011. Lt Gen Gagiano said the SAAF had entered into a co-operation agreement with local aviation industries to curb the loss of experienced personnel. The Denel Aviation C 130 Maintenance Repair Organisation at Kempton Park will shortly be relocated to east hanger 12 at Air Force Base Waterkloof.

This was implemented to cut costs and to benefit the SAAF and Denel employees working in their own facilities. Lt Gen Gagiano also stated that the SAAF would in future co-operate closely with the SA Airways (SAA) with whom they will be sharing training in terms of ground crew, cabin attendants and other aviation training. This in turn will stabilise the industry through pilot rotation. The SAAF further urged members who had left and will leave the SAAF to remain as Defence Reserves for future needs.

Lt Gen Gagiano has conceded that the exodus of SAAF personnel, particularly in aviation, is due to greener pastures outside the DOD as the DOD is currently finding it difficult to match external offers and benefits. More than 13 pilots and 74 technicians have left the SAAF since January 2009. However, the SAAF has now decentralised its recruitment process by managing its own evaluation and selection procedures and through marketing itself as an employer of choice.
10th anniversary of the Defence Legal Services Division

By Ms Hanrie Greebe, SA Air Force

Early on the morning of 3 September 2009, the 10th anniversary celebration of the Defence Legal Services Division (DLSD) started with a medal parade at AFB Hoedspruit. Brig Gen R.A. Kobedi officiated at the parade on behalf of the Chief DLSD. He said that in keeping with the practice of rotating these annual festivities among the different Legsatos, AFB Hoedspruit was selected for this year’s celebrations due to the remarkable history, excellent location, convenience and scenery of the base.

Members of the DLSD received recognition for merit, service in support of peacekeeping efforts outside South Africa’s national borders, and for long and dedicated service. As an indication of the escalating levels of excellence among members of the DLSD, it was the second occasion at which the iPhrothiya ye Bhronzi medal for military merit had been presented over the past 10 years.

Members of DLSD who received long service medals or awards were commended by Brig Gen Kobedi, who said: "You have distinguished yourselves by an uninterrupted, loyal and efficient service of 10 and 20 years. You have persevered during years of dedication and devotion to duty, which in today’s career climate is a remarkable achievement".

Under the baton of Major Sibande, the SA Army Staff Band ASB Limpopo performed a unique intertwining double spiral display. Nature provided a fly-past over the parade with a magnificent eagle on silent outstretched wings. Soon the bird was followed by the thundering roar of an Augusta A109 and an Oryx helicopter from 19 Squadron at AFB Hoedspruit.

By sunset the elegantly dressed military and civilian guests were welcomed with indigenous music by the local a cappella choir upon arrival for the 10th DLSD gala evening. Camaraderie was evident among the members of DLSD who shared the highly professional vision of being the sole providers of deployable legitimate legal services and support to the DOD.

An inspiring performance by the Roots of Rhythm Dancers heightened anticipation of the announcement of the 10th DLSD awards. These were for the performance assessment cycle spanning the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

**Awards for the 10th DLSD celebrations:**

- **Best DLSD Legsato:** Legsato Cape Town
- **Best DLSD Directorate:** Directorate Legal Advice
- **Co-winners for Best Support Legal Services Warrant Officer or Non-commissioned Officer, Regular Force or Reserve Force:** Sgt V.V. Gobelo (Legsato Cape Town) and L Cpl S.M. Kobe (Directorate Military Judges).
- **Best Support Services Officer, Regular Force or Reserve Force:** Lt Col E. Stoltz (Directorate Legal Services Support).
- **Best Junior Reserve Force Military Law Practitioner:** Lt L.G. Ratshibvumo (Legsato Thaba Tshwane).
- **Best Senior Reserve Force Military Law Practitioner:** Col L. Els (Legsato Thaba Tshwane).
- **Best Junior Regular Force Military Law Practitioner:** Maj M.G. Mkhize (Legsato Thaba Tshwane).
- **Best Senior Regular Force Military Law Practitioner:** Lt Col R.E. Combrink (Legsato Cape Town).
- **Best DLSD Public Service Act Personnel Member:** Ms A. Rodrigues-Flatwell (Legsato Cape Town).
An estimated 10 000 people visited 4 Artillery Regiment to witness the power and might of artillery in action. It was time again for the annual Artillery Open Day on 29 August 2009.

The day started around 07:30 when the gates opened for the public and, oh boy, did the public answer the call. Vehicles were backed up at one stage for kilometres on the Venterdorp Road and a constant flow of traffic entered the grounds of 4 Artillery Regiment. The stage was set for one of the biggest Artillery Open Days in our history.

The artillery demonstration began with a static demonstration of all the artillery prime mission equipment, including an industry demonstration prototype in the form of the 105 mm gun produced by Denel Land Systems. The static demo also included the new unmanned artillery observation system and various other artillery support systems and equipment on display.

