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502 Squadron supports Bible distribution

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FRONT COVER: President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, was welcomed by the SA Air Force Guard of Honour for the opening of the refurbished AFB Waterkloof runway and presidential suite. Read all about this event on pages 16 and 17. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

Above: A soldier participating in the multi-run during the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition held at 3 SA Infantry Battalion in Kimberley. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
From the Editor's desk

It is December and most of our readers will be going on holiday. Enjoy your well-deserved rest and please remember to drive safely. Do not drink and drive!

Let us spend time with our loved ones and friends this Christmas season and take pleasure in doing it. To all our deployed soldiers and their families and nearest and dearest who will not spend this Christmas together we want to thank you sincerely for the sacrifices that you make to make our beautiful continent a better and safer place for all of us. May God bless you all as peacemakers!

The Christmas message by the Chaplain General on page 12 made me realise how special each and everyone is in the eyes of our Creator. God has a dream for all of us. May we become conscious of what our God-planned role in life is and let us aspire to carry out that plan.

During September this year the SANDF celebrated 10 years of peacekeeping and reconciliation in Africa. Let us continue bringing and securing peace on our continent. Matthew 5 verse 9 - “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

We have published the lyrics of our National Anthem on the back cover so that everyone can start learning the words if they are not acquainted with them. I am certain every proud South African would want to sing out loud during the playing of the National Anthem before the kick-off of each FIFA 2010 World Cup game. Readers, let us take ownership of our National Anthem!

From all of us here at SA Soldier we wish you a merry Christmas and a roaring 2010!

Peace to you all!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • DECEMBER 2009

Go tswa go Morulaganyi

Ke kgwedinya Sedimonthole, se se ra gore bontsi ba babuise ba rona ba tilie go leba mo nuetong a a farologaneng. Re le lakaletsa malatsi a baikhutse a monate, mme le gapole go kganna ka kelothoko. Le se ka la nwa mme la kganna!

A re jeng malatsi a buikhutso le ba masika le ditsala, mme re itumele rolithe. Go masole a aleke ko dinageng mabapi ka tsa tiro, mme ba sa kgone go ba le ba, malapa a bona, re re go bona re lebogela matlapiso a bona, re lebogela le gore tiro ya lona enite ya go dira gore naga ya Aferika e lefelo le boleka ga ya lebalwa. Modimo a le tshegofatise!

Molaetse wa Keresemose go tswa go Chaplain General mo letlakaleng la bo 12, le ngkopoditse ka mo re nuleng boleng mme ebile Morena Modimo a re ratang ka go lekana. Modimo o nale toro mo go rona rolithe. A re gopoleng rolithe gore Morena Modimo o na le maiknellele ka matshele a rona, mme a re bontsheng go di ra ka natla.

Ka kgwedinya la letswe SANDF e ne a keteka dinyaga di le 10, tsa go tlisa kagiso le poelano mo kontinenteng ya Aferika. A re tsweleng pele ka go tlisa kagiso mo kontinenteng. Mattew 5-9 - “Bao ba tshegofaditsweng ke, ba tlisa kagiso: ba tla bitswa bana ba modimo.”

Letlakala le le kwa morago le na le mofoko a pina ya bosetshaba, gore botlhle ba ba sa itseng go a opela a ibhute. Ke na le tumelo ya gore mo Aferika Borwa o o ipeleng ka naga ya gabao o tilie gore opela pina ya bosetshaba ka mafolofolo pele go metshameko ya sejaha sa lefatshe sa FIFA 2010. Ba buisi a re ipeleng ka pina ya bosetshaba!

Go tswa go rona botlhle mo SA Soldier re lo lakaletsa Keresemose e monate, le n'nga o monate tota wa 2010!

Kagiso go lona lotlhe!

Nelda Pienaar Morulaganyi

* Translation (Tswana) by Thabo Shirinda.
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SHOW RESPECT

At first people perform with great enthusiasm and energy, for example when someone finds a job he or she so dearly wanted. Instead of being grateful for their jobs, they began to feel dissatisfied. You must show respect and dedication in your work. Give credit when and where it is due. When you are warned about your discipline at work, don’t always see that as punishment. Good commanders and managers are there for a reason; it is their duty to show you the right direction, to help you grow and develop. Displaying too much pride when you are in the wrong is not going to make you a better person. Showing disrespect to those in charge of you at work will not help you professionally.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND TRIBUTE

On behalf of all the friends of my late friend, brother and esteemed colleague, Lt S.L. Baloyi, I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the SANDF, especially the SA Air Force (17 Squadron). At the time we received the news of the accident, the members of the SA Air Force were supportive and kept us informed of progress as they searched for the bodies. We were in despair, not knowing whether we were coming or going. It was as if our lives stopped for the days of the search, but the SA Air Force was there, keeping us informed. The officers and the Generals did their utmost and I would also like to thank the divers who worked tirelessly in the cold waters of Woodstock Dam to make sure that the bodies of our brethren were found and that we put everything behind us in peace. I venerate you on a job well done. To all who took part in the search we say thank you. To the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, we thank you for your presence and your support.

We lost a dear friend and a brother. He was a soldier who worked with intensity and who promoted the National Defence Force with pride and dignity. He was one of the few who lived the Code of Conduct to the best he knew how. Everything he learnt during our Basic Military Training, he kept in his heart. He gave his life selflessly and tirelessly to his unit. He soared like an eagle, blazed the skies with pride and never looked back.

Having been his friend since we met when we entered the National Defence Force I have learnt a lot from him and can proudly say his soul is at peace because he has followed the path that God laid for him and we cry no more, for his soul has been set free. We miss him a little while, but we let go. I will quote the last words he spoke to me before he met his untimely and tragic death and I will direct them to his lifelong partner and friend Tsholofelo. He said: “Take life as it comes.” May the soldiers live up to what they profess in the Code of Conduct and take pride in their uniform. To the SANDF: your presence has meant a lot to us friends and know that it brought comfort to the family. Mr V.M. Luti (Impala Platinum), former Sgt at 41 Squadron.

A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

What a wonderful time to be encouraged and to encourage our fellow brethren by reading SA Soldier: our favourite all encompassing, informative, decisive magazine! There is something I want to share in this connection with my fellow Africans and the world at large:

In life, realise that there are those who are better than you and those you are better than. However, make sure that you are the best. This does not rule out having role models. In all these things remember that you are unique and special, like fingerprints. M. Anderson says: “To get what we have never had, we must do what we have never done because the quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to his or her commitment to excel-

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.

Winning letter

Rev Jacob Thlagale.

“You have to believe that God lives, regardless of his or her chosen field of endeavour.” Yes it is true, you can do anything you want, as long as you put your heart to it. The Lord Almighty is there to help you through, says Rev Jacob Thlagale who completed his tenth 100 miler (160 km) in October 2009. Jacob Thlagale (Rev), email sa_soldier@mil.za
**BASIC MILITARY TRAINING MADE ME A PATRIOTIC SOLDIER**

How was it? Suffer and maybe die, but I was wrong.
Strange? Scary? No one ever believed that it was me, no one. But I was wrong.
I thought so at first. I say thanks to the SANDF for allowing me to travel with them this journey, the journey where only courageous drivers drive on. The journey whereby hardship lives. The journey of heroes and heroines. The journey of serving my country with patriotism, pride and dignity. The journey of true soldiering.

Thanks to the SANDF you are the best products of soldiering. I salute you. Pte P. Maubane, 102 Fieldworkshop.

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**EXERCISE GOLFINHO IN LOHATLHA**

We had a few wonderful days taking part in the amazing Exercise GOLFINHO, which we had been waiting for. We were proud SAMHS members in the Military Task Group II under command and control of Lt Col Khumalo. Our aim was to render a comprehensive multi-disciplined military health service to the SADC countries for the duration of the exercise, and return back home for our domestic duties. With a useful introduction in Lohatlha Training Area No 11 we put our values first in all our challenges. Our relationship with the other SANDC forces on the ground was mutually beneficial.

Together, as one, we continued to implement military objectives and the vision and mission in our medical tasks at hand, which was transparent to everyone. The exercise itself was a clear indication that our “dark continent” was now heading for a common goal of united African peacekeeping force formation. This is necessary in view of the continued horrors and plight of our beautiful country, South Africa.

---

**FEAR**

I found myself everyday in the middle When I asked myself I am not getting any answers You keep me stuck with my states Decades without ever moving forward The more time elapses The worse fear appears to become I end up living myself in the limbo Feeling disappointment and left down life Living and avoiding fear Is horrible place to live Don’t let fear rob you Of the opportunity to succeed go in life If you do not fear You are moving forward. M.P. Masango Zungu, 121 Battalion

---

**TRACING A FRIEND OF MANY YEARS**

I am looking for Major T.W. Cheela who worked for military Intelligence. The last unit as far as I know was 46 Brigade. The Major and I became very good friends during the time I was in the Infantry Formation. Last time I saw him was in August 2000.

If anyone can help me trace him, I should be very grateful. Major, if you read this letter, please contact me at this address: Mr Harry Matome Ntoagae (PDS: 200634322) a.k.a Gibson Passenger, K.S.C.C, Private Bag X2006, Makhado, 0920, Limpopo Province.
JOURNEY AND DESTINATION

First of all I want to help the soldiers of South Africa who have a slogan that says a dead man is a dead man. That is quiet true, but our destination is in heaven. In our days there are soldiers who believe that life ends in the military. I want us to put that mentality aside because it is not like that. God has made life. Life started from God and it will end with Him.

I am writing this because some soldiers destroy themselves. Even if many people are against you, press on because the evildoers will answer one day.

Journey and destination are two different things. Some people while on a journey think their destinations are unreachable and lose hope and die; don’t do that now. I was motivated by Major Khumalo from 3 Military Hospital when she said she wanted to have a place on earth and in heaven. I pray that the military must have the same mind as our civilians in Africa and the whole world. I am saying this because we have lost many people in the SANDF and in South Africa. Death is the gain of eternal life. The beauty of this world will pass but God will remain God. God is the Father of our spirits. As a Corporal in the DOD I believe that God has called me to preach in Africa and beyond.

I want to encourage my colleagues who lose hope day by day to set your mind on what God has told you. Be more concerned about what God thinks of you than what people think about you.

Our God works in private; He will do your thing privately.

Dream and wake up and follow your dream like Joseph in the Bible. Those who are sick don’t own sickness. Tell them that it doesn’t belong to them, but in hell. It is so bad to hear someone saying he or she is a person of TB, HIV or whatever. I want to hear words of faith. Someone saying he or she is sick, can be healed forever, and our God will heal those who have faith in Him.

Our leaders will be asked how many people they motivated. Some will say none and when they are asked how many people they have discouraged they will say a lot because the devil used them. But now is the time to repent and come back to God; then you will live.

The lower ranks may be the real higher, but God will make a special way for you to prosper. He doesn’t like his children to suffer. Jeremiah 29:11

He did something good when He released the Israelites under the hand of Pharaoh. I believe that the Israelites were oppressed like some of us in this world, but God will show Himself.

I pray for the SANDF that it be loving and caring. God bless all soldiers and civilians in the South African National Defence Force. Cpl M.N. Madiloyi, School of Armour

WHAT MUST BE DONE

Unfortunately, our theories about crime and criminals in South Africa, and within SANDF in particular, lack substantive analysis as a process logically proceeding from various factors. Much bitterness and misunderstanding have accumulated in people’s hearts. The rate at which criminals are replenishing themselves with the property of the state is alarming indeed. This serves as a clarion call to the authorities that something is wrong and has to be rectified.

In Pretoria alone a month does not go by without a vehicle being stolen, let alone IT equipment from SANDF offices reported as having disappeared. We may wonder why these tragedies occur. The irresponsibility of people intoxicated by the mood of democratisation provoked the crowd to resist the law. The following came to mind of late: we have noted time and again the rampant anarchy of SANDF members replenishing themselves with state property. Lack of discipline prevails, which results in negligence.

We must honestly and frankly tell each other the truth and listen to the truth, however bitter. Only this will wipe out the almost irreparable damage done to human thinking and morality by our poorly thought out actions. Every one of us must understand his responsibility, big or small. Such decisions must be made only by putting our heads together to avoid teetering on the brink of the volcano.

