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FRONT COVER: The Minister of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu. SA Soldier gives you an analysis of the 2009 budget speech on pages 12 and 13. (Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
congratulations! You might wonder, rightfully so, as to why congratulations ... well, congratulations to all the women in South Africa and in the SANDF. I congratulate women especially in this edition because 9 August is a day dedicated to all South African women.

The Editorial team would like to applaud Ms Lindiwe Sisulu on her first DOD budget speech as the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. On pages 12 and 13 we analyse the DOD budget speech and how it affects the Department.

It is therefore proper that in this special month dedicated to women that the South African Government should be commended on their efforts to empower women. A significant increase in the numbers of women in Government is evident for all to see - approximately 33% of parliamentarians are women, with at least 43% serving in the Cabinet and an estimated 48% appointed as Deputy Ministers.

The DOD is making its mark in pursuit of gender parity. The SANDF employs approximately 579 women, ranging from Lieutenant Colonels to a Major General. The Department of Defence is continuously making efforts to increase these numbers. Recently Cdr Geevanayagi Moodley, the only Indian female officer to hold the rank of Commander in the SA Navy, successfully secured a place to represent South Africa on the King’s College London Peace and Security Fellowships for African Women Programme. Read all about this on page 28.

We can announce with great pleasure that the SANDF has indeed championed the quest for peace in the region. In celebration of our 10 years of peace mission deployments in different African states, SA Soldier will publish a special edition in September.

On a sad note we bid farewell to Brig Gen Kvena Mangope who was the Director of Defence Corporate Communication. Brig Gen Mangope will be pursuing other interests outside of the SANDF. We wish him success with all his future endeavours.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Assistant Editor

Gotswa Go Morulaganyi

* Translation (Sepedi) by Mr Kgabo Mashamalte.
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what about gender sensitivity?

Firstly, let me congratulate the new Minister of Defence (female) for her appointment to this position!

It has been disturbing to me to realise that the Department is able to change things like uniforms and some parts of policy, but some other things remain the same, inter alia the rank names, especially for lower ranks, for example, Able Seaman, Leading Seaman, Rifleman, etc. Just imagine people waiting to meet Able Seaman Foster the strong man, only to see a smart female who appears to have just won a beauty contest! I am not implying that female soldiers are softies, but am simply suggesting neutral rank names that do not deny femininity.

Let us celebrate gender equity by showing respect for our sisters in the military because they are here on their own merits and not by virtue of the passport of male chauvinism!

Jacob Thagale (Rev), email

proudly south african

To be Proudly South African we need to attend to three very valuable issues. We must cherish and prune our youth, which is our future, we must respect our aged and our veterans and we must all be of the same heart and mind to be proud South Africans. These three issues we must steadfastly nurture and we must embrace the spirit of UBUNTU at every opportunity. Now many would say: ‘nice words’, what do we do and how do we achieve this? I remember a scene in the movie “Braveheart” when William Wallace made a speech and he was told, “nice speech, what do we do next”. He responded to that remark, saying: “I am going to pick a fight”. That fight was picked by icons like, Madiba, Oliver Tambo and many others, and the result was the Hector Petersens, Chris Hanis, etc and our beloved country was liberated from the rule of apartheid: we had overcome the nightmare.

We all have the birthright. This is where we belong, so that we can all stand tall, and as South Africans say: “No more fights”. The elections were the highlight of our spirit and birthright and we queued for hours to make our mark and we were left with a mark on our thumbs that we will not regret. We made the cross because we believe in “Working together we can do more”. To achieve the slogan we have leaders that can navigate around corners and over steep slopes and into the unchartered future to make a difference. We do have highly trained leaders that can and do have the ability to unite people, build camaraderie and promote a sense of shared goals that are vital in achieving the above-mentioned slogan. The elections and all the splendour that goes with it displayed the true guardians of our freedom and we read that the SANDF led from the front. The newly elected President reminded us that this was a moment of renewed hope, social redemption and participation in guarding democracy and rising above the dust of despair and reaffirming the glory of a nation being born. Is this not awesome? To unite this diverse coalition from the past to the present into the future will definitely demand leading from the front. We all as fellow countrymen will and must play our roles to unite and we must refuse to be deterred by the scale of the challenges we face as a new nation. I firmly believe that there is no problem of human destiny that is beyond human beings loaded with the energy of goodwill. I am, are you? We may come from different places, have different stories, and look different, but we share common hopes and one very big African dream. “We are all South Africans and it’s time we make that shift in thinking, let’s we forget”. We have won the fight!

It’s a belief that says if this nation that is being born was founded on the principles of freedom and equality, it cannot sit idly by while millions are still left behind because of the colour of their skin. If we embrace the renewed hope and social redemption, we will have to shine as a beacon of hope to the rest of Africa and the world. We must be respected not just for the might of our military in Africa, and our will to succeed, but also for the reach of our ideals.

If this nation being born is a nation where destiny is not determined by our ethnic groups/birth or circumstances, we have a duty to ensure that all our people and their children have the same chance in life. That if out of many, we are truly one. Then we must not limit ourselves to the pursuit of selfish gain, but to that which will help all South Africans to rise together. Our greatness as a newly born nation is dependent on one another, on a belief that we are dependent on our sense of mutual regard for each other, the idea that everybody has a stake in the country, that we are all in it together and everybody’s got a shot at opportunity. Let us, a newborn nation, make possible the potential that exists in every South African.

We owe our children a better future. We know that this is the moment that will define a generation that will deliver that better future. We

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

Please allow me to dedicate some words to our children: To all our military kids.

As I was typing this to share my thoughts with kids aged 10 - 15 years I thought there are probably many military kids that do not realise how important they are in their parent's lives. Thank you so much for your wonderful magazine where our soldiers and families can stay connected. These are a few words of appreciation to our children.

**MILITARY CHILD: YOU ARE UNIQUE**

You are unique,
Take pride in it
You are your parents' strength,

Your parents’ heroes
Your uniqueness can only
Be appreciated by people
Who understand what you are going through.
We as your parents realise that every moment
You are not unique
Because of your parent’s rank
In the force, because that rank is
His/her working environment achievement
You cannot treat each other differently
Because of these ranks
You are a soldier’s child - a military child
A unique generation
You are unique because
Either one or both of your parents
Is part of our South African National Defence Force
The SANDF that is +/- 70 000

Of +/- 47 million people in South Africa
Are you unique or what?
We know you are
There might be some of you who lost a parent
Due to a deployment
We want you to know
They did it because they served their country
We salute you on behalf of your parents
Either one or both
Of your parents were transferred
to different provinces or countries
For the sake of the work,
Studies or our country
You did adopt
You have proud,
True South Africans as parents
Either one or both
Of your parents are deployed
For the sake of peace
Or work in an environment
Where they have to plan peacekeeping
In some way or another
You have a hero of the country
As your dad/mom or both
Either one or both
Of your parents are working hard
In making sure that our country will be there
For you one day in a peaceful
And safe manner
You have a dedicated hard worker as a parent
Either one or both
Of your parents are spending hours
And hours in planning, learning,
Developing themselves
For the sake of others, because they believe in
The future, you have a believer on your side
They believe in a future that is you
You, military child - who are unique?
As a stronger generation
Of positive military children
Do you think you can make a difference?
We bet you can
You, as a military child with the discipline
That your parents are instilling in your lives
That discipline is within your blood
You as a military child
Are part of the positive force
That Mr Mandela believed in
When he spent almost a lifetime in prison
You, because you with your uniqueness can
By making the right choices
Let our country, our community,
Our military community
Be the difference to a world that needs us.

Thank you military child
Thank you that you are
So that your parents can be proud.
Lilla Kobie, email

You are your parents' strength,

We cannot afford to keep doing what we’ve been doing; allowing some to lag behind because they are the minority. We owe this to our country and our future as a newborn nation. Let’s not bend history to our will because it naturally bends towards justice. A sterling example is Madiba (The Long Walk to Freedom). As I type these words, know that there is a generation of youth growing up in the back streets and dark corners of this country that are slipping away from us as we read. I grew up in those forgotten streets, I know their sense of hopelessness and we talk of renewed hope, let’s walk it! They are not Black, White, Coloured or Indian; they are our children. They are our responsibility. “We are our brothers and sisters keepers”. I know hopelessness, but I also know hope. We can make a difference in the lives of our newborn nation, future generations and the life of this country.

We are a nation rich in aged people who fought the struggle against apartheid, and they are worn out and exhausted. We have war veterans who talk with pride about what they have accomplished in their time of duty all across the globe, and both these veterans are forgotten, neglected and they roam the streets of a country they fought for now as bums, ‘bergies’, beggars and drunks. If this is the standard of our morals as a newborn nation, and as a defence force that prides itself on values that are second to none, then we are going downhill with our foot on the gas pedal, the “fight we picked” as said by William Wallace in Braveheart would have been all in vain. This is our chance to end it once and for all, let’s unite as South Africans.

Unity is the great need of the time. Unity is how we shall overcome the new frontier of division that exists. Powerful but subtle and insidious currents incessantly work at undermining the minority groups, pinning them down, and everyday is a struggle as those around them, the privileged, aim to limit their space. I believe deeply that we cannot solve the challenges of our country still so divided and a National Defence Force that is not fully representative in all ranks, unless we solve them together. We do share the same hopes and we are all Africans.

I do have hope as a South African, but now presently still labelled as a “Coloured” Officer in a transforming SANDF, that the representativity of all posts, ranks and levels will be addressed soon. I pray that the day will dawn that I will not be labelled by the laws of apartheid, but by my birthright (South African).

I proudly serve the Government of the day, and I am inspired by South Africa’s past. I am filled with hope for South Africa’s future and very determined to contribute beyond comprehension to our next chapter of history. “Working together we can do more.” Proudly South African, UBUNTU!

Col R.G. Lourens, SA Army

A U G U S T  2 0 0 9  •  S A S O L D I E R
LET US UNITE

I hereby wish to share my deepest feelings concerning my beloved SANDF.

There is a gap of misunderstanding that is dividing our National Defence Force as implemented and practised by the leaders we voted into Government, which we trusted so much and believed in. They cause that division in the following manner:

There is no united SANDF because MK, APLA, TBVC and SADF still exist, and this practice is dividing the DOD because the others are made to believe that they are better than the others and are treated as such when it comes to courses, promotions and contracts.

The other members formerly known as SADF are also divided into Africans and Whites, and Whites are treated better than their counterparts, as they are the minority.

I therefore wonder why we are not wearing different kinds of combat dress to determine our differences as it is with our force numbers and how long this is going to go on. I am a born soldier by profession and I will never think of anything else except soldiering. Whoever is responsible for doing this, please do not tear or split our strong SANDF by this act that causes an African to feel inferior to another!

We love and respect our SANDF, its leadership and its civil control and we will love it much more if our leaders can help unite us so that we stop seeing each other as MK, SANDF and/or APLA.

We are soldiers wearing the same uniform with an SA flag on our left shoulders and are aiming for the same goal in the same country as the first patriots and we shall love to wear our Unitas Medals with pride and understanding. We have passed divide and rule long ago!

With all respect, we want to live like soldiers who have values, morale and tradition and much more, who will stand up for each other even at the cost of our lives and not by segregating or discriminating against each other.

A concerned soldier

GONE ARE THE HAPPY DAYS OF "CIVILIANS"

When I started in the SANDF it was the first month of the year in 1982. It was nice being a civilian. I chose to be one so that I could help my fellow soldiers with their hard work that they are doing for our beautiful country.

As you know we cannot all be soldiers, Generals, Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels Majors and Captains. There must be someone to look after their needs to make ends meet that is the civilian. If the office of a General is clean, it is because of the civilians; when the Colonel drinks water, it is because of the civilians; when the Lieutenant Colonel drinks tea or coffee, it is because of the civilians, and when Majors and Captains use the restrooms, they must be clean - thanks to the civilians.

We felt the importance of ourselves back then, but now it is not like that anymore. Some soldiers make us feel we are no longer important, as if we are nothing. We do not even exist. Come time for increases we “Toi Toi” - they do not, but they benefit as well, with our strength after we have won, but at the end of the day we are nothing.

Furthermore come transport issues, civilian members are not allowed to use military buses; only uniformed members are allowed this benefit. We are also part of the Department with force numbers and two letters at the end. Thus if we are involved in a military accident, the civilians are not protected and will not be compensated.

I wish this “name” of civilian could be changed in the DOD to another name because at the end of the day when the soldiers take off their uniforms they are also civilians. The soldiers need respect from us the civilians and we do respect them, but they forget that if you need respect you should earn it, you don’t just get it automatically.