Spectators were transported by bus to the firing positions for the live fire demonstration. The live demonstration started off with two artillery officers parachuting into the deployment area in front of the crowd. Members from the SA Army Intelligence Formation then conducted a series of small calibre attacks. This was followed by the firing of the guns, preceded by a helicopter assault and mortar attack by 41 Battery (the mortar battery). After the mortars came the GV-5’s, GV-6’s and ultimately the multiple rocket launchers. The live demonstration culminated in the highlight of the day, namely a full-blown regimental engagement involving all the launchers.

The multiple rocket launchers started the engagement and fired a total of 5 ripples (40 rockets per launcher) with support from the mortars with 7 bombs per launcher, and simultaneously the GV-5’s and GV-6’s each with 5 rounds. The true power of the artillery was demonstrated to the public like never before. Needless to say the crowds were ecstatic and thrilled beyond what anyone could have hoped for. Afterwards many spectators just sat in awe at what they had just witnessed - the message was loud and clear: If you are on the wrong side of SA Artillery you will not survive.

SA Artillery showcased its capabilities and proved to each and every spectator that it and ultimately the SA Army was and always will be a national asset to South Africa. The gunners showed that they were capable and reliable soldiers that could answer the call to serve and protect our beloved country.

During his speech the General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Artillery Formation, Brig Gen M.R. Notshweleka, encouraged young men and women who were completing their matric to join the SA Artillery Corps and become part of the most feared and respected corps on the African continent. He also emphasised the role of women in the Corps and ensured the public that the myth of the Army being a man’s world was no longer true and that women played an equally important part in the success of the SA Artillery Corps as their male counterparts.

Brig Gen Notshweleka invited the public to diarise next year’s Open Day, and we can only say - once a Gunner always a Gunner.
The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence, regardless of his chosen field of endeavour,” according to V.T. Lombardi.

DOD HQ Unit held a medal parade at the Armscor Sports Ground in Pretoria on 7 August 2009 to honour unit members who distinguished themselves in soldierly duties and who displayed exceptional capabilities in the SANDF.

As a gesture of solidarity the Unit also hosted a retreat certificate ceremony for the Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) in recognition of their outstanding contributions and loyal service to the unit and the Department.

Speaking to the recipients, Col Christopher Ngcama, the Officer Commanding of DOD HQ Unit, addressing members on parade.

“By building each other up, we can create a positive society at work and at home, which in turn will have a positive influence on our world,” said Col Ngcama.

He added that pinning a medal to someone was a special occasion and acknowledging members and complimenting them from time to time would encourage them to be better than the best. In conclusion, he conveyed a special word of congratulations from the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, the Chief of Corporate Staff. “You have proven yourselves to be worthy recipients of the medals and decorations that you have rightfully earned. You answered the call to duty with great conviction and courage. Thank you for never failing South Africa,” he concluded.

Members of DOD HQ Unit standing proud as medal recipients for their loyalty and commitment to excellence.
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Another first for Public Service Act Personnel

By Ms K. Swart, Assistant Director, PSAP ETD

Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (PSAP ETD) through the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) presented the Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP) to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 9 - 12 at PALAMA in three blocks: 8 - 12 June, 13 - 17 July and 31 August - 4 September 2009.

Background

One of the important challenges South Africa faces as a developmental state is to establish a new cadre of public service leaders and managers who are able to develop and improve their skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of service delivery improvement. The Integrated Management Development Programme (IMDP) is a strategic intervention to achieve this goal, and as such it is one of the most significant and comprehensive product ranges offered by PALAMA.

The IMDP consists of four programmes, namely:
- Foundation Management Development Programme (FMDP).
- Emerging Management Development Programme (EMDP).
- Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP).
- Executive Development Programme (EDP).

Feedback from participants

On completion of all three blocks of the AMDP, learners were requested to evaluate the programme, and more than 90% of them rated the overall programme with the content, logistics and the facilitator as excellent. Learners indicated that the programme had re-

The attendees attended the very first AMDP.

The objective of this programme is to provide middle managers with cutting-edge competencies and to prepare them for the challenge of the Senior Management Service.

The AMDP was presented in a highly interactive style over fifteen working days (three blocks of five days each). Training involved activities that maximised learning. This was achieved through a lively interactive mix of new thinking, and individual and group learning. The programme included the following (in broad outline):

Advanced Management Development Programme

Twenty-six learners on salary levels 9 - 12 from different working backgrounds attended the very first AMDP.
energised them with knowledge and the competencies required on an advanced management level and had also equipped them with the competencies required to prepare them for the challenges of Senior Management Service.

Mr D. Shibambu from the office of the Minister of Defence provided the following feedback: "Since I joined this Department in 2006, this has been my first training ever. I loved everything about it. The course opened my mind and thinking capability. I am now familiar with my job and, more importantly, my organisation. I am better equipped to understand what I as an individual can do to improve the image of our organisation. Furthermore, I know how a manager can improve the relationship between himself and his subordinates. I also know how a leader can develop or help develop his subordinates. The facilitators were out of this world and taught me 'how to eat an elephant'. Now there is no problem too big for me."