Loving our country with our hearts, not with our lips, can bring our land the respect we all long for, a drug free society with social responsibilities.

Statistics of most government vehicles getting lost can be traced to members with long service in the system, which is totally unacceptable. This shows that members are helping themselves at will in their own time, without hindrance from anybody.

Cosmo Kgomo Mashigo, Dequaria Military Police
RESPONSE TO "GONE ARE THE HAPPY DAYS OF CIVILIANS"

I should like to response to the letter "Gone are the happy days of civilians" published in the August 2009 edition of SA Soldier.

An anonymous piece of writing called "Desiderata", found long ago in a church said something to the effect that "Keep interested in your own career, however humble, for it a real asset in the changing fortunes of life". It also says: "Do not compare yourself with others, lest you should become vain or bitter because always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. You are a child of the universe and whether or not it is clear to you everything is unfolding as it should".

Work life is like nature in which each small plant, bird, animal or insect has a vital function. Even if you are not at the top of the food chain you are still a link and without you the whole system will malfunction. If you think you are too small and insignificant to be effective or important, look at mosquitoes. They are tiny and mostly unnoticed, yet they can keep anyone awake all night and be as deadly as the most poisonous snake. They are fragile and without impressive horns, teeth or immense physical strength. If you feel like a mosquito, remember in your own unique way you are more powerful than a lion, so give yourself the credit you deserve because you don't have to rely on others for approval. If you are satisfied that your job is done to the best of your ability, you will find fulfilment. All you need is self-respect because no one can take that from you. As a fellow civilian in the SANDF, and more so as a Christian, I want to say that ultimately we work for God Almighty and we are accountable to him at the end of the day for our performance.

No one can be you better than you yourself. Another thing to remember is people always take things for granted and do not appreciate what they have until they lose it! Mrs V. Topham, 121 SA Infantry Battalion

LOOKING FOR RSA FRIENDS

I hope this email will find you in good health. You may not be known to me, but you are not new to me … I am a regular reader of SA Soldier magazine.

I served in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission Burundi (ONUB) in 2006. There I met a lot of RSA friends. I was told about this magazine by Capt Dr Lebo, a woman doctor in Level I RSA hospital. Since then I have been an on/off reader of the said magazine. I find that it is really good and informative.

I served under the command of Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, who was the Chief of ONUB. I miss all good RSA friends, but unfortunately cannot communicate with them owing to the non-availability of their email addresses or contact numbers.

I would be grateful if you could kindly convey my regards to Capt Dr Lebo and send me her email address and cell no with her kind permission.

Lt Col Hidayatullah Memon, Pakistan

* If “Capt Dr Lebo” and other members who served with him read this letter, please feel free to contactLt Col Hidayatullah Memon at Cell No: +92 300 2105349. His email address is: hida_memon@yahoo.com - Ed.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

I am trying to locate a book that we were able to purchase during basic training at 1 Maintenance Unit in Kimberley (Diskobolos) in 1988.

Unfortunately I do not remember the name or publishers of the book. It was a thin A4 size hardcover book, with text and colour photos, highlighting 1 Maintenance Unit. I should be ever so grateful to anyone who could assist me in helping to find such a book or perhaps point me in the right direction, and needless to say I would obviously be willing to pay for the book. Please contact Bdr S.R. McKinney (CFA) on 082 376 8111.

6 MEDICAL BATTALION GROUP

6 Med Bn Gp HQ urgently requires the services of the following qualified military personnel:

Medical Officers
Nursing Officers
Nurses
OECP / N Dip / CCA / AEA / BAC
(Only those people already registered or able to be registered with their applicable statutory bodies need apply)

We also urgently require the services of ex-SAMHS or serving members who intend resigning:

Logisticians
Personnel Practitioners
Operationally Experienced Officers

Please fax your complete Curriculum Vitae and proof of your qualifications, registration and/or military courses to:

The Recruiting Officer, 6 Med Bn Gp, Fax No: (011) 970 3046.

PLEASE NOTE

This is NOT an employment opportunity, but an opportunity for rendering professional services in a volunteer military health environment in the Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West Provinces.
Building a new home for our fellow soldiers was not an easy task, but once again the SA Engineers under the command of Maj D.D. Shabangu proved themselves as the best sappers in Africa.

RSA Contingent Group Head-quarters located in Beni had to be relocated to Goma. The portion of land for relocation was identified at Munigi village. The land identified was in a mountainous area and consisted of beds of lava. The Project Officer, Capt I.V. Makanya, Construction Troop Commander, Lt D.L. Kgatiseoe and Acting Team Leader, Sgt M.L. Dickson, reconnoitred the land in order to identify the type of construction machines needed for this project and the time needed for the project to be completed.

On 28 July 2009 at around 06:45 one could hear the sound of construction machines heading for Munigi village. A team of Engineer construction machine operators consisted of both Regular Force members and Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members, namely Sgt M.L. Dickson, Sgt S.R. Mokhele, Sgt J.J. Dibakwane, Cpl T.R.J. Mothibe, L Cpl J.H. Dlamini, Spr Z.E. Aiphone, Spr A.A. Makunga, Spr T.E. Nemutudi, Spr L.R. Manwata, Spr D.M. Malgas, Spr D.M. Kola, Spr M.O. Petlele, Spr T.F. Tjabadi, Spr N.M. Sehlola, Spr R.W. Moroka, Spr L. Kiti and S Sgt R.N. Fourie as the team leader. They commenced clearing and levelling the area. The team usually departed from the base at 06:45 and reported back at around 17:00.

The project took three months due to the challenges that were faced at some stages. Work came to a standstill for two weeks due to the negotiations between the landowner and Monuc JLOC staff members for procurement of the land.

The area needed lots of effort as it was located in a mountainous area. Three terraces were constructed, which enhanced the beauty of the surroundings. Some areas needed lot of filling, especially where LWT workshops had to be placed. After clearing and levelling, the lava bed needed to be covered with volcanic ash, which also involved the landowner having to give his authority. Permission was given for four hundred loads of volcanic ash, after which final levelling and compaction commenced. Through the effort and commitment of the construction machine operators, the project was finalised on 25 September 2009 and handed to the RSA Battalion Group HQ Ops Officer. The team has now commenced with the construction of the new Contingent HQ at the Indian Field Police Unit II. As Engineers we continue to hold our SA flag high, doing what we are best at. Best Sappers in Africa. Lt D.L. Kgatiseoe, Goma (DRC)

The rehabilitation of roads is one of the major concerns in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The RSA Engineer Squadron had to establish a temporary operational base at Osso farm in the DRC for the construction machine operators (CMO) team to commence with the rehabilitation of the Sake-Masisi Road. The team consisted of twelve members, namely Sgt O.D. Mogotsi (team leader), Sgt K.M. Njwabane, Sgt M.E. Msimanga, Sgt M.A. Matiwane, Sgt S. Kose, Cpl H. Masilela, Cpl R.D. Mosia, Spr R.T. Mthethwa, Spr L.T. Sibande, Spr D.V. Ncongwane, Spr N.M. Tshikovhi and Spr S.J. Mapogoshe.

The area is mountainous and is composed of soft soil. In the rainy season such areas may suffer from landslides that may close roads or make them impassable. There is only one road to travel from Sake to Masisi; all non-governmental organisations use the road to deliver medicines and food to refugee camps. The road is also utilised by Monuc personnel.

The condition of the surface is too dangerous for the inexperienced CMO. Our members are always dedicated and try their best to keep the road accessible. Road-work becomes difficult because while the construction work continues, the vehicles of the local population and the piki-pikis (motor cycles) must still use it and the space is limited. One has to be very careful otherwise a construction vehicle might fall down a precipice when it tries to make room for other motorists to pass.

Rehabilitation of this road is a continuous project because when rainy season comes the road deteriorates and becomes virtually useless. The RSA CMOs were working in conjunction with the United Nations Operational Services (UNOPS) that were busy erecting retaining walls as a precaution against the landslides at the identified critical spots in order to stabilise vulnerable parts. Our country can be truly proud of the Engineers who are trying their best to improve the roads in the DRC. Best Sappers in Africa. Lt D.L. Kgatiseoe, Goma (DRC)

The 121 SAI Bn farewell parade had its tender moments of solidarity of a kind never witnessed before, under Maj Gen B. Hlatshwayo, General Officer Commanding Joint Operational HQ, in Pretoria. 121 SAI Bn has the edge regarding internal and external deployment experience, so hopefully they will keep up their high morale until the end of their tour of duty.

On our arrival in the Sudan we could see at once that the Sudanese really enjoyed our presence, and we were humbled. It was not very easy the first time, but our prayer-first kind of attitude helped a lot. UNAMID and SA were the caregivers who had instilled values and principles of “batho pele” service delivery into the

UNAMID forces. Days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months as 121 SAI Bn was hard at work. The South African contingent was able to survive all challenges, because the members were strong-willed, and they believed that there was no short cut to a better life and to success, and it also proved that hard work really paid off. The 121 SAI Bn schedule was also very tight. On arrival the temperature was about 50º Celsius, but that did not deter their spirits because they were passionate enough about what
they were doing as true peacekeepers. 121 SAI Bn was really impressed with the overall reception from our predecessors of 4 SAI Bn, fellow UNAMID comrades and fellow Sudanese. Even though we did not bring them gold or silver, but only our appearance, it meant a lot and confirmed that our enthusiastic actions was recognised and highly appreciated by all, which was more than enough to motivate us. The host country’s future looks bright, and our consolation is that we have a structure, and when the tough gets going, powerful and blessed contingent support and our consolation is that we have a us. The host country’s future looks bright, which was more than enough to motivate recognised and highly appreciated by all, firming that our enthusiastic actions was our appearance, it meant a lot and con-

WOMEN CONNECT
WITH THE LETTER “C”

We care effortlessly; we cook like pros. We clean even when we not up to it And currently we demand our freedom of choice … Because we can!

Frankly, we are content with the way God created us. Cellulite, curves, cleavage … Cosmetics form part of us - While confidence completes us Our charm is chisel courage and character … So of course, how can we not cherish all that?

We connect with the letter “C” When we look our best, Never forget to compliment us We are calculated-risk takers on what we want … And if we happen to get it we celebrate it We also confront our fears - if they bring tears? We cry a river; Because we can.

Commitment is no option on what we love. We don’t like something - we complain We’re very cautious when picking our men We love them more if they have cars, Cash and cellphones We believe to hook on the wrong one - We never forget contraceptives We find the right one - We’re comfortable in conceiving,

When we lose what we worked hard for, we go crazy But then thank God There are always these calls to our friends For consolation and if they hardly work … Then we’re the first To church on that Sunday, that’s what I say.

We connect with the letter “C”. Cpl S.J. Madisha, currently deployed in Kitchanga (DRC)

FIRST TIME

This is my first deployment and I can really feel the butterflies. I have not even been a month in the Sudan and the ‘stomach bug’ has affected us. Monday, 9 November 2009, in the early hours I went to the loo, which is not normal. After a couple of hours I knew that this was a threatening bacterial kind of infec-
tion. Just before roll-call time, more people were in the same boat. No smile, no indication of readiness to resume the day’s routine work. This was like seeing wounded comrades in battle with no hope of survival. During our stay in the Mobilisation Centre one high-ranking officer said: “You South African soldiers are known to be tough”. I never for a moment took those words seriously, but remembered them in the deployment area. We will survive whatever we come across. We will do whatever we can to the best of our abilities. On a lighter note, no load shedding so far; everything is “Tamam” - good. Sgt M.N. Kekana, Kutum Base

I AM A WOMAN

Damn that Guy upstairs is wise, I bet it took Him forever To create such a great human, He took his time, made up his mind And made me a woman.

I am a woman From the ribs of a man To the womb of a victim I was conceived Out of pain and suffering I was introduced to the world.

I may appear small, I may sound lousy, I may look twice as thin As the average man, I certainly am big in heart My voice is loud in meaning It is the inside That makes me a woman.

It’s all about having to face the worst, Rejoice for the outcomes, Right from the monthly to the labour and You just do it with the inner Part of pain and joy; That is the woman.

