Inauguration of the President of SA
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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NATIONAL PRIDE. SA Air Force helicopters executing a salute flight with the National Flags at the inauguration of Mr Jacob Zuma as President of the RSA on 9 May 2009. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)
From the Editor’s desk

Life’s beginnings and endings … This month’s edition is packed with just that.

We witnessed Mr Jacob Zuma take his solemn Oath of Office as the new President of the RSA and Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF on 9 May 2009. Read all about this historical occasion on pages 12 to 14.

On 19 May 2009 the handing over and welcoming of the new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, took place at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria. Read more about the two new principals on pages 16 and 17.

The Military Academy recently appointed its 18th Commandant - Brig Gen Lindile Yam. He was previously the non-resident Defence, Army and Naval Adviser of South Africa to the UK and Sweden. Read about this prestigious parade on page 28.

During the recent strike by doctors, the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) yet again was called upon to restore hope to the South African health system. This was after the doctors of the provincial hospitals had embarked on industrial action for higher wages.

As soon as an agreement between the doctors and the Department of Health was reached the military personnel were withdrawn, but there were still members who were monitoring the situation for some days thereafter. We once again salute our Force members! Read all about the support rendered on pages 20 and 21.

Unfortunately, I have to end on a sombre note as three SA Air Force crewmembers, Capt Bongani Wayne Mdluli, Lt Lehlogonolo Simon Baloyi, and F Sgt Izak Mome Zuidmeer, lost their lives in a tragic helicopter accident on 12 May 2009. May God give comfort to their families, loved ones, friends and colleagues in this difficult time. (Also read the tribute on page 11)

May we all celebrate Youth Day on 16 June. Please take care of our youth, they are our future, our future leaders!

Nelda Piennar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • JUNE 2009

Ezisuka
kuMhleli

Isiqalo nesiphetho sempilo … Iphethe phuku lakulenyanga lisiphathele lokhu okulandelayo.


Iziko lemfundo ephakeme kwezwe kokuvikela (Military Academy) liguqo umkhuzi omusha weshumi nesishiyagabonelimi u Njengane (Brig Gen) Lindile Yam. Osuka esihlalweni sokuba ngumeluleki ongazinzile kwezokuvikela komahlalehlomile (Army) kanye nombhutho waseMnanz (Navy) phesheya u UK kanye naye nasweshe. Okuningi ngalomncimbhi okhethekile ungakuthola ehakhasini 28.

Ngesikhathi kunesiteleka sodokotela, uphikho wezempilo lombutho wezokuvikela (SAMHS) uphinde kwadlakelo ezempilo zakulelizwe. Lokhu kubangelwe ukulseleka kodokotela bezihleleka zezitshidawo zekuhlephantsa zemphiza fume zabo ngamahlolyelo.

Kuthe nje emva kokufinyelela esivumelwaneni phakathi koMnyango wezemplo lombutho wezokuvikela (SAMHS) laphinde kwadlakelo ezempilo zakulelizwe. Lokhu kubangelwe ukulseleka kodokotela bezihleleka zezitshidawo zekuhlephantsa zemphiza fume zabo angamahlolyelo.


*STranslation (isiZulu) by Mnuz Manelisi Ndaba
SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO ALL SANDF MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF!

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MOTHER YOU ARE!

Who could ever describe the being that is Mother?
When even words fail to define the Woman that you are,
And humanity struggles to reward you for your incredibility
Even Man fails to understand the strength you hold within
As life seems to take pride in trying to bring you down,
You remain standing, even if its by a toe; you find your feet and
stand your ground

Although your tears fall at times - we understand
Cause even superheroes bleed sometimes
And feel like hanging their caps and throwing in the towel,
But like a real hero, Woman you never do,
When the going gets tough; you get even tougher!

Mother you are!
The “M” in Magnificent; in all that you show and do
The “O” in Overall; beauty, brains, all that is you

The “T” Teacher; you lead by example, for all that you are
The “H” Honorable; you remain true whether near or far
The “E” Everlasting; like the warmth of your unconditional love
The “R” Remarkable; Mother! A wonderful soul,
As gentle as a dove

Mother you are!
So let the Man embrace the beauty which you possess
For you are the foundation of a house
And the heart of a home
Let every creature sing your praise
For we all are, because you are!
Mother you are beautiful, special and kind
Your joy to the heart; you empower the mind
Mother you are FABULOUS; with Godly love
A precious gift from above! Pte B.P. Hadebe,
Area Military Health Unit North West

TRIBUTE

In loving memory of the defence intelligence heroes.
ufanzeni n NXekele

Death is a bad thing, it’s painful but,
We accept it but do not forget
To lose a special person in your life is painful
It is very difficult to accept it, but we accept it
When the light of the moon is gone, then the sun is dark

We were working together as a family, caring for each other
As brothers and sisters, but today you are no longer with us
Let us remember those we used to share the work with them
The day we received their deaths, it was unbelievable
The day we laid them to rest, it was the worse pain

BLINDNESS

Why am I considered disabled when I have a sense of vision
that surpasses the human mind and understanding, vision
that pierces through a human soul? Why am I considered dis-
cabled if I can see what is not visible? Why bother with the
obvious? Because I can read between the lines and I can feel
the different colours and discern the energy that you exude.
Being blind does not mean I do not have foresight, because I
dream big and have a vision about my life.

CO M.P. Letswalo, SA Army Engineer Formation

MOTIVATION

When it comes to finding happiness, it is important to be
proactive by identifying the goals that matter most to you and
taking concrete, focused steps to achieve them.

Confident soldiers ...
… highlight their strengths and play down their weaknesses;
… are not afraid of change … and if it all goes wrong, they
don’t blame themselves, but find the real cause;
… surround themselves with positive people who support
them;
… can take compliments and don’t
beat themselves up about negative
criticism;
… look up, stand up and talk up, and
when they fail, they aren’t afraid to ask
for help.

Congrats to President Jacob Zuma
for the appointment of the new
Minister of Defence, Dr Lindiwe Sisulu
… time of victory for all soldiers.
Capt S.R. Stuurman, Thaba Tshwane

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be pub-
lished, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limita-
tions. 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.
On 25 February 2009 S Sgt M. Sobuye was sitting on his bed alone in 1 Military Hospital (Orthopaedic Ward) far away from his unit. He was not expecting any visitors. Suddenly three members from the SA Army Infantry Formation, namely Lt Col M.F. September, Capt S.G. Mphahlwa and WO2 D.J. Davids, accompanied by Maj S.M. Saulse and Capt M.I. Kutumela, both health workers in the ward, walked in. S Sgt Sobuye was anxious and surprised to see familiar faces. He had questions, but suddenly he was speechless. Lt Col September broke the good news to S Sgt Sobuye and officially informed him of his promotion to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2.

The manner in which this promotion took place was very special to the member and we hope that it will help him recover and get well quickly.

S Sgt Sobuye was part of the team that was on its way to 4 SA Infantry Battalion in Middelburg when their vehicle burst a tyre approximately 4 km from Witbank. As a result it rolled and collided with an oncoming vehicle. The accident claimed the life of the driver, while five team members were injured and admitted to 1 Military Hospital.

Capt D.B. Ramile, email

In the past terminology work used to play a prominent role in the Directorate Language Services (D Lang), and a number of language practitioners were involved in terminology on a full-time basis. A testimony of the dedication of language practitioners in this field is the bilingual Military Dictionary (MD): SA Defence Force that was published ca. 1990. To some extent, this publication also brought D Lang’s work in this field to an end.

Since the publication of the above-mentioned dictionary terminology work in D Lang has continued on a reduced scale. None of this work has been published or made accessible to people who may need such terms. Individual language practitioners have continued to compile their own lists, but they have not been coordinated. Currently, no formal terminology work is done in D Lang, although all language practitioners who are involved in editing and translation are to some extent aware of the importance of terminology.

In the DOD there are a number of people who have indicated that they are interested in spending some of their time formalising their terminology outputs. Especially people who are involved in doctrine development and the compilation of documents know how important it is to use the correct terminology and to standardise the use of terms. Currently, none of these “personal lists” have official status, and often people are reluctant to share them. The reason for this is mainly that there is very often a lively debate and even differences of opinion between Services and Divisions regarding certain terms.

Anyone who is interested in terminology and wants to be involved in a discussion that may lead to a structured approach to terminology in the DOD can contact Dr Johann Marais on (012) 392 2412 or Ms Linda Maree on (012) 392 3188.

Dr J.L. Marais, D Lang (HR Dev)

My recent accommodation at the Wynberg Officers Mess, while my wife was being treated at 2 Military Hospital at Wynberg, refers.

My room had a number of magazines, which included copies of the official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence, ie the SA Soldier. I was extremely impressed with your magazine and found it to be exceptionally informative. As an ex SA Air Force and Navy member, I found your articles wrt certain members that were my juniors and units I had served in most interesting. Articles wrt general SANDF matters were also very educational. I would sincerely appreciate it if you could arrange that I am included on your distribution list. I have in the meantime discussed your magazine with other retired members also residing in the Hermanus area, and it was agreed that we would in turn pass the magazine on after reading it.

Bravo Zulu for an outstanding magazine! Cdr (Dr) Arthur J. Henn (Ret), Hermanus

* We are proud that our retired members remain interested in SA Soldier. We will gladly send you a copy each month to distribute among the other retired members in the Hermanus area. Happy reading! - Ed.
RESPECT YOURSELF

Millions of people wish
To become soldiers
You as a soldier are
Lucky to be one of the selected
Soldiers in the country
They taught you military skills and respect
Respect yourself so that others may respect you
In the 70s when you see a soldier you were afraid
But nowadays everyone, even the children,
When they see one they are not afraid of a soldier
Because we are like civilians.
Drinking beer in the tavern and shebeens
In uniform results in disrespect from civilians
A soldier must have a secret
To every soldier a secret is a key to success
They know that a soldier does not have a weapon
Because we share our secret with them
Please my fellow soldiers let us keep
The army secret as well trained soldiers
And be proud of yourselves.

Pte M.W. Maraka, Mod Signal Regt

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the SANDF, especially the SA Army. On 20 February this year I had a flat tire just outside Midrand on my way to Pretoria at about 14:40. A member in uniform must have seen me in my predicament and assisted me, an ordinary citizen trying to replace a flat tire.

I did not get to know his unit or place of work, but managed to get his name. While he was assisting me we exchanged information about work, so he did let the cat out of the bag. At first I was afraid of this soldier appearing out of the blue to assist me and introducing himself, because so many people misuse the uniform.

Therefore at first I did not trust him. After gaining my trust and convincing me of who he was, he immediately got to work.

With military precision and knowledge everything was over in less than ten minutes and I was ready to hit the road, my right rear flat tire having been fixed. I do not know the commander, but through this letter would like to say thank you for your assistance and kindness. Although I did not get the name of your unit, thank you for giving your surname. Thank you. Anonymous

NATURE

They say on the first day our Father created the heavens and the stars and He went about creating until He moulded us.

Thus our Mother Nature was born
to nurture mankind for eternity and she presented this earth as evidence of her fertility.

Then our Father dedicated every
sunrise and sunset to his Son as He was given dominion. This is our planet. Yes! This earth enriched with its minerals that give life to roots bearing fruits.