Mr M. Tsanwani from Defence International Affairs provided the following feedback: "Learners shared ideas and common interests in ways that helped improve their management skills. The programme inspired confidence in the rightness of one’s purpose, courage in collective execution, and obedience in the face of any threat. It has enabled me to acquire a clear set of tools and techniques based on reasoning and testing that can be used in a variety of situations. Furthermore the programme taught the learners to elicit co-operation, utilise teamwork and make use of a large network of people and how to keep the key people in that network motivated, using every manner of persuasion."

Way forward

The Chief Directorate Human Resource Development (CD HRD) acknowledges the tremendous need for the development of PSAP on middle management level. The AMDP will be presented annually.
Discipline is an integral part of management of performance and individuals who deviate from the standards of conduct laid down for the efficient operation of an organisation, and who undermine the performance of that organisation.

Discipline is primarily seen as a progressive measure to restore performance standards, but unfortunately, in extreme cases, may lead to the ultimate sanction of dismissal.

The importance of sound labour relations practices in the handling of Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) disciplinary matters to ensure long-term success cannot be overemphasised. The significance of the aforementioned was identified in various disciplinary hearings that did not conform to the required principles of labour relations management.

During the appreciation of the labour relations environment, with specific reference to disciplinary procedures and processes, some gaps were identified with respect to the skills required in the performance of departmental representatives and chairpersons of disciplinary hearings of PSAP in the DOD.

Appreciating the above and recognising the need for individuals to develop skills directly related to disciplinary enquiries of PSAP, the Director Labour and Service Relations arranged a skills development workshop from 28 September to 2 October 2009.

Forty officials (PSAP and Defence Act Personnel) attended the workshop in order to meet the specific skill requirements of departmental representatives and chairpersons of disciplinary hearings.

The level of exposure and experience of the delegates ranged from those who had not been involved in the disciplinary processes of PSAP, to those who actively led evidence or presided over hearings and/or provided advice on the processes.

The presentation consisted of a mixture of theory and practical application of knowledge learned through the use of exercises, case studies and role-play. The content of the workshop is very topical in the DOD and there is an eagerness for empowerment.

The delegates seemed to enjoy the training and were apparently motivated to apply the skills learnt. They were therefore urged to keep up the good work and never to give up the challenge of promoting a culture of professionalism in the performance of their tasks.

The Directorate Labour and Service Relations will facilitate three further similar skills development workshops over the next two years to enhance the number of trained officials. Further details of these workshops will be communicated to representatives of the Services and Divisions at the DOD Labour and Service Relations Committee meetings.

Standing behind the learners on the PSAP Disciplinary Skills Empowerment Workshop are from fltr: Mr J.D.S. Behr, Deputy Director Labour and Service Relations, and Ms Y. Naudé, Assistant Director PSAP Discipline.
As proud members and employees of the Department of Defence (DOD), we give our very best to support the mission and vision of the DOD. As soldiers we are trained to be tough, rough and assertive. We give our hearts, time and full commitment, which in turn often results in us not giving much time to ourselves. We tend to forget who we are and what we can do for our community, over and above providing peace and security to our fellow citizens.

With a background in training, public relations and corporate communication, Lt Col Hettie Cronjé, mother of two, has served her country with pride as a member of the DOD for many years. She is currently working for Command Management Information Systems (CMIS) and is regarded as a soldier with the qualities of pride, honour and dignity. Furthermore, with her humbleness, warm personality and caring heart, it has become evident that she is more than a soldier; she is also an icon in the community.

At the beginning of 2009, Lt Col Cronjé was nominated for the Modern Single Woman pageant and, after being interviewed, she was selected as one of the eleven finalists. From the word go Lt Col Cronjé won the hearts of her co-finalists and the judges. She helped arrange a golf day and raised funds for the Paul Jungnickel Home for people with disabilities. During the judging phase, Lt Col Cronjé portrayed self-confidence, a burning need to give back to the community and to serve others, and asked nothing in return. She undoubtedly was loved by all and was identified by her co-finalists as one of the favourites to win the pageant.

In a spectacular ball gown designed by Dennis Loyd, Lt Col Cronjé danced the night away during the gala event on 29 August 2009, dazzling not only the guests, but also the judges. Without any doubt this soldier stood out like a diamond and was crowned as Modern Single Woman for 2009/2010. Her duties for the year will include community work such as fund-raising events, motivational speaking and giving of herself to those in need.

Lt Col Cronjé, you are our pride and we salute you! You are truly a diamond in the rough!
Courage is the atom of change

By Amn Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 David Nomthongwana

Life is like a marathon full of obstacle courses, you must run, trip, fall, get up and dust yourself, according to Ms Matsshediso Sithole (Ma Sithole, as she is affectionately known to her colleagues) who works at the SA Air Force Headquarters.

