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Above: The SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) won the Education and Training Award at the international military film festival in Italy. Fltr: Mr Tebogo Dube (Defence TV), Ms Liezel Rossouw (SANDF COLET), Brig Gen Kwenia Mangope (Director Corporate Communication) and Mr Vincent Ntombela (SANDF COLET).

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FRONT COVER: Soldiers on deployment are lauded for their efforts. Read all about the goodwill visit to our soldiers on deployment beyond the SA borders on pages 18 to 20. (Photo: Sgt Lebogang Thaole)

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

The SA Soldier team wishes all our readers a peaceful and prosperous 2009! This New Year’s edition kicks off with messages from our principals. See pages 10 to 13.

We salute our soldiers on deployment for their efforts in support of peacekeeping on our continent. Read about the goodwill visit paid to them by the SANDF top echelon on pages 18 to 20.

Congratulations to the SA National Defence Force College of Educational Technology (SANDF COLET) on winning the first prize in the Education category during the international military film festival in Italy in November last year. Read all about this international competition on pages 22 and 23.

Grab this promising year with both hands and let us be kind to one another and be part of building a better place for all.

A special surprise awaits you, our readers, next month when you will receive an exclusive calendar (our February edition)!

New Year’s greetings.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

Ku suka e ka tafula ra Muhleri


Hi hlulwa xihuku eka masocha lama tirhelaka e handle ku pluneta e ka pfumba ro tisa kurhula e tikweni ra hina ra Africa. Hlayani hi ta rendzo ra varhangeri nkulu va dzawulo ya swa vusirheleli ku ya hlohletela vuthu ra hina leri ri tirhelaka kule ni le kaya ku suka eka riltluka ra khume nhungu ku fika eka riltluka ra makume mbirhi.

Hi ri hoyo hoyo eka va xikolo xa vutshila xa vuthu ra vusirheleli, South African National Defence College of Educational Technology (SANDF COLET), lava nga kuma xiyimo xo sungula eka xiphemu xa dyondzo hi nkarhi wa ntirho wo tlangela switori swa va vusirheleri va ma tiko mambe lowu a wu e tikweni ra Italy.

Amukelani lembe leri ri thembisaka hi mavoko mambirhi, hi khomana kahle hi ri karhi hi pfuneta ku aka tiko ra hina.

Xihlamariso xo hlawuleka xi mi yimerile nwina va hlayi eka nhweti leyi taku loko mi ta tikumela calendara leyo hlawuleka (leri kunga tsalwa ra nyenyenyani)

Ha mixeweta na kambe eka lembe leri ri ntswa.

Nelda Pienaar
Muhleri

* Translation by Mr Lawrence Ngoveni (Xitsonga)
WE SPEND MORE TIME DESTROYING OTHER PEOPLE

Life is sick psychologically, socially, mentally, physically racially and politically. Most of the people hate other people for no valid reason. I used to ask myself what a person gains by hating another person; after all, hating somebody results in stress. To hate is an exercise that needs a lot of energy and time.

Most of the people are not aware that each and every action they take is written in a ‘Book’. The title of that book is your name. We open that book when someone is in trouble, when complimenting someone and when we want to do something good for the member. Some of the people are writing a book that cannot be read by other people because it if full of the bad things only. I realised that most of the people spent more time fighting to destroy other people than developing themselves. Most of the mentors feel proud after drawing up difficult question papers. My real concern is whether we are testing the knowledge of someone or trying to trick them? If the mission is to trick the people, we cannot be testing their knowledge.

Some of the people are destroying others intentionally because of jealousy. What achievement is it if one has destroyed someone, as our salaries are not even increased from doing so? I would prefer to build than to destroy and also to change than to demoralise. It is also shocking to find that some of the people are even becoming aggressive when they are warned against destroying other people. How can a real man be aggressive when advised that what he is doing is bad?

The channel of command has been misused in most cases by some of the leaders. When the channel of command was initiated the intention was to make sure that some of the problems could be solved before they reached the highest level of management. Good things are spoiled by some of the people to benefit themselves or achieve their bad intentions. Most of the people hate channels of command because they have been oppressed before. As leaders we must stop this attitude of doing wrong things to our people. When they complain about our unacceptable attitude we must not prevent them going to the next level of management by using the channel of command. By misusing the channel of command, we are making people negative in the working environment. I am not afraid to process someone’s grievance if he complains about me if I know that I am right. Lt P. Mlangeni,

TRIBUTE TO WO1 V.R. LWANA

The great man has gone, a man of good experience. I remember the Sergeant Major saying “Gentlemen (referring to Riflemen alone), please come and attend this party with your wives, you are allowed. I promise, you will be treated like kings and queens. The party is yours, enjoy it”. The troops enjoyed having a Sergeant Major of his calibre. I also remember him lecturing soldiers on the parade ground about the dangers of electricity.

The man was respected by everybody on the base. When he looked at you, you made sure you did the right thing at the right time. He did not speak a lot, he just stuck to SA Army procedures; you would be his friend. His enemies were very few; they were those who usually drink liquor in uniform, those who were AWOL during working hours, in fact those who were not loyal to the SA Army, who showed no professionalism.

When some soldiers showed cowardice in 1994, some afraid of transformation, some taking packages, he never thought about leaving the SA Army, but instead motivated people to remain in the SA Army, more especially if somebody had skills. His experience of seeing some of his colleagues unemployed in the streets after taking packages, made him more empathetic towards us.

"Just stick to the basics gentlemen," you would hear him say. "It is proper to salute when seeing an officer. Brace up when approaching a Non-commissioned Officer (NCO). Remember soldiers, those arms are not yours, they belong to the SA Army, use them, you are paid to do that, just stick to the basics." He did not use complicated English, for the sake of the people. His English was simple and understandable. In the early eighties, when he was training soldiers everybody understood him well when he pointing a finger at you and said: "Soldiers, sandbag, shoulder, run". You would know what he meant and do as ordered.

A lot can be said about the great man. He was a father figure as he implemented the military culture, values and norms. He was also like a hen protecting her chickens. He led by example. Soldiers of his calibre do not die; they are just one of us, planning for the next war. May his soul rest in peace. In loving memory of WO1 V.R. Lwana.

Pte S. Ngumama, 14 SAI Bn, Mthatha

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

JA N U A R Y  2  0  0  9
PROGRESS FOR THE FIFA 2010 WORLD CUP

I once wrote an article on how successful the FIFA 2010 World Cup could be if we were able to take further steps by revisiting our roads. In the Free State, on the Ventersburg Road, the contractors are busy with road construction to ensure a successful FIFA 2010 World Cup. The aim is to reduce the high rate of accidents and ensure safety on our roads and better productivity in South Africa. Also, during the World Cup only drivers with valid driving licences, not learners’ licences, should be the ones on the road with serviceable transport to avoid accidents. It is advisable that the Department of Transport be given a hand by the Department of Defence (DOD) to deploy soldiers on roads to patrol them for the success of the World Cup, which will be an important contribution of the DOD.

Pte T.M. Dube, 44 Para Regt
(2007 MSDS Intake)

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Our parents fought against oppression
We will defend those gains
Our parents fought against
dehumanisation
We will defend those gains
Our parents fought against human
injustice
We will defend those gains

Our parents fought against
squalor and dirt
We will uphold those

Godliness and freedom of thought

Our parents paved the way for us
Our parents fought against
Racial discrimination
We will uphold those gains
We will live together
In peace and harmony
With all races cultures
And religions
We will fight to uphold
The democracy our parents fought for
Black; white; pink and blue our blood
Is red and we are all
Africans of South Africa
Defend our democracy for
Peace prosperity and love among us all.

Pte Angela Sanita Queenie Martin,
Lohatlha Group of November 2008

SIX NEW CHEFS

Six members from ASB Mpumalanga attended a basic cookery and cooking skills course at Damelin College in October 2008, fltr: Elphius Matsane, Moses Shabangu, Stephen Mashaba, Sam Nukeri, Enock Mkhonto and Regina Manyisa. The aim of this effort is to utilise these members eventually as chefs at the mess, which was militarised with effect from 1 December 2008. (Photo: Lize Pienaar)

Mingle on the greens

The General Officer Commanding SA Army Engineer Formation, Brig Gen Luvuyo Nobanda (left), presents Maj Johannes Motswiri from the Section Force Preparation (Formation) with the winning prize (a model construction vehicle) for being closest to the pin at the 18th hole. (The SA Army Engineer Formation presented its annual Golf Day at the Military Base Dunnottar, close to Nigel, on 24 October 2008. As usual it was a day for guests from the Defence Industry, businessmen and soldiers to interact and relax away from the office.) Photo: S Sgt Nico Jacobs
WHAT IS A SOLDIER?

What is a soldier? Where do they come from? Where do they go? Who are these men and women who will never say “no”? Have you ever taken a good look, a good look beneath the camo, a good look beneath the skin of a soldier, a good look into their hearts just so you know where they’ve been?

A soldier is from the north, the south, the west and the east, a soldier is from the town, the farm. A soldier is from many places but if you ask him or her, they will tell you they are from everywhere because where they are now is where they are supposed to be. Where they are supposed to be is where they belong and where they belong is where they are ordered to be.

A soldier is a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, a mother, a father, a husband, a wife, a friend, but most of all - a soldier is a child of God.

A soldier lives in everybody’s heart, cherished with love, remembered and prayed for everyday of his or her life.

A soldier is a very special, brilliant piece of art. He or she has been created in the eyes of God, moulded by their parents and given a golden heart. They will protect you, save you and comfort you. They will fight for you and die for you.

So next time you see a soldier, give him or her a hug, give him or her a handshake, salute him or her and make sure they know that their profession is your freedom and that God walks at their side. Say thank you to them; that at least will make them feel more special. Pte B.C. Belani, 10 SA Infantry Battalion, B COY (Mellit Base, Sudan)

OUR WOMEN WARRIORS IN DARFUR

It is early morning in northern Darfur, and already hot. Platoon 1 of Bravo Company (10 SA Infantry Battalion) prepares for a patrol in the Mellit area. Today they will again see the consequences of armed conflict first hand, and encounter the plight of the internal displaced people (IDP), living in camps while waiting for peace and stability to come to their troubled land.

On patrol the soldiers will also witness the women of Darfur. In the surrounding areas they will see them relegated to doing the hard physical labour of tending animals and fields, carrying water, and building their simple houses.

Their experience will highlight the SANDF’s expression of South African values, namely equality for all. The women in the South African contingent are a prime example of this. Here they are men’s equals in all respects: from leading platoons and sections to performing duties as escorts and guards - in fact doing their equal share as South Africans in support of peace in Darfur.

As such the South African contingent of OP CORDITE stands as a symbolic beacon of hope for the people of Darfur, showing what is possible when people are valued for their individual contributions and respected for their personal qualities, and not thought of less because of their gender.

