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SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER

Mission and combat readiness training

defence

Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
From the Editor's desk

Letters to the Editor

News from abroad

Spouses Forum heads for the golf course

Good governance and military practices

Lesotho Defence Force on state visit

Tanzania benchmarks with SA Defence Reserves

Disaster management of oil spills in Simon’s Town

Deployed members voted outside the borders of SA

Celebrating with the Navy of the People

Quest for combat and mission readiness

US Army Command Sergeant Majors visit to the SANDF

Our transport aircrew trained at Namibian Defence Force

2010 integrated airspace control simulation

Defence gives youths a head start in life

Moving towards a greater goal

Personnel School instills knowledge

Warrant Officers completed Project Management Course

SA Navy was granted the Right of Entry into Ladysmith

DOD Intranet Info Sharing Day

SANDF - Overall Winner of the Polokwane Show

Reviving Defence Reserves’ military skills

A German experience for badminton

Training for Reserves improved in Gauteng

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FRONT COVER: Mortar platoon setting the sights and range on the 60 mm mortar during their mission and combat readiness training. Read all about the training of 5 SA Infantry Battalion on pages 22 to 23. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

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

W ecome to our birthday edition - SA Soldier is celebrating its 8th anniversary! We want to thank all our readers for their loyal support.

This year I had the opportunity to celebrate with the Navy of the People in Simon’s Town. The recently held SA Navy festival brought the whole town to a standstill. Everyone in Simon’s Town and its vicinity was at the festival! Many a maritime activity was to be seen at the naval premises - all in vibrant carnival atmosphere. The SA Navy did us proud! Read all about this joyous occasion on pages 20 and 21.

More reason to celebrate is the fact that the SANDF was the Overall Winner at the Polokwane Show. Needless to say, the SANDF exhibition was the main attraction. Human Resources Acquisitions manned a desk at the show where many application forms were distributed to learners who were very positive about joining the SANDF. Visitors were impressed with the many career opportunities for the youth who could be trained to become professionals. Read all about the military exhibition on pages 38 and 39.

Also enjoy reading the articles about the Department’s nation-wide Military Skills Development System (MSDS) career expo and recruitment drives to attract the youth to join the SANDF. The aim was to obtain recruits for the scarce skills professions, such as pilots, engineers, professional health workers, naval combat officers, airspace controllers and technicians (see pages 28 and 29, as well as the success story of MSDS members on page 30).

Last, but certainly not least, I should like to thank my dedicated editorial staff and the Editorial Board members of SA Soldier, as well as all our contributors for all their hard work and commitment

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

A bvaho kha Munwaleli

i a ni tanganedza kha uno nwedzi wa mabebo wa SA-Sodier. Ri pembela nwa ha 8. Ri livhuwa vhavalha vha ino bugu yashu kha thikhedzo ye vha ri tha yone tshifthenga tshothe.

Nanwaha ndo kona u wana tshifthinga tsha u pembela duvha la Mmbi ya vhupileli ya madini ya vhathu ngei Simon’s Town. Ho vha hu tshi to uhuva mufulithi u si mphire ngei hvutamboni uhuva he ha farwa husi kale-kale, khuvha ho vha ho to u bva na vha sinongo unda. Ho vha hu na zwidzhi zve zwa vha zvi tshi kho u ambitwa na u sumbedziwa malugana na Mmbi ya vhupileli ya madini. Ri a di hudza na u dinwa khana nga Mmbi ya vhupileli yashu ya madini. Vhali i nga maduvha mararu a u pembela kha siatari 20 na 21.

Zwinwe zwine ra nga pembela zwone ndi zwa uri Mmbi ya vhupileli ya Afrika Tshibembe (SANDF) yo wana tshiphuga tsha u thoma sa yone mukundi-muhulwane kha zwothe ngei tanoni la Polokwane. U amba uri Mmbi ya vhupileli ya Afrika Tshibembe yo vha i yone dendele afha kha lino tano zwi nga u di fhedzela tshifthinga nga uri vhathu vhothe vho vha vha tshi thelela hanengei pherani dza Mmbi ya vhupileli. Kha tshipinda tsha Mmbi tsha "Human Resources Acquisitions" ho vha huna "foromo" dza khumbelo ya mushumo kha Mmbi ya vhupileli dzve dzavha dzv i tshi kho u thiwa vhasha vhe vha vho tou fombe uri shumele Mmbi ya vhupileli. Vhathu vho vha vho takala vhukuma musi vhatshi tumbula uri hu na mishimo yo thambanaho kha SANDF. Vhali i zwothe izwi kha siatari 38 na 39.