O! Lo and behold the canyons so grand and the deserts that are heaven sent, the rivers that flow in the summer and breathe life into the rain’s merriment. This nature is the best one can experience in this lifetime. It is the IV to our body and soul; yes it is our lifetime.

Our nature created technology which now is the enemy. So when it fails us as it surely will where shall we search for the remedy. I say in our mother’s womb as our tears run down her bosom. For how can we raise our hands to the spring and still alienate the autumn.

So please open your eyes and visualise the natural beauty that is nature.

Pte M.W. Maraka, Mod Signal Regt

WARRANT OFFICER DEVELOPMENT COURSE

On 26 March 2009 the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane hosted a certificate ceremony for a group of 46 learners who successfully completed the Warrant Officer Development Course over the period 19 January to 27 March 2009. WO2 E. Badenhorst received the trophy for the best academic and supporting member.

She excelled in her military career with various achievements, such as the Diploma in Purchasing and Supply Management. She is a Certified Group Fitness Specialist and is a qualified Advanced Fitness Instructor in the SANDF.

WO2 Badenhorst is currently working at the National Ceremonial Guard in Thaba Tshwane as the RQMS. Her achievements show that anything is possible with hard work and dedication.

Lt Col Len Badenhorst, email

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WO2 E. Badenhorst

It is all around us, within us, yes we are nature. I see nature in the heavens, yes nature in the skies, I see nature every time I look into your eyes.

Lt Linda, School of Tactical Intelligence, Potchefstroom
GRADUATES FROM THE MILITARY ACADEMY

The Military Academy had the honour in March this year to produce more graduates through the University of Stellenbosch via the Faculty of Military Science.

The unit had one Masters Degree, four BMil degrees and fifteen Higher Certificates in Military Studies. We want to congratulate these students on their individual achievements. It always brings pleasure to the unit when we see that our years of hard work and our students’ dedication to their work pay off in such a positive manner. Capt Engela Meintjes, Military Academy, email.

30TH REUNION CELEBRATION

Members who did basic training in 1979 at SACC Service Battalion.

I have liaised with some eligible members to organise the 30th reunion celebration. The interested group has deemed it appropriate to host the reunion from 25 to 26 September 2009 at 9 SA Infantry Battalion.

An application has been submitted to host the event and authority is pending. Funds (sponsors) will also be generated in order to make this occasion successful. It is encouraging to know that sponsors are interested in such a potent idea and have indicated their readiness to make a contribution.

If you know of any sponsors that can be approached, kindly inform the drafter hereof.

It is suggested that eligible members make a minimum contribution of R300 per person (pp). Senior members who joined before 1979 and up to 1980 are also welcome to join and pay an amount of R200 pp. The spouses of both these groups indicated are especially invited to unite for the amount of R250 pp.

Kindly forward your ideas, if any, to make this reunion a memorable occasion. The monies are to be paid into the account of 9 SAI Bn on/or before 31 August 2009. Details are as follows:

- Account Holder: 9 SAI Regt Fund
- Account No: 712680601
- Branch Code: 630110
- Branch Name: Belville

The deposit slip is to be faxed to Ms J.D. Bester on (021) 787 6155 or 820 6155 (tie line).

* For more information, the following persons can be contacted:

- WO2 C.J. Heynes on (022) 707 4516 or fax: (022) 707 4609
- Lt Col D.W. van Wyk on (012) 671 0044/fax:(012) 671 0149
- Maj (Ret) C.J. Botha on 076 285 8681.
- WO2 C.J. Heynes, co-ordinator of the reunion

SHAVATHON AT 1 MILITARY HOSPITAL

The personnel of 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria recently showed their passion for the CANSA Shavathon, which was held in the hair salon of the hospital on 6 March 2009. “Shave or spray in solidarity with a cancer survivor” was the theme of this year’s Shavathon, which raised funds for the CANSA Prevention Programme and patient care services. The funds raised will be used to further cancer research and provide home-based care for cancer patients.

Personnel understood that by shaving or colour spraying their heads for the event they would show support and celebrate life for South African cancer survivors - “we remember our loved ones who have lost their lives to cancer”. The participation donation of R50 went to the Cancer Association of SA.

The CANSA Shavathon raises awareness of the disease, which affects one in four South Africans. Cancer is an uncontrollable growth of cells, resulting in masses or tumors, and it knows no boundaries between race, gender or age, making it impossible to exclude any individual from the possibility of being diagnosed with cancer.

Hair loss is something that people really associate with chemotherapy and cancer, so having your hair shaved or sprayed is a way of showing solidarity with cancer sufferers, and it is a really great way of helping CANSA to raise money. Capt Karin Stoltz, 1 Military Hospital.
news from abroad

FUN DAY IN MISSION AREA (DRC)

During March 2009, while Alpha Company of 6 SA Infantry Battalion was deployed in the western part of North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) they held a fun day for people to show off their skills.

The day was a huge success as the fun day with soldiers shouting, dancing and laughing. The programme was opened with a prayer by Pte M.S. Babili; then the fun began. Soldiers entertained the rest of the crowd with traditional dancing, choir singing, hip-hop and drama.

Then the male and female individuals showed off their glamorous outfits in the beauty contests. Also attending were the locals from the nearby villages of Njacajanga and Nteko, most of whom were children between the ages of 5 and 13 years. This was symbolical of South African soldiers having a big impact on the people of the DRC. These two different peoples were united as one and the motive was to have fun and share good relationships. This wonderful sequence of events ended with a vote of thanks by WO2 X. Bunu, who said: “Happy people enjoy life”. Pte P.E. Motsari, email

RESPONSE TO LETTER "WHAT IS RESPECT"

I am a Reserve Force soldier currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). (I commenced my national service in July 1974.) I feel the need to respond to the letter - "What is respect?" - published in the December 2008 edition of SA Soldier.

The “new Lance Corporal” has missed the boat somewhere and failed these youngsters. There is and can never be any comparison between the respect and discipline in civilian life and that of the military environment. She should find out the meaning of “corrective training” as defined in Chief of the SA Army instructions.

In the military environment one does not necessarily respect the person, but rather the rank that he or she is wearing. Having first-hand experience with Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members I have dealt with I can say some make us proud, but the majority just do not grasp that once promotion to the lower command post begins it is not only about the extra money. They are promoted to junior Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs), but continue to stay on the level of a Private. Her CSM is probably a person with many years of experience and without knowing the people concerned. I predict that the Lance Corporal did something ridiculous in the eyes of the CSM, so the act was ridiculous, not the Lance Corporal herself. The junior NCO is the backbone of the command and control system as defined in the military environment and until the Defence Force produces disciplined, strong-willed NCOs the discipline in the SANDF will not improve. I would suggest, as a new Lance Corporal, more training and communication periods. I can add much more to this, but prefer to end now. There is an old saying: ‘To have peace, one must prepare for war’.

WO2 George Patrick de Lange, Goma

RESPPECT BELONGS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Peace belongs to me (South Africa)
I was raised without peace,
But peace was in me
I was born crying for peace not knowing
I own peace
I was born when people were
Dying for peace
I was raised by peace seekers

Peace is now in me, I eat, I talk,
I laugh peace
Wherever I go I produce peace
Because I was born and raised with peace
Wherever I go I plant and produce

The fresh fruits of peace
Here I am, in the Sudan
Risking my own life for peace
Fighting for peace in Darfur
I am South Africa the mother of peace
Where peace is free, there is no need
To pay a cent for peace
Where peace is water, you wash,
You drink and ...
I am respected by the nations
Because I have love, laughter, care, support
The ingredients of peace

Those are the ingredients for peace
Those are the main ingredients for peace
Those are the ingredients to keep peace alive

The respect belongs to South Africa
The country of peace
The country that does not need anyone
To manufacture peace for it
The country that use its own resources
To produce peace
4 SAI Bn is one of the main ingredients
You will find in peacemaking.

Rfn M.M. Mapea, 4 SAI Bn (currently in the Sudan: Malha Base)
May their souls fly to heaven

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: WO1 Christo Crous

The SANDF is saddened by the loss of the three SA Air Force crewmembers (17 Squadron) resulting from an Agusta A109 light utility helicopter fatal accident on 12 May 2009. Capt Bongani Wayne Mdluli, Lt Lehlogonolo Simon Baloyi, and F Sgt Izak Morne Zuidmeer died instantly after a fatal accident when their helicopter crashed into the Woodstock Dam near Bergville in the Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal.

The aircraft was in formation with two other A109 en route to Dragon Peak Park in the Bergville area to take part in the scheduled week-long mountain training exercise. The same aircraft took part on 9 May 2009 in the fly-past marking President Jacob Zuma’s inauguration.

Family and friends of the deceased have spoken highly of the members, describing their teamwork and dedication to their work and how skilled they were. The SA Air Force spends a lot of time and money training individuals like these who have passion for the aviation environment. It is indeed a great loss to the Department and the country.

Capt Mdluli, an Oryx pilot, is survived by his sister LR Mdluli. Lt Baloyi, an A109 Agusta pilot, is survived by his mother, Ms Joyce Baloyi, two sisters, Masego and Anna, and a brother Lebogang. F Sgt Zuidmeer, a flight engineer, is survived by his mother Stella, his father Sakkie and his sister Zonia. May their families find comfort in their time of bereavement.

The Minister of Defence, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, on behalf of the Department of Defence and the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, extended their sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the deceased helicopter crew.

The three late soldiers received a semi-military funeral.

**FATAL HELICOPTER ACCIDENT**

I would like to pass my sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of 17 Squadron’s three crewmembers whose lives came to a tragic end on 12 May 2009.

It truly is a loss to the whole nation, a nation whose hopes and dreams were represented selflessly and tirelessly by them each time they proudly put on their uniforms.

The SA Air Force motto “Per Aspera Ad Astra” encourages us not to let the adversity deter us, but rather to let it be the force that propels us up to the stars. Seithiro Molemi, email

**THE STORY THAT TOUCHED MY HEART …**

I heard about it on television and read about it in the newspapers. It really touched my heart. Three pilots were killed when an Agusta A109 helicopter crashed into the Woodstock Dam on 12 May 2009. My condolences to the family, friends and all of you brothers and sisters. May their souls rest in peace. L Cpl Mamoserwa Molefe, Corporate Communication: SAMHS HQ
A victory that is the jewel in the African crown

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

For generations to come, the abiding image of a patient citizenry in long voting queues on 27 April 1994 will remain deeply etched in the collective memory of the nation. As the world held its breath, South Africans together made their mark to bring into being one of the truly remarkable events of this turbulent century. Once more, we affirmed a truism of human history, that the people are their own liberators,” said Dr Nelson Mandela, former President of the RSA.

On 22 April 2009 young and old South Africans in large numbers voted to deepen their democracy in all spheres of public life and defend their hard-earned democracy by reflecting on the enduring hope and joy of living in a democratic state.

Neither extreme weather conditions nor the long winding queues put them off from doing their civic duty to appoint good stewards of their freedom and democracy.

On a rainy Saturday morning, 9 May 2009, multitudes of people converged in the gay surroundings of the Union Buildings in Pretoria to celebrate and to witness a moment in history when the President-elect and the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Mr Jacob Zuma, took his solemn Oath of Office as the fourth President of the RSA. The exciting frenzy of the 1994 epoch repeated itself.

“So help me God”: Chief Justice Pius Langa administers front, right) as the country’s Head.