Well done to our women warriors of 10 SA Infantry Battalion, who with their male colleagues are doing excellent work in Darfur by upholding our values of equality and human dignity for all in a professional manner. This letter was a collaborative project by the women of 10 SA Infantry Battalion, B COY (Mellit Base, Sudan)

DEPLOYMENT AND STRESS IN BURUNDI (Jan - Aug 2008)

Deployment is part of development to all the SANDF members. We also see deployment as part of exploration and an opportunity to develop oneself by serving the SANDF with pride, dignity, loyalty and honour and ensuring peace and stability in this world.

Many of us see deployment as the easiest and fastest way to a quick buck since we are earning less and interest rates and prices are too high, which makes it difficult for one to survive nowadays.

This makes people forget the duration of the deployment because they focus on the money, but three months down the line reality strikes and people start realising that it is not all about money. Yes, stress in the mission area makes your work your biggest enemy sometimes because of people not understanding your duties and the need to exercise your expertise. This leads to fights among co-workers, office orders and the rising of DD1s in the mission area.

Many people start losing
A WALK THROUGH THEIR TIME IN THE DRC

1 SA Infantry Battalion (1 SAI Bn) supported the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from December 2007 to July 2008 whereafter 121 Bn took over from it.

They supported the community in the different regions they were deployed at. 1 SAI Bn had the privilege of moving a lot, which gave them a bird’s eye view of the DRC.

The sub-units started out at Beni, Kokola and Lubero in north Kivu. In February 2008 the biggest group of this force was redeployed to Goma in south Kivu where they were at places, such as Nyanzale, Rwindi, Kalangere, Tongo, Katsiro, Bambo and Ntamugenga. Two sub-units stayed in the north Kivu areas, Lubero and Beni.

In May 2008 the sub-units were redeployed again to areas such as Mushake, Kanyatsi, Osso Farm Ngungu, Rubaya, and Kiroshe, where we changed positions with the Indian Battalion that also formed part of the United Nations (UN) Peace Mission.

1 SAI Bn consisted mainly of SAI Bn members, 44 Parachute Regiment, CTR, and CTH.

1 SAI Bn wants to thank each and every member who contributed to making the peace process in the DRC a success. Without you all this would not have been possible.

We hope that your Christmas at home this year was blessed and may you enjoy a prosperous 2009!

Capt Heidi Lubbe, 1 SAI Bn

Stress can be reduced by motivating the members and by supporting and participating in different activities such as sports, the kiosk and other functions.

Commanders must support their subordinates (open door policy), encourage them, and love where this is most needed.

Our primary task of peacekeeping remains the main focus and we are determined to make this world a better place for all, not forgetting our social life, which must not be ignored as a morale booster for our minds, bodies and souls. Lt K.H. Munzhedzi, Club Manager Burundi: OPS Curriculum Kitchen (qualification: B-Tech Degree Public Management) and Spr R. Mutshinyani, Field Sapper: OPS CURRICULUM 03, under water purification section (qualification: N4 & N5 Civil Engineering)

hope and the potential to do their tasks. Other seniors punish people for no specific reason. Telephone lines are open for certain commanders, which makes it difficult if you are a junior or PTE to talk to your loved ones due to insufficient money ($180) that we are getting to sustain ourselves. We use it to buy a world call card to communicate with our families at home.

I feel that receiving parcels from our loved ones at home is the only thing that keeps people going, because they were thought of and by sending a little something it simply shows that they need, miss and still love and care for them.

TAKING HANDS IN ACTION Some of the projects the South African soldiers assisted with - chairs and tables for a school.

1 SAI Bn was the first to be fully representative of the different groups in one meeting (PARECO, CNDP, FARDC and the Village Chief).
We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Department of Defence (DOD) members and their families a prosperous New Year.

As we welcome the New Year we can look back on the year 2008 with great pride and joy with the knowledge that we have once again successfully performed our responsibility to serve the people of South Africa. During the year 2008 we were impressed by the commitment of all employees of the DOD towards the attainment of our set objectives. These objectives are guided by our broader Government Programme of Action to support and better the lives of the people of South Africa.

We remain aware that security is one of the primary prerequisites for peace and economic prosperity on our continent. The DOD will this year need to vigorously facilitate its strategic defence co-operation and enhance its participation in peace missions that are guided by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Communities (SADC).

We are confident that the design and development of the SADC Mutual Defence Pact, the African Standby Force and the establishment of continental and regional early-warning centres will strengthen our continent’s quest for peace and stability and enable us to overcome poverty and underdevelopment.

It is pleasing to notice that some of our efforts on the African continent are beginning to yield positive results. The DOD has fulfilled its promise to the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to assist their government to reform its armed forces by providing training in logistics, finance, intelligence, human resources and medicine.
Last year, we officially handed over the first of the three battalions to the DRC. This year, we urge all role players to continue to work harder to ensure that the remaining two battalions also receive the necessary training and are handed over to the DRC. It is our hope that these soldiers will assist in bringing peace and stability to that country.

In our continued support of the people of South Africa, we lent a hand during a tragic rescue operation after a fire broke out in the Kruger Park flats in central Pretoria. The South African Air Force was called in to assist with the evacuation of the people who were stranded above the fire zone. In no time helicopter crews went to work in a combined effort with the South African Police Services (SAPS). A number of desperate residents were successfully airlifted to safety.

The SANDF was also called to assist when extreme violence and inhumanity raised its ugly head as the xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals turned into the worst national tragedy. The SANDF moved swiftly to support the SAPS in defusing the situation in different parts of the country. The Army Support Base Western Cape went further by providing temporary shelter to more than 1 400 displaced foreign nationals.

In the new year the DOD/SANDF will continue its comprehensive military exchanges with foreign counterparts, and consolidate and boost friendly and co-operative ties with armed forces worldwide, and so work together for world peace and stability.

For these reasons we would like to reiterate the words of Henry Ford when he said: "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal". We urge all DOD members not to take their eyes off the goal. Let us enter the New Year (2009) committed to developing a culture of excellence within the DOD. We must take pride in our work and in our Department.

Once again, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mr Fezile Bhengu,
Deputy Minister of Defence.
Safeguarding the interests of the people of our country

Most of our members in the Department of Defence (DOD) will remember the year 2008 with a sense of sadness. As you may be aware, we lost the Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, who served in our Department with passion and loyalty for the past nine years. Again, my condolences to his family; I wish them a happy and prosperous 2009.

I trust that all of us are inspired by his commitment and that we will continue to serve the people of South Africa. I am humbled by my appointment as the Acting Secretary for Defence and solemnly vow to serve with loyalty and dignity. I draw strength from the people around me and all DOD members whose support and selfless commitment to duty are commendable.

Through your hard work the Department continues to meet its constitutional demand to provide effective defence for a democratic South Africa and to safeguard the interests of the people of our country.

The DOD must ensure that its priorities are aligned with the Government’s priorities through its planning framework, as well as through its operations. The DOD’s planning framework must be located within the Government’s planning framework.

As a result of the changing security environment and the increasing requirements placed on the DOD to provide forces for peace and humanitarian missions, we have had to update the White Paper on Defence (1996) and the Defence Review (1998). The process has culminated in the Defence Update, which redefines the level of capabilities required within the force design to comply with the current and expected involvement in peace missions.

The increased demands on the DOD to provide resources for peacekeeping drive us to improve our operational capability. Through our rejuvenation strategy, we have managed to increase the number of young, fit and healthy members in the SA National Defence Force, the majority of whom are now serving on peace missions beyond our borders.

The Department continues to refine its accounting mechanism for the utilisation of resources, an effort aimed at redressing adverse audit reports. During the financial year 2007/8, intense bi-weekly and monthly “Operation CLEAN AUDIT” meetings were held to evaluate and monitor our progress.

The DOD is also working towards a thorough understanding of the Public Finance and Management Act (PFMA) of 1999 to avoid non-compliance with this critical Act. We have embarked on a number of campaigns using various communication resources to familiarise our members with the Act. We intend to develop a computer based training course with SITA, which I believe will further enhance sound financial management in the DOD.

I trust that this year we will continue to work as a collective towards the attainment of strategic objectives.

I wish all DOD members a blessed and joyous new year.

Mr Tsepe Motumi
Acting Secretary for Defence
t is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you from your deserved break and wish you all a prosperous new year.

Once again, I should like to officially welcome our newly appointed Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, and Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu, and wish them all the best during their terms in office. We are all inspired by their willingness to address the challenges that we face in the SANDF.

We are already working collectively with them to achieve our constitutional mandate to defend a democratic South Africa. As part of the rejuvenation phase, the SANDF continues to identify the necessary resources and to increase the number of young people joining the force through the Military Skills Development Programme (MSDS). The SA Navy and the SA Air Force have been bolstered by the arrival of new equipment over the past few years. The next rejuvenation phase will be focused on the SA Army and the SA Military Health Service. In the medium term the SA Army will be strengthened by light and mobile capabilities.

Training remains high on our priority list to ensure that our members are better equipped to utilise the newly acquired capabilities. Although it has become extremely difficult to retain scarce skills in the SANDF, as it is a global phenomenon, we are reviewing our retention strategy to ensure that the SANDF maintains its operational readiness. We are grateful for the expertise of our Reserve members, which reinforces our capability and professionalism.

Internally, we continue to support the people of South Africa. Last year, we successfully supported the SAPS to quell the unfortunate xenophobic incidents that occurred in various parts of our country. We have also deployed medical doctors in provincial government hospitals in the Mpumalanga Province to assist the people of South Africa to enjoy proper health care. The SANDF is also looking forward to the FIFA World Cup that will be hosted by our country in 2010. In support of the SAPS, we are participating in the security plan and preparations together with various government departments in the security cluster to ensure that the FIFA 2010 World Cup is successful. We will continue to support government and the people of South Africa when called upon to do so.

Externally, we continue to work collectively with members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to preserve peace and stability in the region.

In accordance with our Government’s foreign policy, the SANDF continues to participate in peace-keeping missions. Our members are working hard under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) to assist the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Sudan to find lasting peace and security.

Our transformation programme must remain on track and we will continue to ensure that no effort is spared till this process has been completed across the SANDF.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all SANDF members in various deployment areas inside and outside our country for hoisting our country’s flag high and performing their duties diligently.

I urge all SANDF members, both uniformed and civilian members, to continue with their respective duties in a manner that reflects their commitment, discipline and patriotism as these relate to our country and flag. May 2009 see all of us, each one of us, contributing positively to creating an SANDF that has the respect of the people that it serves.

I wish you all a happy and productive new year. May God bless you!

*Gen Godfrey Ngwenya*
*Chief of the SANDF*
Uphold discipline - Minister Nqakula tells soldiers

The Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, called upon members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to help South Africa achieve its objectives for peacekeeping missions outside its borders, as in so doing peace and stability in the country, on the African continent and the international community would be ensured.

Speaking at a Mobilisation Parade of the Infantry Battalion deploying to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 26 November 2008 in Bloemfontein, Minister Nqakula told over 1 000 SANDF soldiers on parade that the absence of civil wars in South Africa’s neighbouring countries was a prerequisite for the country’s internal peace and stability.