I hope and trust this matter will be addressed and the civilian members will be given the credit they deserve in the DOD.

Ms B.R. Hlongwane,
Admin Clerk

TB AWARENESS

SANDF COLET always makes sure that the arranged Education, Training and Development (ETD) Day is profitable to the organisation and to society at large. The command of this unit issues a call-up instruction obliging all the members of the unit to attend and participate in the planned activities of the day.

On this day a specialist in disease management in Gauteng, who was also a member of the SANDF, shared her knowledge of tuberculosis (TB). She touched on almost all the aspects of this disease, including the different types and how it can be cured.

It was exciting and yet a relief to learn that the bacterium known as bycleeum is not innate. No one is born with it hence the possibility that some of us already have this bacterium in our system through interaction with the environment. Be that it may, it does not mean that we are sick or we have TB because it will lie dormant until such time as our immune system is compromised. Brothers and sisters, TB can be cured. Unfortunately, if you are diagnosed with TB and you decide not to continue using the medication, you are creating a bigger problem for yourself as the bacterium could become resistant to the medication and then you could infect the people around you and those you engage with on a daily basis.

I would like to appeal to everyone reading this letter to say: please circulate this message. Plant a new seed among our colleagues, brothers and sisters and the entire society. It is time for a paradigm shift. If you are sick, seek help. If you are given treatment, finish it. It is time that people start humanising diseases like these so that a proper solution can be found. People with this kind of problem need to be taught the fellowship of being human so that this humanity becomes part of their being and it is then that they can start behaving as required, simply because they understand. People also must stop condemning; rather they must join in to defeat the problem not to increase it by condemnation and criticism.

“For you to be able to lead, you must first learn to follow.”

TB can be cured! Ms Molebogeng
More, SANDF COLET
An era of hope for women

By Maj Gen N. Memela-Motumi, Chief Director Transformation Management

Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

As South Africa commemorates its 53rd anniversary of the Women’s March to Pretoria, it has the conviction that a strong political will exists after the country’s fourth democratic elections to advance the gender equality agenda. There is no doubt in one’s mind that this is an era of hope for women.

This commendable political will from the highest levels gives meaning to the Government’s framework on gender equality, but more importantly, it also ensures that the issue of transformation in general and gender equality in particular is a national priority. We therefore pride ourselves on our Government’s having again proved its commitment and political will in putting the issues of gender representation and empowerment squarely on the main agenda. It is no mean feat that more than half of the Premiers who were inaugurated were women.

Within the military milieu, progress has also been very encouraging. However, there is scope for improvement, especially with regard to women’s representation in the Command Bodies. When the DOD celebrated International Women’s Day on 8 March 2009, Dr M. Juma, a citizen of the world and an expert in defence and security, spoke of South Africa’s vanguard role in terms of its being the champion of human rights, the leading role that it plays in the search for peace and security in the region, and also the fact that our country today stands as the 13th largest women contingent deployed in peace support operations.

Furthermore, in every section of our military system and male colleagues, let us see the role that women can play in the military milieu. It is no mean feat that more than half of the Premiers who were inaugurated were women. As we think of these things, we must take into account the fact that working for the DOD is no ordinary job, but a call to serve. Thus far, women’s involvement in the SANDF has proceeded smoothly with the full support of the military system and male colleagues. Let us therefore use the Women’s Month to reflect and recommit ourselves to serve with pride.

As we reflect on the DOD’s achievements over the past 15 years, we note the following achievements: structures to carry the transformation agenda forward have been created, a critical mass of women are being promoted to the rank of General, a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy has been promulgated by the top leadership in order to ensure that gender equity is pursued in a coherent and guided manner across the Services and Divisions, mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress have been instituted, for example the Gender Mainstreaming Council and the annual and regional discussions on women in defence, and efforts are also continuously being made to increase and deepen awareness within Services and Divisions of the importance of Constitutional imperatives.

At this juncture, one of the important lessons learned is that the evolutionary process by which women are being accepted in defence cannot be hurried by orders to do so. Much as the burden of proof remains with the women, equitable opportunity to demonstrate ability to do the job must be provided by the organisation that admitted them in the first place. No amount of legislation or modernisation will change the distinguishing and distinctive physical characteristics of men and women. While each sex has its own innate characteristics, for the most part, physical strength is a male characteristic. Men do not have a monopoly on patriotism, physical ability, and desire for adventure or willingness to risk their lives. Until both share in the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, women will continue to be considered less than fully-fledged citizens. The defence and protection of the RSA, its territorial integrity and its people are no longer a male only preserve.

The United Nations will be commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325 next year. As a country and as one of its key state departments, we need to examine our endeavours in this regard and take policy implementation to the next level by enhancing women’s involvement in the Peace and Security Agenda. We need to be bold and continue breaking new ground in our engagements with countries emerging from conflict, as well as in our efforts as an extension of our government’s foreign policy to maintain peace and stability in the region. One of the key issues to be addressed is the training of a critical mass of women to enable them to respond appropriately to gender-based violence. We believe that the deployment of a Gender Adviser, Lt Col G.J.C. Jansen van Rensburg, to the SA National Contingent Commander in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will provide valuable lessons on the mainstreaming of gender in peace support operations. Furthermore, in every section of our organisation we need to raise the awareness levels of every woman in the DOD to regard the gender equity campaign as their own individual agenda. This will ensure that this organisation indeed fulfils its mandate regarding gender issues. The questions to be addressed individually and collectively are: how must this agenda be best advanced? What is my contribution and legacy in this regard? "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

As a country and as one of its key state departments, we need to reexamine our endeavours in this regard and take policy implementation to the next level by enhancing women’s involvement in the Peace and Security Agenda. We need to be bold and continue breaking new ground in our engagements with countries emerging from conflict, as well as in our efforts as an extension of our government’s foreign policy to maintain peace and stability in the region. One of the key issues to be addressed is the training of a critical mass of women to enable them to respond appropriately to gender-based violence. We believe that the deployment of a Gender Adviser, Lt Col G.J.C. Jansen van Rensburg, to the SA National Contingent Commander in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will provide valuable lessons on the mainstreaming of gender in peace support operations. Furthermore, in every section of our organisation we need to raise the awareness levels of every woman in the DOD to regard the gender equity campaign as their own individual agenda. This will ensure that this organisation indeed fulfils its mandate regarding gender issues. The questions to be addressed individually and collectively are: how must this agenda be best advanced? What is my contribution and legacy in this regard? “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” These inspiring words were spoken by the 35th President of the United States, Mr John F. Kennedy, during his inauguration address.

As we think of these things, we must take into account the fact that working for the DOD is no ordinary job, but a call to serve. Thus far, women’s involvement in the SANDF has proceeded smoothly with the full support of the military system and male colleagues. Let us therefore use the Women’s Month to reflect and recommit ourselves to serve with pride.

As we think of these things, we must take into account the fact that working for the DOD is no ordinary job, but a call to serve. Thus far, women’s involvement in the SANDF has proceeded smoothly with the full support of the military system and male colleagues. Let us therefore use the Women’s Month to reflect and recommit ourselves to serve with pride. Last but not least, as the country and all state entities commemorate the Women’s Month, note that a DOD Gender Conference will take place from 26 - 28 August 2009 in Thaba Tshwane. The purpose is to evaluate achievements as well as the challenges experienced in the implementation of the DOD’s Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan. The conference theme is: “Inspired and Empowered to Advance the Gender Equality Agenda”. Services and Divisions’ discussions will also be held in order to achieve consensus on how some of the peculiar issues should be tackled going forward.
news from abroad

TO ALL DEPLOYED FATHERS

* This poem is dedicated to all the responsible fathers:

Father you are the most wonderful person
There is none like you
That is why you are called
Head of the family
Without you the household is incomplete
You bring dignity, respect, joy, pride
And laughter to every home.

You make everyone proud
You are the happiness provider
As God is the soul provider
I am also strong because I am part of you
I am grown up and responsible
Because of you

And the love you provide me with
You co-operated when God asked
To use your rib
You never let me sleep nor slumber
Your love is as wide as the oceans
And as high as the sky

We are proud of you fathers
For being so brave
You were there for our moms
When they carried us
You kept up with her mood swings,
Stress and demands
You provided whole-heartedly
That is why you are being called a father

You are a father because you are responsible
That’s why you are given
Wonderful and well deserved names
Some call you papa, ubaba, papas, utata

 Wonderful man are born once in a while
They are rare to find because
They have got class, style,
Flare, charm, and a great personality
They are one of the kind and one in a million
Everybody can be a father
But its takes a real man
To be a dad.

Happy Father’s Day
To all the real man out there!
Rfn Zanele Nomvula Shiba, currently deployed in Malha, Sudan

THE TOP OF AFRICA

I see the top of Africa
I see the blue steel helmets
Moving into the top of Africa
Yes they are the angels of peace
They come from all corners of the world
To unite separate forces
Represent their countries as they
Are prepared to die for peace in Africa
I see trouble and grief, death and misery
In every corner of this giant country
On top of Africa …
I talk of women and children
Who mourn their dead fathers and husbands
Yes he died protecting his family
One died serving his opposing force
A good wife made a widow tonight
She who does what is righteous
Speaks the truth from her heart
And who keeps her oath even when it hurts
An innocent child that was never at school
But have a dream for a better life
And country someday
He an orphan today, stripped with an AK 47
The only education he is likely to get
Is how to aim and pull the trigger …
He is a child from the top of Africa …
We may do confidence building patrols
And put a smile on the faces of these locals
But after six months we’ll be gone home
To the tip of Africa
Where many Africans flee to
As illegal immigrants
Because they see it as
The Promised Land …
Peacekeeping is not a soldier’s work
But only he can do it!

I salute all those who have lost their lives
In peacekeeping missions
Some peacekeepers will forever be haunted
By the horrifying sight they saw
Some will never stop praying for Africa
Some will have a story to tell their loved ones
And enjoy the peanuts

They risked their lives for
At the top of Africa!
May God bless Sudan and its people!
SALAM WALAKO.
Rfn M.L. Mqogolwana, 2008 8 SAI Bn: MSDS Intake, currently in Sudan, Kutum Base, 4 SAI Bn

FUN DAY IN MALHA (SUDAN, DARFUR)

FROM THE DUSTY SANDS OF THE SUDAN. The day was hot and dry as always. It was the 16th of June 2009. The scorching heat of the sun did not, however, stop 4 SAI Bn (Charlie Company) celebrating 16 June - Youth Day. The day was organised in such a way that we felt at home even while we were in the mission area. The day was filled with a lot of events, ranging from gumboot dancing, singing, modelling to scathamiya. Everyone showed his or her talent that day. Lt V.M. Hlungwani, 4 SAI Bn (currently deployed in Sudan)

The modelling team.
FUN DAY IN MISSION AREA (DRC)

Allow me to comment on the above-mentioned article, which appeared in the June 2009 edition of SA Soldier on page 10. I met the five young soldiers whose photos are on page 10 in Grahamstown on 12 August 2008, while they were busy with their mission readiness training. Among other things they are a deploying unit being trained as HIV and AIDS peer educators. As Director HIV and AIDS Programmes I was very keen to see what they had been taught as peer educators and to my excitement they had prepared an educational drama that portrayed the activities in the deployment areas that could lead to acquiring HIV and AIDS. I must say that the potential that was displayed by these young soldiers was most admirable and I was so encouraged to see the quality of discipline and knowledge of HIV and AIDS.

After the demonstration I asked them a few questions about HIV and AIDS. I could see that they were determined and keen to teach others as trained peer educators on HIV and AIDS. I want to say to the Officer Commanding of 6 SAI Bn who deployed with them and the SAMHS HIV and AIDS Co-ordinators at 6 SAI Bn “job well done”. Keep it up and make sure you reach every soldier in the fight against HIV and AIDS within the SANDF. Brig Gen Lulu Linda Siwisa, Director HIV and AIDS Programmes: SANDF SMHS

HE IS ALWAYS THERE

When the Lord made Heaven and earth, everything was mixed and unlovable, but only for six days; with His only hands He made the world what it is today. That is the remembrance of what our Father who art in Heaven did for us because He cared. He then made the seventh day a day of rest, so all of us to put down our tools and give praise to His name. The world was clean and lovable and He put us in the world to take care of it, as cleanliness is next to Godliness.

He also brought His only Son to die for our sins, to be crucified on the cross, also for us in South Africa. What do we do in return? We reject and do not want to accept Him as our Saviour and Protector. In everything that we do, He is watching, take note of that.