Truly the glory of our nation and the ultimate wholeness of our humanity beyond the walls of the fortress.
Zuma reminded us that this was a moment of renewed hope, social redemption and participation in guarding democracy and rising above the dust of despair and reaffirming the glory of a nation being born. He fleshed out his administration policy in a vision grounded in the concept of citizens’ priorities, policy, socio-economic programmes, South Africa’s well-being and renewed faith in democracy and the continent.

Vowing to renew that most solemn undertaking to rebuild a society in which all people were freed from the shackles of discrimination, exploitation, want and disease, he continued: “The dreams and hopes of all the people of our country must be fulfilled. There is no place for complacency, cynicism and excuses. Everything we do must contribute in a direct and meaningful way to the improvement of the lives of our people”.

To improve the livelihood of South Africans, the President called on the public servants to be service delivery activists in order to root out weaknesses in the government system, which delayed the pace of implementing programmes. He unequivocally stated: “For as long as people die from preventable disease, workers struggle to feed their families, communities are still without clean water, decent shelter or proper sanitation, rural dwellers are unable to make a decent living from the land on which they live, women subjected to discrimination, exploitation and abuse, children not having the means or the opportunity to receive a decent education, the alleviation and eradication of poverty and unemployment...”
outh Africa has experienced enormous changes over the past fifteen years. The achievement of democracy in 1994 led to transformed institutions, new policies and the emergence of a new society.

In line with the democratic constitution new policies were put in place to improve people’s quality of life. This has constituted a systematic effort to create a society based on equity, non-racialism and non-sexism.

f South Africa can celebrate and pay tribute to their heroes and heroines who contributed to the fight for freedom and the building of a non-racial and non-sexist democracy.

The theme for this year’s celebration was: “Together celebrating a vibrant democracy and building a better life for all”. The theme invokes a spirit of hope and resilience. It is also a call on all South Africans to be proud of our vibrant democracy and it communicates a message to our people that together we must build our nation and take advantage of the benefits and opportunities created by
Members of the National Ceremonial Guard lined up to form the guard of honour for the President and his entourage.

democracy so that we fully realise our vision to create a better life for all.

The then President of South Africa, Mr Kgalema Motlanthe (now the new Deputy President of South Africa) said in his address that he was honoured to address and celebrate this important day on our national calendar in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. On this day we should all celebrate our maturing constitutional democracy and the continuing hope and resilience of our people.

He mentioned that as South Africans we needed to embrace the reality that only the collective efforts of all sections of society would enable us to deal with our unique challenges in a way that yielded positive results and that freedom meant freedom from ignorance, disease, want, landlessness, homelessness, joblessness, poverty and fear.

"On Freedom Day the Government reaffirms its commitment to consolidating democracy and creating a South Africa united in diversity. Let us continue to transform this South African reality into a space in which our children can thrive and lead creative and fulfilling lives".

**Military ceremony**

The SANDF, as instructed by the Commander-in-Chief, participated in the Freedom Day celebrations. The colourful military ceremony commenced when a group consisting of the President of South Africa, the Minister of Arts and Culture, the Premier of the KwaZulu-Natal and the Mayor of Durban took their places on the podium. It was followed by a National Salute consisting of the following:

- A Guard of Honour by the National Ceremonial Guard.
- A 21 Gun Salute by the Natal Field Artillery.
- The National Anthem by the SA Army Military Band Durban
- A Salute Flight by three SA Air Force Oryx helicopters.
Introducing the new Minister and Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans

By Lufuno Netshirembe

Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Since time immemorial the handing over of the baton and the welcoming of new heads of units or sections by the incumbent leader have been a military custom. On 19 May 2009 the handing over and welcoming of the new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans meeting was held at the Armscor boardroom at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

In opening the meeting Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chief of the SANDF, welcomed the new Minister of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu, and the Deputy Minister, Mr Thabang Makwetla. He introduced them to the members of the Preliminary Defence Staff Council (PDSC). He guaranteed both Ministers that he and the PDSC as well as the SANDF members in general would give them all the necessary support they would need to execute their various tasks. Gen Ngwenya introduced the uniformed members of SANDF in attendance, while the Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, introduced the civilian leaders of the Department who were present at this handing over and welcoming session.

Gen Ngwenya thanked the outgoing Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, for the pivotal and prudent role he played and for his achievements made during his short period as Minister of Defence. Minister Sisulu succeeded Mr Nqakula who left office on 8 May 2009. Deputy Minister Makwetla succeeded Mr Fezile Bhengu.

On introducing the new Minister, Mr Nqakula said that Ms Sisulu was not only a comrade, but also a friend who had served very well in different spheres of Government. He expressed his confidence in Ms Sisulu and Mr Makwetla’s ability to discharge their responsibilities as mandated by the President of South Africa.

The two Ministers are not new to the military environment and Government. In exile, Minister Sisulu was a soldier in Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) where she worked for the underground structures of the African National Congress (ANC). From 1977 to 1979 she received military training, specialising in intelligence. The posi-
Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

Mr Thabang Makwetla, the new Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

democratic elections that she became Minister of Housing, a portfolio she held until her appointment as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. Ms Sisulu assumed office on 11 May 2009.

Mr Makwetla went into exile in 1976, where he joined the MK. After the dawn of democracy he was appointed to various positions, such as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence from 1994 to 2001. He was also a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence from 1998 to 2001. From 2001 to 2004 he was MEC for Safety and Security in Mpumalanga Province. In 2004 he became the Premier of the Mpumalanga Province, a position he held until he became Deputy Minister of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans.

Mr Nqakula briefed the new Ministers about the challenges they should attend to and told them about some of the issues that were to be tabled for discussion during his period of office.

Minister Sisulu introduced her Deputy, Mr Makwetla, who said he was looking forward to working with Ms Sisulu in the Defence Ministry. Ms Sisulu assured the PDSC members that she would be readily available to listen, and further assured them of her commitment to her post, goals, the
Defence TV wins award at Polish Military Film Festival

Article and photos by Tebogo Dube, Video Editor Defence TV

A young boy is put in a situation where he has to make a choice: either kill to avenge the deaths that have been taking place for many decades - even before his existence - or let the girl live, as a symbol of showing that the fighting should stop with his generation. Sweat trickles down his face while he is shaking, struggling emotionally not to pull the trigger. He decides not to pull the trigger.

This was a scene from A Sniper’s Valley, a German film that depicts the role of the German Army in Kosovo after the declaration of independence. The story takes place against the background of the conflict between the Albanians and Serbs; its roots, however, go back to the time of World War II. The film was one of the entries for the first Polish International Military Film Festival - the Military Camera 2009 - held in Warsaw, Poland, from 3 to 8 May 2009.

Although it was the first time that an international military film festival was held in Poland, the Military Camera 2009 managed to attract 50 films and documentaries from across the globe, all dealing with military issues. Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) subsection, Defence TV, entered two military films, namely A Season for Goodwill and Eye of the Forces, both of which made it into the final selection of 20 entries chosen from the fifteen countries that had entered the competition.

The world of television production and film-making is dynamic and ever evolving. New technologies and different ways of storytelling are continuously being introduced into the industry. One has constantly to stay in touch with fellow film-makers and television professionals in order to keep abreast of current trends, developments and innovative ways of doing things. It was for this reason that the SANDF sent a delegation to attend the military film festival. There we were able to exchange ideas and forge relationships with the SANDF’s counterparts who are professionals specialising in military film production.

As Baha’u’llah, an Iranian theologian and philosopher once said: “So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth”. Although the Military Camera 2009 was a competition, it did not feel like one. The participants were competing...
in good spirit with the bigger aim of learning from one another and sharing their experiences in documentaries and film-making. They all came together after each screening to find out more about the story and production process of the film they had just viewed.

The festival opened on 3 May 2009, which coincided with a very important Polish public holiday, namely Constitutional Day. The participants in the festival were invited to take part in the celebration and were taken to a parade attended by the President and the Prime Minister of Poland. This invitation included a visit to the “Grave of the Unknown Soldier” where delegates witnessed a ceremonial changing of the guard in front of the memorial.

The brilliance of the film-making skills and art was showcased during the week when the films and documentaries that made it into the finals were screened. They all dealt with military subjects, but told many different stories - stories of hope, of men and women who risk their lives in order to bring peace to others, of victory and patriotism, of peace and reconciliation, stories of global friendships and those with passion for the armed forces.

A Season for Goodwill is a docudrama done on the Goodwill Parcel Project, a project that was initiated by the SANDF to show its gratitude to soldiers who sacrifice spending time with their friends and family during the festive season because they are deployed as part of various peacekeeping and border patrol missions during this period. It was well received by the delegates at the festival for its high production value and because it showed the SANDF and Corporate South Africa caring for our soldiers.

This entry won the Prize of the Commander of the Polish Navy during the festival. The Ambassador of South Africa to Poland, Her Excellency, Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule, was also present at the final closing. She congratulated the South African delegation on winning this international award. This was not the first time that Defence TV had been honoured at such a prestigious event and it felt good to know that our very own TV section was regarded as a worthy peer by other military documentary film-makers across the globe. We will continue to promote the DOD and SANDF both internally and externally through the powerful medium of audio-visual communication.

I should like to conclude this article by urging you to become more involved in growing a film culture within the SANDF. Television is a very powerful and exciting communication medium. You can play a part by sending your comments and suggestions for stories that you would like Defence TV to produce (these should have communication value) to Defence TV, fax: (012) 312 2048 or phone Cindie Ludick at (012) 312 2721. Copies of the winning entry - A Season for Goodwill - can be ordered from Mr. Ronnet Kgaphola at (012) 312 2239.
Restoring hope within the health care fraternity

To ensure the effectiveness of Operation ITHEMBA, a Situation Room was immediately set up at the SAMHS Headquarters.

The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) yet again was called upon to restore hope to the South African health system. This was after the doctors of the provincial hospitals embarked on industrial action over higher wages. The SAMHS was tasked to be Chief Executor in support of the National Department of Health to ensure that essential health services at the identified provincial hospitals were not compromised by the strike.

The Gauteng Health Department had issued letters of dismissal to the doctors on 28 April 2009 for their participation in an illegal strike. The doctors involved were from Dr George Mukhari Hospital in Garankuwa and Jubilee Hospital in Hammanskraal.

As soon as an early warning was pronounced a contingency plan was put in place by the SAMHS. The whole of the SAMHS was put on 24-hour standby.

As was the case during Operation BATA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse, General Officer Commanding Mobile Military Health Formation, was appointed Mission Commander of Operation ITHEMBA - IsiZulu for "hope", which officially got under way on 25 April.

To ensure the effectiveness of Operation ITHEMBA, a Situation Room was immediately set up at the SAMHS Headquarters and an Operations Room at the Mobile Military Health Formation HQ.

The first group of personnel to deploy was immediately sent to Dr George Mukhari Hospital as it was the main focus of attention. There were three groups on 12-hour shifts.

"The situation at the hospitals is challenging as there are no doctors at the hospitals and it becomes a bit of a problem as the patients can no longer be referred to other hospitals as they also have their own patients to take care of. Col Herman du Plessis and I successfully managed to have a meet-

Doctor Iliana Popova and a nurse, Captain Rina Smith, examine Kutlwano Junior Molefe, 3, at the Dr George Mukhari Hospital. (Photo: Courtesy Damaris Helwig, Pretoria News)
ing with the CEO of the Dr George Mukhari Hospital to have their specialists assist in emergency cases. This was met with great pleasure,” said Brig Gen Oelofse.