“Your deployment to the DRC is meant to create conditions necessary for peace and stability in that country, because for SA to live in peace, there must be peace in the DRC. You are therefore called upon to exercise maximum discipline in discharging your duty in pursuit of peace in the DRC,” Minister Nqakula said.

The infantry battalion deploying to the DRC was 6 South African Infantry Battalion based in Grahamstown. Included in the battalion was a company from the Reserve Force unit, called First City Regiment, also based in Grahamstown.

The battalion, which deployed to the DRC in December 2008, was supported by personnel from the SA Navy, the SA Military Health Service, the Command Management Information Service Division, the Logistics Division and the SA Military Police Agency.
SA and Mozambique focus on defence and security issues

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Inaugural Ministerial Session on the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was held in Pretoria in November 2008. Matters pertaining to the 2009 FIFA Confederation Cup, the 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament and security issues affecting South Africa and Mozambique, including cross-border crimes such as human trafficking, weapon smuggling and drug trafficking were discussed.

The South African Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, commended all member institutions of Government and security agencies for their efforts to build the integrity and sovereignty of both countries and noted with satisfaction the progress made in preparation for the 2009 FIFA Confederation Cup and the 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. "We will continue to nurture our co-operation for the benefit of our people, and we commend all efforts, including the decisions that were taken recently by the leaders of the Great Lakes region and the SADC, which are designed to address conflicts and the unnecessary spilling of blood to bring about lasting peace, security and stability," said Mr Nqakula.

The meeting between Mr Nqakula, who led the RSA delegation, and the delegation of the Republic of Mozambique led by the Mozambique Minister of Defence, Mr Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and other participants from the State and security agencies showed commitment in co-operating on key security issues, and much value was derived from the further cementing of good relations among members of the defence and security agencies of both countries as they set up programmes relating to defence, state and public security.

The Mozambique Minister of Defence reiterated that the meeting achieved common goals that both countries aspire to. "We shall continue in joint efforts to ensure the peaceful co-existence of our people and be friendly neighbours and partners on military and security issues and co-operate with each other to fight security threats," he concluded.
In response to the South African Government’s call on government departments to interact with communities in the form of an Imbizo Focus Week, the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and the Department of Defence (DOD) held an Imbizo at the Lillian Ngoyi Sport Centre in KwaZakhele Township near Port Elizabeth on 10 November 2008.

Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor, Ms Nondumiso Maphasa, welcomed the newly appointed DPSA Minister, Mr Richard Baloyi, and the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu. The ministers were briefed on significant progress regarding community initiatives and the much anticipated FIFA 2010 World Cup.

After attending the Batho Pele Workshop at which the Eastern Cape Premier, Mr Mbulelo Sogoni, introduced the ministers to delegates in the Mayoral Conference Hall, Mr Baloyi embarked on a tour of the municipal areas and Mr Bhengu went to visit DOD members at the Army Support Base (ASB) Port Elizabeth. On arrival he found members of the DOD were already waiting for him in the fully packed Commando Hall of the base. The Officer Commanding of ASB Port Elizabeth, Col Bayanda Mkula, introduced the Deputy Minister of Defence to the audience. Addressing the audience Mr Bhengu outlined his vision and that of the Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula.

Mr Bhengu told the DOD members that members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) were getting reasonable salaries because of Mr Nqakula’s efforts. He raised a number of issues, including the fact that Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) should receive a crash course on the military so that they have improved knowledge of the core business of the SANDF.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister of Defence indicated that soldiers were more than professionals and therefore deserved better salaries. “Your working conditions need improvement, but we need to start somewhere. We are going to engage the Commander-in-Chief, President Kgalema Motlanthe, regarding this matter and I hope he will take it seriously,” Mr Bhengu said. He further stated that they wished to lay a good foundation for whoever took the reigns after their six month term of office had expired.

DOD members were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Deputy Minister of Defence. He requested MOD Projects Officer, Mr Buddy Nsong, to write all the questions down so that he and Minister Nqakula could take a closer look at them. The audience pleaded with him
to give their requests serious attention and also to give them feedback.

After visiting the base, Mr Bhengu went straight to the Lillian Ngoyi Sports Centre where he and Mr Baloyi interacted with members of the community. They were joined by local councillors.

Before the Minister’s address, the Eastern Cape Imbizo Project Manager, Rev Mxolisi Mfazwe, who was the Programme Director, explained the purpose of the Imbizo to everyone present.

The Deputy Minister of Defence also stressed the importance of Government’s efforts in coming to the people and encouraging the community to take the Government to task on issues of concern in their lives. He took the opportunity to inform the audience about the career opportunities in the DOD.

“We encourage the youth to make use of the opportunities of becoming patriotic by joining the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). This will not only empower them with skills, but they will also learn to be disciplined citizens,” Mr Bhengu reiterated.

He added that after the two years’ service, some youth will be employed full time by the SANDF, but that depended on the availability of posts. “If not employed, they can join the Reserve Force. Those who after the two years are not employed will receive a sum of R18 000, which they can use to start a new life or further their studies at tertiary level,” the Deputy Minister of Defence pointed out.

He then called upon Col Nomtsha Mkutuka from the Recruiting Office in Pretoria to brief the audience on the careers available in the SANDF and the criteria pertaining to them. Col Mkutuka informed the audience that members were given opportunity to study at tertiary institutions at State expense and that the military also offered internal courses in various disciplines.

Four MSDS members: Lieutenant Grizelda Saayman (SA Army), Airman Akhiwe Mbiza (SA Air Force), Seaman Viwe Nogqalo (SA Navy) and Lance Corporal Tebogo Maleka from ASB PE encouraged the youth to join the SANDF and explained what they had experienced so far in the military and what their expectations were.

Nkosinathi Kiewit (21) from Soweto-on-Sea Township near Port Elizabeth said being a soldier was not part of his plans, but the information he received had given rise to his ambition of becoming a pilot since he had done science subjects in high school.

Ms Zaire Gamma of Ward 24 in KwaZakhele Township was of the view that co-operation between the SANDF and the South African Police Service (SAPS) was necessary to counter trained ex-soldiers, former self-defence unit and Umkhonto we Sizwe members who were involved in criminal activities.

Minister Baloyi started his briefing by outlining the Government programmes of action since 1994 and explained that the purpose of Izimbi-zo was to create a mechanism to ensure that service delivery reached the people.

"The concept of 'Batho Pele - People First', should take precedence. Community development workers should play a vital role in realising the Government’s efforts through monitoring and following up on issues," the Minister said.

Mr Baloyi called on the community members to be foot soldiers and to make sure that the Community Development Work Programme became a reality. He concluded by saying that this could be done through the identification of community needs, community resources management, training and deployment.
here is an idiom in Tshivenda that says “Kule ndi husina wau”, meaning the only place too far for one is a place where you do not have anyone you know or are familiar with. The Goodwill Parcel Project seeks to prove just that, namely that no place is too far for the SANDF to remember its deployed members. The SANDF has soldiers deployed in support of peacekeeping missions throughout Africa. Annually, a joint venture between the SANDF and the private sector is made to visit the soldiers in deployment areas beyond the SA borders to appreciate and acknowledge the work they do in support of peacekeeping.

The Goodwill Parcel Project serves as an illustration to the external and internally deployed soldiers, members on duty in operational rooms, military hospitals, sickbays as well as patients and families of the deployed soldiers that the Senior Command Cadre of the SANDF, their families and the South African business sector care for them, especially during the festive season.

In keeping with this tradition of giving that begun in 2001, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg (Chief of Corporate Staff), Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya (Chairperson of the Spouses Forum and wife of the Chief of the SANDF), Maj Gen Happy Bhembe (Chief Director Force Development Support), Maj Gen Vusi Sindane (Chief of Military Police Strategy and Planning), Maj Gen Gerald

“As the National Contingency Commander of VIMBEZELA 2, I am extremely proud of what the VIMBEZELA achieved since its very humble beginnings in 2007,” said Col Monwabisi Nondala, Mission Commander of Operation VIMBEZELA 2, in CAR.
On arrival at Kamina, DRC, we were warmly received by the Contingent Commander, Lt Col Jacobus Niemand, who briefly informed the guests of his tasks and the behaviour of the soldiers under his command. "We are a relatively small deployment in the Katanga Province operating two Oryx helicopters. Our main aim is the support of the United Nations (UN) troops deployed in the field, the transportation of passengers and freight, search and rescue, as well as rapid deployment of reaction forces," said Lt Col Niemand.

The contingent in Kamina, even though small, comprises all the main elements one would find in a normal South African unit, such as personnel, logistics, operations intelligence and counter-intelligence, command and control, aircraft maintenance, technicians, as well as a protection element.

In conclusion, Lt Col Niemand thanked the visitors, sponsors and high-profile delegation from the SANDF and wished all a blessed week for visiting our other soldiers in the various deployment areas. SA Soldier asked S Sgt Teba Morena, a cargo handler, how he felt about the package he received. "It is a very good gesture that we get to receive these gifts; it keeps our morale high. As you might have noticed we do not have shops close by, so every gift makes a positive impact on a deployed soldier's life," said S Sgt Morena. The football club at Kamina also received a soccer kit from the sponsors.

We then departed from Kamina for Bujumbura, Burundi, at 16:30. On arrival at the airport we were divided into three groups to be accommodated in three hotels in Bujumbura, namely the Safari Hotel, Lake Tanganyika Hotel and Novo Hotel.

On 8 December we flew to the Central African Republic (CAR). When we arrived at Bangui airport we were taken to Hotel Sofitel, also known locally as the Oubangui hotel, where we proceeded to present the goodwill parcels to the soldiers there. Unfortunately the President of the CAR, Mr Francois Bozize, could not be part of the high-profile visit and ceremony owing to the
Goodwill Parcels Project

from page 19

ongoing peace negotiations he was engaged in.

"As the National Contingency Commander of VIMBEZELA 2, I am extremely proud of what the VIMBEZELA achieved from its very humble beginnings in 2007," said Col Monwabisi Nondala, Mission Commander of Operation VIMBEZELA 2, in CAR. He continued: "As can be expected from VIMBEZELA itself we have taken the responsibility not only to educate the members of FACA, but also to equip them for the future. Our mandate remains to train them so that they themselves will be able to meet the requirements of the future battle space and be a credible deterrent defence force of the CAR".

The Goodwill Parcel Project's guests and sponsors went to Goma, DRC and Beni to continue filling the hearts of deployed soldiers with joy and a sense of belonging. In Bujumbura the National Contingent Commander of Operation CURRICULUM IV, Col Mantsane Mapheto, briefed all present on the contingent’s tasks. Their tasks included protection of principals, protection of FNL combatants in Ruzazi assembly area, transporting of FNL to the assembly area and protection of Modderfontein Base in Burundi.

During the visit to the three countries the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, emphasised to the deployed soldiers in the different military bases that the gift package to them during this time of giving was but a small token of appreciation to tell them that we were aware of the sacrifice they made. "We came here to tell that during this festival of time (to be translated as festive time) you are not alone and you have not been forgotten in this environment," said MCWO Scheepers. He informed the soldiers that their families back in South Africa would receive a package too. "I urge you to contact my office as soon as possible if your families do not receive the parcel so that I can find out who is not doing their job in that environment," added MCWO Scheepers. "These packages are to be delivered to your homes, not to the school, post office, some meeting venue or any place other than your home.”