Her philosophy in life is that she refuses to listen to her fears because she does not want to risk dying and not knowing what a great person she might have become. Thirty years down the line and still commuting every morning to SA Air Force Headquarters, this pint-sized woman does not look half the age she claims to be.

Born in 1954 at Swartkop to farm worker parents, she still vividly remembers how she learned to speak fluent Afrikaans at a very young age, a language that she still prefers to English even today. Her family later moved to Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria, in 1962, where she started elementary school.

Born into a family of three girls, she could only manage school up to the then Standard 6. She then had to find a job, as her family did not have sufficient finance to pay for her further studies. "I have always been interested in working at a switch-board because I work well with people and I like to talk a lot," said Ms Sithole.

Her sister, Ms Josephine Tladi, was employed at the Defence Headquarters as a cleaner. She reported to the then Chief of the SADF, Gen Constant Viljoen. One day she heard that there was an opening for more personnel at the SA Air Force, and that was how Ms Sithole landed in the organisation. She said she had to admit that she was reluctant at first to work with soldiers, but had come to realise that it took courage to grow up.

Ms Sithole is a true epitome of the fact: that strength does not only come from physical capacity, but from an indomitable will. She knows the SA Air Force Headquarters intimately and is always ready to act as a walking navigator for those who cannot find their way.

"My job description is that of making tea for the Chief of the Air Force Directorate. I know which teacup belongs to whom; exactly how they like their tea, and also know their office numbers by heart. I have also familiarised myself with the new ranking structures in the SA Air Force, as it is imperative to address members appropriately. It is quite easy to remember each person, because I know the parents and even grandparents of most of the young people who have joined the SA Air Force," said Ms Sithole.

"I have had many highlights in the SA Air Force and many people still think I am a soldier as I have adopted the military way of life. I have been with this defence family for too long and it is deep inside my heart; I know I have transformed into a soldier myself. I am a role model to my grandchildren, therefore I enforce firm discipline at home because I want them to become responsible individuals when I am gone one day," she adds.

"There have been many blessings for me while working in the SA Air Force; I have always been surrounded by a squadron of angels in the people that I work with. They constantly reminded me to reach high and dream deep, for every dream precedes my goal."

"Additionally, I have had a chance to work with brave men in managerial positions: Lt Gen James Kriel, Lt Gen Roell Beukes and the likes of Maj Gen Theunis van Rensburg and Lt Gen Willem Hechter. The list also includes a host of former General Officers Commanding. I now work for Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano and his current team of leaders."

"They went to great lengths to award my grandchildren the chance to have a proper foundation at a good primary school. It was people like these who have made me stay in the Defence Force and still be positive," beamed Ms Sithole.

She is wife to Mr Willie Sithole and mother to Ms Queen Moreko, a nurse at Pretoria West Private Hospital. She had two more children who have passed away. She is now a proud grandma to 10 children and lives with all of them under one roof, together with her daughter’s family. She appeared elated as she told Ad Astra how important her family was and that they were the ones that kept her young and dedicated to her work.

Ms Matsshediso Sithole who inspires others never to be afraid to take up new challenges.
By Leon Steyn
Photos: Christo Crous & Leon Steyn

The CN-235 was developed by the little known international aircraft manufacturer Airtech, comprising the companies of Casa (Spain) and IPTN (Indonesia). The first prototype flew in 1984 and the aircraft, which is now operated by the SA Air Force, was in fact the first off the Casa production line and made its first flight in 1986. Following some years as a test aircraft it was offered to the Bophuthatswana Air Wing and delivered on 6 January 1991.

Together with four Casa 212’s the sole CN-235 was integrated into the SA Air Force following the demise of the TBVC air-wings in 1994. The aircraft was transferred to 86 Multi-engine Flying School (MEFS) at AFB Bloemspuit, where along with the usual MEFS training function, transport duties were undertaken. This included conveying paratroops, casualty evacuations, communication and VIP flights, supply dropping and cargo flights.

On 31 December 1997, 86 Multi-engine Flying School returned to its roots when it was amalgamated with 44 Squadron (from where it originated in 1968) and together with the C-212’s the squadron received its one and only Casa-Airtech CN-235 in January 1998. The 235 was the last of the medium sized transport aircraft to carry the camouflage colour pattern in the SA Air Force and the change to the grey colour scheme is in line with that seen on the C-130 and C-212 transport aircraft today. Following its refurbishment, the 235 did the short hop from Waterkloof Air Force Base to Swartkop on 22 July 2009, from where she continues to operate with 44 Squadron.

The CN-235 in its camouflage colours.

44 Squadron CN-235 at Swartkop in its new grey colours.
SA Naval KZN Reserve Regional Office
a winning formula

Article and photos by Lt Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves

Progress in creating SA Naval Reserve regional offices across South Africa is well advanced.