I was born crying And still do that for both pain and joy, You see the pain in my eyes, You know I’m feeling it inside, You see the way I carry myself in the open, But you can also imagine How much luggage my soul has to bear I have enough strength to carry it all, Besides “I am a woman”.

I’m crazy about being a woman, I’m patient, I’m kind, I’m jealous, I’m concerned but I’m proud, I’m patient, I’m kind, I’m jealous, I’m concerned but I’m proud, I’m self-centred, I don’t keep record of wrongs, My happiness and smile Is innocent and true, I never give up my faith, Hope and patience, that’s because I am a woman.

I am a woman I may fail to plan from time to time But I never plan to fail. Rfn S.I. Mahlangu, currently deployed in Kitchanga (DRC)
God's plan for you - the future you hope for!

By Rev Marius Cornelissen,
Chaplain General SANDF

Read Jeremiah 29:4-12. God says in verse 11: "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for." Joh 3:16 says: "God so loved the world that He gave us His Son."

At the end of the year we all evaluate our plans and their success in the past year. Most of us worked very hard trying to fulfill our dreams and our plans. Some of us will be satisfied while others may be disillusioned. Some will be so tired of working hard and trying to make a difference that we just do not want to go on. May I urge you - do not lose hope in your dreams. Victor Frankl once said: "Those that are poor are not people without money, but people without dreams." Therefore all of us must continue to dream for ourselves, our families, our Department and our country and work hard to ensure that our dreams come true.

For all of us God also has a dream and therefore the message of verse 11: "I have a dream for you. I have a plan for you. A plan of prosperity and not disaster. A plan of hope and not despair". A plan of dreams that come true and aspirations that are fulfilled.

How does God make these plans for us come true? Three short pieces of advice from Jeremiah 29.

- We have to work hard in the place where God has placed us (verse 5 - 9). Scripture is clear. We must serve, work, lead, care and help others in the place we are now. We should not wait for a new dawn, a new job, a new opportunity, a new challenge before we should give our best. Where we are now is the place where we should contribute to the best of our ability. Then God can and will bless us with what we need. Verse 7 confirms this when it says: "If the place where you are prosperous, you will prosper". Alan Kay said: "The best way to predict the future is to invent it ourselves." Do not wait for it - work hard for it where God has put you at this moment in the Department of Defence. Then God will be able to bless you and make your dreams come true.

- The second piece of advice is found in verse 7 where it asks us to do good where we are. Do the right things right. Make sure that you are ethically and morally correct in what you do. It reminds us not only to work hard in building our own future in the place where we are, but also to do it in the right way. To help others in order to be helped. To take care of others so that we can be taken care of. It asks of us in leadership positions not to misuse our position or power for our own interests, but to use it in the interest and to the benefit of all around us. The more we do what is right, the more God can bless us.

- Pray to God to help you (verses 7 and 12). We have to pray hard to ensure God’s blessings for us. Pray for yourself (verse 12) so that God can answer you and bless your dreams. Pray for others (verse 7) because "if they are prosperous we will be prosperous". God wants to hear that we need Him, recognize Him, love Him and need His guidance in our lives. Then He as our Heavenly Father will be able to bless us more and more and help our dreams and aspirations come true.

The sincerity of this promise of God we find in the message of Christmas. So serious was God about fulfilling our dreams and blessing us that He came to the world in the person of Jesus Christ in order to bring His plan of reconciling the world with Himself and us with one another, to life (Joh 3:16 and 2 Cor 5:19). In the Son of Christmas He showed us and set an example for us of love and compassion, of taking care of the world and the people therein. Therefore God challenges us to fulfil His plans for us by working hard, being ethically sound and praying regularly. Then His plans and our plans will merge and it will be Christmas for us throughout the year.

May I wish you all a blessed Christmas period and a new year in which all your dreams come true.
On 6 November 2009 the Ministerial Task Team on Military Veterans chaired by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, held a consultative workshop which was one of the public engagements with various stakeholders at the St George’s Hotel in Pretoria.

Providing input were veterans’ associations, representatives from the Institute of Security Studies, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the Sector Education and Training Authorities in the Security and Services Industries and government departments that are currently providing services to veterans, e.g. the Department of Social Development and the Department of Human Settlements.

The aim of the workshop was to solicit public input for the Draft Policy Report on the future of the State’s obligation which was aimed at benefiting the country’s roughly estimated 20,000 military veterans. The workshop proved a vital platform for enhancing co-ordinated communication to assist in devising ways to address the veterans’ plight, including priorities and time frames to improve the services they need, and thus improve their welfare and future prospects.

In his address the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans at the workshop pointed out that military veterans were ex-combatants with military skills and experience. He added that neglecting them could drive them to resort to the only skill they had and as a result they could descend into criminality.

"Neglecting them may compromise stability, safety and the security of the country. The Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans has announced plans for creating a separate entity with its own budget and accounting officer to be responsible for veterans’ affairs," Mr Makwetla said.
The 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Thabo Shirinda

Music is the universal language that everyone understands regardless of differences in language and culture. The 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo that was held at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town from 19 to 21 November 2009 proved the validity of the above as Capetonians and local and international tourists filled the seats of the Castle arena to witness this annual military music event in the Mother City.

This event not only serves to entertain the people but also teaches the history of the tattoo and the meaning of the different ceremonies that might be taken for granted through lack of understanding of their importance. The event fosters the image of the SANDF.

Close the taps on your beer barrels

The word tattoo is derived from a centuries old military ritual which originated in the Low Countries during the 80 years war in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the patrols were sent out near nightfall to warn off-duty soldiers in the taverns that it was time to return to their barracks. At each tavern they would be told: "doe den tap toe" (close the taps on your beer barrels). All the armies fighting in the Low Countries adopted this practice.

Early Cape Town was so small that patrols did not need to be sent out to summon the soldiers back to their barracks in the evening as was done in the Low Countries. Instead, drummers would take post on the Leerdam Bastion, which was the nearest point and beat out the urgent call which both tavern-keepers and soldiers knew meant "doe den tap toe".

As time and centuries passed by this nightly ritual became known by various names such as "tattoo" in English, "tapoe" in Dutch and "zapfenstreich" in German.

To signal the official opening of the event the Castle gates were closed. This action was derived from the actual drills of the 18th century, when the Castle’s unlocking in the morning and locking again in the evening were done. This 18th century ritual was done to ensure that no enemies lurked outside the gates. This was re-enacted for the audience to emphasise the importance of this centuries old rou-
The SA Navy’s precision drill.

The audience saw the Castle guard halberdiers fetch the key to the Van Der Stel gate, lock it and report that all was well and that the gate was securely locked. Then the key was handed back to the Castle guard halberdiers.

The Castle guard was formed in 1986 to provide the Castle of Good Hope with its own ceremonial element. To this day the Castle guards formally open the Castle for visitors by carrying out the “key ceremony” at 10:00 and at noon every weekday. The Castle guard function is normally carried out by various units. At the 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo this guard function was provided by the Cape Town Highlanders (CTH).

Various units, bands and organisations participated in the 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo.

The SA Army Band, Cape Town, was established in 1915 as the regimental band of the 1st battalion Cape Corps. This is the oldest regular band. The band was under the Directorship of Maj M. Chandler and the Bandmaster was WO1 A. van Schalkwyk.

The Trompetterkorps der koninklijke Marechaussee was established in 1950, but its organisational roots go back to 1814, when William of Orange established the Marechaussee as a type of constabulary. Marechaussee is currently the Dutch Military police corps. The band was under the command of Capt C. Peters. The Director of Music was Capt E. Janssen and the Drum Major was WO1 M. Gouswaart.

SAMHS pipes and drum. The SAMHS Pipe Band was formed in 1987 at the express wish of the then Surgeon General, Lt Gen Nieuwoudt. The band has travelled extensively throughout South Africa in its official capacity to perform at various military parades and ceremonies.

The Medical Battalion Group Band. This Durban based group was formed in 1899 as the Natal Volunteer Medical Corps. In 1904 the group was renamed the Natal Medical Corps. 1 Field Ambulance and 17 Field Ambulance amalgamated in 1981 to form what is now known as 1 Medical Battalion.

The SA Navy Band, conducted by Cmdr K. Leibrandt, was established in 1954. This band has visited and performed in many places in South Africa as well as in other countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Russia.

The SA Police Service (SAPS) Band of the Western Cape. The Western Cape SAPS was founded on 16 October 1968. Police bands represent and market the SAPS as an organisation.

Organisations that participated in the 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo were: Cape Field Artillery, the Castle Guard, Cape Highlanders, the Cannon Association of South Africa, the SAPS Mounted Unit, Electronic Workshop and the City Of Cape Metro Council.

The Trompetterkorps der koninklijke Marechaussee, the Dutch Military Police corps performs about 75 times a year within the Netherlands and abroad. It has visited Australia, Russia, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand and Finland.

The 2009 Cape Town Military Tattoo would not have been complete without the pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders.
The Department of Defence was pleased to bring back the Air Squadron to its home at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria on 29 October 2009. This is evidence that phase one of the so long anticipated project had finally come to its completion.

The project has cost nearly R700 million for the upgrades at the base since July 2008. The Minister of Public Works, Mr Geoff Doidge, handed the base back to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, after a successful operation.

The runway was officially opened for the presidential flight when President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, landed there for the first time. The four squadrons were stationed at Swartkop, Lanseria and OR Tambo International Airport, but nothing beats being back at the original aerodrome.

Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Chief of the SA Air Force, said: “It is a huge relief that the construction is nearing completion, as the Department has spent so many thousands of rands on landing rights for our aircraft at other bases and airports over the past two years. This means the SA Air Force will save huge costs and that money will be utilised for other projects.”

The Minister of Public Works, Mr Geoff Doidge (left) and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, holding the signed pictures of the runway.
President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, unveiling the plaque at Air Force Base Waterkloof, while Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, and soldiers look on.

President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, cutting the ribbon to open the runway officially, while dignitaries enthusiastically look on, clockwise, fltr: the Minister of Public Works, Mr Geoff Doidge, Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu.
Victorious in the face of the impossible

Passion, dedication and hard work are the keys to success. This probably sounds like a cliché, but Trooper T.M. Makhubu will assure you that it is true that you must never give up hope if you are passionate about something. Tpr Makhubu from 1 Special Service Battalion never won when she first started participating in the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition, but she decided to keep participating because she loved it. This year she won thanks to hard work, total commitment, a healthy dose of passion and a belief that she was good enough.

More than 200 soldiers from around the country participated in the 3rd SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition held at 3 SA Infantry Battalion in Kimberley from 4 to 7 October 2009. This prestigious competition was initiated owing to poor results and members failing physical fitness tests. Soldiers from all ranks were put through their paces in both individual and team competitions.

The competition is unique as it challenges every muscle in the body and every cell in the brain. The main purpose and objective of the competition is to determine the fittest male and female soldiers in four different age groups, as well as the unit or formation with the fittest team. Each team consists of four members.

Over a period of three days soldiers participated in activities such as reverse and sideways running, 4 km walks, agility and bleep tests, fun runs, sit-ups, push-ups, shuttle runs and 2.4 km runs, swimming and endurance races.

Lt Col Louis Janeke, SO1 Physical Training, Sport and Recreation Officer of the SA Army, told SA Soldier that: “Fitness was a great way to build self-confidence and a healthy body image. It generates a comfortable environment for women and men of any shape and size to exercise. The best possible investment anyone can make is in his or her health.”

He concluded by saying: “The health of the body, mind and soul are all equally important. A healthy body is disease free, a healthy mind is able to handle the stress of modern day life and a healthy soul connects in a meaningful way. These three add real value to life.” During the prize-giving cere-monies the Senior Chief Warrant Officer (SCWO) of the SA Army, SCWO Mothusi Kgaladi, was awarded a merit award as the first Senior WO to take part in this competition.

Soldiers carrying ammunition boxes.
Participants competing in the 2.4 km run.