The Chief of Corporate Staff reminded the soldiers to observe and respect the rights of women and children. "We need to stand up against this scourge as it has the potential of eroding the moral fibre of our society. If we truly see our children as our future, then why are we destroying them; if we see women as mothers of our nation, then why are they not free to be just that," asked Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg.

Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg read a goodwill message from the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya. "Always remember that you are ambassadors of the people of South Africa and that the world is watching every step you take. As peacekeepers you need to be disciplined soldiers and take pride in the uniform you are wearing. Serve Africa with pride, respect her people, their culture and assist them to enjoy peace.”

Sponsors of the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project 2008 listed in no particular order: ABSA, AFRICAN LIFE, AVBOB, CLINIX HEALTH GROUP, LIBERTY LIFE, MAXI CREDIT SOLUTIONS, METROPOLITAN, NOVARE, OLD MUTUAL, SA ARMY FOUNDATION, SAAF BENEVOLENT FUND, SAMI/SAFI, SAMHS FUND, SANLAM, CHAPLAIN SERVICE, MASSMART, UNILIVER SA, NAMPAK CORRU-GATED, TONGAAT HULETTS SUGAR AND PREMIER FOODS.
The SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation unveiled a memorial in Kimberley to the nine gunners who lost their lives in a tragic accident during Exercise SEBOKA in Lohatlha on 12 October 2007.

The SA Army Air Defence Artillery Formation unveiled a memorial in Kimberley to the nine gunners who lost their lives in a tragic accident during Exercise SEBOKA in Lohatlha on 12 October 2007.
SANDF COLET won top award at international military film festival

By Liezel Rossouw, SANDF COLET
Photos: Tebogo Dube

The SANDF College of Educational Technology (COLET) stood its ground on foreign soil once again, as in 2004, and was honoured to receive the "first prize: Education Category". A trophy was handed over which will no doubt have a special place at the Unit. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, which makes it clear that this DVD exceeded all expectations.

Over the period 8 to 16 November 2008, SANDF COLET participated in the International Competition of Military Documentaries in Bracciano, Italy, as part of the 19th International Military Film festival. This year was the fifth time in the history of this competition that the SANDF COLET took part in this event. SANDF COLET represented the Education Training and Development (ETD) audio-visual component, while Defence Television represented the DOD promotional audio-visual component.

In 2007 SANDF COLET decided to produce an educational video programme that would help ETD instructional system designers and developers to plan and prepare for the development of outcomes-based learning programmes. Subsequently the DVD - Plan and prepare for development - which is the first specific outcome of the Unit Standard 123394, came into being. The DVD displays the analysis and is the confirmation of the designer’s brief in producing a development plan, commissioning specialised components and ensuring readiness for development.

The typical Charlie Chaplin theme is portrayed in the DVD, in which black and white images and speed-up visuals were used, no words are spoken and typical 1920 piano music is used throughout. Eighteen members from SANDF COLET took part in the production, so apart from the talented production crew many members acted in the production.

Together with Defence Television, and delegates from across the globe, three days were spent viewing the 52 entries from the 26 participating countries. The South African delegation gained priceless knowledge of the various production and storytelling techniques currently employed by their foreign counterparts.
Brig Gen Kwenka Mangope, Director Corporate Communication (centre), receives the winning trophy on behalf of SANDF COLET from Brig Gen Pippo Filipponi, Commander of the Artillery School of Bracciano (right). In the background is Sig.ra (Signora) Cristiana Zucchetti, daughter of the President of the “Eseciti e Popoli”.

Ms Liezel Rossouw and Mr Vincent Ntombela from SANDF COLET with the winning trophy in Italy.

The award ceremony.
Pathfinders were dropped to search for information to alert the incoming troops with regard to the situation on the ground.

Article and photos by
S Sg t Lebogang Tlhaole

Pathfinders were dropped to search for information to alert the incoming troops with regard to the situation on the ground.

Enhancing the airborne capabilities of our Army

6 SA Brigade conducted Exercise YOUNG EAGLE at the General De Wet Training Area at De Brug near Bloemfontein from 7 to 24 November 2008. Exercise YOUNG EAGLE is primarily a force preparation exercise for the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members and the airborne assets of the SA Army. It focused on integrating airborne SA Army assets.

Exercise YOUNG EAGLE was a joint exercise in which the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Medical Health Services participated. It was conducted as part of the Chief of the SA Army’s combat readiness strategy to ensure the availability of combat ready rapid intervention forces for the Chief of the SA National Defence Force.

The goal of Exercise YOUNG EAGLE was to enhance the SA Army’s airborne capabilities, and to master airborne doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures at tactical level during an independent airborne operation. It is used as the only exercise for the retraining of the airborne assets of the SA Army.

SA Soldier and other independent media representatives attended the Open Day demonstration on 20 November 2008. The various airborne capabilities of the SA Army were demonstrated to the attendees and to senior members of the SA Army,
which included the newly appointed Honorary Colonel of the SA Army Headquarters, Mr (Col) Irvin Khoza (Chairman of Orlando Pirates Football Club and of the local organising committee of the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup). He was fascinated by the professionalism of the SA Army elite group of airborne soldiers.

A fictitious scenario was created for the Open Day to plan an airborne operation. The De Brug demonstration included the airborne demonstration, pathfinders, static parachute and air supply capabilities, air delivered demonstration with helicopter assault, fast roping and a casavac. Firepower of support weapons was also demonstrated to the attendees.

The Open Day ended with an address delivered by Maj Gen Vusi Masondo, Chief Director Army Force Preparation, who mentioned that in future Exercise YOUNG EAGLE would be conducted over a two year term and will be conducted in February 2010 because the Basic Military Training course has been extended to 38 weeks.

Forces that participated in the exercise under the command of 46 SA Brigade Headquarters were elements of 44 Parachute Regiment, 1 Parachute Battalion, 3 Parachute Battalion, 4 Artillery Regiment, 10 Air Defence Artillery Regiment, 2 Field Engineer Regiment, Tactical Intelligence Regiment, 101 Air Supply Unit, 17 Maintenance Unit, 102 Field Workshop and 13 Provost, fixed wing transport from several squadrons, helicopters and elements from 7 Medical Battalion Group.
Chief of the SA Navy talks about the Navy combat readiness

By Cdr Prince Tshabalala, Staff Officer External Com SA Navy
Photo: PO Densyl Williams

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, briefed the Gauteng media about the state of the combat readiness of the SA Navy at the Naval Mess in Pretoria on 3 December 2008. The aim of the media brief was to update the media about the current and future plans of the SA Navy.

Some of the topics discussed with the media were as follows: achievements of the SA Navy; transformation of the SA Navy; challenges of the SA Navy; and the future focus of the SA Navy.

Speaking at the media briefing the Chief of the SA Navy said the SA Navy had achieved a number of milestones over the past 18 months. He mentioned the successful execution of military exercises both in our waters and abroad as a testimony to the SA Navy being able to fulfil its mandate of defending the territorial waters of South Africa. He said: "It is inspiring that the SA Navy has been receiving praise and compliments from the international media and navies abroad with regard to its professionalism and its quality of leaders". He further praised the men and women serving in the SA Navy as the most dedicated, loyal and committed force that lived true to the aim and vision of SA Navy, which was to "win at sea and to be unchallenged at sea".

Transformation

R Adm (JG) Sageran Pillay, Director of Maritime Plans, presented facts and figures to the media on how the SA Navy was fast becoming a transformed organisation representative of all races in South Africa.

He stated that the Navy Force design and structure were beginning to take shape with the integration of its Maritime Strategic Defence Packages. R Adm (JG) Pillay further announced that the SA Navy was busy with a number of projects that would ensure the realisation of a credible Force Design by 2025 through the Strategic Capital Acquisition Master Plan. He stated that the disposal of obsolete equipment, such as the strikecraft, Daphne class submarines, minesweepers and other associated equipment had gone smoothly. He added that the SA Navy was currently busy implementing a strategy to ensure rationalisation of its

Fltr: The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief Director Maritime Strategy, R Adm Bernhard Teuteberg, and the Spokesperson for the SANDF, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, during the media briefing.
footprint, thus refocusing the much needed resources into the core business of the SA Navy. On this point he mentioned the successful closure of naval bases in Durban, the SA Armaments Depot, closure of seven Reserve Force units, and the transfer of the Naval Dockyard to Armscor as beneficial to the SA Navy and that would enable it to sustain its core focus, namely maritime defence. During the media briefing the Chief Director Maritime Strategy, R Adm Bernhard Teuteberg, announced that the SA Navy was to commission a new Maritime Reaction Squadron in order to have in place a structure dedicated to fulfilling a number of special operational tasks such as:

- Conducting interdiction, patrol and escort operations in coastal, lake, and riverine areas.
- Boarding of suspicious ships to counter criminal and illegal activities at sea.
- Combating poaching and smuggling.
- Operational diving and salvage operations.
- Augmentation of land forces.
- Beachhead operations.
- Spotting duties for naval gunfire support.
- Specialised boat crews for combat and combat support ships on deployment.
- Force protection of vessels when in harbour or its approaches during deployment.

R Adm Teuteberg added that the force was constituted in 2006 when the Operational Boats Squadron and the Navy’s Rapid Deployment Force were integrated and two operational diving teams were brought under the command of the Maritime Reaction Squadron.

**Challenges**

On the challenges of the SA Navy, the Chief of the SA Navy acknowledged that the SA Navy was indeed facing a challenge with regard to the loss of skilled technical personnel. This was a result of many factors, exacerbated by the global skills demand of technical personnel by the private sector and the maritime industry. V Adm Mudimu said that the SA Navy was dealing with the problem and had since devised strategies to retain the existing skilled personnel and to recruit new talent. This was evident by the number of potential recruits that had been making enquiries on the newly launched SA Navy submarine website. The website has received over 10 000 hits since its launch in May 2008.

R Adm (JG) Asiel Kubu, Director Naval Personnel, said that the SA Navy was looking at a number of factors to retain our personnel: On the Diver Retention Plan R Adm (JG) Kubu said that the SA Navy was looking at the following options:

- Relocation of the operational diving team to form part of Maritime Reaction Squadron.
- Improved planning and liaison.
- Supervisor training.
- Utilisation of Reserve Force supervisors.
- Targeted recruitment.
- Appropriate accommodation.
- Review of remuneration packages for divers.
- Maximum utilisation of foreign learning opportunities.
- Exploring of training opportunities for divers.
- Increased on the job training.
- Institution of submariner specific badge.
- Institution of submariner specific leather jackets.
- Exploring of training opportunities with Durban University of Technology.
- Revised learning pathway.