"Love thy neighbour", means we must care for and help the people we work with, not laugh at them when they do not know their work, but assist them. Working is what the Lord wants as we make a living for our families and give 10% of our earnings to the congregation in gratitude Him. Do not run away from your family. Support your children in the name of Jesus Christ and do not be like Abram when he chased away his wife with her child because of the other wife. But anyway, Abram knew God would be with her and Ishmael. You see what the Lord does for his people, He helps out. If you ask help from Him, you get it. "He does not beat about the bush", but in return you run away from Him.

Our Father is the best solution to our problems and challenges in life. He brought us here for impeccable reasons. We were tasked by Him before we were born. He is miraculous and the mastermind of everything and answers our prayers. All He wants is that we should be clean spiritually.

That means we must repent like "Nicodemus" - the well-known priest. Tell yourself that you are working for Him, your life is going to be a blessing, do not hurt other people and work in peace with them; give yourself peace of mind. Meet with those who praise Him, for you connect spiritually with Him. No one can stand before you if you give yourself to Him. Do not spare your life because if you do that, that is when you are not sparing it. "Those who sacrifice their life for me will receive eternal life," said Jesus when He was preaching to the people at the mountain. Worry about your soul, not your flesh because there is an expiry date on "flesh".

Seek God first before you go to war; you will come back alive and do not be like Eli’s children who neglected God’s commands. So if you listen attentively to your commander, you are listening to the Lord and you will come out alive from the war. Think before you do everything; ask for wisdom like King Solomon, respect yourself and others. Make sure that your family is cared for. God will hear your prayers every time you call upon Him.

Be like Moses when he led the Israelites out of Egypt. He did that with pride and passion because he knew that at the end of the day his reward would be eternity. What I am saying is that it is now the time to put God first in what you are doing. Do introspection, reach out and connect to Him for success because He is the only way to achieve anything. Without God you are nothing. Be clean in everything that you come across.

Go to church with a mind to praise Him; do not be shy because in Heaven He may also be shy for your soul. Accept your mistakes, stop lying and promising your subordinates things that you will not be able to give to them. You are hurting them if you lie; tell them the truth and be clean because He is watching what we are doing to others, and you do not see this. I have been trying to remember where we come from and who is giving us all these blessings, because that is very important to know. "Tshimlogo ya bokolate ke go boifa modimo". That is the only option that can make one clean in everything, especially at work and I hope that people at work will start working with others in God’s way, not in rudeness. L Cpl T.M. Dube, 44 Parachute Regiment

POSITIVE OFFICE ORDERS

Members of the RSA Contingent stationed at Zam Zam Base at El Fasher were brought to positive office orders by S Sgt M.E. Dhlamini, the Acting Base Sergeant Major, in front of Lt Col T.P. Gosani on 15 June 2009.

During the office order presentation Lt Col Gosani, RSA Commander (4 SAI Bn), thanked all the members for their performance on behalf of the RSA National Contingent Commander, Col S.B. Dlamini. He emphasised that the good efforts done by the members paint a good picture of the SANDF and also promote the good image of SA. The Commander concluded by persuading the RSA members to carry on working around the clock for the success of the UNAMID. In his speech on Youth Day - 16 June 2009 - Lt Col Gosani said: “As South Africans who are in the mission area, we observe a moment. You mean a lot to us because of the contribution that you, the youth in the SANDF, made. To all the soldiers, let us contribute to the success of the organisation and the country”. Sgt K.C. Nkosi (Sudan)
Analysis of our 2009 Budget Speech

By Robert Wapenaar, Asst Dir Revenue Management

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, presented her first Department of Defence Budget Vote in the National Assembly, Cape Town, on 3 July 2009.

With regard to the budget Ms Sisulu said: "The first challenge that confronts us is a declining budget where our domestic obligations remain defined in the Constitution, against a backdrop of our growing international responsibilities and a deteriorating infrastructure and, very importantly, against a clear and pressing reality that conditions of service for the National Defence Force need our immediate attention. We have a responsibility to enhance and maintain comprehensive defence capabilities to ensure that the territorial integrity of our country and its sovereignty are protected. This is a constitutional requirement and we need to keep ourselves in a state of competence, one of constant renewed advancement, in a state of readiness, as it is commonly called here. With a declining budget our competence is severely hampered, with dire consequences".

She continued by highlighting the following issues:

- Compile budget for Military Veterans. To execute the department’s responsibility, a task team has been established consisting of members of the Military Veterans Associations and representatives of various stakeholders. The task team falls under the Deputy Minister. Preliminary indications are that a separate vote and a separate department for Military Veterans could be created.

- Training for essential skills by employing MSDS members to other departments. In rethinking our role in the economy, the Department of Defence (DOD) would like to provide training for essential skills in the economy. The Military Skills Development System (MSDS) aims to provide the SANDF with the military human resources required by the Defence mandate to empower the youth through training and development opportunities while they serve in the MSDS and to instil sound ethics and values of civic responsibility. We wish to sell this concept of opening up our skills development for government departments and the private sector. A very good example of the
skills that we have been able to provide over the years is pilot training. The SAA has one of the highest standards of aviation safety in the world. We would like to claim that this is in no small measure due to the bulk of the pilots having been trained by the SANDF. This type of training allows us to provide continuous service. For government the list of possibilities is endless. What this does is to allow the SANDF to reskill our youth, energise our economy and provide us with some revenue from the various departments we are servicing as a Service Provider, which means that our renewal can be taken care of by our own efforts.

- **Retention of scarce skills.** The creation of a dependable, agile and flexible human capital base remains the minister’s focus for the financial year. The high rate of skills migration and dearth of scarce skills require the introduction of modern approaches to mobilisation and the deployment of human capital to accelerate the accumulation of specialised skills and the retention of institutional memory to ensure the enhancing of the culture and doctrine that define our disciplined military force. The demand for a well trained, multi-skilled, disciplined and well equipped National Defence Force as a critical lever of the developmental agenda of Government is a reality that cannot be left to chance. The outflow of skilled technical personnel, engineers and combat personnel from the DOD continues to cause a reduction in the experience levels at units. Incentive schemes to mitigate this challenge have been introduced and are adjusted regularly in line with changing requirements. In addition the Department is exploring a strategy to address the retention of scarce skills within the Department.

- **Support to SAPS by means of borderline control.** The DOD takes an active role in assisting the SA Police Service (SAPS) to deal with crime. These are matters that are under discussion at the moment, against a backdrop of very clear legislative mandates. The DOD has agreed in principle that the defence of our borders ensure the enhancing of the culture and doctrine that define our disciplined military force. The demand for a well trained, multi-skilled, disciplined and well equipped National Defence Force as a critical lever of the developmental agenda of Government is a reality that cannot be left to chance. The outflow of skilled technical personnel, engineers and combat personnel from the DOD continues to cause a reduction in the experience levels at units. Incentive schemes to mitigate this challenge have been introduced and are adjusted regularly in line with changing requirements. In addition the Department is exploring a strategy to address the retention of scarce skills within the Department.

- **Separate dispensation for the DOD.** The DOD is considering making a request for a separate dispensation for the Department that would allow the DOD to deal creatively with its own needs and the specifics of its own unique security requirements.
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Peacekeeping Programme gained more impetus in June 2009 as 46 participants from the defence forces of SADC member states graduated from a five-day SADC Brigade Military Observers Course in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Participants, whose ranks ranged from Captain and Major to Lieutenant-Colonel were drawn from the defence forces of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The aim of the course was to provide participants with operational skills, knowledge and the attributes required to enable them to function during the coming Exercise GOLFINHO to be held at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha in September 2009. Speaking during a colourful graduation ceremony held on 12 June 2009 at the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare, the Chief of Staff Operations and Plans for the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Maj Gen Nicholas Dube, called on participants "to make a contribution to the SADC Standby Brigade which will have a bearing on the overall preparedness of the subregion to respond to the call for peace and security in the region and abroad".

"You must all be aware that the SADC Standby Brigade is part of the African Union Standby Force which brings together our subregion and other subregions to develop a common defence and security policy for the African continent," said Maj Gen Dube.

Asked to comment on the course, participants expressed gratitude and appreciation as they described the course as an eye-opener for them in peacekeeping missions. "After what I have gone through in this course, I am now ready to serve as a military observer anywhere in the world to save humanity," said Maj Amukwaya Dlikonja of the Namibian Defence Force.

Lt Col Kim Moorcroft of the SANDF said he was pleasantly impressed by the experience of attending the SADC Brigade Military Course. "I am particularly thankful to the organisers of the course who were so superb in both their administration and presentation. I personally gained a lot from the course and I feel confident that I can apply what I was taught."

Exercise GOLFINHO is meant to test the SADC Brigade’s readiness to meet its commitment to the African Standby Force. The first phase of the exercise was the MAP exercise in Angola in February 2009. It was followed by the Command Post Exercise held in Mozambique in April 2009.

The third phase of Exercise GOLFINHO will be concluded with a field training exercise at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohatlha in September 2009.

Seated: Course Organisers, facilitators and presenters, including a participant (extreme right): filr: Lt Col S. Ndlovu (Zimbabwe), Col E. Mahachi (Zimbabwe), Col D. Kgomotso (Botswana), Mr S. Bam (South Africa), Col Melanzi (RPTC Manager from Tanzania), Lt Col J. Heyns (South Africa) with SADC Brigade Military Observers Course participants from SADC member states.
National security is top priority

By Bibi Morgets

The official opening of the 20/09 Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) took place at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria on 14 July 2009. This programme is aimed at the national strategic level to plan, manage and ensure national security in a world that places a high premium on human security and increasingly addresses multi-national security issues.

Members of the SANDE, DOD officials, international military personnel and civilians from different government departments who attended this Programme bore testimony to the indisputable fact that national security is of concern to everyone and not only in the military. Members of international defence forces who attended this course were: Commodore Antonio Pondja (Mozambique), Capt Shehu Ahmada (Nigeria), Col Hesham Elaziz (Egypt) and Col André Silveira (Brazil).

The ENSP is aligned with the requirements of the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) Act. The General Officer Commanding Training Formation, Maj Gen Titus Matlakeng, urged other government departments, parastatals, non-government organisations and private organisations to invest in this field of study.

In opening the twenty-one week programme Maj Gen Matlakeng wished all 36 candidates success with the programme and encouraged them to work hard, play hard and make lasting friendships and emphasising that they could achieve the objectives and make it a memorable and satisfying programme from which both they and their organisations would benefit.

Project CYTOON on your marks, get set …

Article and photos by Maj Cheryl Essop, SA Army Intelligence Formation

The tactical intelligence system of the SA Army is finally becoming a reality. After many years of research, planning and development, the SA Army Intelligence Community is eagerly awaiting the culmination of Project CYTOON. The project team from Directorate Army Acquisition and Armscor has worked hand in hand with industry since April 2005 for the successful delivery of the tactical intelligence system to the SA Army.

Project CYTOON will deliver an integrated tactical battlefield surveillance and intelligence processing capability to the SA Army to support operational commanders with the intelligence function during the execution of military operations. This capability will be delivered to the two Brigade Headquarters, 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment and the School of Tactical Intelligence.

Project CYTOON has progressed to such an extent that preparations are currently being presented at a specially designed Training Centre situated at the School of Tactical Intelligence. Selected members of the SA Army Intelligence Formation, 43 SA Brigade, 46 SA Brigade, the School of Tactical Intelligence and 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment will be actively involved in the commissioning of the system.

Training will be conducted on all the surveillance, intelligence management, intelligence planning and processing systems. The training commenced in April 2009 and was completed by mid-July 2009, after which the operational test and evaluation commenced.

For many decades the intelligence cycle was a lengthy process in which cumbersome equipment was used. The intelligence process was carried out manually, and maps had to be prepared and continuously updated as the situation changed. The new Tactical Intelligence System will digitise and automate the intelligence process, thus enhancing the decision-making process of operational commanders.

Tactical Intelligence will be conducted in a new improved dimension for our future generations of Intelligence Corps members to utilise and build on. Project CYTOON has placed the SA Army Intelligence Corps in the forefront of technology. This is indeed an important milestone for the SA Army Intelligence Formation.
or every event that has been planned diligently success is the reward, hence “they” say never fail to plan because if you fail to plan, then you have planned to fail. The success and excitement experienced during the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) Confederations Cup that was held for three weeks from 14 to 28 June 2009 here in South Africa could be attributed to the approximately twenty months of planning by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other government departments.