The SA Naval KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Regional Office situated within Naval Station Durban has been operational since 1 September 2008. This office is staffed by Lt Cdr Peter Spence, the KZN Naval Reserve Representative, WO1 Anthony Pillay (Office Manager), CPO “Sharm” Raghunundan and PO Prakash Manikum. In addition, Lt Cdr Justice Shabane is responsible for the liaison function that forms an integral part of the tasks and responsibilities of the Regional Office.

This team of dedicated personnel established the KZN Regional Office from scratch. As all the personnel have civilian jobs and/or are self-employed, they manage their time and outside commitments in such a manner as to ensure that the Regional Office is manned by at least one member from Mondays to Fridays, during normal office hours.

Furthermore, regular workgroups, feedback sessions and daily telecommunication sessions are held between Lt Cdr Spence and his staff. A concerted effort to ensure ongoing and regular communication internally as well as with the Reserve Management Centre in Simon’s Town, timeous response to set tasks and enquiries as well as accurate handovers which maintain continuity of effort and trust have all contributed to the success of the Regional Office in KZN.

The SA Naval KZN Reserve Regional Office is tasked with the following functions:
- To establish and maintain an active, efficient and effective Regional Office to serve as a “nodal point” for all Naval
Reserves in KZN. The office acts as a first port of call for all KZN Naval Reserves and maintains an up-to-date, accurate and workable database of all existing Naval Reserves in the region.
- To serve as the regional focal point in KZN for assisting Naval Reserves with their training, utilisation, development and activities in the Fleet.
- To assist with recruiting of members for the SA Navy and Reserves. This involves recording, screening and forwarding all applications for the SA Navy’s Military Skills Development System (MSDS) and ex-Full-time Force members wishing to join the Naval Reserve, to the Fleet Human Resources Directorate.
- To represent the Chief of the SA Navy at various meetings, parades, formal functions and social events.
- To assist Director Naval Reserves with the planning, organising and execution of special events, for example Reserve Force marketing drives and SA Navy representation at military or private events in the KZN region.
- Lastly to establish and maintain relationships/links with various Naval affiliated organisations (both private and "quasi-military") including other Services in KZN.

Lt Cdr Spence and his team formally expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sipho Mkhwanazi, and his staff for their assistance in establishing the Regional Office and for their ongoing support.

Director Naval Reserves was also thanked for assistance and support in establishing the Regional Office and also for tackling a backlog of inherited (and unexpected) issues with verve.

Bravo Zulu to the "Team" at KZN Naval Reserve Office for the work they tackle efficiently and effectively in support of the Reserve members in KZN and the SA Navy as a whole.

The KZN Regional Office can be contacted on tel (031) 460-6256/6126 or by fax (031) 460-6259. Emails can be sent to Lt Cdr Spence at peter-spence@xsineet.co.za or alternatively by fax to (031) 312 2132 after hours.

It is advisable that members first contact the Regional Office telephonically before visiting the office. This will ensure that sufficient time is allocated to members for personal attention and/or to ensure (in the case of applications for enlistment in either the Reserve or Navy) that the members bring the necessary documentation that may be required.

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Arbor Week celebrations

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

Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sifiso Mkhwanazi, planted an Acacia Galpinii tree, commonly known as the monkey thorn, to celebrate Arbor Week on Salisbury Island on 4 September 2009.

WO2 Joe Govender, the SHEQ Manager of Naval Station Durban, explained to the ship’s company the importance of Arbor Week and the impact that deforestation and the emission of toxic fumes are having on our environment.

Ms Maria Lotter from the Army Support Base KwaZulu-Natal did a dance sequence to promote the message of National Arbor Week to the assembled audience. The Corporate Social Investment Manager of Engen, who was partnered with Naval Station Durban, distributed golf shirts and bags to the ship’s company.

To increase awareness of just a few of the 2000 indigenous tree species in South Africa, every Arbor Week celebration highlights two specific trees, one common and one rare. This year’s trees are Acacia Galpinii or monkey thorn, a common tree, and Halleria Lucido or tree fuchsia, a rare species.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in South Africa in 1983. The event captured the imagination of the people who recognised the need for raising awareness about the values of trees in our society.

Mass enthusiasm for the importance of this event in South Africa inspired our National Government in 1999 to extend the celebration of Arbor Day to a National Arbor Week, from 1 to 7 September every year.

Schools, businesses and organisations are encouraged to participate in "community greening" events to improve the health and beauty of our surroundings and to create a green future for South Africa. In the Department of Defence we refer to this as "green soldiering".

Two thirds of the world’s oxygen supplies come from trees, but deforestation is depleting the earth’s supply of oxygen. Let’s contribute to an environment that concerned about nature.

The Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sifiso Mkhwanazi, and Ms Bashie Naicker plant a monkey thorn on Arbor Day.
Naval Station Durban's 7th birthday celebrations

By WO1 Manny Gounden, PRO Naval Station Durban
Photo: CPO Kitten Govender

The Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sifiso Mkhwanazi, and Seaman Palesa Marobe cut the customary birthday cake to celebrate the unit’s 7th birthday on 14 August 2009.

Naval Station Durban received a special birthday message from R Adm Robert Higgs, Flag Officer Fleet, in which he said that he was extremely proud of the achievements of the people of Naval Station Durban for what they had achieved in the last seven years and were still doing.

He stated that there were a large number of major changes at Naval Station Durban over the last couple of years. He commended Naval Station Durban for the professional manner in which they had been transformed and in which they had faced all the difficulties associated with change by delivering excellent service.

He also noted the strategic importance of Durban to the SA Navy and South Africa as a whole. Naval Station Durban has been involved in many international activities, including its support of an American destroyer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE, during the ship’s visit to Durban on 13 July 2009.

In his address to the ship’s company Cdr Mkhwanazi said: “We have accepted challenges and it is through human endeavour that we overcome these and have had many successes”.

Seven year history

Naval Station Durban has had an interesting though short history. It was inaugurated on 14 August 2002 under Cdr Dave Jones, as the first Officer Commanding followed by Cdr Mkhwanazi from 22 January 2009. There were many highlights.

On 29 November 2002 Naval Station Durban said farewell to the SAS ADAM KOK, the last strike craft, captained by Cdr Jasper van der Westhuizen.

On 24 July 2006 SAS AMATOLA under command of Capt Guy Jamieson, and SAS ISANDLWANA under Capt Karl Wiesner majestically entered the port for the contractual handover of SAS ISANDLWANA to the SA Navy on 27 July 2006.

SAS DRAKENSBURG, SAS AMATOLA, FNS FLOREAL, SAS ISAAC DYOBHA and SAS CHARLOTTE MAXEKE were berthed at Salisbury Island alongside one another for EXERCISE OXIDE and FLOWER II on 29 September 2008. On 9 October 2008 a successful media briefing was hosted on board SAS ISANDLWANA by Mr Charles Nqakula, the former Minister of Defence, for the SA National Editor’s Forum (KwaZulu-Natal Branch). On 13 July 2009 Naval Station Durban successfully hosted the US guided missile destroyer, USS ARLEIGH BURKE, captained by Cdr Brian Moum.

Naval Station Durban has supported international sporting events such as the Midmar Mile, the Duzi Canoe Marathon, the 100 Miler and Chief of the SA Navy’s Prestige Golf Day.
SA Air Force Rugby Championships

By Lt Col Anton Heuer, Media and Liaison Co-ordinator SAAF Rugby

A Air Force Rugby has always been a proud and valuable asset of the SA Air Force. The strong teamwork and dedication visible in the actions of the players and the administrators are testimony to the camaraderie present in this sport.

Rugby develops members’ physical and mental health, which is a focus area in the SANDF.

The SA Air Force is the second oldest air force in the world and will be celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2010. South Africa is the current Rugby World Champion and the rugby players of the SA Air Force are proud to be part of South Africa and the SA Air Force. Rugby in the SA Air Force has an excellent track record. The 29th Rugby Championships was held at Air Force Base Ysterplaat from 5 to 9 October 2009. The following teams participated in the 2009 Tellumat Tournament: The Kwaggas (AFB Hoedspruit and AFB Makhado), Air Force Gymnasium, The Warriors (Air Force HQ and AFB Bloemspruit), 68 Air School, AFB Overberg, AFB Waterkloof, AFB Ysterplaat (AFB Langebaanweg), and the Rhinos (Mobile Deployment Wing, 10 Air Depot).

The matches took place at the Goodwood Rugby Stadium and the official opening was attended by various senior officers, including Brig Gen C.J. Delport, Officer Commanding AFB Makhado, the new Patron of SA Air Force Rugby and the chief dignitary. The sponsors who attended included on page 44

SA Air Force President Side 2009.

Brig Gen C.J. Delport, Patron of SA Air Force Rugby.
The annual South African Corps of Signals (SACS) Corporate Golf Day was held at the Akasia Golf Club in Pretoria on 14 August 2009. Corporate golf days are essential for maintaining good relationships with corporate clients and captains of industry. They also offer excellent opportunities for networking and forming new friendships. This year the SACS Golf Day Trophy was won by the members of AST. Thirty-six teams of four members each participated this year.

The day was long, balls were lost, bad and great shots were played, but in the end it was well worth it, as the 2009 SACS Corporate Golf Day turned out to be a huge success. The day was organised by Lt Col P.G. Herbst, Acting Officer Commanding of 4 Signal Regiment, and his team.

Corporate clients and members of industry must keep their diaries open for the 2010 SACS Corporate Golf Day.