Unlike Operation BATA where nurses and support personnel were on strike, this time it was a bit different as only doctors were involved. The other distinguishing factor was that there were no incidents of intimidation or violence; instead it was rather peaceful.

In analysing Operation ITHEMBA, Brig Gen Oelofse stressed the importance of having reliable health intelligence. This would help in detecting incidents way in advance and help curb them before it was too late.

As soon as an agreement between the doctors and the Department of Health was reached the military personnel were withdrawn, but there were still members who were monitoring the situation for some days thereafter.

However, the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, reassured all members of the SANDF and their dependants that regardless of Operation ITHEMBA the necessary contingency plans were in place to ensure that members of the SANDF and their immediate family members still received quality health care at the military sickbays and hospitals.

Defence environmental website relaunched

By Cdr Adri Liebenberg, Acting SSO Environmental Services, Directorate Facilities, Chief Logistics

In 2007 the previous Defence website on Facilities Management that combined the functionalities of fixed assets and environmental management was identified by the Web Master, Mr Paul van de Venter at Defence Corporate Communication (DCC), for realignment and to be structured in accordance with the requirements of DCC. The then SO1 Facilities Communication, Lt Col Elsa Daniels, initiated the process of gathering updated information to be used in the establishment of an updated website, together with that of Legal Services and the SA Army.

Lt Col Daniels provided the environmental content of the site through DCC to the Web Master. However, the content on the fixed assets functionality could not be accessed owing to time constraints. Subsequently it was agreed that an environmental site would be developed and when required fixed assets would be addressed. The content on the site was verified and approved by the Web Master as required by defence policy.

The new Military Integrated Environmental Management (MIEM) website was launched on 1 March 2009 and since then some 150 hits have been recorded on the site. As MIEM is a command responsibility that is managed corporately at level 2, it has been decided to structure this site as part of the Chief of the SANDF site.

For access to the site visit: www.mil.za/csandf/environmental services/.
Goodwill Parcel Project
giving back to the community

Article and photo by Pfunzo Mafenya, Religious Communication and Liaison

Faces beamed at Pretoria Evangelism and Nurture, well known as Pennies Nursery School on 16 April 2009, after the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, and the SANDF Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, handed over 150 boxes of food hampers which were surplus from the Goodwill Parcel Project.

The Goodwill Parcel Project is an initiative of Warrant Officers to support SANDF deployed members and their families every year over the December festive season. After the December 2008 distribution there was a surplus of 150 parcels. A decision was taken to donate these surplus parcels to a worthwhile cause. Pennies Nursery School was a fortunate and happy recipient of the parcels.

Pennies Nursery School was founded in 1992 with the aim of making a difference in the city. The main target of the organisation was Schubart Park, a block of flats situated next to the nursery from which many children in the shelter came. Today the nursery has grown and there are two other nurseries. One is in Sunnyside with 30 children and the other in Scheiding Street with 60 children.

With the help of sponsors, this non-profit organisation has established a clinic called Sediba Home Clinic. The clinic is a home-based care provider. It has an HIV and AIDS wellness programme and also gives counselling to those infected and affected by the epidemic. The clinic is in Pretoria central, at the corner of Bosman and Vermeulen Streets and is open to all members of the public.

The Principal of Pennies Nursery School, Ms Reineke, said that the shelter was getting a lot of support from different churches and companies. She added that the food hampers donated by the SANDF Goodwill Parcel Project would be given to the children in the shelter and to their families.
Always remember that we live our lives by choice not by chance and we need to take responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take. In order for one to find a suitable job after completion of one’s studies the most important tool to have is experience in the workplace.

Directorate Career Management scheduled a two-day career development workshop for currently employed interns at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 7 and 8 April 2009.

The aim was to ensure that the interns gained more experience in their workplaces for the future.

The workshop opens doors for the voluntary interns within the Department of Defence, public service and the private sector. The Human Resources Division staff introduced a voluntary internship programme in the Department of Defence. These workshops will help the voluntary interns in the future with their career planning. The modules of the world of work included self-exploration, external exploration focused on the importance of a CV, finding employment and preparing for a job interview.

All the interns were happy with the workshop. Some of them said this workshop assisted them in deciding a way forward when their internship contract ended.

Voluntary interns of the Department of Defence at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane.
Those who have aviation at heart, members of the media, aviation photographers, defence analysts and military spectators braved the heat of the bushveld to capture the star-studded spectacular annual SA Air Force air power capability demonstration held at the Roodewal Bombing Range in Limpopo Province on 2 April 2009.

This was most certainly an event that highlighted the importance of combat readiness and integration of the different components of our four Services to maintain and achieve air power in any war situation. The advanced state-of-the-art attack aircraft of the SA Air Force displayed high-speed manoeuvring tactics, static airborne capability, spin, high performance fire-power during a mock attack on enemy forces and covering fire for the ground forces.

The commentator, Col John Bayne (Senior Staff Officer Combat Operating Systems) painted a broad and detailed picture of the different scenarios. Superior air-to-ground and air-to-air attacks, airlifts, rescue, air dropped logistical equipment, air assault forces, excellent co-ordination of command and control air and ground, and spectacular fly-pasts were the order of the day.

Proudly commenting on the demonstration, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief of the SA Air Force, said that the demonstration was meant to highlight the importance of air power and the integration of different air and ground components to achieve their complementary roles in maintaining air power. He also revealed the readiness of the fighter aircraft of the SA Air Force. “The demonstration of the Rooivalk attack helicopter, along with other aircraft clearly shows the ability to beat any challenge and will soon be deployed on peacekeeping missions,” said Lt Gen Gagiano.

He added that the SA Air Force had now received most of the assets acquired in the 1999 Strategic Defence Package (SDP) and was well on the way to integrating them fully within the service. “The SA Air Force obtained thirty Agusta Westland A109 LUH light utility helicopters, twenty-six Saab JAS39C/D Gripen advanced light fighter aircraft, twenty-four BAE Systems Mk120 Hawk lead-in fighter aircraft and four Agusta Westland SuperLinx300 maritime heli-
A Rooivalk attack helicopter showing a high level of sophistication and split-second firing tactics.

copters directly and indirectly from the SDP. All four Lynx and all twenty-four Hawks have been delivered, twenty-eight of the A109’s have been received and the first five Gripen D two-seaters have been delivered. The initial crews and instructors are busy with their conversion course and we are setting ourselves the target of also having them delivering air-ground ordnance here with the next demonstration in the second half of the year,” said Lt Gen Gagiano.

During an interview with SA Soldier, Col Bayne said that in order to make improvements in the ever-changing world of technology of a complex and demanding environment and different situations we needed to analyse all activities aimed at the goal of air power. “Air power is about surveillance, mobility and firepower and utilising this with maximum effect across a broad spectrum of roles, tasks and missions in peace and war in the shortest possible time,” he said.

Defence analyst Helmoed Römer Heitman said: “The United Nations (UN) will be pleased with the latest developments in the SANDF. From the demonstration one can see that the fighting air machines like the Rooivalk and its weapon system would allow it to carry out tasks very well and provide a proper response to any situation or eventuality where civilians and military forces come under attack.”

It is indeed true that for aircraft to meet the challenge weapon systems are needed that will beat the challenge. The Rooivalk attack helicopter is armed with an assortment of weapons ranging from 20 mm cannon, anti-tank missiles, air-to-air missiles and unguided rockets. For its various missions the SA Air Force has to be equipped with an ability to conduct reconnaissance, and have heliborne escorts, close air and ground support, the ability to destroy heavy armour and artillery.
Cape Town Highlanders Pipes and Drums played in South Korea

By Drummer Mandy Freeman
Photos: Lt Christian Evans and Drummer Mandy Freeman

The 2009 trip to South Korea for the Jinhae International Military Band and Guard of Honour Festival proved how versatile the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders can be.

On 30 March 2009 the Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders flew to the maritime city of Jinhae, South Korea, to perform in the Jinhae International Military Band and Guard of Honour Festival. It was an international festival quite different from the Tattoos of the past and formed part of the 47th Gun Hang Je (the Cherry Blossom) Festival.

According to Jonggil Lee, Chairman of the Promotion Committee, in his welcoming address, the festival would "overcomes the unfortunate past history of struggle among world powers and is a symbol of peace in north-east Asia".

The Cape Town Highlanders were just one of two pipe bands to perform, viz the South African Highland Dancers, whose dance routine was incorporated into the set, and the Royal Air Force Leuchars Pipes and Drums from Scotland. The festival saw international performances by the Military Band of the P.L.A. of China, the 8th Army Band from the United States of America and the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and Maori Cultural Group.

The first few days were spent rehearsing for the both the main performance that ran for three nights, as well as a fringe performance at the Mountain Jehwang Park, the Jungwon Rotary concert and a street parade through the cherry blossomed streets of Jinhae. There were three nights of performances amidst fireworks, smoke and an enthusiastic audience. Although temperatures were sub-zero and exhaustion was setting in, each performance...
was exhilarating and exciting - a personal victory, a collective triumph.

Words fail to do justice to the unique experience that expresses the colour and culture of the 2009 Jinhae International Military Band and Guard of Honour Festival. All things considered it was a successful trip; friends were made, languages taught and learnt, cultures combined and memories made. On the evening of 5 April, as the last notes faded away, a spray of confetti flew overhead and fireworks coloured the darkened sky.

The Drums and Pipes of the Cape Town Highlanders came together as a group of dedicated and professional musicians, continually working as a team to ensure that nothing or no one was left behind or forgotten. “The fantastic music of the military band and the great ceremonies of the guard of honour will make unforgettable memories to you all,” said Lee Jae Bok, Honorary Chairman and Mayor of Jinhae. Indeed it did.

The Canadian Forces Chief of Defence Staff Commendation was awarded to two members of 8 SA Infantry Battalion (8 SAI Bn) at Upington on 27 March 2009.

The two members were Sgt I. Horn and Sgt J. Jordaan, who were deployed in the Sudan with 8 SAI Bn in 2006. Sgt Jordaan has resigned from the SANDF and could unfortunately not attend the event.

The Canadian Chief of Defence Staff Commendation is a gold plated, satin finished insignia, consisting of a bar with three maple leaves, measuring 2 cm long by 5 cm wide.

The commendation was awarded to the two members because on 5 and 6 October 2006, while serving with the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, they recovered a Canadian armoured vehicle that had been badly damaged in combat. Under extreme weather conditions and the constant threat of attack, the recovery extended through 60 miles (144 km) of desert to the nearest African Union Forces camp. Their technical expertise and unwavering dedication allowed the Canadian detachment in Darfur to carry out appropriate demilitarisation of the equipment. The Canadian High Commissioner, Ms Ruth Archibald, and the Canadian Defence Adviser, Col Rick Hatton, in awarding the Commendation to Sgt Horn and Ms Archibald said that these members had showed judgement and courage even though they were in danger. She said that they had known what was right in their hearts and what the right thing was to do, but despite the risks they did the right thing.
The newly appointed Commandant of the Military Academy, Brig Gen Lindile Yam.