**Future focus**

During the media briefing the Chief of the SA Navy remarked: “In the spirit of Business Unusual, the SA Navy will continue to focus on its core business despite the challenges mentioned above. He said he was confident that the SA Navy with its high quality leadership would overcome all its challenges and reposition itself by focusing on the following key issues:

- **Personnel** - Retention, training and development as well as meeting its transformational imperatives.
- **Facilities** - The SA Navy will continue to rationalise and build new facilities. Those facilities are still needed, and will be repaired and maintained accordingly.
- **Force Design** - The SA Navy is dealing with the problem of technical retention. The SA Navy will focus on the following:

  - **Institution of submariner specific badge.**
  - **Institution of submariner specific leather jackets.**
  - **Exploring of training opportunities with Durban University of Technology.**
  - **Revised learning pathway.**

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- **Force Design** - The SA Navy will continue to consolidate its operational deployments and various projects.

V Adm Mudimu concluded the media briefing by quoting the words of our former Commander in Chief, Nelson Mandela, who said: "The sea is a vital national interest and that is why we maintain the Navy ... We are a maritime nation trading all over the world. We accept our obligation to combine with other maritime nations to uphold the freedom of the seas and to protect our national interest through naval power." (President Nelson Mandela, International Fleet Review, Cape Town, 5 April 1997).
Ranks and wings to close off 2008

By Airman Tebogo Kekana,
Ad Astra
Photo: WO2 Cristo Crous

December 2008 marked the conclusion of the long-awaited ranks and wings insignia that were presented to the members who successfully completed the SA Air Force (SAAF) Student Pilots Course 111/08. This parade was held for nineteen pupil pilots, two Air Force Reserves pilots, four Botswana pilots, four navigators, five flight engineers, two radio operators and four loadmasters. This special occasion took place at the Swartkop Airfield and the Chief of the SAAF, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, officiated.

“It gives me great pleasure to congratulate those who received their SAAF flying badges and especially those who earned the distinction of achieving first place in their courses. The standard of flying and knowledge set by the SAAF is very high and it is equal to the standard set by the best air forces in the world,” commented Lt Gen Gagiano.

He further commended not only the Central Flying School, but also the members at all units for having contributed to shaping the products that were seen on parade. He reminded the recipients that the parade only symbolised the first of many milestones to reach in order to become truly proficient in their various mustering.

He added that aircrew had always been a rather special breed of people. To them, flying is not just a job, but also a calling in which they can give nothing but the best. However, he stressed that it was not to be forgotten that the team extended beyond the pilot, as members of the team are also found outside the cockpit and this did not make them any less essential or their contribution less vital.

When interviewed by Ad Astra, one of the pilots who trained in Botswana, 2Lt S. Padiachee (41 Squadron) could not contain his delight and said that this was a dream come true that had been long overdue. From the navigators’ side, 2Lt A.L. Motau from 80 Air Navigation School said he was overjoyed as the course had finally come to an end. He said this had not been an easy course and the fact that he had made it made him feel proud.

In conclusion, Lt Gen Gagiano wished all the recipients the best with their future careers in the SAAF. “You have made us proud by proving that only through hard work, diligence and perseverance can success be achieved. By exhibiting this commitment, our organisation remains in safe hands.”
Since the foundation of the Air Force Gymnasium (AF Gym) on 1 December 1951 and its first intake of 133 recruits, it has come a long way and has grown from strength to strength. Now the training facility of AF Gym at Valhalla (opposite Swartkop Airfield) is moving to the Boston complex at Air Force Base Hoedspruit in the Limpopo Province. This follows the serious sinkhole/dolomite problems that have led to the bungalows and most buildings at AF Gym being condemned.

The Officer Commanding, Col M.N. Sakwe, said: “Other reasons include the fact that we want to improve the SA Air Force standard by moving these trainees away from the pressures of the city. There will be better control mechanisms put in place in terms of security and a soldier will be forced to behave like one as the Basic Military Training course will lengthen to six months in the near future. Thus there will only be two intakes per year.”

The move is expected to materialise in phases, the first one being the Basic Military Training (BMT) wing that arrived on 27 November 2008. Training is to commence on 7 January 2009. The last two courses at the AF Gym (BMT and 2 Squadron - AF Gym) were completed by the end of November 2008, while the last one (3 Squadron - AF Gym) is to end by the middle of next year.

With just a few improvements, training facilities at Hoedspruit will be able to cater for more than 500 students, with adequate accommodation for instructors. There is, however, a need for retraining of instructors, and as a result they will be taken on such courses to familiarise themselves with the new curriculum,” said Col Sakwe.

WO2 H. Jafarie from 3 Squadron (AF Gym) stated that one of his fondest memories of the four years of his stay at AF Gym was witnessing the young people realising their potential and going beyond what they thought they were capable of. He said that he was especially proud during this year’s first intake when an obese woman managed to make it in spite of her weight because she knew how much she wanted to reach her goal.

There are, however, upbeat souls such as Airman Mmabatho Kopeledi, a trainee at 3 Squadron, who is eager to finish her course as this will mark the end of the Aerial and Ground Protection Phase in her life. Not only is she the best overall student so far, she just cannot wait to begin with her instructor’s course. She is adamant that she will make it because, as she confides to *Ad Astra*, this was not just a job to her, but something that was predetermined by a higher power.

“I am proud to be part of history in the making, and to those who did not get the chance to train at AF Gym - those guys missed out on a lot!”

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**Air Force Gymnasium relocates to Hoedspruit**

By Airman Tebogo Kekana, *Ad Astra*

Photo: F Sgt David Nomtshongwana

The last Basic Military Training parade passing out parade for 2008 held at the Air Force Gymnasium.
SA Army ending the year on a happy note

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, hosted his Gala Evening at the Thaba Tshwane Town Hall in Pretoria on 29 November 2008.

This event marks one of many gala evenings that are held annually, the mandate of which is to reflect on the achievements of the past year and express sincere appreciation to the stakeholders and captains of industry for their contributions and support.

In his speech Lt Gen Shoke said his gratitude went to all those soldiers who had lost their lives in the line of duty in 2008, bearing in mind that serving in uniform is a sacrifice and the SANDF honours their contribution in fighting for peace and stability in our democratic country.

In highlighting some of the achievements for 2008 he announced the following:
- The Lens Hospice in Soweto is to start operating next year.
- Mr Charles Nqakula, the Minister of Defence, handed the first of three battalion that received training under Mission Thebe to the Republic of Congo on 3 October 2008.
- His congratulated the SANDF for its splendid role well played in supporting the SA Police Service (SAPS) in combating the xenophobic attacks over the past months.

In closing, Lt Gen Shoke said: "I hope that next year the SA Army will reach beyond this year’s achievements and also reach its potential growth far above any political principle".

Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of the SA Army, delivering his speech during the Gala Evening.

A night to remember

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, hosted an elegant gala evening on 28 November 2008. This night, filled with entertainment, was an excellent way to start the festive season.

Such annual evenings are aimed at boosting the employees’ morale and showing that their hard efforts through the year are noticed. "No sweat is shed unnoticed."

Lt Gen Mgwebi welcomed all guests, including all business friends who are the Division’s pillar of strength, and an extended appreciation went to Brigadier General (Ret) Jacobs who has been interacting with the Division (HR) and promoting military veterans’ affairs.

He thanked his officials, saying: "With commitment, dedication and devotion there is a lot that you have done to enable the Division to achieve its set goals; you have been a vibrant and strong team.

Your tremendous efforts have strengthened the Division so that it has become one of the pillars that the Department of Defence cannot fully function without". In closing, he said: "We will overcome the difficulties that we encounter in our daily endeavours, so let us remain focussed. There is hope that things will continue to improve."
Oscar night for Training Command

By Bibi Morgets

On 5 December 2008 the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, hosted the Defence Reserves’ gala and awards function to celebrate the ending of yet another year and to honour those who had worked so hard and with so much zeal and diligence during 2008.

Maj Gen Andersen extended his appreciation to everyone who contributed by supporting the Defence Reserves. He mentioned that the purpose of the awards ceremony was to give recognition to the members at Defence Headquarters and the provincial offices for their contributions and outstanding performances and also to give recognition to “friends of the Defence Reserves who render support to the Reserves”. He went on to thank all the staff members for their support, especially the Senior Staff Officers (SSOs), namely Col Gerrie Jansen van Rensburg, Col Cappy Motswadira and Col Debbie Molefe as well as the Provincial Officers. These SSOs were presented with Commendation Certificates.

Ms Madie Haynes, Acting Deputy Director of the Centre of Competency Development Training under Training Command, received the Overall Winner’s trophy for her unit’s best overall performance as well as the trophy for the best Human Resources performance at the Gala Event. (The best performing units under Training Command were rewarded with floating trophies in the following categories: Command and Control: Personnel Service School; Planning: SA National War College; Financial Management: SANDF College for Educational Technology; Logistics: Military Academy; Regimental Aspects: Personnel Service School; Information Technology Management: Military Academy.)

Photos: Nelda Pienaar

Defence Reserves build its employees' morale

By Bibi Morgets

Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

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Photos: Nelda Pienaar
Postgraduate students visit Russia

By Dr Noel Jacobs, Chair for the School of Science and Technology, Military Academy

Two postgraduate students from the Military Academy’s School of Science and Technology participated in the second winter practice programme of Russia’s Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR). The two students, namely Lt T. Maluleke and Lt A. Sehone, were part of a group of 21 students from the universities and science research institutions of South Africa who participated in the event.

The JINR, located in a small town called Dubna and established in 1956, is a large intergovernmental and multidisciplinary scientific centre that consists of approximately 19 member countries and 71 partnering institutions from more than 45 countries. It incorporates basic research in the fields of particle and nuclear physics, as well as the development and application of advanced nuclear technologies. The JINR, which is rivalled only by the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland, is credited with many discoveries - including the element Dubnium on the periodic table, which was named after the town of Dubna.

The aim of the programme was to expose students to various fields of research and to provide them the opportunity to work alongside top nuclear scientists from the institute and the rest of the world, which was facilitated through a series of lectures and research projects.

Lt Maluleke worked on ion beam analysis at the Frank Laboratory for Neutron Physics under the supervision of Dr A. Kobzev. Lt Sehone’s research project was on centrality determination for MICA/MPD’s zero degree calorimeter at the Veksler Laboratory, which was supervised by Prof A. Litvineko. Both projects formed part of the students’ studies towards a B Mil Honours in Technology. Dr Noel Jacobs, Chair for the School of Science and Technology, accompanied the students as both supervisor and South African representative in Dubna.

The involvement and participation of these two postgraduates from the Military Academy in the international Winter Practice forms part of the School of Science and Technology’s vision to grow and provide the DOD and the broader SANDF with a pool of highly skilled and competent officers that will apply their knowledge and skill in a military/technological context to maintain the competitive edge of the broader SANDF in a highly competitive global technological environment.

The kind assistance and support of the Directorate SA Army Human Resources (HR), in particular Brig Gen M.A. Kula, Director SA Army HR, and Lt Col M.J. Ledwaba, Acting SSO HR Development and Policy, were instrumental in the success of the visit. Finally, we wish to thank the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation for granting us this opportunity to participate in this year’s Winter Practice.
Cannon shots resound on Poppy Day

By Diederick Reinecke

On 9 November 2008 during the annual commemorative parade at the war memorial in Kroonstad, for the first time in the history of the town, a cannon salvo fired in honour and in memory of those who offered their lives in wars for their country.