Diphineni nga u vhala nga ha maelana na u tholwa ha vhasha hu tshi shumisiwa “Military Skills Development System (MSDS)” kha Muhasho wa vhupileli. Tshipikwa tshifthulwane tsha u thola vhasha ndi itela uri hu wanaleshvashumelani hvashumilo vha mishumo ine ya si a dzele u wanaleshvashumo nga inyi on nyi ufana-ho na Vhahali vha ndwana madini, Vhulangu vha zvi vhufihithi muyani, Vhushumi vha zvi mutakalo (vhali i misatari 28 na 29, ni vhale na siatari 30, afho ri ni vhudza nga ha mvelaphanda ya ha MSDS).

Zwa u fhedzisela zwinwe zwa vha zva ndume, Ndi tama u livhuwa vhushumilo vhothe vhashumilo ngamafuhufuleka kha ino bugu, ndi livha na vhulangu "Editorial Board" vha SA Soldier na vhote vhane vha ri thusha nga nwalwa mafuhungo naho vha vho muva tholwa. Ri ri: Mishumo ya vho iwe ri a vhona na u i divha, ni sithela maanda.

Nelda Pienaar
Munwaleli

* Translation (Tshivenda) by Lufuno Netshirembe
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PEOPLE NOT RESOURCES

When the business world began using the term "human resources" it was intended as a comprehensive term that would facilitate optimal management of a company’s "most valuable asset", its people.

Over time, however, the HR approach has actually come to mean that the people of a company are regarded and treated as just another "resource", alongside the buildings, the machinery, the raw material, and the toner cartridges for the many printers of the paperless office.

The factory needs so many widget fitters, floggle toggle tuners or floor sweepers, and the HR department goes out and hires and fires accordingly. It does not consider that a floor sweeper might not want to be floor sweeper forever, or might actually aspire to be a widget fitter one day. That a widget fitter might have a family is of no relevance or concern at all. They are all just round or square pegs to be fitted into their holes and disposed of when no longer needed.

And, anyway, "people do not anymore stay in a job forever", so there is no need to plan a floor sweeper's career. If he wants to fit widgets or tune floggle toggles, he will go to another company that might hire him for that job.

This is wonderful for the born administrator: it allows him to draw up perfect charts, schedules and tables, and minutely detailed regulations covering everything. There is no need to be flexible, to bother about career planning or individual development or, of all wild ideas, to think about the impact of some company decision on the family of one of those resources.

Nothing at all, in fact, to interfere with contemplation of the wonderful HR software that takes away the drudgery of actually dealing with any individual 'resources', or, indeed, to get in the way of a nice, long lunch.

That may work for commerce and industry. It will not work for the military.

It will not work for the military because the military requires a very different type and calibre of person, one who is not suited to being treated as a peg. That statement may surprise, given the authoritarian and disciplined nature of the military, but consider some of the realities of operations:

- Every rifleman in a section must be able to use initiative. Tactical situations develop rapidly and in unpredictable ways, and there is not always a standard response or someone to tell him what to do next.
- Every rifleman in a section must be able to work co-operatively, with his buddy and with others in the section. There are no hard and fast factory floor rules on the battlefield, and there is no time to check the manual or whine to a supervisor.
- Every rifleman must have some leadership capability. He must be able to take command of a few comrades for a particular task ("Smith, take Brown and Green, find a spot over there somewhere and cover our flank"), and he must be able to take over the section if the corporal becomes a casualty.

Those realities demand that the military selects the right type and calibre of person in the first place, that it educates and trains him accordingly, that it develops him, and that it looks after him appropriately.

The military must also focus on career planning, because it cannot hire its "managers", its leaders and commanders, off the street or from some college. It must educate, train and develop them in-house, being careful to give them the experience that is essential to their effectiveness. The military is a profession, not "a job", and professionals do tend to stay in their chosen professions - if they are treated decently.

It is also important to remember that soldiers are expected to spend long periods - sometimes very long periods - away from home. That can place immense stress on the family. That, too, must be borne in mind.

Finally, widget fitters and floggle toggle tuners are not expected to risk their lives for their factory. Soldiers are. And their families are expected to accept that.

All of that demands taking a real interest in the soldier as an individual person, not just managing him as some sort of disposable "resource".

It is past time that we dump the term "human resources" and return to "personnel", so as to focus the minds of those tasked with looking after our people on the fact that it is people that they are looking after, not pegs.

And while we are at it, let us return personnel administration to the unit level where it belongs. Then our people will be looked after by their comrades in the unit, people who know them as individuals and who really do care about them.