Brig Gen Lindile Yam, has been appointed eighteenth Commandant of the Military Academy, taking over from R Adm (JG) Derek Christian who commanded the unit.

Brig Gen Yam was born in East London on 8 August 1960. He studied there but completed his Matric privately. He joined the underground structures of the ANC during his high school career and ultimately found himself detained and afterwards went into exile. He joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC, in 1981 and did his training in Angola where he experienced combat action as a Platoon Commander on the eastern front.

He was a Platoon Commander on the eastern front in 1982 before being wounded and spending time recuperating in Yugoslavia in 1984. He did his urban and rural warfare company commander’s course in East Germany in 1987. He came back to become a Company Commander, Battalion and Base Commander, as well as a Company Commander on the northern front before going back to the main MK Training Centre “Richard Barney Molokoana” in Calulama as an instructor and Company Commander. In Calulama three companies were merged into one battalion under his command. At this time he was also serving as an instructor in tactics (battle handling). He opened a new base in Tanzania before he was sent to infiltrate South Africa where he ultimately became an MK Regional Commander for the Border Region. He did his Junior Command and Staff Course in Ghana in 1993 and 1994.

He led the integration of his MK region into the SANDF, which started in April 1994 and became the first member from the Non-statutory Forces to take over a standing unit, after which he was Officer Commanding of 13 SA Infantry Battalion from November 1994 to November 1997. He was then appointed as SO1 Operations at Group 8. He completed the South African Senior Command and Staff Course in 1998 and the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) in 2000. He also did a course in Defence Management at the Witwatersrand University.

He was appointed as Officer Commanding of Group 6 Headquarters in Port Elizabeth after which he was appointed as the SANDF’s Director Physical Training Sports and Recreation in November 2001, in which capacity he later became South Africa’s representative to the “Conference for International Military Sport” (CISM represented in 130 countries). Then he became the Chief Eastern and Southern African Liaison Officer (ESALO) and an additional member of the CISM Board of Directors as part of the International Strategy and Planning Committee. He was also co-opted as South Africa’s Mega Games Security Committee member before being sent to the Royal College of Defence Studies in Britain in 1995 for a Global Security Strategy Course.

He remained there to become the Non-resident Defence, Army and Naval Adviser of South Africa to the UK and Sweden between 10 February 2006 and 10 February 2009. He also has a Damelin Diploma in Personnel and Training Management, a US certificate in Policy Writing and some other qualifications, as well as a degree in international relations (University of London - Kings College).

He is a former professional boxer and keeps himself fit by exercising in the gym and jogging - a hobby also shared by his wife.

The unit is privileged to have a person of this stature in command at this time.
Field Engineer Regiment held the Inauguration Parade of Mr Polelo Lazarus Zim as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment on 17 April 2009. Pastor Ray McCauley of Rhema Christian Church was among those attending this parade. Even guests from as far away as Nigeria were invited to this prestigious event.

The appointment of an Honorary Colonel is a tradition in the SANDF. The term "Honorary Colonel" refers to a titular appointment and not a rank. However, the prescribed compliments must be paid to him during official activities.

Any prominent citizen of the RSA interested in the needs and well-being of the SANDF may be appointed as an Honorary Colonel. It is not necessary for such a person to have military experience. His or her physical bearing and appearance must be such that in uniform he or she will project a good image of the SANDF.

The main responsibility of an Honorary Colonel is to assist in maintaining regimental traditions and to foster esprit de corps, including unit pride and high morale.

Mr Zim was born in Bethlehem on 22 August 1960. He matriculated in Bethlehem in 1979 and continued to further his studies.

He is the Chairman of Afripalm Resources, Mvelaphanda Resources, Northam Platinum, Kumba Iron Ore and Trans Hex Group (diamonds). He was the CEO of Anglo American South Africa Limited and a former Chairman of Anglo Operations Limited. He was also the Chairman of Pinnacle Point Holdings.

He serves on the boards of Sanlam, Pinnacle Point Holdings, Investment Climate Facility for Africa, Joint Aid Management, and on the Advisory Board of Capital International. He is the Immediate Past President of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa and a former Director of Anglo Gold Ashanti, Anglo Platinum, Mondi South Africa and Telkom. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Wits Foundation.

Mr Zim holds a B Com degree from Fort Hare, a B Com Honours from Wits, an M Com from RAU and a D Com (honoris causa) from Fort Hare. He was the Managing Director of MTN International where he led all MTN operations outside South Africa, including the establishment of MTN Nigeria. From 1994 to 2001 he held several positions in the pay television group, MIH, where he was ultimately a CEO of MIH SA responsible for M-Net, SuperSport, MultiChoice SA (DSTV) and Oracle Air Time Sales.

Mr Zim is currently based in South Africa from where he pursues and develops business opportunities primarily in resources, property development and ICT. He also provides strategic advice to companies doing business in Africa. He was voted the "African Business Leader of the Year" in 2005 and the 2008 "Mover and Shaker of the Year" by Business Day Financial Mail.
The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) took its theme - World-class Clinical Service - to even greater heights when it signed a memorandum of agreement with the Innovation Hub on 6 March 2009. This involved the transferral of land to the Department of Defence (DOD) on which a new state of the art specialist aeromedical facility was to be established.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding was undertaken by the Acting CEO of the Innovation Hub, Mr Tsietsi Maleho, the Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, and the Chief Director Military Health Force Support, Maj Gen Lifeni Make.

The need to build such a facility was identified over the past number of years as aircraft technology has advanced to new levels that exceed normal human capabilities. Special equipment and training, which up to now have only been available at great expense in foreign countries such as Sweden and Germany, are required for optimising survival and tactical effectiveness.

The Institute for Aviation Medicine (IAM) has had a human centrifuge since its construction at its present site in Centurion in 1970, but the typical design lifespan for a human centrifuge is 30 years. Planning for a new aeromedical capability was initiated in the early 1990s and is now fast approaching the implementation phase.
Institute for Aviation Medicine

The IAM is a specialist institute of the SAMHS and falls under the Tertiary Military Health Formation. The IAM provides a specialist service to the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and in particular the SA Air Force (SAAF) and other approved clients such as the South African Civil Aviation Authority.

Specialist equipment required to perform the services offered by IAM at the Innovation Hub will include facilities for pilot training, psychological screening, aviation medicine training for doctors and nursing staff, applied research in support of the SAAF, as well as postgraduate courses in aerospace medicine. Collaboration with educational institutions and research and development institutions such as the CSIR will add direct impetus to the growth of a biosciences cluster.

Through its international alliances and the creation of a new “Physiological Training Centre” with a modern human centrifuge, a disorientation chamber, new hypobaric chambers and a hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit, as well as the inclusion of the Military Psychological Unit, the IAM provides the capacity for international and southern hemisphere training and collaborative research.

The facility will provide new types of training for Special Forces, ambulance services, fire-fighting services, rescue services and members of the civil aviation community wishing to use the facility.

The Innovation Hub provides the required infrastructure in close proximity to important role players, and is also the ideal environment within which collaborative research and development can flourish.

Specialist Services

Specialised mustering such as SAAF aircrew (fighter pilots, helicopter pilots, transport pilots and the cabin crews of various mustering), airborne Special Forces, divers and submariners form the indispensable backbone of the SANDF military capability.

These specialists operate in extreme physiologically hostile environments and utilise sophisticated equipment where the limiting factor is no longer the machine, but the human operator. In order not only to optimise survivability, but also to achieve the highest tactical effectiveness of the man/machine interface, psychological training is essential. Additionally, specialised aeromedical and psychological testing of applicants is an extremely important aspect of selecting the best of the best candidates for training in these specialised mustering.

To cater for these requirements the South African Aeromedical and Specialist Training Facility (SA-ASTF) is being established, and it will include a human centrifuge, hypobaric chambers, a hyperbaric chamber, a disorientation demonstrator with night vision integration, a helicopter disorientation trainer with G-capabilities and night vision integration, an anti-G-straining manoeuvre trainer, an ejection trainer, an underwater escape training system and gym equipment specifically designed for aeromedical physiological training.

Benefits to South Africa

The facility will not only benefit the SANDF by providing better selected and trained personnel to carry out military and peacekeeping missions, but will also provide essential benefits to South Africa and the region.

The benefits:

- SA-ASTF services will be available to other government departments, notably the Civil Aviation Authority, as well as those of other countries in the region.
- Services will be available to other military forces with whom South Africa is collaborating, regionally and worldwide.
- National research institutions, such as the CSIR and the University of Pretoria will be able to use the SA-ASTF for equipment testing and research.
- SA-ASTF services will be available to civilian parties such as South African Airways and others on request.
- Selling SA-ASTF services to approved clients will promote flight safety in South African and Southern African airspace.

The local industry will benefit in the following ways due to National Industry participation and Defence Industry participation programmes:

- Contractor engaging local industry for support.
- Contractor utilising locals in manufacturing.
- Technology sharing with local industry.

The SA-ASTF is to be fully operational within the next four years with certain capabilities, such as the hyperbaric chamber being operational later on.
All children have a right to a name, enough to eat and a decent place to live, so states the bill of rights. They serve as a living testimony that through them, we are guaranteed a better future. Every child is special no matter how different they may appear to our eyes and we need to see them through the eyes of the heart and not judge them, especially when they are physically challenged.

It is against this background that Air Force Base Makhado (515 Squadron) hosted a week-long camp for physically challenged children at Lianga Game Lodge just outside the Base.

The day started as early as 06:00 in the morning with drill movements, hygiene and games that included light physical training. The aim of this year’s camp was to increase awareness and reduce stigmatisation. The reason behind this annual event is to make the children feel good about themselves and to know that they have a family at the SA Air Force that genuinely cares for them.

The squadron pulled out all the stops to make sure that the week’s experiences stayed in the children’s hearts forever. The instructors treated them like real soldiers and kept them busy with activities that left no room for boredom.

“This camp has a history dating back 22 years, and over the years we have done more than we actually can comprehend. We grew with its successes and learned from its challenges. These 82 children come from different schools, two of which are local, one from Polokwane, one from Bela-Bela and another two from Pretoria,” confirmed Lt Col Sello Nukeri, Officer Commanding 515 Squadron.

The event was to a large extent sponsored by the private sector. Mr Tony Bekker, spokesperson of Spur in Louis Trichardt, said that although their franchise donated vouchers and lunch food-packs for this event, they had the firm intention to keep assisting this initiative. “Spur promises to keep the relationship with the SA Air Force going and next year we will sponsor with more things like clothes and monetary contributions where necessary.”

Mr Dirk Meissenheimer, Vice-Chairman of Round Table Louis Trichardt, was also one of the sponsors and kindly donated a generous amount of money to make this camp the success that it was. “We mainly deal with community projects around the country, so we get requests from different organisations and we lend a hand where we can. It can be anything...
from paying school fees for learners who are needy to supplying food rations to families. I had my ‘wow’ moment when one of the children volunteered to pray, and in that prayer she actually asked God to bless the hosts abundantly and she did not even mention herself or her fellow peers; that just touched me,” said Mr Meissenheimer.