The two G1 88 mm cannon of the Free State Artillery Regiment, stationed in Kroonstad, woke many of the town’s inhabitants with the two blank shots fired in front of the Moqcaka municipal buildings. Similar cannon are used for the opening of parliament or visits of foreign heads of state and ministers to South Africa.

Worldwide, on the Sunday nearest to 11 November, poppy commemorative parades are held annually at 11:00 for those who have offered their lives in war for their countries. The red poppy flower was chosen in 1920 to be the symbol of the 11 November commemorative parade. For this reason red poppies are worn by veterans and other people in remembrance of the fallen soldiers.

It is the task of all defence force components and veterans’ organisations to ensure that the soldiers who have given their lives are never forgotten. This year the local branch of the SA Legion, together with the Free State Artillery Regiment, presented the Memorial Day parade.

The Mayoress of the Moqcaka municipality, Councillor Mgosi, and members of the School of Engineers, Group 24 HQ, Regiment De Wet, Free State Artillery Regiment, the Artillery association, the SA Infantry Association, the SA Legion, the MOTHS, MOTHWA and the Voor-trekkers attended this unique parade that takes place annually and laid wreaths at this special memorial. The motto of the SA Legion: “Not for ourselves, but for others”, is a constant reminder of those who offered up their lives.

* The Afrikaans translation of this article can be found on page 38 of this edition of SA Soldier.

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Strengthening strategic partnership with India

By Bibi Morgets

Peacekeeping is not only about the mere disarming of combatants or focusing on the security of the state. Aspects of peacekeeping, such as a holistic understanding of human security, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction interventions are key to ensuring that peace is sustained.

It is critical that in achieving this goal the SANDF should align itself with countries such as India that are more experienced in peacekeeping.

On 24 November 2008 the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, met with the Indian Chief of Army Staff, Gen Deepak Kapoor, at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane to reinforce their agreement which was signed in 2007 and to enhance co-operation between the two countries.

This relationship will help eliminate common problems, such as terrorism and drug trafficking so that international peacekeeping can be tackled in a joint co-operative effort.

As India is the oldest democracy among developing countries it is an excellent idea that our soldiers should take advantage of the lessons to be learnt in the Indian Army. These lessons should bring stability and normality. The exchange programme will enable SA personnel to go to India and to benefit from the Indian Army institutions, which give excellent training, especially concerning peace support operations.

In an interview with SA Soldier General Kapoor said SA personnel are privileged to have this opportunity and can learn a lot from the Indian Army regarding the United Nations (UN) peace support operations, as India is the central focus of training for UN peace support missions, and other countries send their soldiers to there for intensive training. This relationship would obviously greatly benefit South Africa’s peacekeeping role.
Eighteen programme members, including foreign members from Argentina, Uganda and Botswana, of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 18/08 and three senior directing staff members and a supporting member of the SA National Defence College, visited Germany from 14 to 22 November 2008.

The aim of the study abroad was to give the members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the national security policy and strategy of Germany and the European Union (EU).

The ENSP 18/08 group arrived at Berlin International Airport on Saturday, 15 November 2008, and were met by the SA Defence Attaché, Capt (SAN) Joe Sinovich, and Ms Claudia Samlenski from the German Armed Forces, who made a concerted effort to ensure a highly successful and memorable visit.

Following a bus tour around Berlin, the visitors booked in at the Maritim Pro Arte Hotel, an elite hotel in Berlin. After a well-earned rest, the members were taken on a tour on the Sunday to the Berlin Museum to learn about the story of Berlin and the original World War II nuclear bomb shelter. On Monday Ambassador E. Funde and members of the SA Embassy welcomed the group members. This was followed by various intensive briefings on German-South African relations ranging from German politics, economics, foreign and national security policy, Bundeswehr-Africa co-operation, deployments abroad and the transformation of the Bundeswehr.

On Tuesday the group visited the Centre for Inner Leadership to attend presentations on the Centre for "Innere Führung" (Bundeswehr Leadership Concept and Bundeswehr Ethics). Round table discussions were convened between the members and the staff of "Innere Führung" to appraise leadership concepts and to exchange ideas on leadership. Communications were highly interactive. This was followed by a presentation on communications by a representative from the Bundeswehr Academy. During the evening the members were hosted by the SA Defence Attaché at a German cultural evening held at the Lindenbrau restaurant.

On Wednesday the members were taken on a sightseeing tour of Potsdam on the Bundeswehr bus and visited various historical places. Following the sightseeing tour the members attended presentations on the structure and the tasks of the Military Historical Research Centre, the integration of the National People’s Army into the Bundeswehr and toured the library at the Research Centre.

On Thursday the members were taken on a sightseeing tour of Berlin. Next they left for Bonn by train on a five-hour journey during which the train sometimes reached a speed of 224 km per hour. The members booked in at the Hilton Hotel in Bonn and had a well-earned rest that evening.

On Friday the members visited the Ministerialdirigent Bode, Armanents Division (equivalent to Armscor) where intensive briefings were presented on the structure and tasks of the Armanents Division. This was fol-
Masters thesis on developmental peacekeeping

By Prof Theo Neethling, Chair:
Political Science, Faculty of Military Science (Military Academy)

Having completed an Honours degree in Security and Africa Studies in the Faculty of Military Science (Military Academy) of Stellenbosch University in 2006, Lt Col Laetitia Olivier, currently SSO Project, Vision 2020 (SA Army), decided to take her studies to a further level by enrolling for a Masters degree in Security and Africa Studies in 2007.

Given the increasing military and scholarly interest in the concept of developmental peace missions (DPMs) in recent times, Lt Col Olivier endeavoured to explore the feasibility of the concept and sought to answer the question whether DPMs was an ambitious construct or a feasible ideal, and whether DPMs could be effectively applied during peace missions.

Her study explores the evolution that has taken place in terms of United Nations (UN) peace missions as most modern peace missions include both peacekeeping and peace-building initiatives. The study also illustrates the modern approach to peace missions based on an integrated systems-thinking approach by means of which the activities of all relevant role players are integrated and fused to reach a common end state: that of sustained security and development. In order to analyse the concept of DPMs, the underpinnings of the concept human security, the security-development nexus and peace-building were researched in depth. These concepts were then coupled to the concept of DPMs in terms of their utility during current complex peace missions, both internationally and on the African continent.

The concept of DPMs was studied in the context of contemporary peacekeeping on the basis of three case studies, namely the peace missions in Kosovo, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The DPMs concept was applied to these case studies and analysed in terms of the extent to which the peace interventions in these countries were conducted in accordance with the philosophical underpinnings of DPMs.

The study concludes that DPMs are indeed a feasible ideal for peace missions, as they are based on and are in line with the approved current UN and African Union (AU) integrated planning processes. However, in terms of their practical utility in Africa, they currently remain an ambitious construct, given the limited capacity and resources of the AU and regional organisations. Therefore, DPMs should not be viewed as a short-term solution to, or panacea for all intra-state wars. The study proposes that the UN, the AU, as well as relevant regional organisations will have to adjust and make changes in terms of their institutions, structures, funding and the provision of resources in order to operationalise the concept of DPMs successfully.

This is especially true as far as the AU is concerned, as the AU currently experiences severe limitations in both material and human resources.

However, the fact that both the UN and the AU have adopted the Integrated Mission Planning Process concept as a planning tool for their respective missions is an indication that progress is being made towards the achievement of establishing a more holistic and integrated approach to finding sustainable solutions to global conflict.

Ultimately, the success of DPMs will be determined by the will and commitment of all the relevant role players involved in finding a lasting solution to intra-state conflicts. The concept itself cannot provide sustainable peace and development.

Lt Col Olivier graduated on 11 December 2007 in Stellenbosch and now plans to enroll for a doctoral qualification.

* Anyone interested in the concept of developmental peace missions is welcome to contact Lt Col Olivier at 082 853 7505.
Foreign study visit to Saudi Arabia

By Col L. Dyantyi and Col H.H.M. Klein
Photo: Col T. Lubaya

Twenty programme members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 18/08, two senior directing staff members and the Commandant of the SA National Defence College visited Saudi Arabia from 13 to 21 November 2008.

The aim of the foreign study visit was to allow the members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the national security policy and strategy of Saudi Arabia and the Arab League. The ENSP 18/08 arrived at Dubai International Airport, Saudi Arabia, and was met by Col M. Ngalo, the SA Defence Attaché in Dubai. The delegation was taken through the city of Dubai on a bus tour while in transit to Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia.

On Monday the delegation visited the King Fahd Security Academy where a briefing and a tour of the centre took place. This was followed by a visit to the Gulf Co-operation Council where different presenters briefed the delegation on the function of the Council and its member states. The ENSP 18/08 members later proceeded to the camel trails in Jabal Towaic. Later that evening they had a cultural evening at Nadj Village Restaurant to familiarise themselves with Arab culture.

On Tuesday the delegation visited the Special Security Forces at Salboukh Base and departed for the Al Salaam Aircraft Company where a briefing and a tour were presented. Later that evening the SA Defence Attaché hosted a formal function for the delegation together with the defence attachés of Jordan and Senegal at the SA Embassy in Saudi Arabia.

On Wednesday the delegation departed Riyadh for Dammam accompanied by Dr Duke Kent-Brown and Col Stadler. The delegation visited the Saudi Aramco Exhibition where a female tour guide gave a very detailed briefing and a long tour of the facility. The delegation departed Saudi Aramco on a visit to Jubail Industrial City, briefings and tour of the centre.

On Thursday the delegation checked out of the hotel and stopped at a nearby shopping mall on the way to the airport. Later the delegation departed for Dammam airport where the members checked in and departed for Dubai International Airport. The following morning the delegation departed from Dubai International Airport for OR Tambo International Airport.

On its arrival at Riyadh’s King Khalid International Airport the delegation was met by Col J.J. Stadler and his wife. Ms K. Stadler attended to the women who were part of the programme to ensure that they were adequately dressed and in line with the rules and regulations of the country (by wearing the country’s cultural dress for women known as ABAYA), while the DA was engaged in administrative issues. The delegation received a warm welcome and were all served traditional coffee and tea in the VIP lounge. The delegation booked in at the Holiday Inn Al Minhal in Riyadh.

On Saturday they attended various briefings at the RSA Embassy and later visited Fort Al Musmak. On Sunday, 16 November, the delegation visited the Command and Staff College Ministry of the Interior, the College for the Shoura Council, the Shoura Council (Parliament) South African Friendship Committee and later the ENSP 18/08 students visit to Saudi Aramco on 19 November 2008.

ENSP 18/08 students visit to Saudi Aramco on 19 November 2008.
You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals in it. On 3 December 2008 at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, hosted a Citizen Forum (briefing) for retired, former and serving Warrant Officers from the Services and Divisions on, inter alia, the status of Senior Warrant Officers promotions and remuneration in the SANDF.