**WINNERS**

**Individual Categories:**
- Female 40 years and older
  - S Sgt S.B. Savula
- Female 30 to 39 years
  - S Sgt S. Pieters
- Female younger than 30 years
  - Tpr T.M. Makhubu
- Male 45 years and older
  - Pte S.G. Shongoane
- Male 35 to 44 years
  - Sgt H.L. Fourie
- Male younger than 35 years
  - Gnr R.J. Mashapu

**Senior Soldier**
- Lt Col A.S. Nziweni

**Team Categories:**
- Headquarters
  - SA Army HQ
- Formations
  - SA Army Armour Formation
- Fittest Unit
  - 1 Special Service Battalion Team 1

Brig Gen Clive van Schalkwyk, Deputy Chief Director Army Force Preparation, handing a merit award to SCWO Mothusi Kgaladi, Senior Chief Warrant Officer of the SA Army, for being the first Senior Warrant Officer to participate in the SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition.

One of the participants taking part in the multi-run.
The Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) Cape Western Provincial Dugout Seagull Shellhole, Regiment Westelike Provincie and delegates from Overstrand Greater Municipality weathered a heavy windstorm to honour soldiers who lost their lives in defence of the country at the annual Poppy Remembrance Day and Parade, also known as Armistice Day, in Hermanus on 7 November.

Flocks of tourists, especially from abroad and locals gathered to witness the MOTH, the SANDF, the SAPS, local schools and the neighbouring community paying tribute to the fallen soldiers of years gone by in this seashore town in the Western Cape.

Regiment Westelike Provincie not only provided the soldiers for the parade, but also the military band that sent shivers down the spine with the haunting sounds of “Abide with Me” and other solemn tunes befitting the event. An array of wreaths was laid by Brig Gen T.B. Beyleveldt, Executive Mayor of Overstrand, the Junior Mayoress of Hermanus, Brig Gen J.L. Fouché, Adviser to the General Officer Commanding Infantry Formation, Brig Gen M. Cornelissen, Chaplain General of the SANDF, Lt Col S.E. Pierce, the Officer Commanding of Regiment Westelike Provincie, Provincial Old Bill Cape Western MOTH Siebert de Bruyn, Old Bill Seagull Shellhole MOTH Harvey Saay-man, the Police Commissioner of Hermanus, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Junior School Council of Hermanus High School, the Headboy and Head-girl of Hermanus Primary School and the Defence Reserves.

In his speech Brig Gen Beyleveldt, reminded the participants and spectators: “On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 the guns became silent on the killing grounds between the opposing trenches and on the killing fields of Flanders where the flower of manhood in Europe, the dominions and the USA lost their lives. This marked the end of the Great War. The war to end all wars. So mankind honestly believed. What an irony!”

The Mayor stated that thousands of South Africans and sons of Hermanus and vicinity sacrificed their lives for their country over many decades. He added that Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a renowned South African whose son lost his life in the mud of Flanders, sold the idea of the Poppy Day wreath-laying ceremonies to the King of England. This is the origin of Poppy Day in places like Hermanus and across the world. “The red poppies from the MOTH wreaths are a symbol of the poppies that bloomed blood red on the day of the cease-fire on the fields where millions died. We shall remember them,” he said. The Mayor also warned that the world must learn from the past. “The world is more unstable than ever before. There is no sign of peace as poverty, terror attacks, HIV and AIDS and radicals threaten peace,” he stated.

He urged the decision makers of the day to take heed and ensure that South Africa be prepared to face any challenge. He concluded with a request that those present also remember the soldiers buried in graves at Delville Wood, with the only name on the tombstone “A Soldier Only Known to God.”
The City of Johannesburg came to a standstill when the SA Army took to the streets for the annual Remembrance Day commemoration held at the Cenotaph in Harrison Street on 8 November 2009. The National Civic Remembrance Sunday Service and wreath-laying ceremony were held at the Beyers Naudé Square.

The ceremony was held to commemorate the country’s fallen heroes who died in wars and conflicts, including the struggle for freedom and democracy. Each year the commemoration day has a different theme. In 2006 the event focused on the members of the South African Police Service killed in the line of duty. The following year special tribute was paid to mark the 90th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Mendi, when over 600 black soldiers lost their lives during World War I. In the year 2008 tribute was paid at the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Square Hill, another magnificent event of World War I. That is the battle in which South African Coloured soldiers of the Cape Corps distinguished themselves against Turkish forces allied to Germany. This year’s theme was to mark the unity of Military Veterans in South Africa, especially in Johannesburg.

Veteran soldiers, their families and friends came in numbers to the event to celebrate their achievements and sorrows dating from the wars, both in South Africa and the two World Wars. The Acting Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mr Parks Tau, led the proceedings when he laid the first wreath at the Cenotaph. He was followed by members of the SANDF. Civilians whose family members were involved in some of these wars were also part of the wreath-laying ceremony.

The famous SA Scottish Regiment in kilts also graced the occasion. They were joined by the impressive SANDF soldiers who were clearly the favourite among the hundreds who were there. Veteran soldiers could not be left behind of whom some were in wheelchairs. Another group, the forgotten soldiers, caused quite a stir when they came with their Harley Davidson motorbikes through the streets of Johannesburg - revving the engines. Loud roars and clouds of smoke filled the air.

Acting Mayor Tau took time to welcome the SA National Military Veterans Association (SANMVA), which was established in September 2008. The organisation represents close to a million military veterans in South Africa. The Acting Mayor also noted that for the first time the military veterans had representation at the highest level. They were officially known as the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans. It was an emotional experience for most who were at the Beyers Naudé Square. The heroes and heroines of South Africa, both Black and White, would never be forgotten.

The National Remembrance Sunday Service has been held at the Cenotaph since 1926. It was first inaugurated as a war memorial to South Africans who fell in World War I (1914 - 1918). Inscriptions to those who died in World War II were added in 1947. This year for the first time the commemoration was held at the newly revamped Beyers Naudé Square.
67th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein

By Col Bethuel Mpho Mathebe, SA Defence Attaché to Egypt and Jordan

Photos: Mohammed Darwish and Goitsone Rrathebe Mathebe

El Alamein is the second district of Matrouh from the east. It is located at a distance of 184 km to the east of Mersa Matruh and 104 km to the west of North Port City, Alexandria. It took its name from a rock situated between the railway line and the Mediterranean coast known as "Tal El-Alamein". It was already known to soldiers stationed in Egypt before World War II (1939 - 1945). It became famous during World War II when it witnessed a decisive and fierce battle between the Allies under the leadership of Montgomery and the Axis under the leadership of Rommel. It changed the course of the war so that the Allies eventually triumphed over the Axis and has become famous since the war.

Almost 1 255 South Africans died at El Alamein and 495 are commemorated by the headstones of the graves in the cemetery. The national emblem of the service or regimental badge, followed by the rank, name, unit, date of death, age and the appropriate religious emblem have been inscribed at the top of each headstone. Every year before the commemoration ceremony, the Defence Attaché plants South African flags in front of a number of South African graves.

On 24 October 2009 at 16:00 the International Ceremony of Commemoration of the Battle of El Alamein was held at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at El Alamein. The commemoration ceremony was graced by the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, SG. The service included the laying of wreaths, the act of remembrance, a minute’s silence and prayers.

The RSA Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans was represented by the Defence Attaché who was the only person to lay wreaths at both the International Commemoration Services of the Battle of El Alamein and the South African Memorial Site.
The popularity of the Cape Town Highlanders is increasing constantly as is evident in the mounting demand to have this prestige unit’s famous drums and pipe band participate in international events.

Invitations to participate in major events are no longer restricted to the Edinburgh Tattoo in Scotland, but are received from other countries in Asia and Europe.

The band with its traditional Scottish kilts that stem from the old Gordon clan is rated as one of the top military bands in the world. The Cape Town Highlanders had an affiliation with the Gordon clan up until 1961. The last Dutch governor of the Cape was also a Gordon.

Lt Col André van der Bijl, Officer Commanding of the Cape Town Highlanders, stated that the Cape Town Highlanders was one of very few Reserve Force bands in the world.

The Cape Town Highlanders date back to 1885, and drums and pipes have been part of the regiment from the beginning. In 1906 the name was changed to Duke of Connaught and Strathearn’s Own Cape Town Highlanders. In 1921 the name was changed again. After another name change, the unit again became the Cape Town Highlanders in 1961 and have remained so up to the present.

The band was invited to the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2009 and has already been invited back for the 2012 event.

The band also participated at important festivals in Basel in Switzerland and in Korea and has been invited back to Basel and the Netherlands.

Two years ago the band was invited to perform in Russia’s Red Square in Moscow with the Transvaal Scottish and SA Irish bands. Unfortunately the Cape Town Highlander Band could not accept the invitation to Russia due to financial constraints. The band consists of between 20 and 22 Reserve Force members who mostly have careers outside the SANDF. This makes it even more challenging when the band is invited to participate in festivals that often last up to four or five weeks per festival, as in the case of the Edinburgh Tattoo.

The Cape Town Highlanders often compete with five Regular Force bands from the United Kingdom and one or two bands from Canada and New Zealand. The Cape Town Highlanders always represent the SANDF and not themselves per se.

It takes from five to ten years to learn how to play the bagpipes and the Cape Town Highlanders has a feeder programme where young people who are interested in the band are trained, with another group of associated members training for inclusion in the band.

The Cape Town Highlanders are the pride of the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town and they were very relieved when it was decided that the Castle would remain under the auspices of the Department of Defence. The offices of the Highlanders at Castle Barracks adjacent to the Castle are now being renovated to carry on this great tradition with its colourful dress and haunting music.

Bandsmen of the regiment have been involved in all major campaigns, but in peacetime they are responsible for ceremonial and recruitment parades. The question on everyone’s lips remains the same. What does a piper where under his kilt? Although I know the answer, the cat cannot be let out of the (pipe) bag.
The SA Army Reserve’s contribution to developmental peace missions

By Col C.B. Hepburn

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, in his forward to SA Soldier of September 2009 stated: “The SANDF is set to become increasingly involved in peacekeeping missions as we continue to deploy in countries like the Sudan and Darfur (sic). We do so with the conviction that peace and stability will be achieved in [the] problematic region. We will continue to be a messenger of peace in promotion of democratic rule on the African continent…”

The clear message is that the SANDF will become progressively more involved in developmental peace missions in the years ahead, relying on the SA Army in particular to provide the bulk of the capabilities. It is here that the SA Army Reserve will increasingly play a pivotal role in supplementing the Regular Force deployments. The SA Army in common with the other Services experiences constraints in personnel and equipment and is required therefore to manage resources judiciously in order to meet mission commitments. While the problem of equipment shortages is currently being dealt with, simply increasing personnel numbers to deal with the rising burden of peace missions is not an affordable option. The SA Army already has a solution in the availability of a large pool of well qualified and combat ready Reserve personnel who have proved themselves more than capable of meeting and in many cases exceeding the standards required of them.

While military force can stabilise a situation it cannot as such bring lasting peace. A purely military approach to peacekeeping, which ignores the developmental and economic nature of peace building coupled to human security, will not effectively entrench long-term stability. To achieve this will require the
provision of critical humanitarian assistance and reconstruction capabilities during and immediately after military operations to create the concurrent short-term stabilisation and long-term development platform. It is here that an integrated approach to peacekeeping, incorporating military and civilian efforts, has proved highly successful internationally. Although South Africa does not currently possess a well-developed civilian capacity to support peace building the SA Army has capabilities and skills (collateral utility) that can be harnessed to support this process. In particular, plans are already far advanced to develop an SA Army Reserve planning capability for post-conflict reconstruction and development operations in support of SANDF developmental peace missions. The SA Army is in the process of appointing a pool of Reserve specialists with highly desirable skills that are not commonly available in the Regular component, such as civil engineers, water reticulation experts, construction engineers, power plant operators, waste system engineers, veterinary doctors and city planners/engineers, for example. When required the Reserve planning team will be mobilised and then deployed at an earlier stage in the peacekeeping operation (even before the end of major military operations) to provide the planning and coordination capability for critical humanitarian assistance and reconstruction capabilities to create the concurrent short-term stabilisation and long-term development platform until such time as humanitarian agencies and the lead government department can assume full responsibility. In taking a decision to entrust the SA Army Reserve with this critical function, recognition was given to the outstanding service provided by the many SA Army Reserve companies deployed on operations, which established a solid foundation upon which to expand operational commitments.