Helmoed Römer Heitman, email...
EXEMPLARY CONDUCT

Lance Corporal J. Slinger (A COMP RWP) is currently deployed at Madimbo Operational Base, which is responsible for borderline operations on the RSA/Zimbabwe border. The area is operationally very active because of illegal crossings and smuggling of all kinds of contraband.

On 6 December 2008 L Cpl Slinger was deployed at a vehicle control point on the Malala Drift road in the Tshipise area near the RSA/Zimbabwe border, when he stopped two vehicles. The vehicles were loaded with contraband cigarettes to the value of R80 000. During the arrest of the suspects one of them tried to bribe L Cpl Slinger with an amount of R60 000.

L Cpl Slinger refused to accept the bribe and handed the cigarettes over to the SARS, while the money and the suspects were handed over to the SAPS at Beitbridge.

Comment: The facts reflected in the incidents described in paragraphs 2 and 3 were confirmed by the SAPS and were also reflected in L Cpl Slinger’s statement to the SAPS when they opened the case against the suspects. The fact about the attempt to bribe L Cpl Slinger was not included in the incident report from the Company to Joint Tactical Headquarters Limpopo, thus leading to this late reaction.

L Cpl Slinger must receive recognition for his exemplary conduct and this incident must be communicated through the media (SA Soldier) because of its positive message. Col G.N. Faul, OC Joint Tactical HQ Limpopo

* Bravo Lance Corporal Slinger!

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE NEGATIVITY

It is with great regret that I have to submit this letter to SA Soldier for publication as I’m a religious member. I started as a young, positive and ambitious trooper that was inspired by the legacy and modus operandi of the SA Air Force to such an extent that I adopted it as my culture. I have served the SANDF and the country to the best of my ability with loyalty and pride for the past 18 years.

Contributing factors to the negativity is racism around bases and ill treatment by our senior officers, and my reasons for writing this letter are the procedures or the policies of this base. Some of them are beautiful bases in the whole Free State. Everybody outside would like to enter and have a sip of its water, but the water is so tasteless. To all the magazine readers, my plea to you is to help and strive to become one big family, but noth-...
THE BEST WEAPON TO TRIUMPH DURING THE BATTLE

It is very disappointing to have such a high number of uneducated people in the Department of Defence, more especially on the side of the uniformed members, although the Department is doing its best to overcome this problem. The Department took an important step by introducing Adult Basic Educational Training (ABET) to equip illiterate people with the basics and so enter the world of literacy. This is the opportunity one should never miss as it is a stepping stone to tertiary level studies.

The point is to have physically and mentally well trained soldiers, not only those who are physically fit, but have nothing in their heads. What works to push the body is the mind. Therefore if your mind is not strong enough, you will end up nowhere. Education is what success is made of. "Knowledge is power," said Mr Nelson Mandela.

Education will convince people to respect you; most of the people here in the SANDF will be jealous of your education. I agree with the DOD in rejuvenating its ranks as far as the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) is concerned, because it works.

Uniformed members need to be encouraged to study and to understand that physique cannot help you without the mind playing its role. Members in the DOD with matric should study further to improve their lives. As a human being you must do this everyday. The DOD must learn to give to those who deserve by merit, not by favouritism, because it causes production losses.

Some leaders do not fit the chair, but because I happen to know you, I can fit the chair. It is wrong. We must fight hard to remove illiteracy for progress. Someone once said: "It is tough to study, but when you finished you enjoy it because there is a reward and it depends on you how you want to be rewarded." It helps to talk, but talk is cheap if you don’t act. What would make a good soldier is education. At the end of the day it’s true that a number of our soldiers are uneducated and they must be helped.

It would be a good thing if soldiers could be remunerated according to their qualifications. Maybe that would encourage them to study by making use of the opportunities presented. Let us get educated as soldiers, because it’s a cure and it heals. It is the best weapon to triumph during the battle. L Cpl T.M. Dube, 44 Parachute Regiment

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE RENDERED

Kindly allow me the opportunity to thank you (Surgeon General) and the staff of 1 Military Hospital for the excellent service and support that I received during my hospitalisation over the period 6 to 12 January 2009.

I was hospitalised on the morning of 6 January 2009 with severe stomach cramps, and although it took a few hours to diagnose my gall bladder problem, it was successfully removed on 9 January 2009.

I can assure you that the treatment and care that I received from the team of doctors and personnel of ward 16 throughout the whole period were exceptional and professional. All of the staff of ward 16, but specifically Dr Baloyi, Dr Tarkowsky and Dr Maphosa from the surgical department, need recognition for their sense of duty and professionalism. Contrary to a certain opinion, these men and women proved that 1 Military Hospital could deliver a professional service to the soldiers of the SANDF.

I am up and about again and wish you a very successful 2009 and be assured of my continuous loyalty.