Ad Astra spoke to three of the learners and this is what Charles Dingaan from Eersterus had to say: "I am 18 years old and this is my second year here. I have to say that I am thrilled by the chopper flips and I liked the maneuvers. I would like to become a pilot next year if I get invited to come back. His friend Eswin Wisket, also from Eersterus, enjoyed the tag game that they played while they were erecting the tent. "It taught me that I could be anything I wanted to be, especially if I have people who are willing to help me’. "What would the camp be without the famous instructor that just stood out when he gave commands", Bernett Rankhumise said at the end of the interview. He stated that he had never seen such a high standard of co-operation and he was amazed by the fact that these learners could actually reason things out like the rest of us.

Having a sound mind is one thing, but when that mind is not used to its full capacity then why have it at all.
advice on the importance of equipping themselves with life skills and being patriotic to one’s country.

“Education and independence can facilitate the good life for you; take charge of your lives by using the opportunities that are presented to you. Do not be selfish, learn as much as you can and share the little knowledge that you have with your peers so that we can all become better citizens,” said Col Sehlare. The fundamentals of discipline were also shared with the learners when they asked about the drill movements that they witnessed at 68 Air School. Sgt Lesley Kgosana of Human Resources (SA Army) presented a variety of careers available in the various Services and urged those interested to apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The learners were awarded a chance to interact with student fitters and turners and technicians that were busy in their workshops.

At the SAAF Museum the curious learners were eager to get inside the aircraft. They asked many questions in the little time that they had. Lt Martin Matsetse and Sgt Phuti Ngoako explained the workings of the SA Air Force to the learners.

Ad Astra spoke to a few learners. Martha Ramauba (Grade 12) said she would like to join the organisation as her mother was unemployed and her father incapacitated owing to a stroke. “I had already ruled out the possibility of ever going to a university as the situation at home was so bad. I think it was just pure fate that I came here and then found out instantly what I could do with my life.”

“There is so much to think about now as my mother is a single parent and we are a big family at home. If I do get accepted at the SA Air Force, I will do my best to get ahead,” smiled Dikeledi Seabela from Mathibestad. Finally, after a lot of persuasion, the learners were given a chance to board an aircraft in the museum and see what it looked like inside. After that experience, the number of prospective fighter pilots increased dramatically.

At the end of a long day the teacher thanked the SANDF for being the Employer of Choice and actively providing young people with an alternative after completing matric. “The SA Air Force has done its part. What is left is for you to take that leap to a better life. We all know where we come from and it is up to us to do what we can - pick yourselves up and see the light,” said the grateful Mapula Diale.

Nothing easily attainable is worth keeping in life - that is the notion that the SA Air Force left in the minds of Sikhululekile learners. Everybody has a responsibility to contribute in this life because when one stops learning one dies.

— Marthia Mphuthi

Erasing negative or wrong perceptions that our communities have of soldiers in our country is of paramount importance. It is not surprising to find children asking what soldiers do if there is no war. Therefore it is the duty of Defence Corporate Communication Officers and every member of the SANDF to change the perception of people that only associate soldiers with war or guns. To achieve this goal Defence Corporate Communication (Visit and Events Section) officers were tasked to draw up a detailed programme to educate learners from the Limpopo Province who visited the SANDF over the period 25 to 27 March 2009.

Upon arrival, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, Head of Communication in the DOD, welcomed our guests from the Leleso Secondary School and the Mpirwabirwa Secondary School. In his welcoming speech he encouraged the learners to join the SANDF, and see the world. He mentioned the responsibilities of soldiers, which included giving humanitarian assistance to countries such as the Democratic Republic of
Educating our youth using defence orientation programmes

Lt Ally Senoamadi from 17 Squadron providing learners with background information about the SA Air Force.

Congo (DRC), Burundi, the Sudan, the Comoros and others in support of peacekeeping efforts. After the briefing from Defence Headquarters it was time to tour other military venues.

The learners were taken to the Joint Operations HQ, where Maj Gen Barney Hlatshwayo, the General Officer Commanding Joint Operations Headquarters, welcomed them. Maj Gen Hlatshwayo briefed the learners about the SANDF and gave them a comprehensive explanation of the role the SANDF played in deployments.

During the presentation learners were given the chance to ask questions, and an inquisitive Evan Mogantlane asked: “Who takes the responsibility if South African soldiers get killed on deployments?” Maj Gen Hlatshwayo replied: “South Africa and the United Nations (UN) would convene a board of inquiry to investigate the precise cause of death. When all the relevant investigations have been done, the UN pays $50,000 to the bereaved family for the burial service.”

The next destination was the SA Army Engineering Formation where the Geographical Information System Operator, Capt Fred Myaka, welcomed the learners and briefed them on careers in the engineering field. “There are many possibilities and chances for improving your lives in this field, but then you must be dedicated, hard working and motivated,” said Capt Myaka. Learners were taken around the premises of the Engineers and were shown how maps were developed and printed.

The next learning opportunity was at the SA Air Force Museum where a number of presentations by members of the Siyandiza Programme took place, and one on the recruitment drive. The learners were told about the criteria of selection and were motivated to improve their performance in Mathematics and Science if they wanted to be nominated for the next selection of Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

The highlight of the school’s visit was when the Officer Commanding of the Personnel Service School, Col Nelson Mangezi, organised a drill session for the benefit of the learners. That led to the handing over of the memento by Col Mangezi to Ms Regina Rachoene, a school teacher from Mpirwabirwa Secondary School, as a token of good will for being disciplined visitors to the unit.

The learners were left grateful and enthusiastic about joining the SANDF in the near future.

It was another job well done by the SANDF, which achieved its goal of educating and therefore perhaps recruiting more young soldiers in the near future.
An aim of the SANDF is to educate, recruit and give employment to underprivileged children. To achieve this vanguard role it is critical for the SANDF to be seen as friends of the public at large, particularly the youth.

In the rejuvenation process of the SANDF it is important that campaigns are put in place to recruit the younger generation to join the organisation. These projects are held in different ways as was seen last year in the Imbizo campaign, which gave thousands of children an opportunity to interact with the organisation and to serve in uniform.

This year the campaign has been enlarged to include a recruitment drive to bring the SANDF closer to its target audience - the youth - by providing application forms to areas far from resources and in the process making it simpler for the children to have a chance to join the SANDF.

The township of Mangaung near Bloemfontein was fortunate to have the SANDF, the SA Police Service (SAPS), community libraries and the Correctional Services join hands in the recruitment drive on 3 April 2009. Parents accompanied the children to help them choose suitable careers in the various Services that were demonstrating their capabilities.

Over 500 learners from neighbouring townships and villages came with a view to improving their chances to find careers in the SANDF, the SAPS and the Correctional Services. There was so much excitement among the youth as government departments showcased the work of pilots, submariners, engineers and Special Forces.

"I am happy to be part of this great moment in the history of the township, as we’re visited by our greatest heroes - the SANDF. As I see it many children here wish to be successful and skilled soldiers of this country," said a hopeful Micheal Motaung from Mangaung.
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relatively few individuals are privileged to wear the silver, bronze or gold wings of the SA Air Force. These are men and women who have qualified as pilots with the SA Air Force, a group of individuals with unique skills and training. However, not everyone is cut out to become an SA Air Force pilot, and the training that goes into producing a single pilot is a costly exercise that runs into millions of rands. For this reason, all around the world, pilot selection is a highly specialised process.

Every year the SA Air Force, in conjunction with the Military Psychological Institute (MPI) and the Institute for Aviation Medicine (IAM) of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) endeavours to identify those individuals who have what it takes to pass the rigorous two-year pilot training programme.

Aspirant pilots are recruited by the SA Air Force from across South Africa. A paper screening is conducted to ensure that candidates have the minimum required school subjects (Mathematics and Science on higher grade A minimum of D in higher grade and C in standard grade). Candidates who meet the requirements of this initial pre-selection are transported to Pretoria, where a comprehensive week-long selection process ensues. Here they are accommodated at Ditholo, an SA Air Force training facility near Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, which for many of these young men and women is their first taste of life in the military.

On the first day, before the actual selection process begins, candidates attend an orientation session. They are briefed on what the SA Air Force is all about, why they are here and the lowdown on the programme that lies ahead of them in terms of pilot/navigator selections,” related Lt Col Alastair Saulse (SO1 Recruitment at Directorate Human Resource Services).

Representatives from various SA Air Force system groups, such as Directorate Helicopter Systems, Directorate Combat Systems, Directorate Air Transport and Maritime Systems, Directorate Command and Control Systems, Directorate Human Resource Development and Directorate Techni-cal Staff Services provide an overview of the operations of the SA Air Force and their functions. They tell the candidates what each of them represents in the organisation. The orientation programme is aimed at familiarising the candidates with life as a military aviator, and to provide an indication of the culture in the organisation so as to enable candidates to make an informed decision on whether they would like to pursue a career in the SA Air Force.

The nature of a pilot’s work requires his being in the confined space of a cockpit. It is for this reason that the second day of selection is dedicated to the taking of the anthropometric measurements of the potential pilots. These measurements range from the mass and sitting height to horizontal grip reach and the functional leg length. This stage of the assessment is crucial in determining if an individual will be able to reach the necessary flight controls, while operating an aircraft and to eject safely in the event of an emergency. Unfortunately many candidates fail this aspect of the selection process, even if they meet the academic requirements for the job. This can be attributed to the ergonomics settings or physical design of the aircraft used for training, the Pilatus PC 12 (swiss make).

On the third day candidates undergo the psychometric assessment. These tests are conducted by the MPI from the SAMHS in order to evaluate the cognitive ability and learning potential of candidates. Verbal and non-verbal communication, reasoning, arithmetic, spatial visualisation and language ability are some of the competencies evaluated. All tests are registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the psychologists at MPI ensure that the testing is conducted in an ethical and fair manner. The selection criteria is determined based on the job needs of a pilot/navigator and all candidates who meet these, the said standards proceed to the next phase of the selection.

The candidate’s psychomotor functioning is evaluated on the fourth day of selections by means of the computerised Vienna Test System (VTS). The VTS is vital not only for assessing an individual’s co-ordination and reaction time, but also for evaluating a candidate’s performance under stressful conditions. This facilitates predictions regarding whether an individual will be able to make correct decisions when faced with a crisis. Any attempt at manipulating the system is easily detected and immediately disqualify a candidate from the selection. In addition to the psychomotor assessment, candidates are also assessed for leadership potential and complete an instrumental that screens for particular psychological risk factors. Flying a fighter plane leaves little origin for error and often depends on split-second decisions.

The IAM, co-located with 7 Medical Battalion based in Centurion, is the only institute in the country responsible for conducting aviation medicals. Those doing this are professionals charged with responsibility of determining the candidate’s medical fitness to fly in the SA Air Force. In addition, candidates consult with a clinical psychologist to determine their mental fitness.

Successful candidates are then invited to the SA Air Force HQ for an individual interview with a panel of representatives from the SA Air Force and the Human Resources (HR) Acquisition Directorate. The panel evaluates candi-
dates based on their knowledge of aviation in general, and of the SA Air Force in particular. Adaptability and suitability to be an officer in the SA Air Force are also assessed, as it is the candidate’s motivation that determines success as an Air Force pilot. After an intense week of selections, successful candidates have the weekend to themselves to relax and recover before their medical examinations the following Monday.