**Infantry Formation Reserves**

In April 2005 the first ever Reserve Infantry Company was deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of a peacekeeping operation under the United Nations (UN) mission. The Infantry Formation was tasked to group together an Infantry Company comprising Reserve members to supplement the 7 SA Infantry Battalion (7 SAI Bn) Regular companies deploying to the DRC. The following ten Reserve units were selected to provide personnel to make up the fourth company (D-Company) of 7 SAI Bn: Cape Town Highlanders, Durban Regiment, Natal Carbineers, Transvaal Scottish, Witwatersrand Rifles, SA Irish Regiment, Regiment Noord-Transvaal and Regiment Oos-Rand.

To date sixteen companies of Reserve members from the Infantry Formation have deployed externally as part of composite units and a number are planned for in the current year. The success of this decision bears testimony to the high quality and professionalism of the Reserve personnel and the trend in future is that many more will deploy as formed Reserve companies rather than as part of composite companies (Regular and Reserve integrated). The deployment of infantry Reserve companies to supplement the Regulars had the pleasing consequence of dramatically improving morale among the Army Reserve, which was not only restricted to the deploying units, and provided them with a renewed raison d’être.

One good example is First City’s deployment to the DRC. The structuring of the company began in August 2008 with Maj Elton Stone in command. This was to be the third consecutive festive season the major was to
spend away from his family on deployment. Lt V.W. Tukulu was appointed Second-in-Command and WO2 Andrew Stanley the CSM, with WO2 George de Lange as CQMS. This company eventually became Charlie Company of 6 SAI Bn under the command of Lt Col Martin Gopane with SWO C.H. Coetzee as the RSM.

The Battalion was deployed to Kitchanga Base in North Kivu Province, which was to be their home for the next six months. Although fairly uneventful Charlie Company did broaden the patrol area to include the hitherto unpatrolled area of Pinga where a company operational base was established. Here relationships were forged with local chiefs and communication initiated with the various rebel groups in the area. By all accounts the Reserve Company acquitted themselves well and set the standard for what has come to be expected of our SA Army Reserve.

**Engineer Formation Reserves**

With a total of 370 active members 19 Field Engineer Regiment (19 Fd Engr Regt) is able to support the Regular Regiments and the first group of soldiers from 19 Fd Engr Regt deployed to the DRC in November 2006. Since then the Regiment has participated in all the rotations with the fifth grouping deployed to the DRC in November 2008. According to the Officer Commanding, Lt Col Brian Doré, it has been the policy in 19 Fd Engr Regt to send as many members as possible on deployment to expose them to operational conditions. So far over half of the unit’s active members have successfully deployed.

Owing to the complex nature of the UN peacekeeping missions the troops that deployed were exposed to a wide variety of engineering tasks, ranging from combat engineer to construction related tasks. The broad range of tasks has both strengthened existing skills and exposed the troops and leader group to new challenging situations. True to the “One Force Policy” the members from 19 Fd Engr Regt are not kept as an entity on their own but are always integrated with the Regular members from 2 Fd Engr Regt and 1 Construction Regt.

**Signal Formation Reserves**

11 Field Postal Unit (11 FPU) is a Reserve unit under the command of the General Officer Commanding Signal Formation, and is dedicated to providing an efficient postal service to SANDF personnel wherever they may deploy during operations or field exercises.

11 FPU is staffed by Reserve members of the Post Office on full-time detachment to the SANDF. To be able to staff and maintain 11 FPU, the cooperation and goodwill of the SA Post Office Service (SAPO) is imperative. In this regard the Post Office in March 2009 encouraged employees in an internal circular to join the Army Reserves as volunteers, to serve in the Field Post Offices, and confirmed that staff would be granted leave with full pay subject to operational requirements. The management of SAPO has taken the lead in developing internal policies that actively support volunteer Reserve service and has set an incredible example to the rest of the government departments.

A good example of this relationship at work is Field Post Office 3 (FPO 3), established by FPU 11 in 2000, which delivers a valuable service to the troops deployed in the mission areas of the DRC, Burundi and the Sudan.

In recognition of the important role and contribution made by the SA Army Reserve to the decade of peacekeeping all units that had supplied personnel for external deployments were invited to participate in the parade commemorating the 10th anniversary of SANDF participation in peacekeeping on 16 October 2009. The Minister confirmed in her 2009 Defence Budget Vote that “[t]he Reserves will … be required to sustain long-term peace support operations deployments”. It is increasingly clear that for the foreseeable future the role of the SA Army Reserve in supplementing and ultimately enhancing the contribution of the SANDF to external peace missions is set to continue.
Chief SA Navy was a *Boss of the Year* finalist

*By Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Staff Officer External Corp Com for SA Navy*

*Photo: Leading Seaman Tumi Sehloho*

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, officially received a certificate for being a top six finalist in a national Boss of the Year 2009 competition. The certificate was handed to him during the Festive Season celebrations of Naval Headquarters that was held at the Naval Mess in Pretoria on 20 November 2009.

The Boss of the Year Competition is regarded as a prestigious competition that recognises outstanding leadership in Government and private industry. It is open to all office staff and senior employees in South Africa. Dictum Publishers are the founders of the competition and MTN Foundation are the main sponsors. According to Ornello Trinco, President of Dictum Publishers, the Boss of the Year Competition aims to identify, recognise and reward leadership excellence in organisations and gauges the attributes the South African workforce appreciates and admires in its leaders.

More than 600 nominations were received from diverse industries all over South Africa, ranging from engineering, medicine, marketing and mining to the arts. It was the first time that a military leader was nominated among the top CEOs of leading private companies.

Eunice Maluleke, Chairperson of the MTN Foundation and the Patron of the Boss of the Year Competition, said: "It was no easy ride for the top six nominees to become finalists. From hundreds of nominations received an independent panel of judges had to select the top outstanding 15 entries based on the submissions sent by their nominators. During the second round of the competition the nominators had to answer a series of questions about their leader, and finally the top six leaders were subjected to gruelling personal interviews by a panel of judges. To determine the overall winner of the Boss of the Year 2009, the six finalists had to conduct an impromptu speech and, based on the outcome of their presentation, a winner was chosen."

It should be noted that although V Adm Mudimu was regarded as a favourite to win the coveted title, he unfortunately had to withdraw during the final phase of the competition due to the SA Navy’s commitments, which limiting his chances of winning.

The Chief of the SA Navy’s nominator, Cdr Prince Tshabalala, said: "The Chief has from its inception promoted a collaborative approach to setting strategic goals and a clear agenda of transforming the SA Navy. He has also created a platform for ordinary members of the organisation irrespective of ranks, to engage the leadership and to promote shared values. Because of these factors, the entire SA Navy is now able to share a common sense of vision and purpose. We are indeed very proud of his achievements."

The other top five finalists at the 2009 Boss of the Year Competition were: Eddie Mbalo (President and CEO of the National Film and Video Foundation), Abiel Mngomezulu (President and CEO of Mintek SA), Kyalani Pillay (CEO SABRIC), Neil Harris (Director of Cummins SA) and Ian Heyns (General Manager Anglo Gold Ashanti Great Nolugwa Mining).

Ian Heyns was declared the overall winner of the 2009 Boss of the Year Competition.
SAMHS nursing students shine at graduation

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela
Photo: Lt Col G. Tredoux

aking care of the sick and the wounded should be a calling and not a job to be taken lightly. That is why the nursing profession should be given the accolades it deserves, because it takes a special type of person to do it right.

A total of 74 students received their nursing diplomas in Clinical Nursing Science, Health Assessment, Treatment and Care and 50 South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) Candidate Officers received their diplomas for the Four Year Course leading to registration as a Nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and Midwife during a diploma and pledge of service ceremony of the SAMHS Nursing College in association with the University of South Africa (Unisa).

In her address during the ceremony at Unisa, Brig Gen N.C. Madlala-Msimango, Director Military Nursing, said that the nurses at the ceremony were graduating in a military environment, and had been trained to understand discipline and to become leaders in the military environment.

"Your patriotism to your country demands more from you in support of the SAMHS in realising its vision of a healthy military environment," she said. Brig Gen Mdlala-Msimango further urged the military nurses to understand their role and responsibilities in the SANDF.

"The SANDF needs you, South Africa needs you. On this journey as a professional you need to make a lot of sacrifices for the benefit of your profession and the nation. It is these noble deeds that will make you outstanding in society," she said.

She also requested the newly qualified nurses to study further and to be fully involved in nursing research.

Prof A.P. Phillips, Director School of Humanities Social Sciences and Theology at Unisa, challenged the students to be an embodiment of compassion and to be a caring society and act kindly to others and not forget the concept of UBUNTU. The functionary at the ceremony, Maj Gen L.Z. Make, expressed his pride in the achievements of the students and praised them for choosing this special career in service of humanity. After receiving their diplomas, the students participated in the traditional lighting of the lamp ceremony while the hall was covered in darkness with only the lamps burning and the SAMHS Military Band playing.

The reading of the "Nurses Credo" and the "Meaning of the Lamp" contributed to the special traditions of the nursing profession.

Four trophies were awarded to deserving students who studied for the Diploma in Clinical Nursing Science, Health Assessment, Treatment and Care for outstanding theoretical and practical achievements and eight trophies in different categories were awarded to students who studied for the Diploma for the Four Year Course leading to Registration as a Nurse (General, Psychiatric and Community) and Midwife. CO S. Gouden, CO P.N. Shezi, CO N.E. Madidilane and CO S.E. Latell were awarded the most trophies for their excellent performance throughout the course. Thirteen other students earned distinctions. Capt L.B. Botes and Lt E.C. Skriker received their diplomas cum laude, as did Ms J.J. Jackson and Ms A.F. Makobe.

Nursing students line up for the traditional lamp ceremony after receiving their diplomas. Front, fltr: Maj Gen L.Z. Make, and Col J.F.M. Mabona, Officer Commanding SAMHS Nursing College.
On 6 November 2009 the South African Embassy in Berlin invited about 200 high-ranking business partners and contacts from the diplomatic corps, politics and many other sectors to celebrate Women Day’s and the significant strides made in their struggle for emancipation and gender equity. This occasion was also used to highlight the challenges that still remain today. The theme of the evening was: “Together, Empowering Women for Development and Gender Equality”.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Funde once again recounted the events that took place on 9 August 1956, and reminded everyone of the four brave South African women, Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie Williams-De Bruyn, and Rahima Moosa, and their sterling contribution and achievements in their struggle for gender equity.

In her keynote speech Minister Counsellor, Ms Mbuyane-Mokone, pointed out that South Africa had made huge strides towards the emancipation of women, and in closing the gender gap in the past few decades, especially in the past few years. She highlighted the positive developments within the SANDF and the significant achievements thus far and ended her presentation with a quote from the latest Defence Self-assessment report:

"While physical strength is indeed a male characteristic, patriotism, physical ability and a desire for adventure or willingness to risk one’s life is not! The Defence and protection of the RSA, its territorial integrity and its people are no longer a male only preserve!"

The evening ended with an inspiring performance by Lira, the multi-award winning artist. She truly inspired her audience not only with her vocal ability, but with the heartfelt expression of gratitude for being able to "live in a country and a time filled with possibilities where, as a woman, she has the opportunity and freedom to live her dreams". This very inspiring and highly successful event hosted by the SA Embassy in Berlin once more highlighted the long path women had already come in their struggle for gender equity and the landmark achievements attained, but at the same time also warned of the challenges ahead. In short, the emancipation of women and gender equality remain a national imperative.
Cape Town Highlanders - much more than just a Band

By Lt Col G. Tredoux
Photo: Capt I. Long

The Cape Town Highlanders are known nationally and internationally for their famous bagpipe band and drums. Few people, however, know that the Cape Town Highlanders are one of only four Reserve mechanised units in the country. It is also one of the six priority 1 Infantry units.