The SANDF termed this operation Exercise KGWELE. The stakeholders of the 2009 Confederations Cup came together to work at the National Joint Operation Centre (NATJOC) in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria. The NATJOC was established to co-ordinate Provincial Joint Operation Centre (PROVJOC) centrally, which comprised three provincial centres in Gauteng, North West and Free State. At the NATJOC all state departments work cohesively to reach common objectives. Fourteen government departments, including the SAPS, the SANDF, the Department of Health, Emergency Services, the National Intelligence Agency and others participated in the exercise to make sure that South Africa hosted a world-class soccer event.

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By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: S Sgt Lebohang Tlhaole

What does the SANDF have to do with soccer?

"We should explicitly state that the core business of the SANDF as a department is to secure the sovereignty of the South African state and uphold the national security of the country. The SANDF was not the main role-player in this FIFA event, but was only giving the SAPS (which was the main guardian of internal security) the support that it needed to maintain safety and security and to assist by providing logistics and other technical expertise that needed to be employed in an event of this magnitude," said Brig Gen Koos Liebenberg, Joint Task Force Commander.

The SANDF gave landward (transportation, patrol and roadblocks) and air (airspace control and airlift capabilities), assistance in case of chemical or biological radiation incidents and provided interdepartmental command and control where and when necessary. It also provide maritime assistance to the SAPS and all the role-players. Air capabilities and airspace control were co-ordinated between the South African Air Force (SAAF), the SAPS, civil aviation and the air traffic navigation system.

Col Lucas Delport, Chief of Staff during Exercise KGWELE, confirmed that to control airspace they had to declare a state of limited and restricted airspace. "For the duration of the Confederations Cup we declared a five nautical miles no-fly zone around the stadium and around the stadium a controlled or restricted fly zone of fifty nautical miles was in place," said Col Delport. The aircraft that had to fly within South African borders had to comply with the rule and regulations stipulated. Owing to non-compliance six aircraft had to be forced down, of
which one was a foreign aircraft. Col Delport emphasised that the SANDF had taken action in accordance with the National Security Strategy and only to took the lead in rules and regulations compliance issues. Once the aircraft had been grounded the SAPS and the Civil Aviation Authority took over the reigns.

During the planning stage the NATJOC team met twice a day with the SAPS National Commissioner and his deputy. 7 Medical Battalion was responsible for medical emergencies and chemical or biological radiation incidents. Brig Gen Liebenberg and Col Delport pointed out that the SANDF’s role was mainly to steer away or curb any perceived threats. “Our role was to be proactive rather than reactive,” confirmed Col Delport. More than 1 000 inclusive of Reserve Force military members from all over South Africa were deployed specifically for this exercise.

Brig Gen Liebenberg and Col Delport were especially thankful to the Reserve Force unit for providing members for Exercise KGWELE. They expressed their gratitude for the way the Exercise was handled and the display of the One Force concept. “To all of you who contributed to the success of the Confederations Cup, I would like sincerely to acknowledge your efforts and the fact that you went the extra mile when the requirement arose. I thank you for the display of esprit de corps you have shown and the extra hours that you put in. This is befitting of a soldier”, said Brig Gen Liebenberg in thanking the team he commanded.
The 93rd anniversary of the Battle of Delville Wood

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

his famous battle was fought by South African soldiers in France during World War I in 1916 and is always suitably remembered and commemorated on the Sunday closest to the 16th of July every year. This year’s memorial service was held at Burgers Park, Pretoria, on 19 July 2009.

It is important for the country and the Pretoria Memorial Services Council, supported by the SANDF, to stage memorial services such as today’s so that the people in the capital city of our country can also remember and respect the brave deeds of those who sacrificed their all for the security of the world.

On the evening of 15 July 1916 the South African Brigade was called upon to assist in clearing the village of Longueval and to capture Delville Wood, adjacent to this village. They went in and after heavy fighting during which they were harassed by German snipers and subjected to an intense artillery bombardment, managed to recapture the village, which was by now reduced to rubble and a few ruins.

They moved into Delville Wood, which was later described by some of the survivors as Devil’s Wood, where they met with fierce resistance and intense bombardment. There was a lack of reinforcements, much suffering, and numerous acts of bravery, personal sacrifices and a heavy toll in human life. It was in the rainy season and the mud increased the men’s suffering and discomfort.

The South African brigade went in with 3 153 men, 121 officers and 3 032 other ranks. On the morning of 17 July 1916 only 750 men in total came out alive from the carnage in Delville Wood. Of these only 143 were relatively unscathed; the remaining 607 were wounded. The wood itself with its dense undergrowth also suffered from the heavy shelling and it was reduced to a few stubs and broken branches, half buried in mud.

In 1920, after the war, King George V visited the war cemeteries in Europe and was viewing the rows of headstones in a war cemetery when he referred to the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He said: “We can truly say that the whole circuit of the earth is girdled with the graves of our dead! Never before in history have a people thus maintained individual memorials to their fallen, and in the course of my pilgrimage I have many times asked myself whether there can be a more potent advocate of peace upon earth through the years to come than this mass multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war.”

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Brig Gen Amanda Ruzieke, General Officer Commanding GSB Garrison, laying a wreath on behalf of the SA Army.
South Africa is one country that has so much diversity in its different cultures, traditions, ethnic and religious groups, but most people find themselves belonging to the largest religious group, which is Christianity. Christianity symbolises the epitome of our being and in our country this is mostly summed up in the first stanza of our National Anthem, which clearly embraces God in our midst.

The DOD includes the chaplaincy unit, which concentrates on the spiritual upliftment and guidance of the soldiers, and annually conferences are held for these chaplains to reflect on their spiritual journeys and to obtain a sense of connection to God and to rely on Him for wisdom to carry on with the special tasks at hand. This year the North West Province in Mafikeng held the conference from 22 to 26 June.

Over forty chaplains of the SA Army came together with a view to achieving better goals for the future. This was highlighted by the theme of the conference: "A committed Chaplain for the future". These chaplains were graced by the presence of the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and the Premier of the North West, Ms Maureen Modiselle, who were keynote speakers at the opening event.

Ms Modiselle said the struggle for earthly justice had always been directly related to the struggle for spiritual justice. This statement goes beyond the written words on paper: it focuses on the person’s ability to be at peace in all situations.

This faith-based system recognises the fallibility of man and a need for his soul to be refreshed and renewed over time so that his pursuit of goodness should not be deterred by his failings as a mortal being. Ms Modiselle praised the chaplains for the splendid job of their being the pillars of strength for the Department. "We know as Government that it is you who break news to widows, mothers and children of members of the Public Service who died in the line of duty. We know it is you who tell children that they are now orphaned because of their parents having committed their lives to the South African flag. We also know that it is you who provide counselling to fellow staff members, thus making sure that service delivery continues. And lastly, we acknowledge that through you our country continues to know God, and your work does not go unnoticed."

In an interview with her she affirmed that the DOD had once again been a teacher to other Government departments. "We should as a province consider the possibility of institutionalising chaplaincy work at all government institutions. Our employee assistance programme should have chaplaincy work as a key driver to soothe emotions," said Ms Modiselle.

In Lt Gen Shoke’s closing remarks he also emphasised the crucial need for this unit and reminded the chaplains of an incident that took place back in 1917 when the SS Mendi sank: "When that ship sank there was a chaplain among the people and all he could do was give courage for the situation they were in. It is my humblest request that the foundation of hope begin by this division and rise up the spirit of UBUNTU (humanity) in ourselves," said Lt Gen Shoke.

The SA Army Chaplains Conference ended with a surprise visit by Lt Gen Shoke to 10 SA Infantry Battalion to thank the members for the sterling work they did in support of the peacekeeping missions and he encouraged them to continue with the hard work and not to forget to raise standards of discipline in all they did.
"I wanna be" a tank commander

Article and photos by Capt Jessica Pieterse, Com Officer 1 SA Tank Regiment

The new TV series "I wanna be" broadcasting on Sunday evenings between 18:00 and 19:00 on M-Net, takes ordinary South Africans and makes their dreams come true. Dean Hall's biggest dream was to become a tank commander in the SA Armour Corps, for just one day ... and that is exactly what happened!

1 SA Tank Regiment and School of Armour had the opportunity to assist M-Net and the producers of the "I wanna be" TV series with two days of tank training and the experience of a lifetime.

Dean Hall, a 32-year-old contestant from Boksburg on the East Rand (Gauteng), dreamt of being a tank commander, but as he had diabetes, he was not allowed to join the SANDF. He said: "I have always been a military enthusiast and enjoy watching documentaries about battles, the strategies and tactics used and of course the military hardware involved. The arrival of the tank during World War I changed the course of modern warfare. The feeling of invincibility and power experienced by the first tank crewmen must have been amazing". Dean Hall has a keen interest in the military and is also intrigued by military history and all the famous Generals from years gone by.

On their arrival at the unit lines of 1 SA Tank Regiment and School of Armour on 22 June 2009, Ed Jordan, the presenter of the TV series, the M-Net crew and Dean Hall started at the Simulator Centre of the School of Armour where Lt Col Shaun Carroll gave an introduction to the four main courses required to qualify as a tank commander. The courses included Tank Driving and Maintenance, Tank Gunnery, Tank Crew Commanding and Tank Troop Commanding.

After the introduction Capt Piet Buys from 1 SA Tank Regiment presented simulator training on the Tank Driving simulators. They completed the basic exercises and then carried on with gunnery, crew and troop exercises. Dean Hall got the opportunity to get hands-on training on the Olifant Mk 2 Tank where he was given the opportunity to drive the vehicle in the unit's 4x4 demonstration range.

After a long day of training Dean Hall and the crew got a taste of what it means to be a "tanker". They were treated to an Armour Shot Action. The term "Shot Action" is derived from a firing order by the crew of a tank. The term is used for the armour piercing (AP) round. From about 1955/56, the students and instructors got together to celebrate the end of a phase of training during a course. Because the

LEFT: After successful theoretical and simulator training on the Olifant Mk 2 Tank, Dean Hall got the opportunity to experience the practical part of being a tank commander at the De Brug Training Area in Bloemfontein. To be the tank commander you must know the functions and roles of your crew. Dean Hall had the opportunity to be the gunner as well and fired 105 mm main rounds from the Olifant MK 2 Tank, while he was assisted by Cpl Sibusiso Khoza (loader) and Sgt Elmarie Brand (Tank Crew Commander) from the School of Armour.
overalls of the students and instructors were covered with oil, grease, fuel and dust they were not allowed into the bar facility and got together at "Pistol Port", the storage area for the empty bottles from the bar (it also allowed access to the bar). Armour Shot Action became the name for these occasions and today this tradition continues. It was on this occasion that Dean Hall got his gunner's eve and had to drink from a spent cartridge.

On 23 June 2009 the Armour soldiers took the cast and crew to the "Koeikamp" range. The "Koeikamp" range is an obstacle course where armoured vehicles can drive and do practical demonstrations. It was a very cold day and that made the experience so much more intriguing. After Dean Hall got his turn to be an actual tank commander, and the Armour soldiers were convinced that he was sufficiently qualified, they were taken to the General De Wet Range at De Brug, just outside Bloemfontein, to start with the live firing exercises. Keeping to the motto of the "tankers": "We make the rules", the training and execution in the field were very professional. Dean Hall got the chance to shoot 105 mm APFSDS-T and High Explosive rounds. The presenter of the series, Ed Jordan, also got the opportunity to shoot a 105 mm APFSDS-T round. Dean Hall said: "This was definitely a dream come true and a once in a lifetime opportunity. I experienced the feeling of invincibility and the responsibility involved in commanding such a powerful machine - the Olifant Mk 2 Tank."

After a long two days of filming, the cast and crew received souvenirs to take home. All that is left to say is: What do you wanna be?
Establishing a consistent working environment

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Defence Foreign Relations hosted its fourth Military Attaché and Advisory Conference in Pretoria on 6 July 2009.

Senior officers of the DOD came to exchange their different views and recall their experiences in the countries they served in. It also provided a platform to engage issues affecting their work environments.

It is very important that Defence Attachés continue to develop good relations, which will in turn benefit the country as far as peace and stability are concerned. This may be expressed in a memorandum of understanding, an exchange of training programmes and joint military exercises.

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, in opening the conference emphasised the vital role the DOD has began to play in establishing relations with other defence forces. These relations will help promote mutual respect with a view to sharing knowledge and skills to improve the standard of our military personnel.