Championships results

AFB Waterkloof clinched the SA Air Force Championships and won the Plessey Trophy, followed by 68 Air School in the second place and AFB Ysterplaat in third place. AFB Overberg in the fifth place were the Plate winners and won the Schapie Blake Trophy.

Medal and trophy ceremony

The following trophies and medals were also won: Development player of the week - S. Thambodala (AFB Waterkloof), Development player of the year - P. Ndztu (Limpopo), Runners-up 7-a-side touch rugby - AFB Overberg, Winner's 7-a-side touch rugby - AFB Ysterplaat, Ters de Kok Trophy (neatness and discipline)

Signallers' Golf Day

The SA Corps of Signals Corporate Golf Day Trophy - the ultimate idol everyone was after ...
pumalanga played host to the National Masters Hockey Championships from 6 to 10 August 2009. The tournament was held at White River, just north of Nelspruit.

This annual event saw nearly 900 hockey players (over the age of 35 years [men] and over 30 years [women]) participating in provincial colours in pools of six teams each. A team from Zimbabwe also added an international flavour to proceedings. True to tradition, the only non-provincial team was the men's side that proudly displayed SANDF colours.

This year the team consisted of seven SA Navy players, three SA Army and two SA Air Force members from 10AA in Kimberley. Four former serving members made up the balance of the 16-man squad. This team was truly unique as the members only played together for the first time at this championship, as the team members are spread out around the country from as far afield as Cape Town and Makhado.

This year the tournament was very demanding. Five games were played in three days, often with only a break of an hour and a half between games. A groin injury to the team's regular goalkeeper made him unavailable for the last one and a half matches and a substitute was quickly found in Andy Kingswell, who normally plays in the field. In spite of this misfortune and the usual aches and pains that come with every tournament, this year the team had one of its most successful results to date, winning three matches and drawing two. The highlights of the SANDF side included a win against Southern Gauteng (unbeaten in six years) and draws against a strong Western Province side and KZN Amabhungu.

Development in Masters Hockey has been progressing over the years and the inclusion of three members of the Northern Cape SANDF side in Kimberley was an added highlight, not only for the team, but also for the members themselves. Gunner "Shoes" Mosweu has fond memories of scoring the winning goal against Southerns, a magic moment that will be remembered for the rest of his life, although Bombardier Raymond Ditema will claim some credit for putting Shoes Mosweu in the goalmouth! All the developmental members were eager to learn the ropes where Masters Hockey was concerned and participated fully in the team activities both on and off the field. They are now eagerly polishing their boots in preparation for next year's tournament.

The SANDF team is grateful to its sponsors, which included Reutech Solutions and SAAB Technologies that were able to support the SANDF team. The Aveng Group provided water bottles for the hot days and beanies for the cold nights in the Lowveld.
Clear conscience, boldness and courage

By Col (Rev) M.C. Dladla, Defence Intelligence Division Chaplain

Clear conscience breeds courage and boldness. Conscience and conviction are interrelated. Conviction is a strong belief: it is being convinced beyond any doubt that whatever is or was said or done is absolute. Conscience according to the dictionaries is the state of mind with a sense of right and wrong, e.g. an injured man was on a woman’s conscience because she was responsible for the accident - she had a guilty conscience. This means the knowledge that it is wrong to kill governs her thoughts in this instance. Having a clear conscience in this case depends on the result of your choice during the state of being or feeling guilty when confronted by reality.

Origin and function of conscience

According to the Holy Scriptures: the Bible, Quran and Hebrew writings, a human being consists of spirit, soul and body. The spirit has three functions, namely conscience, intuition and fellowship - and is independent of man’s control or outside influence. This is the structure that is meant to have contact with the Divine.

The body is the external structure of the human being. The natural universe is contacted by this structure through the five senses. It is affected and limited by the speed of light (operative only within the natural realm). The soul is the product of the presence of the spirit/life giving substance to the natural body. The soul has the following functions: mind, intellect, will, emotions and volition. It is mostly dependent on the conscience. Conscience, which is the subject matter of this topic, is the discerning organ that distinguishes right and wrong. This is not through the influence of the soul’s human mind, but rather by spontaneous direct judgement. Mostly reasoning justifies things that the conscience judges. Conscience is independent and does not bend to outside opinions, e.g. smoking might be satisfying and ease the tensions of the body and soul, but the reality is that it kills. Or a man might feel it fitting to have extra sexual relationships while having a wife, but his conscience will tell him that it is wrong. Or let us speak about the diseases HIV and AIDS, for instance. While it is "cool" to change partners and be recognised as a Casanova, conscience will reprove your decision and encourage you to be assertive and have the spirit of UBUNTU. Someone might be chronically sick with HIV and AIDS and on you might feel there is a danger of living with such a person. In fact they desire to be isolated, but conscience responds and says these are fellow human beings that deserve to be loved.