Lt Col André van der Bijl, Officer Commanding of the Cape Town Highlanders, stated that the Cape Town Highlanders strive to be one of the best infantry mechanised units in the SANDF. Despite its legendary band and traditions that create the impression of an entertaining, colonial unit, the unit focuses on its core business as a conventional Reserve Force unit. It is widely acknowledged for its combat readiness. The aim of the Cape Town Highlanders is to prepare and provide a disciplined, deployable, mechanised infantry battalion to support the infantry formation in its landward defence capability.

Since the Cape Town Highlanders were founded in 1885, the same year Parliament opened, it has been involved in every major battle in South Africa. The Highlanders have been deployed in peacekeeping missions since 2005 and did their own basic training from 2003 to 2005 and Active Territorial Reserve (ATR) training. During the past two years it has been the only Reserve Force unit within the SANDF that has been doing conversion training. It is also the only unit within the Cape region that was involved in Operation BATA. They had three deployments during 2007.

The Cape Town Highlanders were part of 71 Brigade on the borders of South Africa in 1982, had one platoon served in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2005, and was part of the deployment of 9 SA Infantry Battalion (9 SAI Bn) in 2006. It is a serving battalion consisting of 700 to 800 Reserves with a platoon at 1 SAI Bn. It supplies guards to the Castle, Wingfield and Oudtshoorn, among others. The Cape Town Highlanders were recently one of the main attractions at the Cape Town Military Tattoo in Cape Town.

When he is not busy as Officer Commanding of the unit, Lt Col Van der Bijl is a senior lecturer in Education and Business at the Cape Town University of Technology. He has stated that Reserves are now often called up for periods as long as nine months and are then not remunerated for their civilian jobs. In the eighties people were called up for a period seldom exceeding six months, but were then still paid by their civilian employers.

Lt Col Van der Bijl is immensely proud of the achievements of the Cape Town Highlanders, both as a combat ready deployment unit and as the showpiece of the SANDF with its international status of a Scottish band. He also relies heavily on his Second-in-Command, Maj J. Pienaar, and his Pipe Master, WO2 C. Canning.
The SA Police Service (SAPS) recently requested the SA Navy to provide support during an Underwater Explosives Incident Countermeasures Course presented in Durban to SAPS divers and bomb technicians by the United States Mission to South Africa.

The three-week course provided specialised underwater training for the law enforcement personnel and augmented the abilities of law enforcement diving teams to plan and conduct emergency responses to counter suspected underwater improvised explosive devices.

The SAPS is endeavouring to establish this capability, as it is their responsibility to dispose of improvised underwater explosive devices in civilian areas. It is the SA Navy’s responsibility to conduct this function in SANDF areas and to support the SAPS when required. The SA Navy has in the past supported the SAPS with this function and this course provided an excellent opportunity for further interaction and co-operation between the two services, especially in lieu of planned co-operation to provide underwater security for the upcoming 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and other events when passenger vessels will be visiting South African ports.

Naval Station Durban was used as the base from which the training was conducted and provided diving boats and storage facilities for the diving equipment. WO1 Jannie Engelbrecht, WO2 Gordon Spenceley, CPO Chris Botha and LS Nkosinathi Mshengu from the Operational Diving Team at the Station attended the course as observers. They also conducted coxswain duties on the diving boats and provided demonstrations of SA Navy underwater explosive disposal techniques.

On completion of the course a graduation ceremony was held during which the Deputy Minister of Police, Mr Fikile Mbalula, and the United States Consul General in Durban, Ms Jill Derderian, presented the course members with certificates. In her address Ms Derderian said: "The US Anti-terrorism Assistance Programme, better known by its acronym, ATA started in 1983. It has provided training and equipment to foreign law enforcement and security organisations in order to enhance capacity around the world to detect, deter, counter and investigate terrorist activities."

She added: "Since its inception the ATA Programme has trained and assisted more than 61 000 foreign law enforcement personnel from 154 countries, including South Africa. The ATA Programme is one important way that the US Government provides partnerships and support to advance peace and security. For this particular training course, the US has provided the SAPS with R900 000 worth of diving equipment."

Capt Francois du Toit, Senior Staff Officer Strategic Projection at Navy Headquarters, who was the facilitator between the organisations, attended the ceremony on behalf of the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, along with the Operational Diving Team personnel. The Deputy Minister and the Consul General both formally expressed their gratitude to the Chief of the SA Navy for the support that was provided and complemented the SA Navy personnel involved on their professional and enthusiastic conduct, which contributed to the success of the course.
Like most other defence forces across the globe, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has its own television unit. This section, Defence TV, is responsible for all audio-visual communication within the Department of Defence (DOD). And like its counterparts from all over the world this section sometimes enters some of its work for the International Military Film Festival "Eserciti e Popoli", which is hosted annually in November in Italy.

Defence TV has been participating in this festival since 2001 and has previously won two awards in this competition. This year Defence TV entered two documentaries in two different categories in the competition.

It once again stood its ground on foreign soil by winning first prize in the category "Military Operations, Safeguard of Peace and Human Rights", a much-coveted award since the competition is especially tough in this category, which focuses on the peacetime role of defence forces all over the world.

This year, the 20th International Military Film Festival once again took place in Bracciano, Italy. This picturesque little town is located on the shores of Lake Bracciano. As always, the festival offered a platform for the various armed forces to showcase their role and function in today’s society.

The main categories of the competition were well represented in the following areas: institutional information, history, training, environmental protection, promotion, teaching and operational activities. Special emphasis was placed on recent and relevant themes, such as humanitarian and peacekeeping missions, first aid support in case of natural disasters and the fight against terrorism.

Freelance producer, Mr Karel van der Merwe, an ex-SANDF member himself with 17 years’ worth of experience in military film production, directed Advocates of African Peace, the award-winning documentary, for the SANDF. This documentary takes an in-depth look at the various peacekeeping missions that the SANDF has been involved in during the past ten years.

The Defence TV crew - "Eye of the Forces" - ftr: Mr John Adler, Ms Cindy Ludick, Mr Tebogo Dube, Mr Ronnet Kgaphola, Mr Enock Mkhwanazi, Mr Pule Tsoai, Mr Bongani Khuzwayo. In front: Mr Karel van der Merwe, freelance writer and producer. (Photo: WO2 Riaan van Zyl)
The documentary is dedicated to the SANDF’s ten-year involvement in international peace missions. The 1 200 guests who attended the luncheon in the Bloemfontein City Hall that formed part of the official ten-year celebrations on 16 October, viewed the premiere during this event. The Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and various other high-profile stakeholders were among the guests who viewed this documentary.

The documentary received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the judges, which is quite a feat when taking into consideration that the competition was this year judged by various international award-winning adjudicators, including a producer from Hollywood.

This year 21 countries from as far away as Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America, participated in the event. A total of 51 military films were entered in this year’s competition.

The South African Defence Attaché, Col Robert Zeelie, received the trophy for *Advocates of African Peace* on behalf of Defence TV, which could not send any representatives to the event. The coveted trophy, which had already found its way home by airplane, will without doubt have a special place at Defence Corporate Communication.
Information supplied by Emilio Coccia, President of Zonderwater Block and Curator of the Zonderwater Museum, Ex-Prisoners of War Association

Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana

Senior envoys of the South African and Italian defence forces and other international military observers, including some ex-interns, gathered at Zonderwater Camp, situated in the mining town of Cullinan, to the north-east of Pretoria, on 1 November 2009, to pay tribute to the many Italian prisoners-of-war (POWs) who died during their encampment there during World War II.

Over 1 000 young Italian soldiers were captured on 19 May 1941 in Libya and Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and transported in a British vessel to Durban in South Africa. They had been taken prisoner by the British and South African armies led General Daan Pienaar.

According to the Curator of the Zonderwater Museum the invading army also captured the Italian Commander-in-Chief, Amedio of Savoy, cousin of the then king of Italy. Between 1941 and 1947 the beleaguered soldiers were made to work in the maize fields of Zonderwater and also on other plantations in the then Union of South Africa.

Mr Coccia expressed happiness at the large turnout of top military people on the occasion. He recalled projects such as the Du Toitskloof and Montague passes and the Upington irrigation scheme, which made agriculture possible in 1 500 square kilometres of semi-desert land. He also mentioned the Loskop, Olifants, Vaal/Hartz and Riet River settlements, where 500 000 hectares of land were reclaimed for agriculture and forestry through the labour of the young POWs.

He talked with affection of Col Hendrik Prinsloo. He reminisced that he was "a great man" who provided help to foster the skills of the young men who could not be employed outside the "Camp". He assisted them in artistic and sporting fields.

"Thanks to the love and respect that Col Prinsloo had for fellow human beings, several schools were erected and for thousands of illiterate men the world of writing and reading was finally opened," said the Curator of the Museum. However, Col Prinsloo would have provided an even a greater service to humanity had he allowed his vision to embrace the starving black communities outside the camp.

Other dignitaries who attended the ceremony included: Dr Elio Menzione (Ambassador of Italy to SA), Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano (Chief of the SA Air Force), Adm Marcantonio Trevisani (Envoy of the Italian Defence Force), Dr Enrico de Agostini (Consul General of Italy in Johannesburg), Maj Gen Mario Brazzoli (RSA Government Information, Technology Officer), Col Roberto Duraccio (Italian Defence Attaché to the RSA), and Rev Hennie Human (RSA Department of Correctional Services).

Also attending the event were: Mr H.E. Carlo Sersale di Cerisano (Ambassador of Argentina), Col T.C. Schultz (Air Attaché of the USA), envoys of the Light Horse Regiment, the Transvaal Scottish Regiment, the Sappers Foundation, the Director of Military Archives in Pretoria, the SA Police Service, the Alpine 44 Association and the Polish community in South Africa.
Quest to intensify military co-operation

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Government, as an active champion of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), continues to play an essential role through the SANDF in reshaping the regional and global security discourse.

On 29 October 2009 Defence Foreign Relations hosted an accreditation/de-accreditation ceremony at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane to welcome the new Military Attachés and Adviser Corps (MAAC) to South Africa and to bid farewell to the attachés who had discharged their duties.

The Acting Chief of Defence Intelligence, Maj Gen Mxolisi Shilubane, said that our country had successfully normalised its diplomatic relations with the world. “It is against this background that we in the SANDF endeavour to establish mutually beneficial bilateral relations with the defence forces of the world that share the imperative commitment to democratic rule, international peace and security,” said Maj Gen Shilubane.

The outgoing military attachés who were returning home were: Air Commodore H. Tanpour, the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Col E. Soukios, the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic of Greece, Col P. Bangun, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Col H. Ibrahim Hashim, the High Commission Federation of Malaysia, Col M. Dorca, the Embassy of the Republic of Romania and Col M.B. Masimege, the High Commission of the Republic of Botswana.

The following attachés were welcomed: Col J.A. Ajani, the High Commission Federal Republic of Nigeria, Col Xu Jianwei, the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, Col M. Bachar, the Embassy of the Democratic People’s Republic of Algeria, Capt (N) R. Wulff-Oliver, the Embassy of Argentina, Col B. De Araujo, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Capt (N) P. Chowdhary, the High Commission of India, Col V.H. Simatupang, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Lt Col F. Lemoine, the Embassy of the Republic of France, Cdr T. Burchert, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Lt Col O. Galyts, the Embassy of Ukraine and Maj S. Bukir, the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

Bilateral relations of mutual benefit with defence forces of the world.
Munitions Defect Centre inaugurated

By Capt Marelda Coetzer, SO2 Corp Com SA Army Artillery Formation

The Munitions Defect Museum, established on 22 October 1992, was a place to be visited by many an interested soldier as it displayed various historic and current munitions and pieces of equipment, from all Services, distorted in such a way that it could not be reused. Over the following years, the need arose for the museum to add value for end-users. Thus the concept of the Munitions Defect Centre was recognised, which necessitated relocation.

The SA Army Artillery Formation seized the opportunity for an alternative location, namely the Gun Park at the site of the Transvaal State Artillery situated on Salvokop. Armscor and the SA Army Artillery Formation staff worked in unison to relocate all the munitions and pieces of equipment required for the establishment of the centre.