He added: "As ambassadors of the South Africa National Defence Force you are the face of this country; therefore it rests entirely upon your shoulders to engage one another and share experiences and, more importantly, to learn of different activities that our country is participating in, and it is your role to understand those activities be they in politics, trade or economics and to make the necessary interconnections between and among all these activities."

As Mr Makwetla declared the conference officially open he urged the military attachés to serve the country with commitment and loyalty and wished them everything of the best with the deliberations and he trusted that the engagement would be translated into visible implementation.
Madiba's 91st birthday

By Kgomotso Seruba
Photos: WO2 Robert Goliath

The world celebrated the birthday of a man who is arguably the most famous, and not just famous, but a hero too, an icon of freedom - Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela - the first black president of South Africa. The SANDF joined in not only to celebrate, but also to remember Dr Nelson Mandela who once was its Commander-in-Chief.

On 17 July 2009 Church Square in Pretoria was chosen as the venue to celebrate the “67 minutes” which symbolises Madiba’s 67 years of uninterrupted and selfless service to the people of SA and the world. The National Ceremonial Guard took part in the celebrations. Lt Col Jabulani Magubane sang and played the trumpet to celebrate the life of this great hero who in all respects has shown the world the power of forgiving.

In an interview with Maj Gen Robert Mandita, General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Support Formation, he said: “The whole world should dedicate this day to community work and uplift socially disadvantaged communities”.

Ms Chrestina Magubane from Pretoria, who was celebrating the “67 minutes”, said: “Dr Nelson Mandela has done so many things for the country and I am very proud of him. Our children should learn from him.”

The following day, 18 July, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the SA Police Service Divisional Commissioner of the Supply Chain Management, Mr Siwuddla Matthew, and the Navy Staff presented gifts to the Centre.

The Kingdom Life Children’s Centre in Atteridgeville to wish Madiba, the father of our nation, a happy and blessed 91st birthday. The SA Navy donated food, computers and blankets to the centre to help the children.

Ms Sylvia Magoba founded the Centre in 2000 with 6 children. Today the Centre accommodates 38 abused or orphaned children. Talking to SA Soldier Ms Magoba said: “As a mother I felt the pain of these children and I opened the Centre to help them. The SANDF was the first to assist the Centre. I thank the SANDF for the great effort”.

In his speech V Adm Mudimu said: “Yes, we can turn hopelessness into a dream, a dream such as that which Dr Nelson Mandela dedicated his life towards, so that the doors of learning, growth and prosperity might be opened for all. The greatest birthday gift we are able to give to Ubaba (our father) is not to do crime, is not to do drugs. Let us ensure that our children are at school. It would be a moment of great happiness and in recognition of his life if in January 2010 members of this Centre could join the SA Navy in serving the nation by entering our Military Skills Development System in SAS SALDANHA”.

The members of the SANDF and the National Ceremonial Guard participating at Church Square in Pretoria celebrating Madiba’s 91st birthday.
On 22 June 2009 Public Sector doctors across the country embarked on a national strike for nearly two weeks which led to approximately 400 doctors in KwaZulu-Natal eventually being dismissed.

In less than two hours of the news breaking of the doctors’ strike a team from the Area Military Health Unit KwaZulu-Natal (AMHU KZN) under the leadership of their Officer Commanding, Col Sam Baloyi, were sent to the affected hospitals. An operational room was hurriedly set up and medical assistance officially got underway. This operational room was to monitor the situation at the different hospitals, allocate personnel and control movements and other medical and health related aspects. As requests from different affected hospitals came in, more medical personnel were deployed to the five hospitals around Durban. The dedication and service of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) to the country saw medical personnel working twelve hour shifts without complaint and they gave their all to remedy the situation.

Milmed visited King Edward VIII Hospital and some of the affected hospitals where some of the military doctors were deployed. Capt Samantha Mokoena explained that the casualty section was still receiving patients, which made the situation not as bad as they thought it would be. She, like other doctors, conducted emergency procedures. She said that she was warmly welcomed when she reported at the hospitals. “I drew my inspiration from the patients who really appreciated the service I rendered,” remarked Capt Mokoena.

There were no incidents of intimidation reported during Operation ITHEMBA 1.

On 7 June 2009 a delegation from the SAMHS Command Council led by Maj Gen Abraham Landman, accompanied by the Chief Warrant Officer of the SAMHS, WO1 Moses Sebone, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse and the Chief of Staff in the Surgeon General’s Office, Col Ansie Venter, visited the AMHU KZN HQ in Durban to assess the situation.

Capt Samantha Mokoena at King Edward VIII Hospital.

Meeting the Community Faith Organization representatives who came to pray for...
On arrival, Col Baloyi and Col Chris Blunden told them about the status then obtaining. The briefing was followed by a visit to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital. On this tour the entourage met the Community Faith Organisation that visited hospitals to offer their support and pray for divine intervention.

The spokesperson for striking doctors in KZN and a Surgeon Registrar at King Edward VIII Hospital, Dr Shailendra Sham, said that they had to suspend the strike for ethical reasons. "Patients’ lives were at risk. When more people got dismissed, few were allowed to go into hospitals. This left patients unsupervised. From that point of view we were forced to suspend the strike," said Dr Shailendra Sham.

After the decision to suspend the strike, a parade was held on 5 July 2009. The MEC for Health in KZN, ie the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Phidisa, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, attended the parade to thank the SAMHS on behalf of the Department of Health. “You excelled well beyond our expectations and reduced our fears. You came prepared to work 12 hour shifts, but in most cases you went beyond that,” he said.

The Mission Commander of Operation ITHEMBA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse (GOC Mobile Military Health Formation), confirmed that a large number of personnel were sent to KwaZulu-Natal to assist at five hospitals. Other provinces, namely Mpumalanga, Free State, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, North West and Limpopo also received assistance as per individual request.

Reaffirming their dedication - members of the Nursing College taking a pledge.

Honouring our nurses on their day

May 21 saw the world take some time off and celebrate International Nurses Day. The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) likewise celebrated this day. As SAMHS forms part of a military institution its nurses celebrated the day in military style, ie by means of a parade.

This unique annual occasion took place at the SAMHS Training Formation in Thaba Tshwane. Qualified nurses and student nurses under the leadership of the Director Nursing, Brig Gen Nompumelelo Madlala-Msimango, formed up on the parade ground. Addressing those gathered, Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango paid homage to Florence Nightingale, a remarkable woman who played a major role in establishing nursing as the respected profession it is today.

The Florence Nightingale Museum Trust 1999 said this of her: "Florence Nightingale was more than a romantic heroine. Her far-sighted reforms have influenced the nature of modern health care and her writings continue to be a resource for nurses, health managers and planners …”

"Blessed with determined motivation, Florence Nightingale was a stern, starchy, but gifted organiser. Her success in elevating nursing owed much to her insistence in her Notes on Nursing (1859) on the requirement for nurse recruits to receive a thorough training in nursing theory and practice. She was a great advocate of the power of facts, calling statistics the most important science in the world. Florence believed nursing to involve dedication, devotion and discipline, but it was also to be a skilled profession,” said Brig Gen Madlala-Msimango.

She further challenged all the military nurses to fulfil a leadership role in nursing and play a critical role in research to support health care in the country.

As a symbol of their loyalty to the profession, all the nurses read the nursing pledge in a bid to reaffirm their dedication as professional nurses.
Power of partnership

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world” - Anne Frank.

HIV and AIDS is the most devastating disease to have emerged in recent history and it has spread across social and economic boundaries. A yardstick by which we measure a society’s respect for humanity and human rights is to evaluate the level of its maturity and generosity by looking at the status that it accords those members of society who are infected by and are most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS.

On 25 June 2009 the US Charge d’Affaires, Ms Helen La Lime from the Embassy of the USA, handed over the Voluntary Testing and Counselling Centre to the SA Military Health Service (Area Military Health Unit Gauteng) at the “Old” Community Centre in Thaba Tshwane.

In his address Maj Gen Abie Landman, the Chief Director Military Health Force Preparation, reiterated the fact that the HIV and AIDS pandemic posed a challenge to the SANDF and the nation at large. “The Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) facility is an ideal environment for members to receive comprehensive health care, including VCT as an entry point to HIV management,” said Maj Gen Landman.

He further challenged the General Officer Commanding Area Military Health Formation, Brig Gen Moremi, and the Director HIV and AIDS, Brig Gen Lulu Siwisa, to make sure that the facility is maximally utilised to provide health services for members of the SANDF and their dependants.

Brig Gen Siwisa, Dr Dhesi Achary, Deputy Director (SSO Medical Service), and professionals involved in the Masibambisane and Phidisa Projects were present to offer hope, comfort and courage to those affected.

The DOD support the SA Military Health Service generated momentum through partnership with the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR has developed a comprehensive approach to providing the best care to curb the devastating effect of the pandemic. This approach forms the basis for intervention to tackle the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS and incorporates all activities related to HIV. Support programmes were established for the effective management and prevention of HIV infection, including prevention of mother to child transmission, monitoring of disease progression, treatment and management of opportunistic infections. In her address, Ms La Lime said that this was a partnership and strategic collaboration between the US and the SA DOD with the growing understanding of HIV as not just a health issue, but also one that negatively impacted on development.

“I cannot emphasise enough the importance of counselling and testing. South Africa has a highly generalised HIV epidemic with a prevalence of 18% among sexually active adults. Since 2000 the National Department of Health (NDOH) has supported widespread implementation of a national programme for voluntary testing and counselling. Counselling and testing centres are to provide caring, high quality, uniform and equitable services. The centres aim to improve counselling and testing. The US Government and PEPFAR continue to support the NDOH, and thus the SANDF, in ensuring that these goals are met,” she concluded.
Recruiting youth in Ulundi

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

A SA Navy team consisting of Officer Commanding Naval Station Durban, Cdr Sifiso Mkwanazi, Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Media and Marketing Communication Officer from Navy HQ, and Lt George Longo also from the Navy Headquarters travelled to Ulundi on 17 June 2009.

The aim of their visit was to market and recruit deserving and qualifying youth to join the SANDF Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

The DOD is to spend R200 million rands during the financial year 2009/10 to increase the number of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) recruits to 10 000 for the January 2010 intake.

The MSDS is an important way of attracting and identifying the right quality and quantity of skilled or potential employees that are required to meet the Department's strategic and operational objectives.

The Navy team met with the Mayor of Ulundi, his Worship Councillor Mvuseni Luthuli, Councillor Gerty Magwaza, businessmen S’bu Zulu and Lindiwe Mbatha. Cdr Tshabalala explained to the assembled leadership that the SANDF had over the years developed a system of entry into the organisation, viz the voluntary 2-year MSDS. The leadership of the town has fully endorsed their support and pointed the Navy team in the right direction to commence marketing and recruiting for the MSDS.

Three schools, Maghinsendoda, Zwelonke and Masibumbane High, were visited. The team presented themselves in a clear concise manner in explaining the MSDS. Lt Longa left application forms at each of the schools visited.

The learners were surprised when Cdr Mkwanazi was introduced as a sea-going combat officer serving as the Executive Office on board the SAS DRAKENSBERG.

In his presentation Cdr Mkwanazi said: "The SA Navy, which is responsible for our maritime safety and security, has acquired new submarines and frigates (warships). This naval equipment requires young men and women to operate them and the SA Navy trains combat officers to command the Navy's ships and submarines at sea. In addition we require radar operators, communications ratings, gunners, divers, mine countermeasure operators, a maritime reaction squadron and operational boat squadron operators. In the technical field, engineers and technical officers are vital to the SA Navy”.

The learners had an opportunity to ask him questions about a career at sea and the places that he has seen.

Cdr Mkwanazi posed a question to the learners on completion of his presentation: “What prevents or keeps a ship at sea from sinking”. That question really got them guessing, but a Grade 12 learner finally answered correctly.

What was really interesting was the questions that were asked after the presentations, which drew roars of laughter, applause and varied answers. Cdr Tshabalala and Lt Longa presented SA Navy T-shirts when the learners answered correctly.

Nomalungelo Biyela, a Grade 12 learner who hails from Jozini, said in her vote of thanks in English and isiZulu: “In today’s presentation I have learnt so much and so have my fellow classmates. I never knew that we had a navy. To the naval officers I want to say thank you for all that has been said here today. You spoke with deep sincerity and from what I heard here today you take your job very seriously. You have brought a new dimension to the school in our career choices. I wish you well”.

After two days in Ulundi Councillor Gerty Magwaza finally had this to say to the team: “Thank you very much for your stay here in Ulundi. The two days that you have spent here have really been enriching to our learners. Now these learners can see what a difference the SANDF is making in changing the lives of the young people of South Africa. Please come back and further enrich the lives of our young people. Go well Navy and God bless”. 