The aim of the forum was to provide the opportunity for mutual interaction and to formulate solutions to their challenges experienced within the Services and Divisions and to broaden the exposure of Warrant Officers and improve their utilisation at the operational strategic level and their understanding of jointness and single service.

The host, MCWO Scheepers, painted a broad picture of their role as the custodians of discipline and executors of policies and tasks. He addressed key issues on the promotion process of Senior Warrant Officers in the SANDF, Project Loyal, the design and development of comprehensive learning pathways, learning opportunities and the Education, Training and Development (ETD) Policies for the optimal development of Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) and Warrant Officers, and the WO1 Service functional and developmental courses.

He also gave an outline of the Warrant Officers proposed structure, career development and management and the pathway for functional specialist posts and their implications. He highlighted the issue of military discipline and the extension of Basic Military Training from three months to six months.

"We are the link between officers and other ranks. The new warrant officers’ ranks are aimed at providing an extended career path for Warrant Officers, including those serving in the Reserve Force,” said MCWO Scheepers.

Former Warrant Officers and serving Warrant Officers of the SANDF during the Citizen Forum hosted by the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers.
Kanonskote klap
op Papawerdag

Artikel en foto deur
Diederick Reinecke

Op 9 November 2008 tydens die jaarlike herdenkingsparade by die oorlogsge-
denkteken in Kroonstad was daar vir die eerste keer in die geskiedenis van die
dorp ‘n kanonsalvo gevuur ter ere en ter nagedagtenis van diegene wat hul lewe vir hul land in
oorloë opgeoffer het.

Die twee G1 88 mm-
kanonne van die Vrystaat
Artillerie Regiment, ges-
tasioneer in Kroonstad,
het menige inwoner
wakker laat skrik met hul
twee loskruit-skote voor
die Moçaka munisipale
geboue. Soortgelyke
kanonne word gebruik
vir die opening van die
parlement of besoeke
deur buitelandse staat-
shoofde en ministers aan
Suid-Afrika.

Jaarliks op die naaste
Sondag aan 11 November
om 11:00 word wêreld-
wyd papawerherdenk-
ingsparades gehou vir
diegene wat hul lewe vir
hul land in oorloë opge-
offer het. In 1920 is die
rootipapawerblom gekies
om die simbool te wees
dan die 11 November-
herdenkingsparade. Om

Sersant-majoors Lieven Botha (RSM van Regiment de Wet), sersant David Sebego
(Vaandeldraer van die SA Infanteriebond) en sersant-majoors Andre van de Venter (verteen-
woordiger van die SA Infanteriebond) voor die oorlogsge-
denkteken in Hillstraat, Kroonstad.
Closing down of Group 24

By Lianè Grobbelaar
Photo: Tharine Geldenhuys, Kroonnuus

Group 24 HQ was established on 1 May 1969 at Bothaville under the command of Chief Commandant F.C. van der Merwe. Its headquarters were situated on the farm “Vreugde”, which belonged to the Officer Commanding. After its establishment, the Group had thirteen commando units under command. After the establishment of Group 34 some of the units under command of Group 24 were regrouped and placed under Group 34.

In 1975, Group 24 was moved to the Adami building in Kroonstad. Col F.C. van der Merwe was the Officer Commanding until December 1988 and Col J. Avis the Officer Commanding from 1989 to December 1992. As there was a need for more personnel, the HQ again moved, this time to its new premises in the Post Office building in 1991. Group 24 could be identified by its insignia, a crowned plover. This bird is usually found in large areas of South Africa and it is extremely watchful and very protective of its nest and offspring. The crowned plover is commonly found in the whole of the Group 24 area and it symbolises the manner and way in which Group 24 protected its subordinate units and its area of responsibility. The design of the insignia was heraldically accepted on 26 September 1989.

In January 1993 Col H.C. Holland-Muter was appointed as the Officer Commanding and in 1993 Group 24 moved to the Military Base Kroonstad and was one of the four Groups that were operational in the then Orange Free State. April 1993 saw the rebirth of Group 24 after Group 34 was amalgamated with Group 24. In December 1993, Group 24 had fourteen units under command, including units that were formerly under Group 34. In January 1996 Col Holland-Muter was transferred and on 23 January 1996 Col J.F. Grobbelaar became the Officer Commanding of Group 24.

Commando units in the Free State were allocated to Groups 24 and 36 respectively after the disbanding of Groups 25 and 35. After this reallocation, there were seventeen units under command of Group 24. Under Col Grobbelaar’s command Group 24 used Bossiespruit as a training base. Many courses were presented to Reserve Force members, such as Basic Training, Section Leaders, Platoon Commanders, Driving and Maintenance, Chef Course, Explore, LCAMPS and In-post Training.

With the closing down of Group 36 early in 2005, Group 24 was left with all 31 remaining commando units in the Free State under its command. In the same year nine units closed down. A further 10 units closed down in 2006. In 2007 eleven units closed down with the last remaining ATR unit, Harrismith, closing in March 2008.

Group 24 had many “ups” and “downs” over the years. With the commando units they did border patrol, fought “veld fires”, limited farm attacks, provided water to communities in case of emergencies and assisted the SA Police Service (SAPS) in operations.

Each year the Group had a leadership programme for learners and a soccer tournament between the different commandos. Group 24 organised the White Horse Shooting Competition in Bloemfontein each year. Thirteen 40-Year Medals, were handed out to Reserve Force members over the years.

Sadly, in October 1999 a helicopter accident took the lives of eleven people and in 2007 Col J.F. Grobbelaar was shot in his office and died on 31 May 2007.

Lt Col D.F. Brümmer became the Officer Commanding on 1 June 2007. Under his command twelve commando units closed down in 2007/2008 and on 30 November 2008 Group 24 closed it doors.

The Officer Commanding Group 24, Lt Col Danie Brümmer, thanks the community of Kroonstad for their support throughout the years.
SA Army Intelligence Formation gives to the needy

By Capt Cheryl Essop, SO2 Com SA Army Intelligence Formation

A convoy of over a dozen vehicles, escorted by the Potchefstroom Military Police on their motorbikes and police vehicles with wailing sirens caused pedestrians of Potchefstroom, Ikageng and Promosa to stop and stare. This was not an unfamiliar sight, as it was the annual Community Project held by the SA Army Intelligence Formation.

Dienssentrum vir Bejaardes, Happy Hearts Centre for the Aged, Kopanong Club for the Aged, Ikageng Day Care Centre for the Aged, Seralathleng Old Age Home and Amaphelo Hospice were the centres that were visited. Clothes, food, material and toys were donated and received with great joy.

During our visit, the General Officer Commanding SA Army Intelligence Formation, Brig Gen Job Magasela, took the opportunity to thank our elderly for the good work they did to support their own community. “It feels good to give to those who understand that the greatest joy in life is achieved by giving.” Our elderly play an integral role in society, yet sadly enough, they are the ones we often neglect.

The children of Amaphelo Hospice melted the hearts of all the soldiers, once again. They treated us to song and dance routines.

African Defence Systems (ADS), our friends in the Industry who support us in this endeavour each year, handed out Christmas gifts and party packs with the assistance of our very own Santa Claus.

The children looked overawed, yet eager and excited. ADS proudly assists in making a difference in the lives of innocent little children haunted by HIV. They are our heroes, because it is obvious that they care.

We urge all SA Army units to make their involvement in the community a priority, as any support is warmly welcomed. In these tough economic times, a little goes a long way. The SA Army Intelligence Formation has pledged to continue providing support to the community of Potchefstroom.

On 14 November 2008 members of each of the above-mentioned old age centres enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas lunch at 1 Tactical Intelligence Regiment in the company of Brig Gen Magasela, members of ADS and the Mayor of Tlokwe City Council in Potchefstroom, Councillor Maphetle Maphetle. This is the SA Army Intelligence Formation’s gesture of appreciation to those that contribute to bettering their community.
Adapted from article by Novartis Consumer Health
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Every weekend thousands of runners take part in marathons, half-marathons and recreational running around the country. While these distances will take their toll on many different parts of a runner’s body, particularly the legs and feet, just how many of these runners currently suffer from the added burden of having athlete’s foot?

Athlete’s foot is a common fungal infection, known as tinea pedis (Latin for “fungus of the foot”) that affects many people at some point in their lives. In fact, up to 70% of the population will have athlete’s foot at some or other stage of their lives, with approximately 15% of the adult population in industrial countries suffering from athlete’s foot at any one time.

It usually affects the spaces between a person’s toes, but can spread to toenails, the soles and sides of feet.

The symptoms of athlete’s foot include itching and burning feet, the skin frequently peeling and, in more severe cases, there may be some cracking, pain and bleeding as well.

Several factors influence the prevalence of athlete’s foot, including the use of public facilities such as communal showers and cloakrooms, swimming pools, saunas, fitness centres, thermal centres, the presence of minor foot trauma and heavy sweating. Another common cause is the wearing of damp, dirty socks and shoes, which are prime breeding grounds for the fungus. It is for all of these reasons that populations at high risk of developing athlete’s foot include military recruits and persons active in sports. Research has shown that athletes who go barefoot, such as swimmers, are at a higher risk of suffering from athlete’s foot, but up to the present little is known about the risk factors for persons involved in sports requiring shoes and socks to be worn.

Research conducted among marathon runners in Europe has found that marathon runners are twice as likely as the general population to have athlete’s foot. In fact this study, which was conducted among marathon runners taking part in the Médoc Marathon held in Bordeaux, France, found that the prevalence of athlete’s foot in these marathon runners was similar to that observed in swimmers.

The reason cited was that runners’ feet are subjected to maceration (the presence of excessive moisture on the skin), trauma and micro-trauma (such as the micro-tearing of muscle fibres, the sheath around the muscle and the connective tissue, as well as stress to the tendons and bones) which could favour fungus infection. A similar study, conducted among professional soccer players in the United States, showed that 69% of professional male soccer players suffer from athlete’s foot. These results, which were published in the Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine in January this year, highlighted the need for improved primary prevention of athlete’s foot among athletes.

Effective treatment can reduce the duration of symptoms in patients with superficial fungal infections, but poor patient compliance results in high relapse rates. According to research done in the 1980’s, 48% of patients did not apply the treatment as often as they should, and 25% of patients stopped applying treatment when the symptoms disappeared. Although treatment options have improved dramatically since then, non-compliance is still an issue among athlete’s foot sufferers. What is needed is better communication between the doctor or pharmacist and the patient, as well as anti-fungal medications with a reduced duration of treatment.

Some tips to enable athletes to prevent athlete’s foot include keeping your feet dry, especially between your toes; wearing socks made of natural materials such as cotton or wool or a synthetic fibre designed to draw moisture away from your feet; changing your socks regularly; wearing light, well-ventilated shoes or going barefoot at home when not in training; and trying to alternate pairs of shoes to allow time for your shoes to dry. When showering in public places, wear waterproof sandals.