The Munitions Defect Centre was officially opened on 16 October 2009 at the site of the Transvaal State Artillery under the auspices of Armscor. Various delegates from Armscor and the SA Army were addressed by Col Andy Oelofse, Chief of Staff, SA Army Artillery Formation, Maj Gen (Ret) Koos Laubscher, former General Officer Commanding SA Army Support Formation and General of the Artillery, together with Mr André Joubert, Senior Manager of the Landwards Division of Armscor. Col Oelofse focussed on the transformation of the Munitions Defect Museum to the Munitions Defect Centre and specifically highlighted the importance of the centre in training. He also confirmed the Artillery Formation’s dedication to its preservation and thanked delegates from Armscor for their dedication in realising the concept.

Subsequently Maj Gen (Ret) Laubscher commended all role-players involved for effecting a lifelong dream of his and many others that had been involved in the acceptance-proofing of ammunition, inter alia pioneers such as the late Brig Pine Pienaar and Col Isak Potgieter. He echoed Col Oelofse’s remarks about the training value of the centre, but stressed the need for the formalisation of such training in order to ensure that the lessons to be learnt from ammunition defects in the past would indeed be learnt, so as to minimise the possibility of reoccurrence in future and pointed out that in most cases boards of inquiry were instituted and consequently that their minutes were available for educative purposes. One of the quickest and surest ways to destroy any Army’s morale is to issue its members with ammunition of inferior quality or to allow a perception to that effect to take root.

The prevention of ammunition defects, the reporting thereof, should any occur, the subsequent investigation of such incidents, and the learning of the correct lessons and effecting appropriate remedial measures are thus of prime importance. What may at first glance appear as ammunition defects, however, may have been caused by equipment failure or inferior functional discipline by the end-user, or by a combination of them. Thorough training, good leadership and a high degree of functional discipline are therefore needed as integral partners in the process of ensuring the safe functioning of munitions for the purpose for which they have been designed for. He concluded by stressing the importance, in as far as main equipment and munitions were concerned, to support and fight for our own armaments industry and praised the latter for the exceptional quality of main equipment and ammunition it has provided our armed forces through the years.

Mr Joubert subsequently acknowledged the contribution of the Munitions Defect Museum together with the role of the Curator, Mr Harry Bouch, for his dedication and contribution in preserving the equipment pieces displayed. He added that the museum was of national importance, but that the Munitions Defect Centre was to be exploited for training purposes as an investment in the people and it created an environment for members in training as referred to by Maj Gen (Ret) Laubscher, which could benefit the SANDF. He acknowledged the role of Armscor in the establishment of the Centre and congratulated all individuals involved with its relocation. Then he unveiled the plaque to inaugurate the Munitions Defect Centre.
Siyandiza and AFB Overberg Air Show

Article and photo by Ms Hanrie Greebe, Ad Astra

There is a strong synergy between the Siyandiza Programme and the biennial Fly-In and Air Show at AFB Overberg. Lt Col Marius van den Heever, the Officer Commanding, and Patron of Siyandiza, appointed Capt Lolla Franse as co-ordinator of the programme.

At AFB Overberg Siyandiza is run by a committee and is not "a one-man show", as Capt Franse stated with a smile. The committee is responsible for the various needs of the programme. These vary from transportation and logistics to the regimental instructors who provide drilling training to learners when they participate in the two annual camps at the base.

Capt Franse explained that it was their role to sensitise all the learners in the region to aviation. She said: "We provide them with information on the national youth programme of the SA Air Force and the subject choices they have to make in order to qualify to join the SA Air Force as pilots, navigators and technicians. We aim to evoke interest in aviation and to promote the SA Air Force as a career."

Earlier in the year, around March, the base held two roadshows. This year the roadshows took place in the Breede River area. The focus was predominantly on previously disadvantaged learners. Capt Franse said that they usually landed on the school grounds, but this year the Oryx helicopter was engaged in firefighting in the Tsitsikama area. Members of 525 Squadron also accompany the roadshow to conduct "crowd control", which is very popular with the youth.

It is, however, the biennial Fly-In and Air Show that makes the Siyandiza Programme at AFB Overberg so unique. The two are interlinked. Capt Franse said: "There is synergy between the two. With every Fly-In there is a Siyandiza Programme. Because we have them here on a weekday prior to the air show, considerable logistical planning is required. We have to obtain permission from the Department of Education for the children to be exempted from a school-day to visit us." A community forum was initiated to provide support for the event. Capt Franse said that the children belonged to the community and as the base did not have sufficient funds for the programme, assistance was given generously. Cape Agulhas and Overberg municipalities provided buses for transport and Overberg Municipality provided food parcels.

This year the Siyandiza Programme started at 09:00 on 13 November 2009 with a dinghy drill at the swimming pool. Personnel from the Survival Section simulated a water rescue situation for an audience of 600 children of all ages, from toddlers to Grade 12 learners.

After the dinghy drill the children went to the movements area where they were briefed on Siyandiza, which means "We Fly". Learners were given the opportunity to "fly" the six virtual aviation computers and the Overberg Test Range had the Impala flight simulator on display. This provided learners with an idea of what it was like in the cockpit during flight. A short video also portrayed the testing of missiles and the application of telemetry and radar.

Despite the rain, the children watched in awe as the Gripen gave a practice performance in preparation for the following day’s air show. Every time another aircraft went through its practice routine, the Siyandiza briefing was halted in deference to flying activities, such as the Oryx helicopter giving a demonstration of emptying a Bambi bucket.

"They saw the capabilities of the SA Air Force. It was a stimulus to the learners and many of them said that they wanted to become pilots in the SA Air Force. As long as we have achieved that, I am satisfied that the effort was successful," said Capt Franse. And the effort was indeed worthwhile, as many a young SA Air Force member from the region has already joined the organisation as a result of the Siyandiza Programme at AFB Overberg.
The Armament Corporation of South Africa (Armscor), which is a state-owned arms procurement agency, organised the CEO Awards ceremony on 12 November 2009 to acknowledge the passion and dedication shown by individuals and teams in Armscor and to encourage the excellence and quality of the work.

Six projects, viz Endurance, Bell CE Mark, ZT3-A2 Anti-Armour Missile System, CJ Ops Simulator, NWS Hawk Lift Aircraft and Chemical Biological Radioactive Defence System (CBRADS) were finalists for the awards in the technical and non-technical categories.

The purpose of the technical award was to give recognition to individuals and teams for outstanding achievement of a technical nature in support of Armscor’s mission. The non-technical award’s purpose was to give recognition to individuals and teams for outstanding achievement of a non-technical nature in support of Armscor’s mission and the introduction of an idea or process that improves the operational efficiency of the organisation.

The criterion of innovation, client satisfaction, contribution to economic growth/transformation/HDI empowerment, impact of application/employment and quality of programme/project management was used to judge technical category projects, while innovation was used for the non-technical category.

Prior to the CEO Awards ceremony, Armscor held a CEO Awards media session for media representatives to view various projects that had been nominated for the 2009 Awards ceremony and to interact with project leaders on 11 November 2009 at Armscor Headquarters in Pretoria. The objective of the session was to “open doors to the people and country we serve.”

The Endurance Project, which was headed by team leader, Mr John Sutherland, emerged as the winner in the non-technical category while NWS for HAWK LIFT Aircraft, led by Mr Bennie Burger, scooped the winning award in the technical category.

The Endurance Project was responsible for the work carried out to secure the maintenance contract on the British Navy Antarctic Patrol Vessel, HMS Endurance, at the Armscor Simon’s Town Dockyard, which was the Dockyard’s first major contract under Armscor. The NWS for HAWK LIFT Aircraft Project was responsible for the development, testing and evaluation of a Navigation and Weapon System for the Lead-in Fighter Training HAWK MARK 120 aircraft.
Protection is better than cure

Many are faced with the dilemma of whether or not to cash-in their pension funds when they resign or retire. And it’s easy to take a wrong turn when under financial pressure, says Rosie Wilson, market development manager for Old Mutual.

"Dipping into your retirement savings to settle outstanding debt or as a quick fix, is not the answer," she says. "Without properly assessing all the options, you could find yourself worse off. There are smarter alternatives to consider."

Get perspective

While retiring may be the last thing on your mind at this time, consider the long-term implications. How long will it take you, if ever, to play catch up if you use these funds to settle outstanding debt? There's an 80% chance you will save too little during your working years to support a comfortable retirement.

Cashing in your fund now, will only widen the gap. And, secondly a large slice will go to the taxman. Rather than compromise the quality of your retirement, think protection in the form of a retirement annuity (RA) or preservation fund.

RAs serve as a long-term retirement solution in supplementing the short falls in one's pension fund, while preservation funds can buy you the time needed to thoroughly assess all your options to select the best solution for your situation.

Look before you leap

On termination of employment, if you transfer to a preservation fund such as Old Mutual Protektor, no tax will be deducted. On your re-employment, it can remain there or be transferred to your new employer’s pension fund.

With a transfer from GEPF, you are entitled to once only withdraw up to one-third of the fund prior to retirement. It is taxable. This can be used as bridging finance until you re-enter the job market. Alternatively, this money could be used to start your own business. This lump sum will not be available again at retirement if you have taken it earlier.

A tax-efficient safety net

An added safety feature of transferring to an approved fund like a preservation fund, RA or Pension fund is that in most cases, your funds are protected during the build up stage against claims from creditors in the event of sequestration.

For investment advice that suits your situation speak to your Old Mutual financial adviser, or broker, or phone 0860 INVEST (0860 468 378).
Employment services secure your future

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaoe

It has been over a decade and a half since the inception of the Service Corps and it has provided members of the SANDF the opportunity to take alternative careers. After the integration process in 1994 many people were found to be unskilled on account of their affiliation to the different former armed forces. It was the task of the newly established defence force to train in other specialties members not willing to integrate and members within the organisation.

The mission of the Service Corps was mainly focused on integrating the demobilised Non-statutory Force members by upgrading their educational, vocational and life skills, as well as by assisting them to find employment or to set up their own enterprises in the private sector. The Deputy Director Employment Services, Col Belinda Martin, and her team consisting of Lt Col Magda Marie Ind, Lt Col Benny Maloy and Maj Pule Sekgotthudi unravelled the not so familiar processes involved in their section.

Although people received training, they came back for more training due to their inability to obtain sustainable employment. This was due to unnecessary skills that were not required as a result of new labour trends. By the year 2000 the new structure was established to accommodate Employment Services as a section that would focus on the exploration of the labour market in an attempt to identify employment opportunities for the DOD beneficiaries.

These beneficiaries include members taking a Mobility Exit Mechanism (MEM) or Employee Initiated Severance Package (EISP), Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and Military Veterans. The Service Corps then facilitates training, while the Employment Services section focuses on employment exploration by evaluating the labour market to place employable beneficiaries. The National Government, local and provincial Government, as well as the private sector, form a broader spectrum where employment opportunities exist for the beneficiaries.

Employment Services, situated at the Service Corps Head Office in Pretoria, focuses on research and developmental aspects within the labour industry and also controls and directs all its regional offices. Regional offices, however, provide assistance or advice to beneficiaries with regard to employment opportunities that exist countrywide. They also receive guidelines from the Head Office on how to explore the market themselves and match post profiles with the incumbents earmarked for particular posts.

In cases where beneficiaries may have difficulties in securing employment, pending non-accredited training, the Employment Services may play the role of a third party by negotiating on behalf of the incumbent. The following illustrates the process of how Employment Services functions and its interventions:

- Beneficiary obtains authority by Human Resources (HR) separation to exit.
- Contact between the Service Corps and the beneficiary needs
The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu (middle), is flanked by the SABC’s former Head of News and Current Affairs, Dr Snuki Zikalala (second from right), and some of the participants during his Prestige Golf Day.

It was a humorous event as players swung and attempted to score after numerous misses. The tall trees on the course also made it impossible for others to direct their balls to the hole.

The event ended with a prize-giving ceremony in the evening when V Adm Mudimu awarded participants for their efforts.

Thales, an electronics company delivering information systems and services for aerospace, defence and security markets, sponsored the event.