Candidates who have successfully completed the various phases of the selection process thus far will return home to await the final decision of the consolidation board, which convenes once the entire selection process is concluded. The stakeholders responsible for the various aspects of selection make their recommendations to the selection board, which makes the final recommendations for the Chief of the SA Air Force’s decision. Appointment letters and call-up instructions are posted to the successful candidates (by DHR Acquisition), along with the date on which they are to report for Basic Military Training. Their journey to become fully-fledged SA Air Force pilots begins and includes an Officer’s Formative Course and the flying phase of their training.

Focus on pilot training

By Amn Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra

“Focus on training” - were the words uttered by Brig Gen Lungi Sitshongaye, Director Human Resource Services, when he visited the Military Psychological Institute (MPI) in Pretoria earlier this month. The aim of the visit was to experience first-hand the Vienna Test System (VTS) developed in Vienna, Austria. This instrument is used to evaluate psychomotor abilities and plays a crucial role in the selection of pilots and navigators for the SA Air Force.

The system consists of a control panel with several coloured buttons and two joysticks. Two-foot pedals and a set of earphones are also connected to the control panel. This is in turn connected to a laptop computer, which is used to record the candidate’s responses. The screen of the laptop also provides the stimuli to which candidates must respond. The test itself does not require any computer knowledge, thus ensuring that it is equitable to all candidates and will not discriminate unfairly against candidates from less advantaged backgrounds. Persons who regularly play video or computer games do not have any advantage when being tested on the VTS.

Various psychomotor functions can be assessed by means of VTS, including reaction time, co-ordination, concentration and performance under stressful conditions. Although MPI currently uses the VTS for assessment, it is looking into the potential of the training system as a training tool. One of the advantages of the system is its portability. It can be neatly packed into a case and taken to any base where it is needed. All that is required is a quiet venue, a medium-sized desk, the VTS system and a laptop.

Discussing the testing procedure, Capt Mitchel Chazen from MPI reported that it was expected that during these evaluations candidates’ nerves would be strained. However, the psychologists at MPI take great care to reassure and set the candidates at ease by telling them exactly what to expect.

Before the initial evaluation, the instructions are clearly explained and candidates are given a chance to do practice runs just to ease their minds. All responses are recorded and evaluated by the VTS to ensure the reliability and accuracy of results. The MPI team shared with Ad Astra the surprising observation that those candidates who appear to be over-confident after completing the test are often the ones who do not pass, whereas those who are less sure of themselves prove to be successful. Some candidates are never put under pressure by the VTS and these individuals tend to be the best performers.

“The advantage of having the portable VTS is that it will not hold us back as it is really user-friendly and is in line with today’s highly advanced computerised SA Air Force aircraft. Brig Gen Sitshongaye voiced his concern regarding the many pilot and navigator applicants who do not meet the selection criteria as a result of a small pool (those who meet the minimum requirements) of prospective candidates that the SA Air Force can choose from. On the other hand there are those candidates that pass through the selection process, but then fail the stringent pilot training courses at the flying schools of the SA Air Force.

Lt Col Jannie Hartzenburg from the MPI expressed his appreciation for the renewed co-operation between all those involved in pilot selection to improve the selection process. “The SA Air Force is a reflection of the whole society, as not only candidates from urban areas are targeted for recruitment, but deep rural areas are also visited to make people there aware of aviation careers in the SA Air Force. There is a vast potential in this country and if we can recruit the good graders and also those who do not have good results, but still possess other attributes that the organisation needs then we can offer them a bridging course to improve their grades. A pool of pilots is the ultimate goal, which would enable us to boost the co-operation that we have with companies like SAA,” concluded Brig Gen Sitshongaye.
Senior officers provided relief to the needy

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 19/09 recently visited the Kalafong Hospital, in particular the Mohau Centre - "House of Hope" - in Atteridgeville and the Alexandra Clinic in Alexandra, and met with the enthusiastic members of this non-profit organisation.

After hard deliberations and having put their head together, the members of the ENSP 19/09 decided on a course of providing relief to the needy. On 29 April 2009 at the SA National Defence College in Pretoria they donated R2 000 and a washing machine as their way of giving back to the community and improving the lives of the less privileged. The cheques and washing machine were accepted by the Acting CEO of Kalafong Hospital, Dr Lance Phalatsi, the Manager of Mohau Centre, Ms Esther Jaca, and the CEO of Alexandra Clinic, Dr Muvili Simba.

This non-governmental organisation provides daily nutritious meals, clothing, day care facilities, emotional support, counselling and shelter mainly to the many vulnerable children and parents who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS. These children are from orphanages and homes headed by grandmothers.

The CEO of Kalafong Hospital indicated that the centre had gone through difficult times in regard to finance as it depended on donations, but on behalf of the centre he thanked the members of the ENSP 19/09 for their initiative, kind gestures and support.

"The Regal" for the ENSP 19/09, Col Mongezi Kwela, mentioned that after visiting these institutions he had noticed there was a serious need, as part of their social responsibility, to contribute something. In the near future they intend opening a trust fund for the Mohau Centre and they will visit and spend time with the children of the Mohau Centre on a monthly basis - they have committed themselves to this project.

"On special days such as children’s days, these children do not have parents or loved ones who can make them feel special by letting them experience parental love; instead they rely on people like ourselves to make them feel part of the South African community," concluded Col Kwela.

Col Mongezi Kwela, "The Regal" for the ENSP 19/09 (middle), handed over a cheque to Dr Lance Phalatsi, the Acting CEO of Kalafong Hospital, and Ms Esther Jaca, Manager of Mohau Centre.
Together we stand, divided we fall.”

These were the words of the Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre (Lohatlha Military Area), Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa. She was addressing the dignitaries, prominent members of communities and business associates who attended the first Commandant’s dinner on 12 February 2009.

The purpose of the Commandant’s dinner was to bridge the gap between the Lohatlha military base and surrounding towns and create esprit de corps. Among the guests who attended were Mayor Victor Makoke of John Taolo Gaetsewe Municipality (Kuruman), Mayor Hazel Mothibi of Tsantsabane Municipality (Postmasburg) and Mayor James Rakoi of Gamagara Municipality (Kathu). Other prominent figures in attendance were Ms Linda Malan, the former principal of ABET Lohatlha and her husband, Mr David Malan, the Principal of Blinkklip Senior Secondary School in Postmasburg, Mr Eric Theys, the Principal of Kathu high, Mr Denis Beukes and his wife, Emmie, and Mr Jimmy van der Linde, owner of the Van der Linde Motors in Postmasburg.

The staff members of the Joe Slovo Officers’ Mess prepared different dishes. Joe Slovo was the new name democratically voted by the unit members headed by Brig Gen Mpaxa. As expected, members of the unit were exhilarated at having played an integral part in the naming of their own place. This gave birth to names, such as Joe Slovo Officers’ Mess, Francis Baard and Lilian Ngoyi bungalows, and many more. It was really a surprise to see that the people were hungry for change, but there had been no channel of communication until the arrival of the first lady General who was appointed to command the third largest military training base in the world, and the largest in Africa. Most of the guests were impressed with the changes made at the SA Army Combat Training Centre and encouraged further changes.

In her closing remarks Brig Gen Mpaxa said: “Lohatlha must not be seen as an island, but rather as part of the ocean. People should feel free to visit and make recommendations for changes.”

An unforgettable evening at Lohatlha

By Maj J. Mogoto, A/So2 Communication
Photo: Ms Hanna Coetzer

Potjiekos competition

Every year one can look forward to the Military Police Potjiekos Competition where one is quite likely to bump into a familiar face. This year’s gathering was held to socialise with suppliers, clients, other Public Service departments and friends of the Military Police School on 17 April 2009. Teams such as the Unitrans Passenger, Special Forces, Leo-Lize Alterations, Directorate Army Strategic Direction, the SA Police Service Training Institution, the Chief Directorate Army Force Structure, the Department of Health, Sanlam, Graafsteensangers, the Chief Directorate Human Resources Development, G & K Stationery, Masakhane, Dynachem, Pernod Richard, Buro Centrum, DEP technologies, were among the enlisted competitors.

The co-ordinator, Lt Col J. van Zyl, showed that he had done his homework very well in organising this successful event as one had the chance to join the soirée, which was held after the announcement of the winners. “Happiness is not a destination. It is a method of life.”

The South African Police Service Training Institution Team from Pretoria West - “The Cave Men and Woman” - proved themselves to be the best cooks by winning the first prize; with them is Col G.J. Anker, Officer Commanding of the Military Police School (left).
The University of the North West goes east

The University of the North West Students Representative Council's (SRC) Remember & Give (RAG) Committee every year adopts children from schools in Potchefstroom to give them an outing at the seaside. The university’s programme is referred to as Sand, Sea & Skelp. The SRC has many programmes in the North West to raise awareness and provide much needed funding to those who are less fortunate.

This year 56 university students adopted 56 learners ranging in age from 6 to 7 years from Promosa Primary School in Potchefstroom. These learners had never been outside Potchefstroom, and had therefore never seen the sea. Each student was responsible for the physical and emotional needs of the child he or she adopted.

Naval Station Durban has been supporting the Sand, Sea and Skelp programme for the past six years. It explained the function of the SA Navy, provided a marine tour on the ferry and arranged a diving display by the unit’s diving team. In a kind gesture the ship's company provided a meal and refreshments.

Tanya de Kock, the SRC President, said: “We have been associated with the SA Navy here in Durban for the past six years. Every time we come here it is always a new experience. The learners that we adopt from Promosa Primary School really have so much to talk about when they return home. Together with my fellow SRC members we want to say Baie Dankie Almal (Thank you everyone).”

Students of the University of the North West, learners from Promosa Primary School and members from Naval Station Durban.
By Lt J.D.A. Conradie, SO3 Occupational Hygiene, Reg OHS Centre Simon’s Town and Co-author and peer review: Lt Col N.W. Pieterse, SO1 Occupational Hygiene AMHF

Occupational hygiene is defined as the science and art devoted to the identification, evaluation and control of those environmental factors or stresses arising in or from the place of work, which may cause illness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort and inefficiency among workers. Dr Johan Schoeman said: “We cannot preserve humans - we can only preserve life.”

What does an occupational hygienist do?
The Occupational Hygienist will stress prevention and evaluate the working environment by means of scientific methods. Step one is to review and identify existing and proposed processes for possible health hazards in the workplace.

The Occupational Hygienist will then assess the degree to which workers are at risk and do measurement if necessary. Results obtained will be used to employ or develop engineering design techniques aimed at isolating each health hazard or reducing its concentration to acceptable levels.

Occupational Hygiene Professionals in collaboration with Occupational Medical Practitioners and Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners evaluate and monitor compliance with occupational health and environmental standards and requirements, while the Occupational Safety Specialist monitors compliance with safety standards and requirements in terms of the OHS Act (Act 85 of 93), as part of the Integrated OHS Management System.

Components of the occupational hygiene programme
The Occupational Hygiene programme in the SANDF is divided into two sections, namely pro-active and pathology based passive case management. The SANDF is the only known institution that focuses on the retro-active side of the programme. Passive case studies are done on individuals to obtain a clinical diagnosis of an occupational disease or to trace developing trends in terms of occupational disease occurrence that develop in the work environment.

Weapon systems research studies
Weapon system research studies are being done in the SANDF on the SA Air Force’s Gripen and the SA Navy’s 209 submarine. The Project Gripen was conducted in conjunction with the SA Air Force and SAAB of Sweden. Lt Col P.J. Venter was the project officer who requested and co-ordinated the SA Air Force side. The study and research outcome was meant to provide control specifications for revetments, make recommendations with regard to personal protective equipment, improve combat efficiency and obtain international recognition in the process.