Because of the knowledge or discernment of the conscience, intuition, which is the sensing organ, is able to have communion (fellowship, worship and reflection) which is man’s God-given gift. It will enable you also to discern that we are the offspring of the same parents. The organs of a soul cannot be compared to those of the spirit. Love, courage and boldness are activities of the spirit with its functions (conscience, intuition and fellowship). Having soul’s (Phileo) or natural (Eros) love only is like being a clanging cymbal.

Boldness and courage

The state of being bold is when you are able publicly and audibly to proclaim the truth and denounce evil in the midst of powerful opposition or threat. Courage is just like boldness and it is prepared to move forward regardless of the circumstances, which suggests the impossibilities. One can never have courage or boldness if knowledge and conviction are not there. A very well known biblical story is that of David and Goliath. Naturally and logically, David was no challenge to the giant Goliath, but this young man knew and was convinced deep in his heart (spirit/conscience) that Goliath was no challenge to his God. In fact Goliath was also a creature dependent on God, even though he was rebellious and disrespectful.

There are lots of examples of conscience, boldness and courage working together. One such comes from the liberation struggle. Nelson Mandela boldly faced prison with courage, being persuaded in his heart/spirit (conscience) that the course he and his comrades had taken was a just/clear one. Today we have heroes in the Paralympics who have defied the odds and have chosen to be victors rather than spectators who succumb to morbidity.

Conclusion

Strong belief and conviction that emanate from a clear conscience can only be given by the Divine and will enable us to face and conquer the enemies of our society, namely chronic disease, abuse, racism, tribalism, all kinds of discrimination and disrespect for our culture and values that we had before "civilisation" and democracy came. Together we can achieve our goals if we forget self and the past and press forward towards what our forefathers longed to see. They did this driven by courage, determination, conviction and boldness. They sacrificed their lives so that we could live in peace, love, obedience and respect for human dignity.

Let us all give space to humility, which leads us to have a clear conscience in our life and business. Humility saves us from sin, guilt, condemnation, fear and shame, which are the opposite of courage and boldness.

Col (Rev) M.C. Dladla.
The SANDF Spouses’ Forum under the leadership of Ms Busisiwe Ngwena (wife of the Chief of the SANDF) opened their hearts to the pre-school children at the Tekkies Day Care Centre in Tek Base.

This Day Care Centre is a safe haven for underprivileged children between the ages of two and five years old who mostly come from broken homes and single parent families.

The Centre does not receive any funds from either Government or the SANDF and is run on the little income received from parents who often fail to pay for their children’s day care.

The remarkable personnel, Ms Helena Langenhoven and Ms Elmien Victor, regularly buy groceries for the children’s meals out of their own pockets and must occasionally even subsidise the salary of the third member of the staff. Ms Annah Modise is an invaluable and natural caregiver. She is clearly considered a substitute mother to the 16 children in her charge. Although there are no funds for luxuries, she and Ms Langenhoven and Ms Victor give all their time, effort and love to the toddlers at Tekkies.

They were thus totally overwhelmed by the generosity of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum, which donated a brand new stove, roof for the dilapidated “stoep”, paint and 20 mattresses for the toddlers in August/September 2009. The SANDF Spouses’ Forum hence gave them shelter against rain on the “stoep”, the cold floors when they sleep and provide warm food for their tummies.

During a special tea hosted by Ms Langenhoven and Ms Victor to thank the SANDF Spouses’ Forum for the very welcome donation, Ms Ngwena explained that the SANDF Spouses’ Forum was originally only requested to donate mattresses for the children. However, on receiving this request she and the other members, including Ms Charlotte Shoke, executive member of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum and wife of the Chief of the SA Army, and Ms Elizabeth Magalefa, Secretary of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum and wife of the retired Chief Naval Staff, visited the Day Care Centre and realised that it was not only in dire need of the mattresses, but also of restoration of the buildings and a stove. This culminated in their concerted effort to obtain funds from major organisations, companies and sponsors to buy building material and other essentials for the Centre.

The Day Care Centre is severely hampered by a lack of financial resources and must provide nutritious meals, education, safety and maintenance to the building on the small fees received from parents. The cost of the day care varies from R560 per month for a full day to R400 for a half day, the lowest day care cost in the vicinity. Nevertheless many parents often do not pay their children’s fees.

The personnel were thus extremely grateful for the donations received by Ms Ngwena, Ms Shoke and Ms Magalefa on behalf of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum and thus contributing to the renovation of the Centre, ensuring warm meals with the stove and a comfortable sleep with the mattresses.

Ms Langenhoven rolled up her sleeves and painted the exterior of the Centre, made covers for the mattresses and convinced her husband to repair the roof with the material donated by the Forum.

Ms Ngwena was delighted that the children would now be warm and safe under a solid roof, protected from the elements. Any donations, including educational material will be welcomed. Please contact Ms Langenhoven at 084 657 0171.
National Marine Day

The SANDE acknowledges National Marine Day as a day of gratitude for the blessings of the oceans.