Cdr Prince Tshabalala addresses learners from Maghinsendoda High School.
African Women's Peace and Security Fellowships

By Cdr Geeva Moodley, S01 Senior Training

It was an honour and achievement for Cdr Geeva Moodley to have successfully secured a place on the King’s College London Conflict, Security, Development Group’s Peace and Security Fellowships for African Women Programme and so to represent South Africa as well as being the SADC candidate. After she submitted her portfolio of evidence as well as a 5 000 word research paper, she was invited for an interview in Kenya. It was with great delight and excitement that for the first time a military woman was accepted for the King’s College London Fellowship Programme after a long and tedious selection process.

In addition, Cdr Moodley is the only Indian female officer to hold the rank of Commander in the SA Navy. She said: “It is not only a success for me but for every women out there trying to progress and break down the barriers and stereotypes that has been embedded in our society. I am a strong believer in competence, skills and knowledge. And with a positive attitude, nothing is unattainable, no matter what obstacles we are faced with. Our time has come and we are now given the opportunities that we have longed for in the past.”

Conflict, Security, Development Group’s Peace and Security Fellowships for African Women Programme, now in its fourth year, is part of the Conflict, Security and Development Group knowledge building and mentoring programme. It brings together African women at different stages of their careers to undertake a carefully designed training programme in conflict, security and development at King’s College London. This training will then be followed by their being attached to an African regional organisation or a centre of excellence to acquire practical experience. Ultimately, the project will train African women to develop a better understanding of African peace and security issues in order to increase their participation in conflict management processes and other areas of security concern for all Africans, especially women.

The Fellowship Programme is designed to expose professional African women to the complexities of conflict, security and development and equip them for careers in this field. The Fellowship Programme was conceived against a number of background factors. First is the comparatively low level of women involved in peace and security issues, especially as compared with those involved in the military, human rights and development issues. Second is the need to assist African women to meet the demands of the Beijing process and, more recently, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that calls for the inclusion of women at all decision-making levels in “all national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts”. This Fellowship is aimed at challenging the existing tendency that seems to reinforce the male dominant discourse on conflict and security related matters. It will also develop the network of African women scholars working in the field while linking them with the peace and security mechanisms of the regional institutions.

The Fellowships is divided into two phases. The first phase is based at King’s College London where the Fellows attend specifically designed courses on conflict, security and development. Cdr Moodley visited various UK institutions working in the field of conflict management, including the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the UK Parliament and European institutions, including the European Union Parliament, Commission, Council of Ministers, International Crisis Group, Brussels and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. This phase ended with a simulation seminar during which a mock conflict management situation was

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Army Command Council benchmarks with Honorary Colonels

Compiled by Bibi Morgets
Photo: Courtesy of Maj Gen Roy Andersen

The SA Army honoured its Honorary Colonels at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, with a formal dinner on 17 July 2009. The aim was to revive the relationships and also to induct them with the SA Army dinner traditions. Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, among other SA Army generals graced the occasion with their presence all dressed in the SA Army mess dress.

These Honorary Colonels accepted the honour of being ambassadors of the SA Army to the larger community and also pledged to tackle their duties with respect, dignity and zeal, and to safeguard the image of the SA Army and the country in all they do.

The appointment of adopting Honorary Colonels is a tradition within the DOD. Year in and year out the organisation honours certain esteemed leaders in the country by bestowing the rank of Honorary Colonel on them in various units of the organisation. The mandate to appoint Honorary Colonels in units is derived from the Defence Act, and is confirmed in the correct Act promulgated in 2002.

This appointment places much responsibility on the shoulders of the person being appointed because not only is he/she summoned to his/her normal day-to-day chores, but he/she is also accountable to the DOD, eg when called up to perform specific tasks by the unit in which he/she serves.

Honorary Colonels may be appointed to each Regular or Reserve Unit. Their main responsibility is to assist in maintaining unit traditions, namely to foster esprit de corps, comradeship, unit pride and high morale, and to represent the unit’s interests. These responsibilities may include fostering civilian, local and regional connections, goodwill and support.

With such prominent people often honoured, and others having more than one title, one may wonder which form of address to use when addressing them. According to the Defence Act, 1957, an Honorary Colonel is always addressed as Colonel and only this title may be used in official SANDF, and unit related correspondence. Although the appointment of an Honorary Colonel is titular, the prescribed compliments must be paid to him/her during official activities.

SA Soldier had a one-on-one interview with Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief Defence Reserves, who has also been an Honorary Colonel for nearly 20 years in the Transvaal Horse Artillery Regiment in Johannesburg. According to Maj Gen Andersen, Honorary Colonels act as role models in projecting the image of the unit in communities, demonstrating support for the SANDF and by being a valuable sounding board for the commanding officer of the unit concerned.

In the April 2009 approved Regulations for the Reserves, as envisaged in the Defence Act, the appointment of Honorary Colonels confers no military status or power of command on the holder thereof, but entitles the holder to wear the uniform of the unit or establishment concerned on occasions as determined by the Chief of the relevant Service or when qualifying for Defence medals and decorations.

While I was interviewing the Chief Defence Reserves, one last question came to mind: was the SA Navy obliged to have Honorary Captains in its units? He answered in the affirmative, and quoted a paragraph from the regulation concerned, which reads: “The Chief of the relevant Service may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint an Honorary Colonel, Captain (SAN), Lieutenant Colonel, or Commander (SAN) to a Reserve unit or structural component of the Defence Force.”

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief Defence Reserves, is the Honorary Colonel of Transvaal Horse Artillery Regiment.
Foundation Management Development Programme

By Ms T. Hornimann, Senior Personnel Practitioner PSAP ETD
Photo: Cpl W. van der Westhuizen

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development Public Service Act Personnel Education Training and Development (PSAP ETD) through the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA) presented a Foundation Management Development Programme to PSAP at salary levels 3 - 5.

**Background**

One of the important challenges South Africa faces as a developmental state is the establishment of a new cadre of public service leaders and managers that are able to develop and improve the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of service delivery improvement, poverty alleviation and building a developmental state. The Integrated Management Development Programme is a strategic intervention to achieve this goal, and as such it is one of the most significant and comprehensive product ranges offered by the PALAMA since its reinvention as a Centre of

Attendees of the Foundation Management Development Programme.
Excellence. The Integrated Management Development Programme (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).

**Foundation Management Development Programme**

Eleven employees from different working environments attended the FMDP presented in two blocks over the periods 4 - 8 May 2009 and 8 - 12 June 2009 respectively at the Manhattan Hotel and at PALAMA in Pretoria. The programme covered the basic principles of management with the objective of introducing sound management practices to first line supervisors and aspiring supervisors in order to “grow” good managers for the future.

The FMDP is an accredited training opportunity and was presented over ten working days. It consisted of two blocks of five days each. Block 1 focussed on gaining understanding of oneself and the team, while Block 2 focussed on supervision. Training modules included, among others, Self Management, Working in Teams and Management functions.

**Feedback from participants**

More than 90% of the learners rated the overall programme with the content, logistics and the facilitator as a programme of high quality. All participants were delighted at being afforded the opportunity to attend a professionally designed programme that allowed networking and provided information of great value.

**Way forward**

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (CD HRD) acknowledges the dire need for the development of PSAP as first line supervisors and aspiring supervisors at salary levels 3 to 5. The FMDP will be presented annually, with the next FMDP scheduled for 24 - 28 August 2009 and 28 September - 2 October 2009.

**General**

The enthusiasm and participation exhibited by learners throughout the Programme constitute evidence of the success of the FMDP. Learners shared ideas and common interests in ways that helped improve their own and group performance. It hence addressed developmental areas within their personal development. The Programme has contributed to filling the gap in management of PSAP in the DOD.

CD HRD acknowledges the efforts of Services and Divisions in nominating PSAP for the FMDP, thus contributing to CD HRD’s commitment to promoting the continuous development of PSAP in the Department.

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**African Women’s Peace and Security Fellowships**

Gen N.E. Memela-Motumi, who faced many obstacles but persevered to ensure that this opportunity was not missed. Cdr Moodley said: "Thank you General for paving the way and affording opportunities to women in the SANDF!"

Sincere appreciation and thanks are due to the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, who has also supported this lifetime learning opportunity. The SA Navy provides a platform in support of transformation and change management processes. The SA Navy prides itself on having highly qualified and skilled officers who serve as their ambassadors in various arenas. Many thanks and much appreciation is due to the British Peace Support Team South Africa (Col J. Simms and his team) who played an instrumental role in ensuring the attainment of this lifetime opportunity.

Cdr Moodley holds a Bachelors degree and has qualifications in Education, Training and Development NQF 6, Organisation and Work study (M+3). She is a qualified and trained Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration Officer; a Peace Mission Staff Officer; as well as a Conflict Negotiator and Military Observer. She has also deployed externally on Peace Support Operations.
August is a special day as it commemorates 9 August 1956, when women participated in a national march against the pass laws (the legislation that required Africans to carry a document on them to prove that they were allowed to enter a demarcated areas meant for specific racial groups).

In order to honour these women 2 Field Engineer Regiment has established a female bridge-building team 9 Regiment filled with hope and dreams of obtaining excellent results for their unit. SAEC women have the same military career opportunities as the men as they undergo the same corps training and are treated equally. This is the reason why women of 2 Field Engineer Regiment are building the bridge on their own, without “men power”.

Normally 10 members construct the 5-bay single storey Medium Girder Bridge. Most parts are very heavy, eg the top panel weighs 175 kg and the bank seat beam weighs 258 kg and most of these parts take four men to carry. We all know that men are stronger than women and they have built a bridge in less than 6 minutes. Women have not yet beaten this time, but the fact is women are passionate enough to compete against men.

The team consists of former Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members, the majority from the 2005 intake and the others from the 2006 intake who completed their basic military training at 3 SA Infantry Battalion. They are happy to be in the SAEC, especially at 2 Field Engineer Regiment, the home of the field sappers. The team is here to stay and to make a mark for their unit. Nothing will stand in their way of achieving their objectives.

To all women of SAEC, let us stand and ensure that we are ready to take over our rightful places in our organisation. This is the right time to equip ourselves with the knowledge we need in our posts and to advance, because in a few years when the tables are turned, they are going to ask us: "Where were you at the time your organisation was empowering women".

In the old days Engineering was labelled as a man’s world. Women were believed to belong at home in the kitchen and taking care of children, but not anymore. Here are dedicated young women of 2 Field Engineer Regiment to participate in various events within the organisation. It is the first female bridge-building team to compete against men in the annual Warrant Officers (WOs) and Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) Competition of the SA Engineer Corps (SAEC) in July 2009. Traditionally the bridge-building competition between all the units of SA Army Engineer Formation concludes the competition.

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Back, fltr: Spr M.J. Nwamba, Spr M.F. Masete, Spr B. Sibiloane, Spr N.M. Sebopa. Front, fltr: Spr S.M. Tsitsi, Spr N.P. Mpambane, Spr C.L. Mohlala, Spr N. Masala and Lt M.V. Khosa.
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lieutenant Perumal Kistaya Naidoo grew up in Umkomaas, a little town south of Durban. His interest in aircraft was unimaginable. His junior schooling was completed in Umkomaas, after which he went to Pietermaritzburg where he completed his senior schooling, including his matric at Heather High School in 1990. His working career started at Belgotex Carpets, after which he worked for MRS Insurance Brokers.

In January 1997 he applied to the SA Air Force. His application was successful and he joined the SA Air Force Security Squadron (508 Squadron) on 1 March 1997. Airman Naidoo started Basic Military Training at the Air Force Gymnasium in March 1997. Thereafter he completed the Entrance Controller Course at Humanskraal from June to August 1997. Upon completion of the course he was a qualified Entrance Controller, and was staffed at 508 Squadron.

In 1998 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and in 1999 to Corporal. He served four years in the Security Squadron. In 2000 he applied to the Command and Control mustering and was a successful candidate. He then completed the Ground Command and Control Systems and Abio Course, which was held over a three-month period in Pretoria. He was staffed and promoted to the rank of Sergeant at the Base Command Post at Air Force Base Durban. In 2004 he was promoted to a Flight Sergeant. In 2006 Flight Sergeant Naidoo was deployed to the Comoros Island for three months to assist with the local elections. He has been deployed to various places within the borders of South Africa on internal operations.