If you think you may be suffering from athlete’s foot, speak to your doctor or pharmacist who will recommend the best treatment possible.
In a splendid display to demonstrate their commitment to the 16 Days of Activism - no violence against women and children - the South African Security Sector consisting of Men Only took to the streets in a gentle parade in Pretoria on 28 November 2008.

The parade that started in Leyds Street in Sunnyside and culminated with an address by the Executive Mayor of Tshwane Metropolitan City, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, at the Tshwane City Hall was composed of male members from the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Tshwane Metro Police and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Addressing the parade, Dr Ramokgopa praised the men in uniform for their support and contribution towards the eradication of violence against women and children in South Africa. "It is with awe and honour that I address this spectacle of patriots. I refer to the members on parade as patriots because it is them who are at the front and the rear in the provision of internal security and defence of this nation and country," said Dr Ramokgopa.

She also encouraged the SA Security Sector to continue with their joint operations for the good of the country.

"In order for the jointness of this nature to be a success, it is of crucial importance that the approach should not be of service competitiveness, but rather that of appreciation and respect for the various roles each respective service here on parade can provide," she said.
On 1 December 2008 the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Fezile Bhengu, and the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, joined hands to declare war against the pandemic that knows no boundaries and undertook the walk with the military community and residents of Thaba Tshwane to commemorate World AIDS Day. Messages declaring war against the epidemic showed that the DOD as a collective was united in conveying unambiguously that the discrimination, victimisation and stigma of HIV and AIDS must cease.

Banners were displayed during the walk in the streets of Thaba Tshwane towards the Military Health Training Formation. Members received messages from the Deputy Minister of Defence and the Surgeon General, pledges were read and candles lit in remembrance of those who died, as well as those infected and affected with HIV and AIDS. Various units displayed banners with HIV and AIDS messages and the team from the Military Police won the best banner category.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Bhengu said that today we see with sadness the effects of the pandemic, which has presented a major challenge to public health and socio-economic development. "HIV is an infectious, chronic, debilitating and potentially life-threatening disease. We need to enforce intervention. It calls upon traditional leaders, faith based organisations, youth formations and civil society to ensure that Africa rids itself of the disease," said Mr Bhengu.

Lt Gen Ramlakan highlighted the importance of the day and said that the high prevalence rate of HIV infection in the country called for our collective response to the growing challenge of the deadly virus. "As the DOD and part of the broader South African community we are in the forefront in the fight against the epidemic and we have gone the extra mile with Masibambisane and Project Phudisa and we have rolled out our strategies to provide lifelong care for those infected. Together we can win; we can beat it and say yes to life," said Lt Gen Ramlakan.
Our golfers portray true Friendship through Sport abroad

By Lt Col Karin Watts, PRO SANDF Golf Head Committee

The SA National Defence Force Golf Team was invited to participate in the 5th World Military Golf Championships hosted by the Technical Committee for Golf of the International Military Sports Council (CISM) at Hylands Golf Club in Canada from 17 to 22 August 2008.

The selection of the SANDF Team was based on, among others, past performance and current form of players, involvement in golf, representivity and the results of the 2008 SANDF Golf Championships held in Pretoria in April 2008.

Representatives from Bahrain, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Namibia, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the USA and Zambia participated in the Championships, which constituted the biggest field ever gathered for this tournament.

Teams consisted of two female and six male players. However, not all the teams were at full strength, for example Colombia was represented by only one player. Honours were awarded in the women’s individual and women’s team categories, the men’s individual and men’s team categories and the seniors’ individual category (men over 40 years of age). In the men’s team competition the best four scores of the six players counted on every given day, while in the women’s competition both scores counted every day.

The Championships were played over four rounds at Hylands Golf Club on the outskirts of the Canadian capital, Ottawa. This is a military golf club that boasts two eighteen-hole layouts, the South and North Courses, and the tournament was contested on the latter. The competition format was stroke play over 72 holes. The warm weather of the late Canadian summer welcomed all players on the day of the practice round, but culminated in an afternoon thunderstorm that delayed play for two hours. Throughout the rest of the week the playing conditions were bright and sunny, the final day reaching 30° Celsius. The SANDF women’s team began the final round in second place, three strokes off the pace set by the women from the USA. Lt Col Karin Watts, having been among the leading women from the start of the tournament, was also hot on the heals of the American front runner in the women’s individual competition. The men’s team had faltered in the early rounds and any chance of a medal finish faded as the week progressed.

The final result in the women’s team competition was the USA first, South Africa second and Canada third. In the men’s team competition the USA also took the honours, with Canada second and Bahrain (a first-time competitor) in third position. The South African men’s team ended seventh out of 12 teams.

In the women’s individual competition, Lt Col Karin Watts ultimately finished in the silver medal position, with a player from the USA in first place and a Canadian player third.

The medal and closing ceremony was followed by a banquet where, among others, the Fair Play Trophy was presented. This trophy was awarded to the team that best represented the CISM motto: “Friendship through Sport” during the Championships. The annual recipient was voted for by all the participating countries, and for the third time in the five championships that have been hosted to date, South Africa walked away with this honour.

The 6th CISM World Military Golf Championships will be held in Namibia in 2009. SANDF Golf can look forward to this event and players are encouraged to improve their games with a view to making the SANDF Team...
Strategising about SANDF boxing

By Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, Patron of SANDF Boxing
Photo courtesy SAAF College

It is appropriate that the opening line to this article is an expression of deep appreciation to members of the SANDF who made this important workshop a reality and a success through their selfless support. First of all a word of appreciation is extended to the Officer Commanding SA Air Force College and his staff for hosting our workshop and for creating a climate conducive to a successful strategy session. A further word of appreciation is extended to various General Officers and Officers Commanding who provided support to and allowed members of their units to attend this workshop.

The SANDF Strategic Boxing Workshop in August 2008 took place against the backdrop of a disastrous performance by South Africa at the Beijing Olympics. That debacle was not a surprise, but a disaster waiting to happen as a result of institutional failure and neglect of sport. In inviting members to the workshop, the SANDF Boxing Executive stated: "The purpose of the workshop is to chart a way forward for SANDF Boxing so that it should have a positive and enduring impact on the future of Olympic Style Boxing in South Africa". Thus members assembled at the SA Air Force College were fully conscious of the responsibility they shouldered for the future of boxing not only in the SANDF, but in South Africa generally.

Various regions were represented, with only a few being unable to attend for understandable reasons. Reports were presented by the SANDF Boxing Executive, the regions and commissions. Discussions were held on strategies for renewal and development. Members were adamant in expressing a view that the SANDF should be persuaded to give specific attention to recruiting youths with sporting potential through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). The strongly held view is that the SANDF should become a centre of excellence in South Africa for a select number of sporting codes, especially combat sports. Reference was made to other armed forces, worldwide, that have achieved sporting excellence in their countries and in the world.

In outlining the way forward it was pointed out that the key to success lay in the development of a cadre of boxing administrators, coaches, trainers, judges and referees who will serve as the foundation for a tradition of boxing excellence to be developed. Members pointed out that many of the over-age boxers (over 34 years of age) in the SANDF can be sent for education and training in the above-mentioned roles. Such officials will identify potential boxing talent in and outside the SANDF, and train, coach, nurture and cultivate in them martial and Olympic values and skills.

A special word of thanks is extended to Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation for affording two of our boxing officials the opportunity to attend a CISM Centre for African Development Boxing Coaching Course in Kenya in November 2008. The two members were Sgt Modibedi and Cpl Mkhutsane of the National Ceremonial Guard and 44 Parachute Regiment respectively. This is just the beginning.

With the development of greater technical capacity SANDF Boxing intends increasingly to get involved in and initiate development work in communities as part of a social responsibility programme. Such work in the communities will assist in setting up nurseries and academies for future SANDF and SA boxers.

As the workshop drew to a close, members recommitted themselves to the development of boxing and turning it around to become an institution characterised by professionalism, excellence and the Olympic spirit.

This serves to inform SA Soldier readers, the SANDF and South Africa that SANDF Boxing is undergoing renewal. Do watch us during the next 10 years! Boxing greetings to all of you.
A story is told of a Scottish Minister, Mr Alexander Whyte, who was able to look at the bleakest situation and yet find something to be thankful for. On a dark Sunday morning when the weather was freezing, wet and stormy, one of his deacons whispered: "I am sure the preacher won’t be able to thank God for anything on a day like this - it is absolutely horrible outside!" The preacher began the sermon by praying: "We thank thee oh Lord, that the weather is not always like this!"

A Thanksgiving Service was held at Joint Operations Division on 20 November 2008. The service was lead jointly by Chaplain Tumaka Molaba from the Joint Operations Division and Chaplain Thabo Masweu.

The theme of the Service was: "The Lord has helped us all the way; Give thanks to the Lord", with the message that we may have had a challenging year with major obstacles to overcome, but we have a duty to express gratitude to those that have supported us and we should be grateful for what we have achieved.

In his address, the Chief of Joint Operations, Maj Gen Temba Matanzima, praised every member of the Division, saying that all the successes of the past year belonged to them.

He expressed his sincere gratitude for their excellent contribution to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Joint Operations Division, whether they were deployed in one of the internal or external mission areas, or had acted in support of those deployed.

During 2008, the SANDF has had a daily average of 2 900 members deployed externally in seven missions and two companies serving in Operation INTEXO along the border with Zimbabwe.

During the service the Chaplain General, Brig Gen Marius Cornelissen, handed over three leather-bound Bibles: one to the Chief of Joint Operations, another to Brig Gen Simon Qhesi, representing Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, the GOC of the Joint Operations HQ, and a third Bible to Brig Gen Rubzani Maphwanya, the GOC Special Forces. The Bibles were sponsored by Denel and the SA Bible Society as an initiative of the Office of the Chaplain General.
502 Squadron excels once again

By Sgt T.T. Mulaudzi
Photos: Maj W.D.H. Abrahamse

The first ever Protection Games were held at Central Flying School Langebaanweg from 10 to 13 November 2008. The purpose of these games was to promote esprit de corps among the SA Air Force’s protection members and to promote the core skills of the mustering among its members (these skills include physical fitness, endurance, weapon proficiency and general force preparation competencies).

502 Squadron is stationed at 68 Air School in Lyttelton and was but one of fourteen participating squadrons and units. Each team consisted of eight men and two women.

The participants of 502 Squadron performed very well over the entire event and excelled on account of their discipline, zeal and professional attitude.

Senior Staff Officer Protection, Col P.T. Mofokeng, also used the event to give recognition to various squadrons and sections for their performance in 2008. 502 Squadron was fortunate to be recognised as the Best Overall Protection Squadron during this event. The squadron was also recognised as the Best Overall Logistics Section, the Best Overall Human Resources Section and the Best Overall Operations Section.

The Officer Commanding of 502 Squadron, Maj W.D.H. Abrahamse, was very proud of all the members in his squadron and said that their performance was based on the slogan of 502 Squadron: “A Hi Kokeni Swinwe” (“Let’s Pull Together”) and the fact that every single member was proud to serve in the protection mustering and the SA Air Force.

The team representing 502 Squadron.
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