Focal points of the study and research were noise levels in cockpit and the revetment environment, hearing protector efficiency assessments, illumination at workstations and inspection points, exhaust emissions, thermal stress in the revetment environment, volatile organic compounds indoor air quality and ergonomics in the revetment environment. The research study on the 209 submarine will be completed in 2009.

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<td>Exposure to hazardous chemical substances, such as asbestos, lead and other listed gasses vapours and dusts.</td>
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<td>2 Physical</td>
<td>Noise, radiation, ventilation, temperatures, illumination and vibration.</td>
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<td>3 Biological</td>
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<td>4 Ergonomical</td>
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By Lt J.D.A. Conradie, SO3 Occupational Hygiene, Reg OHS Centre Simon’s Town and Co-author and peer review: Lt Col N.W. Pieterse, SO1 Occupational Hygiene AMHF

Occupational hygiene is defined as the science and art devoted to the identification, evaluation and control of those environmental factors or stresses arising in or from the place of work, which may cause illness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort and inefficiency among workers. Dr Johan Schoeman said: “We cannot preserve humans - we can only preserve life.”

What does an occupational hygienist do?
The Occupational Hygienist will stress prevention and evaluate the working environment by means of scientific methods. Step one is to review and identify existing and proposed processes for possible health hazards in the workplace.

The Occupational Hygienist will then assess the degree to which workers are at risk and do measurement if necessary. Results obtained will be used to employ or develop engineering design techniques aimed at isolating each health hazard or reducing its concentration to acceptable levels.

Occupational Hygiene Professionals in collaboration with Occupational Medical Practitioners and Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners evaluate and monitor compliance with occupational health and environmental standards and requirements, while the Occupational Safety Specialist monitors compliance with safety standards and requirements in terms of the OHS Act (Act 85 of 93), as part of the Integrated OHS Management System.

Components of the occupational hygiene programme
The Occupational Hygiene programme in the SANDF is divided into two sections, namely pro-active and pathology based passive case management. The SANDF is the only known institution that focuses on the retro-active side of the programme. Passive case studies are done on individuals to obtain a clinical diagnosis of an occupational disease or to trace developing trends in terms of occupational disease occurrence that develop in the work environment.

Weapon systems research studies
Weapon system research studies are being done in the SANDF on the SA Air Force’s Gripen and the SA Navy’s 209 submarine. The Project Gripen was conducted in conjunction with the SA Air Force and SAAB of Sweden. Lt Col P.J. Venter was the project officer who requested and co-ordinated the SA Air Force side. The study and research outcome was meant to provide control specifications for revetments, make recommendations with regard to personal protective equipment, improve combat efficiency and obtain international recognition in the process.

Focal points of the study and research were noise levels in cockpit and the revetment environment, hearing protector efficiency assessments, illumination at workstations and inspection points, exhaust emissions, thermal stress in the revetment environment, volatile organic compounds indoor air quality and ergonomics in the revetment environment. The research study on the 209 submarine will be completed in 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATIONAL STRESSORS</th>
<th>OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CATEGORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>STRESSOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Chemical</td>
<td>Exposure to hazardous chemical substances, such as asbestos, lead and other listed gasses vapours and dusts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Physical</td>
<td>Noise, radiation, ventilation, temperatures, illumination and vibration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Biological</td>
<td>Exposure to hazardous biological substances and, infectious contagious/ communicable/ transmissible, virus, bacteria, fungi, insects and moulds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Ergonomical</td>
<td>Overuse injuries, repetitive movement injuries and bad body postures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building and maintaining friendships via golf

The Acting Secretary for Defence, Mr Tsepe Motumi, and his business partners headed for the greens at the San Lameer Country Golf Club near Margate in KwaZulu-Natal on 17 April 2009. The weather favoured the well-planned event.

The Secretary for Defence took time out from his busy schedule to invite some of the stakeholders, among other friends of the DOD, to engage in the gentlemen’s game with new and old business partners in a relaxed environment.

After a strenuous round on the golf course the players were treated to an evening of dining and entertainment during which the best players were awarded for their handicaps. Mr Motumi addressed his guests saying: “I am mindful of the fact that you all had to put on hold your personal and business issues to be with us today; the DOD appreciates your consideration.”

He added: “In the DOD, we always try to establish and maintain healthy relationships with our stakeholders. These relationships are important to us and assist us in meeting our mandate to provide effective defence for South Africa.” He emphasised that SA citizens should take ownership of institutions such as the DOD.

In his closing remarks he encouraged more women golfers to participate in these events when invited, saying he hoped next year would be more diverse in terms of gender as this event is due to be an annual event on the DOD’s calendar.
SANDF in full force at the SA Senior Jukskei Championships

By Maj Lizette Lombard,
SANDF Jukskei: PR/Media Liaison

South African National Defence Force Jukskei players of various provinces participated in the 69th SA Senior Jukskei Championships held at Kroonstad, Free State, from 27 March to 3 April 2009.

Members who represented Jukskei SA or their provinces were as follows:

- Col (Ret) D. Brits - Referee
- WO1 W. Collins - Referee
- Maj L. Lombard - Jikskei SA: Marketing and Sponsorships
- Cdr C. Lombard - Player: Gauteng North
- Maj N. Claasen - Player: Eastern Province
- Maj M.C. du Plessis - Player: Western Province
- WO1 D. Olckers - Player: Northern Free State
- WO1 (Ret) B. Viljoen - Player: South Free State
- WO1 T. Wentzel - Player: Northern Cape
- WO2 M.M. du Pisani - Player: Eastern Province
- Sgt J. Weideman - Player: Western Province
- L Cpl C. Hattingh - Player: Gauteng East
- Ms A.J.G. Knight - Player: Northern Cape

The results were as follows:

69th South African Senior Jukskei Championships - final points

**Men's A1 League**
- Eastern Province: 165.00
- Northern Free State: 158.5
- SWD: 156.5

**Men's A2 league**
- Limpopo: 150.5
- Limpopo 3: 141.5
- Western Province: 140.5

**Women's A1 league**
- Eastern Gauteng: 164.00
- Northern Cape: 149.00
- Western Province: 146.00

**Women's A2 league**
- Northern Free State: 142.00
- Gauteng North: 138.00
- Eastern Gauteng: 133.5

**Veterans' A1 league**
- Southern Natal: 144.5
- Eastern Gauteng: 138.0
- Central Gauteng: 133.0

**Veterans' A2 league**
- Northern Cape: 186.00
- Gauteng West: 179.00
- SWD: 178.5

**UNDER 30s**
- Boland: 136.5
- Northern Natal: 133.5
- Northern Free State: 116.00

* Members interested in Jukskei can contact Maj Lizette Lombard on 082 442 6286.
A question that should keep all of us busy is what happens to our undedicated money? Does it really contribute to our and others lives or not?

In the parable of the seed (Matthew 13) two things choke the growing wheat and make it unfruitful: "As for him who has sown 'among thorns', that is the man who listens to the Word, but the worry of the world and the delight of being rich choke the Word; so it proves unfruitful". Here it is important to see that "worry" and "the delight of being rich" are identified as two outstanding enemies of growth.

Note that nowhere does God teach us that "riches" are our Enemy No 1, but "the delight of being rich". This means riches that are an end in themselves. The "delight" is in the thing itself rather than in what it could do for you. It can also be described as "undedicated wealth". Had the "delight" rather been in what could have been done through the riches to help others, it would have had value. But undedicated riches become an end in themselves, and thus Mammon becomes God.

All the great religions of the world teach us that we cannot serve two masters at the same time. The problem is that by serving two masters you become a divided person and one of the masters will be a false master that wants to control your destiny and if you follow him or her your life will decay.

To faithful people God is supreme. He controls the food we eat, our emotions, and our money. These things are all servants of God's divine purpose in our lives. Without that purpose these things could become instruments that destroy our lives rather than have a holy purpose in our lives.

There is a well-known Muslim quotation that underlines this truth: "Whoever craves wealth is like a man who drinks sea water; the more he drinks the more he increases his thirst, and he ceases not to drink until he perishes".

We live in times when people are fascinated by music idols. It is wonderful to follow these talented young people and see how they develop and become successful. I certainly am one who is also fascinated by them. However, we must not forget the age-old warning of the Scriptures that "earthly idols break down when the test arrives". These idols in our lives do not have to be musicians, but could be slaves of egocentricity, power, fame and money.

To be a soldier is a privilege in many ways. You get the wonderful opportunity to work for your country and its people. In the process you are employed and receive a salary at the end of each month. But consider that many in our country do not have these privileges and live in poverty and without dignity.

Therefore let's make sure we treasure these privileges and specifically dedicate our money to a higher value - to ourselves, others and to God!
A decade of training excellence

By Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

For over 10 years the SA Army Training Formation has provided training to members of the SA Army. The SA Army Training Formation was established on 1 April 1999 and mandated to provide, maintain and sustain landward common training for the SA Army. 30 April 2009 marked the 10th anniversary celebrations at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg.

Over the years more than 15 100 officers, 2 200 warrant officers, 12 000 non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and 17 140 privates have been trained in the SA Army according to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of SA Army Training Formation, Brig Gen Abel Nelwamondo, who was the chief functionary at the parade. He also revealed that since the introduction of the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) in 2003, an estimated 10 200 members had done the Basic Military Training Course.

Comprising four training units, namely the SA Army College, SA Army Combat Training Centre, SA Army Gymnasium and 3 SA Infantry Battalion, the SA Army Training Formation directs, orchestrates and monitors the presentation of all common training in the SA Army as well as in these units. Some of the courses that are presented in the units include Officer Commanding/RSM Course, Warrant Officer Development Course, NCO Operational Duties Course and more, said Brig Gen Nelwamondo.

All members and units under the SA Army Training Formation umbrella formed a battalion parade, which was the initial part of the ceremony. "I would like to thank all my people in the SA Army Training Formation and its units for a job well done over the past 10 years and for the unconditional support given to me as the GOC and the SA Army", said Brig Gen Nelwamondo, expressing his gratitude to the members in his keynote address.

He cited some of the highlights in the training formation, which included his appointment as the GOC of the SA Army Training Formation and his formal assumption of his duties in November 2002, and the SA Army Battle School’s name change to SA Army Combat Training Centre by the former Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Gilbert Ramano. He was quite euphoric about the SA Army Training Formation’s involvement in the integration and training of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Forces, though they were not a deployable formation.

The SA Army, in accordance with the 2020 vision, was developing a strategy of force preparation to support the SA Army’s operational concept to enable the Army to adapt effectively to evolving challenges, said Brig Gen Nelwamondo. The strategy would be based on three elements, viz formal training, force training and force development. "We are looking forward to the future and forming part of the implementation of the future SA Army strategy,” he said.

Hatfield Volvo, represented by Mr Chris Pienaar, added to the fun activities during the day when they showcased their latest motoring technology in their new Volvo CX60. With him was the Marketing Director of SA Army Foundation, Mr Angel Ramphele. They received certificates from Brig Gen Nelwamondo for their involvement and sponsorship. The General also congratulated members who received medals during the parade.

The SA Army Combat Training Centre Choir in jovial mood had everybody excited with their performance.
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