In 2008 F Sgt Naidoo applied to go on the Officers’ Course and was found competent after many intensive tests. He began the course in February 2008 and completed it in June 2008. After the Officers’ Course he had to complete the Command Post Officers Course, which ended in August 2009 at Air Force Base Hoedspruit. On 14 November 2008 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant. Lt Naidoo was transferred to 15 Squadron at Air Force Base Durban, where he has been an Operational Officer.

Lieutenant Naidoo is the first Indian Operational Officer in the SA Air Force. He expresses gratitude to his wife Bashi and children, Aleesha, Demi and Abigale, for supporting him in his career. Lt Naidoo believes that the sky is not the limit in the SA Air Force: what you put in is what you get out.
Learning curve for learners of Limpopo

By Mapule Raphela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A fter matric many young people are baffled about which career path to follow. As one of the Government’s aims is to empower the youth, it is great to know that the SANDF is playing its part through career exhibitions to enlighten them on what is available in the working world.

The 60 learners from Alfred B. Makapan High School in Mokopane in Limpopo converged on Thaba Tshwane thirsty for knowledge about the SANDF. They were in Grade 12 and as they were studying maths and science it was fitting that the first stop of their visit was to the SA Army Engineering Formation where they were taught mainly about map-reading.

Mr Malesela Tsatsi, the Principal of the school, was thrilled that his learners had been given the opportunity to visit Pretoria and learn more about SANDF. "The trip originated in a visit to the SA Air Force on 30 January 2009 where I was given a lot of information that I believe will be beneficial to my learners, so I hope they will spread the word when they get back home," he said. Most of the learners had no idea what the SANDF had to offer in terms of careers. They believed soldiers were taught only to shoot and kill. One of the learners, Sipho Masopoga (21), remarked: "I want to join the SANDF because it will enhance my choice of studying engineering, and I know I will have a permanent job that will help me to provide for my family."

The South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) welcomed the learners warmly. They were encouraged to join the SANDF so that they could utilise the opportunities offered. "We want hard workers, not lazy people in the SAMHS. People died for you to have these opportunities, so please come and rejuvenate the DOD," said Lt Col Priscilla Lengoasa, SO1 Corp Com Military Health Training Formation. Their next career exhibition destination was the SA Air Force Museum, where most of the learners were delighted to see the aircraft displayed there. Some even wanted to pursue a career path in the aviation environment as pilots.

The learners we also taken to the Centre for Advanced Training, where they were given a presentation by Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Media and Marketing Communication Officer from Navy HQ. He talked about possible careers in the SANDF after they complete their basic military training. These included combat services, support services and combat support services. "It is great that all of you are maths and science learners because there is a need in engineering and the technical field," said Cdr Tshabalala.

After two days of learning and fun the learners had to head back for Limpopo. They gave the assurance that they would join the SANDF. "I am going to apply for the Military Skills Development System when I pass my Grade 12, no matter how hard the training I want to fulfil my dream of being an engineer," said Thompson Makwetla (18).

A vote of thanks was given by Levy Mkhafola (19): "Thanks all of you who took the time to come and tell us about the careers offered by the military. We will stay devoted to our studies, and also thanks for the Mahala (free) T-shirts from the SA Navy".

Lt Col Priscilla Lengoasa, SO1 Corp Com Military Health Training Formation, addressing the learners about the career opportunities at the SA Military Health Service.
Protecting Mother Earth and her beauty

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Climate change and the threat of pollution, including the dumping of waste materials, have serious implications for our environment. The protection of Mother Earth has become a major objective in the DOD.

On 1 July 2009 the DOD hosted its annual Environmental Awards ceremony at ASB Potchefstroom to recognise outstanding achievements of units, military bases, individuals and teams that stood out through their environmental performances and contributions to environmental services in the military.

Applauding the principal achievers, runners-up and other recipients in the eight categories, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the SA Army, said that human security was promoted and threatened by a variety of economic, cultural, political and environmental factors. “With a firm foundation of best practice models for military integrated environmental management developed over thirty years, we are continually equipping our National Defence Force to manage the interface between the military and the environment through the approach to ‘Green Soldiering’,” said Lt Gen Shoke.

Maj Gen Thulile Nkonyane, the General Officer Commanding DOD Logistics Division, said: “We are moving into an era where environmental issues and minimising the military impact on the environment are becoming increasingly important to ensure that our planet and our country will be able to sustain life into the future. This responsibility, similar to security and health, rests on the shoulders of each and every member of the DOD.”

**Winners**
- Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency: AFB Langebaanweg
- National Energy Efficiency Campaign Award for Energy Efficiency: ASB KwaZulu-Natal
- Keep eThekwini Beautiful Award for Integrated Waste Management: ASB Potchefstroom
- Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management: SAS SALDANHA
- Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management: AFB Overberg
- Prof Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Awareness Training: Naval Base Simon’s Town
- SA National Parks Floating Trophy for Military Integrated Environmental Management Systems: AFB Overberg
- Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services: Regional Facilities Interface Management Office in Cape Town
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Take a Girl Child to Work Day

Women are playing various important roles in society and holding senior positions in government and the corporate world. It was fitting once again for Naval Station Durban (NS DBN) to host and support the Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work Day. The SA Navy fully endorses and supports gender equality.

The 2009 Take a Girl Child to Work Day took place on 28 May. The theme underlining this year's campaign was "Change your world". It emphasises to girl children the importance of seeking and using available opportunities, e.g. in the Take a Girl Child to Work Day they can empower themselves with information, knowledge, experience and understanding to enable them to make changes that will pave the way to a brighter and successful future.

NS DBN hosted four learners from the Grosvenor Girls Secondary School and three from Avonford Secondary School. The learners were welcomed by Lt Cdr Bonjovie Ratlhogo. WO1 Manny Gounden, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) for NS DBN, gave a presentation on the following topics:

- The role and function of the SA Navy.
- The acquisition of frigates and submarines.
- Location of the SA Navy in South Africa, namely Navy HQ in Pretoria, Naval Base in Simon’s Town, Naval Station Durban and Naval Station Port Elizabeth.
- Vision and mission of the SA Navy.
- Diplomatic role of the SA Navy.
- Maritime responsibility.
- Career opportunities, with emphasis on the Military Skill Development Programme.

A visit to Operational Diving Centre where WO1 Jannie Engelbrecht and his divers explained the requirements, training and the operational duties of a navy diver. A practical demonstration was given in the dive tank and buddy breathing was displayed.

The highlight of their visit was the SAS TEKWANE, which is an inshore patrol vessel. They were welcomed by Lt Latha Sterling, the first woman to captain an operational vessel of the SA Navy.

"Let’s go forward (forward), let’s go aft," she said, and the girls were gleaming with enthusiasm as SAS TEKWANE made her way to the channel entrance and headed out to sea. To some of the learners this was their first experience of the sea. On board, SLt June Ndimande, the Operations Officer, conducted a tour and took them below decks and into the engine room. Important landmarks and maritime features were pointed out and explained. Lt Starling explained that SAS TEKWANE was fully operational and manned by male and female members of the SA Navy. The learners experienced a naval vessel first hand.

Mercia Maserumule, Manager Corporate Social Investment for Cell C, said: "To these girls the ‘world of work’ has marked a turning point in their lives as they experienced first hand the modern day career options available to them. Armed with a world of such options to consider, these girl children will have the opportunity to make informed career choices that will shape their future and change their world for the better."

Cell C Career Choice Expo targets Grade 9 to 12 learners from schools in the rural parts of our country and provides them with the opportunity to interact with companies and organisations from various parts of the country about their career options. The 2009 Career Choice Expo is scheduled for August and Cell C urges all its partners in Take a Girl Child to Work Day to join the SA Navy as it makes career information available to learners in our rural communities. At the end of the day, heartfelt thanks were received from all the girls as certificates and Lt Cdr Bonjovie Ratlhogo presented promotional items from Cell C to them.
The DOD School of Catering hosted a first of its kind event - a Supplier’s Day - at the DOD School of Catering in Thaba Tshwane on 23 June 2009. This special event intended to showcase the School of Catering’s role in the defence and to introduce various suppliers used by the SANDF in the Catering Corps.

Lt Jackie Sape, Chairperson of the Non-public Fund (NPF) and Programme Director, said that different hospitality service providers displayed their services to the Catering Corps. The NPF members were responsible of raising funds for the unit to host various functions that uplift morale in their business, which include pub lunches, hobo evenings and host suppliers in recognition of their services.

About eleven external suppliers formed part of the event with their colourful products décor. Service providers included Famous Brands, Lancewood Cheese, Business Catering Equipment, ICS Cleaning and Safety and many more. They displayed a range of exclusive products, such as wet and dry rations, crockery’s, cutlery’s and other sophisticated cooking equipment.

The Office Commanding of the Catering School, Lt Col F. Shaik Latiff, said that the Supplier’s Day introduced various companies registered on the DOD’s service provider database. These service providers displayed products they were promoting and marketing. Lt Col Shaik Latiff believes that this occasion could put the Catering School on the map, as a recognisable entity within the Department.

She was grateful of the efforts from units and suppliers that made the day a success and cautioned them of challenges they had saying: “We have challenges with old and outdated equipment and dilapidated buildings that are hindering the progress and good work we are doing”. She expressed her wish to have a higher Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake in the Catering Corps in future. This year the School of Catering took 140 MSDS members.

Members of the Non-public Fund at the DOD School of Catering.

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Rekindling of friendship and cultural links

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

On 3 July 2009 the SANDF Spouses Forum chaired by Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya in conjunction with Defence Foreign Relations with Ms Maite Lengolo, SO2 Protocol, took the Defence Attachés’ spouses on a journey of discovery to Gaabo Motho Cultural Village in Mabopane to forge social cohesion and cultural links.

The aim of the event was to formally welcome the new Defence Attachés’ spouses and bid farewell to those who had completed their tour of duty in South Africa. Fascinatingly, the day was seen as the rekindling of friendship and links of cultural significance with reference to UBUNTU.

Extending a warm welcome, Ms Ngwenya said that being in South Africa on a tour of duty strengthened the long-standing relations and deepened cultural exchanges among our people. “As women, we realise that living in a foreign country can be a wonderful, but also challenging experience. You must never feel isolated or even lonely, as together we can make a difference. As a Chinese saying goes, ‘amity between people holds the key to sound relations between states’,” said Ms Ngwenya.

Ms Lilly Mokoene, owner of Gaabo Motho Cultural Village, took the visitors on a journey to discover the African symbols of spirituality and the heritage representing different cultures.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Capt (US Navy) Patricia Jackson, Naval Attaché from the Embassy of the USA, said that the day was not only about the spouses’ tea, but to interact and experience African culture many of them never knew existed. “It was a journey worth taking and an amazing experience, especially the hospitality of the SANDF Spouses Forum and the welcoming reception that greeted us at each site that we visited.

Few get to experience this privilege in their lifetime,” said Capt (US Navy) Jackson.
Historical trophies for combat rifle shooting

Article and photos by Maj Merle Meyer, Com Officer SA Army Infantry Formation

The General Officer Commanding of SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen ThembaNkabinde, awarded two historical trophies at the recent Infantry Command Cadre Conference held at the Infantry School in Oudtshoorn in May 2009.

**General Hertzog Trophy**

The first trophy was the General Hertzog Trophy made of solid silver by the Royal Mint in England in 1938. It was made to encourage marksmanship in the Union Defence Force.

This trophy was always awarded to units in the Free State and was donated to the SA Army Infantry Formation by Col Grobbies Grobbelaar from Group 24 in 2007.

It was presented to the Officer Commanding of 44 Parachute Regiment, Col Andy Mhatu, for the Best Infantry Musketry Unit. (44 Parachute Regiment received the highest score of the SA Army Infantry Formation units at the recent SA Army Combat Rifle Championships.)

**Schumacher Trophy**

The second trophy was the Schumacher Cup, which was donated by Capt Schumacher in 1902. Capt Schumacher was a member of the Citizen Force and an officer of Witwatersrand Rifles. This trophy was donated specifically as the Colonial Challenge Trophy for shooting. Capt Schumacher was later appointed as the Honorary Colonel of Witwatersrand Rifles.

The trophy was presented to the Officer Commanding of Natal Carbineers, Lt Col Kenny Lowe, for the SA Army Infantry Formation Reserve Unit that received the highest score at the recent SA Army Combat Rifle Championships.

These trophies will encourage combat rifle shooting in the SA Army Infantry Formation. Next year the Infantry units hope to take the first prize at the SA Army Competition.