Challenges, however, arise when the beneficiary should be contacted and there is a lack of biographical data once they exit the system. Opportunities have been lost owing to turnover time and some employers may require Recognition of Prior Learning. The table below consists of contacts at Employment Services Head Office to provide further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>APPOINTMENT</th>
<th>TEL NUMBERS</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Col</td>
<td>B.V. Martin</td>
<td>Deputy Director Employment Services</td>
<td>012 355 6506</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ESSservicecorps2@gmail.co.za">ESSservicecorps2@gmail.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col</td>
<td>B. Maloy</td>
<td>Assistant Director Research and Admin</td>
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<td>810 6582 (Fax Head Office)</td>
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SA Navy officials display their golf skills

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

SA Navy officials swapped their uniforms for golf shirts and chino trousers to compete against each other during the Chief of the SA Navy Prestige Golf Day held at the Services Golf Course in Thaba Tshwane on 6 November 2009.

Golf is a disciplined sport, played with a hard white ball, which is struck with a club from the teeing ground towards a hole.

The sport is mostly played by professionals and business people for fun, networking or to clinch business deals. Altogether 34 teams, mostly men, braved the hot day and converged on the Services Golf Course to play an 18-hole game and to display their golf skills.

The event started on a lighter note when the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, took group photographs of participating golf teams and wished them luck. Before the rounds of golf could start, players had to practise their shots on the part of the course reserved for practice.

It was a humorous event as players swung and attempted to score after numerous misses. The tall trees on the course also made it impossible for others to direct their balls to the hole.

The event ended with a prize-giving ceremony in the evening when V Adm Mudimu awarded participants for their efforts.

Thales, an electronics company delivering information systems and services for aerospace, defence and security markets, sponsored the event.
The SA Stavridis Committee and the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Badminton Association staged the 13th SA Stavridis Cup Badminton Tournament at the KZN Badminton Hall in Durban from 17 to 24 October 2009.

An awards evening was held at the end of the tournament followed by a dinner and dance.

The SANDF Badminton Head Committee selected A and B teams to compete in the singles, doubles and inter-provincial section of the tournament. The teams were representative of the SA Army, the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service.

The SANDF A side was positioned 4th in the B-section and the B-side was positioned 2nd in the C-section of the inter-provincial section. They competed against players and teams from Western Province, Northern Gauteng, KZN, Boland, Eastern Province, North West Province, and the South African Police Service.

Before the tournament the SANDF teams had the benefit of expert coaching and training by well-known Protea badminton player, Kerry-Lee Harrington, who also represented SA at the Olympic Games in Beijing. She was also a guest of the SANDF at the awards evening.

WO1 Manny Gounden (SA Navy), the Team Manager, said: 'The players gained valuable experience from this tournament, which will enable them to compete in future tournaments with the acquired competitive skills.'

Development players, Rifleman Edward Qwesha (SA Army) and Private Rashid Hendricks (SA Army) from Tempe Military Base, gained competitive umpiring experience at this tournament.

Captain Brandon Bosman (SA Army) and Corporal Peter de Waal (SA Air Force) were selected for the SA Stavridis Team as reserves for the Parker-Meyer Classic Badminton Tournament, which will be held in May 2010 in Harrismith.

Captain Jeanine Cloete (SA Army) and WO1 Afrika Dido (SA Army) were also selected as reserves for the Platinum Classic to be played in June 2010 in Rustenburg.

Captain (SAMHS) Gretha Prinsloo, the Chairperson of SANDF Badminton, said: 'I am very pleased with the results. The development players showed commitment and dedication at this tournament. They are continuing to perform extremely well. I am very proud of the teams that were selected to represent the SANDF and what they have achieved.'

Captain (SAMHS) Gretha Prinsloo, the Chairperson of SANDF Badminton, said: 'I am very pleased with the results. The development players showed commitment and dedication at this tournament. They are continuing to perform extremely well. I am very proud of the teams that were selected to represent the SANDF and what they have achieved.'
Shooting accuracy and proficiency

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Mr Kgabo Mashamaite

The Northern Military Police Region under the leadership of Col Mzobanzi Justice Macanda, the Regional Provost Marshal, hosted the annual Military Police Division Shooting Seminar attended by Military Police (MP) officials from the MP regions and independent units across South Africa. This practical seminar took place at the Eeufees Shooting Range in Thaba Tshwane over the period 7 to 8 October 2009.

The main objective of the shooting contest was to develop an affinity for shooting and to test accuracy, speed and sound shooting judgement under difficult conditions. The competitors participated in different kinds of pistol shooting exercises, which included standing (FBI stance and weaver stance), kneeling, sitting, prone, supine and supine alternative positions to determine the best individual and team shots.

MWO Kallie Klaasen, the Regional Warrant Officer Northern MP Region, explained to SA Soldier that the competition was part of Force Preparation. “We need to set goals, inspire and develop activities to improve excellence. Our objective in this competition is to improve safe handling of weapons, accuracy and proficiency in the use of firearms and pistols,” he said.

The event was concluded with an award ceremony at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane. Col Macanda expressed his gratitude to all those who had played a part in the success of the event. He congratulated all participants on their efforts and said that even those who did not win titles could be proud of their achievements and must continue to strive to improve.

During the prize-giving ceremony, Col Stanley Buhali, SSO Protection and Security MP Div HQ, said that it must be remembered that this was not merely a competition, but also a lifesaving skill: “We are after all an armed police force and therefore the competent use of firearms is an integral part of our functional responsibility,” he stated.

The Overall Winner Development Team was the MP School, while Southern MP Region was the Overall Winner Prestige Team. WO2 M.F. Potgieter from MP School was the Overall Winner Individual Development. The BMW Trophy Prestige Individual was awarded to Sgt R.E. Frank from Southern MP Region. The Best Shooting MP Structure was MP School.

Simply the best, hard work has its rewards.
Regiment Westelike Provincie celebrates its birthday with two parades

Article and photos by
Lt Col G. Tredoux

The Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP) celebrated their 75th birthday twice at Hermanus on 7 November 2009. First they participated in the annual Poppy Remembrance Day Parade and wreath-laying ceremony at the Old Harbour on the waterfront of Hermanus. Then, after braving a windstorm on the seashore, they celebrated further with a street parade at the municipal offices of Hermanus where the City Council of the Overstrand Greater Municipality granted Regiment Westelike Provincie (RWP) the freedom of entry to the area of jurisdiction of the Overstrand Municipality for the second time.

The Overstrand Greater Municipality, which includes Hermanus, Rooi Els and Suiderstrand, has been involved with RWP since before World War II when a large number of young men from the area joined the RWP and went to war with them.

Regiment Westelike Provincie, which retained its original spelling, dates back to 1856 when volunteer units from the Cape Western Province were established. In 1894 these units amalgamated into the Western Rifles of the Cape and changed to Regiment Westelike Provincie in 1934. On 6 September 1939 the unit was mobilised to take part in World War II and moved to Egypt in 1941 where they were deployed as reinforcement for 5 Armoured Car Regiment under the banner of the famous Sixth SA Armoured Division commanded by a son of Hermanus, Major General Poole.

The RWT street parade with its military band entertained the honoured guests such as the deputy major, council members, local school representatives, the Boy Scouts, spectators and the general public alike with vibrant music and precision marching. The guests included several high-ranking officials, such as Brig Gen J.L. Fouché, Adviser to the GOC Infantry Formation, Brig Gen M. Cornelissen, Chaplain General of the SANDF, Gen J. Kriel, former Chief of the SA Air Force, Adm J. Retief, former Chief of the SA Navy, Lt Gen I. Gleeson, former Chief Staff Operations of the SADF and WO1 C.M. Sykes, former Warrant Officer of the SA Army.

After inspecting the parade, the
Marching soldiers from Regiment Westelike Provincie take to the streets in precision at the Freedom of Entry Parade during the unit’s 75th birthday celebrations at Hermanus.

Mayor thanked Regiment Westelike Provincie, the Officer Commanding, Lt Col S.E. Pierce, all the members on parade and the military band of the RWP for the annual Poppy Day Parade which they present annually in conjunction with the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) to honour the soldiers who gave their lives for the country.

“Today we have the honour of granting to Regiment Westelike Provincie the right to exercising the freedom of the Overstrand Greater Municipality,” the Mayor stated and gave a brief history of the RWP.

He also referred to a Delville Oak in the municipal garden and quoted the inscription on the tree: “Grown from an acorn brought from Delville Wood in France in 1976 and planted here to commemorate the gallant actions by the sons of Hermanus in the Great War of 1915. Per head of the population, Hermanus sent more volunteers than any other Commonwealth Community”.

The Mayor remarked that the RWP and the SANDF were part of the miracle of modern history when seven armies integrated peacefully into one integrated National Defence Force.

Since democracy in 1994 the RWP has focused on transformation and integration of previously disadvantaged and excluded members into the SANDF. Members were and are actively recruited from black and brown communities and given basic and leadership training.

He concluded his speech with the following wish: “We as citizens want military personnel with a high value system characterised by trustworthiness, respected for honouring others, responsible by being accountable, fair by being impartial and caring for the needs of those that we must protect”.

He then gave the RWP permission to march with their army and to move as a mechanised force with colours flying and the band playing through the streets of Hermanus.

The RWP has participated in several SA Army exercises, such as Exercise REVELATION and also supplies members to 9 SA Infantry Battalion for external deployment.

Not only does the RWP participate annually in the Poppy Day parade, but every year also observes its own memorial service in remembrance of five troops killed and 71 soldiers injured in a train accident at Keetmanshoop en route to the operational area during the Angolan campaign and border war. The RWP headquarters are now at Forta Ikapa (Akasia Park) in Cape Town.
502 Squadron supports Bible distribution

By Maj W.D.H. Abrahamse, Officer Commanding 502 Squadron
Photo: Lt M.S. Bowale

502 Squadron once again illustrated their high level of commitment to the community when it attended the Bible Walk held at AFB Waterkloof on 18 September 2009. Eight members from the squadron took part in the 4 km walk on part of the newly repaired runway at AFB Waterkloof.

The members donated R175, which will be utilised to translate Bibles in all official languages and to distribute these to disadvantaged communities and families. More than R4 000 from various SA Air Force units was donated during the event. The squadron also used the opportunity to display their colourful banner with their slogan "A Hi Kokeni Swinwe" - which means "Let’s Pull Together".

Retirement Seminar

By Mr Ernie Wolfaardt, Directorate HR Separation

Less than 10% of South Africans retire financially secure and independent. From a sample of 100 people retiring at 65, the following statistics emerged:

- Thirty-four are to keep on working.
- Thirty-two are cared for by the State.
- Seventeen are dependent on their families.
- Eight are supported by welfare.
- Nine have made adequate provision for retirement.

In view of this situation, employers are in a difficult position in that they are not only expected to provide some form of retirement funding arrangement for employees, but also to assist them and their dependants with the provision of benefits in the event of death, disability or retirement. This is exacerbated by the fact that in view of the current world economic climate, both public and private sectors are under increased pressure to provide viable and sustainable social benefits to retirees.

It has often been found that retirees do not know what to expect after retirement. They often do not know how to deal with the psychological challenges when they have retired and when they are no longer involved in a structured routine such as that required in a full-time job.

A more challenging aspect of retirement is financial in nature and involves questions relating to pensions, investments, the longevity of available funds, etc. These are aspects that are often neglected while one is still working and very little attention is given to the days and requirements after retirement.

To this end a half-day seminar was hosted by Directorate HR Separation on 17 November 2009 in the Sir Pierre van Ryneveld Hall at the SA Air Force Headquarters.

The seminar entailed presentations on topics such as the psychological challenges of retirement, the administration required before retirement and the pension benefits that are payable by the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF). Speakers from ABSA Private Banking, Old Mutual and Alan Gray Investor Services informed the audience about the importance of making correct decisions concerning pension benefits and pitfalls related to pension monies. They also provided guidelines on how to secure a self-sustainable retirement.

Similar seminars will be presented during February 2010 in Simon’s Town for interested members/employees of the Western Cape and Eastern Cape as well as in Bloemfontein for members/employees of the Free State, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Interested members and employees should look out for the Info Bulletin and Instruction in this regard.
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STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE 080 015 0150
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defence
Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.