Maj Gen ThembaNkabinde, GOC SA Army Infantry Formation (left), and Lt Col Kenny Lowe, OC Natal Carbineers, with the Schumacher Trophy.

Maj Gen ThembaNkabinde, GOC SA Army Infantry Formation (left), and Lt Col Kenny Lowe, OC Natal Carbineers, with the Schumacher Trophy.

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Maj Gen ThembaNkabinde, GOC SA Army Infantry Formation (left), and Lt Col Kenny Lowe, OC Natal Carbineers, with the Schumacher Trophy.
The Gauteng Province Football Association has set a new record by being crowned the new South African National Defence Force Football Association (SANDFFA) 2009 Champions in two categories, after beating both the Western Cape and the Northern Cape respectively, at the SAS SALDANHA military sports ground on 4 July 2009. (Altogether 20 teams from 10 regions competed in the 2009 SANDFFA Championships.)

The highlight of the week-long tournament was the men’s football finals at Sports Field A, where the favourites - Western Province - were pitted against Gauteng Province. The fixture produced a six-minute thriller, which kept the spectators on the edges of their seats for the entire 120 minutes.

It was the Western Province that drew first blood 25 minutes into the first half through Private Jiane, after he took a pass from the right. The Western Cape again extended their lead after the break through Leading Seaman Buthelezi, who fired a stunner that left the Gauteng Province goalkeeper firmly rooted between his goalposts. Gauteng Province then launched a come-back and equalised after mesmerising the Western Province’s defence. The match ended with the teams deadlocked 2-2.

Hardly five minutes into the extra...
time, Gauteng Province extended their lead after Corporal Ramfate dribbled past the Western Province’s defence from the left and delivered home a curling shot, which silenced the home crowd. The Gauteng Province’s celebrations were, however, short-lived after a lapse of concentration in their eighteen areas, as they left Leading Seaman Ngesman to score in an open net.

The final score after extra time was 3-3 and the game had to be decided on penalty kicks, in which Gauteng Province beat Western Cape 4-2 to be crowned SANDFFA 2009 Champions.

At the other final fixture earlier, the SANDFFA 2009 Championships ladies final was also an exhilarating event, as the Gauteng Province and the Northern Cape Province had locked horns earlier.

The Gauteng Province ladies took the lead before the first half when Leading Seaman Masoga, after breaking from the Northern Cape’s rather leaky defence, registered the lead. The Gauteng Province then increased their lead in the second half following another defensive blunder by the Northern Cape’s defence, allowing Lance Corporal Mudzhanani acres of spaces to manoeuvre and fire a powerful shot, leaving Sgt Riet stunned. The game ended 2-0 with the Gauteng Province ladies emerging as the SANDFFA 2009 Champions.

For the first time in the history of the SANDFFA Championships there have been four leading goal scorers in the ladies category. They were: Petty Officer Y. Williams (Western Province), Leading Seaman S. Masilela (Western Province), Corporal T. Mathobela (Gauteng Province) and Corporal M. Motingwe (Gauteng Province).

The leading goal scorer in the men’s category was Private S.K. Afrika (South Eastern Cape) with six goals.

The goalkeepers of the tournament in the ladies and men’s categories respectively were Major D. Mkhize (Gauteng Province) and Lance Corporal N.E. Makhubule (Limpopo Province).

Private K. Marumo (Gauteng Province) was the player of the tournament (ladies) with Lance Corporal I.J.C. Khumalo (Gauteng Province) the same in the men’s category. The referee of the tournament was Major W. Moema.

Other Special Awards

Wooden Spoon Award: Mpumalanga Province (ladies) and Limpopo Province (men). The awards are aimed at encouraging participating teams not to be outperformed by all participants.

Chairperson’s Award: KwaZulu-Natal has demonstrated significant improvement since the last tournament in terms of technical development on the field of play, general management, general appearance and discipline on and off the field.

Team of the Tournament: Limpopo Province. The team was recognised for displaying fair play consistently throughout the tournament.

Third Places: Western Province (ladies) and North West Province (men).

In his closing remarks Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, the Chief Defence Foreign Relations, expressed his gratitude towards the footballers and all role players in the tournament.

"I am certainly impressed by the skills exhibited by our men and women in the field of play, which showed a dramatic improvement in our soccer within the four Services. The spirit of friendship also displayed by fans with vuvuzelas during the games was encouraging and added to the already electric atmosphere. The quality play was corroborated by the fine goals scored in today’s games. I would also like to congratulate the winning team and the individual players on their hard work during the preparations. Your hard work and dedication gave you the competitive edge," Maj Gen Mofokeng said, signalling the end of the SANDFFA 2009 Championships.

The event was also attended by Councillor Frank Mbanze, the Saldanha Bay Executive Deputy Mayor, and Mr Gerald Don, the South African Football Association (SAFA) West Coast President.
Military Olympic Games

By Kgabo Mashamaite and Kgomotso Seruba
Photos: Cpl Riaan Calitz

Preparations are underway for the second Military Olympic Games to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, from September 21 to 1 October 2009. Members of the SANDF Pretoria Shooting Club are hard at training, polishing up on their shooting skills at the SANDF Shooting Range Complex along Eeufees Road in Thaba Tshwane.

At stake is the esteemed best continental shottist award, the highest honour in recognition of the best shottist in the event. Men and ladies' athletes will compete in the Pistol Shooting Group event, divided into sporting categories, such as the Centre Fire, Military Rapid Fire and Sport Pistol using a 2.2 calibre pistol.

According to WO1 Allan MacDonald, the team coordinator, the sporting categories are subdivided into sections to test accuracy and the agility of an athlete in order to be considered competent.

"There are various subdivisions such as precision fire/shooting and snap shoot," said WO1 MacDonald.

There is also a Military Rapid Fire event, which is divided into three categories where an athlete needs to fire five shots within 10 seconds on one target, fire five shots within eight seconds on one target and six seconds on one target.

Countries expected to compete are Namibia, Swaziland, Kenya, Egypt, Senegal and Nigeria as the host. Of these countries, Egypt has reputable medal winners in their squad.

However, the Egyptian reputation will come to naught to the SANDF delegations as some of the members have been actively shooting since 1972 and many of the athletes have received several continental awards.

"Many of our members have competed internationally, included are two African Champions and medal winners from the African Continental Championships held in the past. The composition of the group consists of men from the SAAF and women from the SAMHS," said WO1 McDonald.

The upcoming Championships are based on the standards of the International Military Sports Council - the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) - with all safety precautions taken into full consideration.

WO1 McDonald has urged any SANDF member interested in military pistol shooting to:

- Contact his/her unit sport officer and enquire about the availability of a military club offering a target-shooting course in the area.
- Join a local military sport club if there is any offering the sporting code.

Members who are interested should:

- Have very good eyesight and the ability to hold a pistol very steady, as it is the biggest factor in accuracy shooting.
- Have a specialised weapon or a service pistol (preferably 9 mm) for practice sessions. (Once a person has proved him/herself competent, the member can then apply for a sporting pistol.)
- Be aged between 16 and 60 years to utilise a firearm in accordance with the firearm legislation.

WO1 McDonald has also encouraged all the athletes with disabilities to seize the opportunity to participate in this exciting sporting code.

WO1 Allan McDonald (front row, middle) with members of the Pretoria Shooting Club who will represent the SANDF in the second Military Olympic Games in Abuja, Nigeria, in September 2009.
Makwe Zachariah Ditshego (27) was born in the dusty area of Dennilton, Mpumalanga. He is the epitome of perseverance and his hunger for a prosperous future has not only led him to where he is today, but has shaped his character too.

Through trying times he managed to push boundaries and get where he wished to be. He is the second child of George and Linah Ditshego and has four children himself. He matriculated in Mpumalanga and later pursued further studies at the Pretoria West College, where he studied Mechanical Engineering, achieving an N6 (National Technical Certificate).

"In 2006 I decided to join the SA Air Force as a Reserve Force member," said Candidate Officer (CO) Ditshego. On completion of Basic Military Training he was deployed to Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing at the Radar Mechanical Section as a Technical Assistant.

"My dream is to become a technician, but owing to financial constraints this dream has not yet come true," said CO Ditshego. He longs for an opportunity to do practical training at 68 Air School one day. His passion for sports, particularly soccer, has opened more doors than he could imagine.

One day, while playing soccer in 2007, a letter arrived inviting members who wanted to take part in the sport of military pentathlon, which consists of five challenges: obstacle course, swimming, orienteering, Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) practicals "first aid", rifle shooting and 9 mm shooting. This took place in Bloemfontein where participants were selected to represent the SANDF. He decided to enter.

The following year an invitation arrived for the second round of selections. Out of eight participants from the SA Air Force, CO Ditshego was the only one who made it. He then went for training to Potchefstroom. This took place over a period of two months. Later they were invited to the Netherlands for training sessions that would fully prepare them for the Internationals in Turkey.

After seven days spent in the Netherlands, he received an achievement certificate, together with fellow player and coach - Col Wim Albert. On their departure to Turkey, CO Ditshego noted that the Turkish rifle was different to ours; it was lighter, but the technique used in firing it was the same. About 36 countries participated in the Internationals in Turkey, where he received another certificate. The SANDF achieved 26th place out of 54 teams that participated.

Presently CO Ditshego is looking forward to the results of the 2009 selections, which took place last month. Altogether 86 members participated and he was the best overall. This year the internationals will take place in Bulgaria during the first week of August.

His support system is his proud family in Mpumalanga. The Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, and his coach, Col Wim Albert, SSO Strategy Defence Reserve Division, and the Officer Commanding of Mobile Deployment in Waterkloof, Col Anthony Jacobs, who motivated him. His Workshop Manager, WO1 Mike Amos, also showed great support. CO Ditshego is a proud father of twin girls, Onkuthwile and Onthatile. He sees himself as a qualified technician in the future.
The value of honesty and integrity

By Chaplain N.W. Nkosi,
SAMHS Pastoral Services

The month of August is mostly known as Women’s Month in South Africa. Let me remind all women of the value of integrity; something that has been lost by many people, whether of high or low rank. The word integrity in the Oxford Dictionary is defined as: “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principle; the quality of being sound in construction”.

Talking of honesty, I am reminded of a supervisor who instructed her secretary to alter some questionable financial records. When the secretary refused, the supervisor asked: “Don’t you ever lie?”

For many people honesty is an absolute virtue - a moral remnant of bygone days. Truly speaking, honesty and integrity are more than simply refusing to lie. Integrity means living a life that is consistent in belief and behaviour. Honesty in your speech, words and actions. The quality of being sound in construction means your no is no, and not easily bent to doing a wrong thing.

Integrity means speaking out, when remaining silent would convey the wrong impression, and it means doing what’s best for others, even if it might cause you harm. More often it will never harm you. A good example comes from the Book of Esther: “Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ‘Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me, … and thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish” (Esth 4:15&16). She stood up for the good of her people, and she was honest, and did not perish. She rose to the occasion with heroic resolve: “If I perish, I perish”. Let us stand up and seize the moment as women in SA, for the good of our people.

Remember, history is full of remarkable women - Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Mother Teresa - courageous women, full of fight and fortitude, vision and virtue, grace and truth. Let us use our feminine courage and character positively and fight immorality, gossip and jealousy. Let us embrace one another and lift our country in prayer to God. If we are honest and walk in integrity, our future generations will be secure in the success God will give us. Be blessed.

Chaplain N.W. Nkosi.
SB Mpumalanga presented a sports day on 19 June 2009 for the different units at Nelspruit. The members had the chance to participate in different items. The aim was to involve as many members as possible to enhance team spirit and to motivate members.

The event included soccer, touch rugby, tug-of-war, a class competition and a Fittest Soldier competition. To further brighten up the day, a “boeree-sport” item was added, which proved to be great fun. Members had the chance to do egg throwing, a three-legged race and a “who is the fastest orange eater” - competition.

**The winners**

Soccer: Signal Unit Mpumalanga

Touch rugby: ASB Mpumalanga HQ

Class Competition: ASB Mpumalanga Supply Support Service Centre

Fittest soldier: Cpl Steven Zitha

The ASB Mpumalanga HQ tug-of-war team preparing for action.

Tug-of-war: Protection Services and Personnel Section (ASB Mpumalanga)

Fastest orange eater: Ms Elena Maroga

Best egg throwers: Ms Anne-Marie Ollewagen and WO1 Martie Niemand

Fastest orange eater: Ms Elena Maroga.

The ASB Mpumalanga Supply Support Service Centre during the class competition.
The month of August celebrates National Women’s Day

The SANDF pays tribute to all its serving women.

We SALUTE YOU