Col C.V. Geldenhuys, Wierdapark
MARTIAL ARTS HERO

Major Linda, Sergeant Lakey and Sergeant Arends were among those who received awards at the SANDF Sport Merits Awards function held in Pretoria on 26 February 2009. Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, presented these awards.

The members mentioned received their awards for their proficiency in martial arts. It is pleasing to realise that men and women of the SANDF are given the recognition they deserve for doing well in the sporting environment.

The award to Maj Linda could not have come at a better time than this. He deserved to have received the award a long time ago. These are a few reasons why I think so:

- In 1997 the then Lt Linda discovered martial arts in the SANDF. He then decided to start a karate club at Natal Command in Durban. The club was only a year old and its members had been to the SANDF championships only once when in 2000 the sporting codes were suspended in the SANDF. This was because in 1999 when the club members went to the SANDF Championships in Bloemfontein they were involved in an accident in which most of the members, including the then Lt Linda, were seriously injured.

THE SPIRIT IN ME

The spirit in me
Is the person in me,
The spirit in me
Determines my destination,
The spirit in me.

Nothing will break,
Nor weaken
The spirit I have,
My spirit
Is the spirit of a conqueror
The spirit in me.

People change
From generation to generation,
But what I have
Is in me forever,
The spirit in me.

L Cpl T.J. Mathavhana,
21 Signal Unit, Pretoria

- Major Linda who was representing the full contact element of the martial arts (Kyokushin Kai Kan) decided to take it up with the chairman at that time, Lt Col Le Roux who invited the then DPTSR to a full contact tournament he had arranged without a sponsor, but just so that the DPTSR could see what karate was all about. The then SANDF Karate Chairman did not invite the DPTSR on his behalf, but provided him with contact details and invited the DPTSR.

- The DPTSR, Brig Gen L. Yam, attended the event. He confirmed his support for martial arts within the SANDF, after which he instructed Capt Linda to write a motivation for SANDF Karate, which he did.

- This step saw the karate club grow in the KZN from 17 members to more than 50. And in 2001 Major Linda decided that it was good for all members of the SANDF to practise karate. So he wrote an article in the SA Soldier inviting members to attend a full contact tournament he had organised in Durban at the KZN Military Oyama Karate club. The message was received by many members within the SANDF who began practising at various units. Some of these members are still serving and others have been absorbed into the SAPS.

- In 1994 it became evident that ASB Durban was going to close down and the KZN Military Oyama Karate Club would also cease to exist. This signalled an end to karate in the Military in the Durban area. Major Linda decided to embark on a campaign to start a karate organisation that would allow Military members in Durban to attend lessons free of charge, which resulted in the birth of Defence Oyama Karate and Affiliates in 2004. It was officially launched in July 2005 and in September 2005 changed its name to Oyama Karate of South Africa (OKSA) with a membership of more than 500.

- Major Linda is now the President of an Organisation boasting a membership of more than 2000 registered members in South Africa. It is affiliated to the international karate organisation, the Tezuka Group, and has never stopped training Military members. He is currently stationed at ASB KZN at Ladysmith, but travels to Durban now and then to train Military members.

- Major Linda currently holds a 5th Dan black belt and is the member representing Africa at the International Karate Organisation, Kyokushin kai kan Tezuka Group. This has never changed him from who he was when he started the club. Currently he also assists members at 121 SAI Bn with their training free of charge.

- For information on Major Linda one may visit www.oksa.9f.com

To Major Andrew April, the current SANDF Martial Arts Chairperson, thank you for nominating these members, who have deserved recognition.

At the last SANDF Martial Arts Championships held in Cape Town Maj Linda voiced his concern about members who were trained in TAEKWONDO at the SA Army Gymnasium, but were not practising anymore. We all wish and request that such members not stop training so that one day the SANDF can benefit from the members practising the art. “May the ultimate truth dawn in the SANDF Martial Arts”.

We wish for more members like Maj Linda. Cpl Jabulani Ngubane, ASB KZN: KZN Military Oyama Karate Club
news from abroad

ALCOHOL ON EXTERNAL OPERATIONS

It is very obvious that alcohol is a source of disciplinary problems on our external missions.

The Sudan mission (Operation CORDITE) is the one with the least disciplinary problems. In this respect any Commander deployed in the Sudan has less stress, unlike the Commanders deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or Burundi, where alcohol in concerned.

Our soldiers deployed in the DRC and Burundi abuse alcohol and as a result they misbehave and the following day give empty excuses such as: “I was under the influence of liquor”.

In October 2007 I met a Nepalese Captain in Bunia, DRC, and he told me in passing that “South Africans are hard workers, if they patrol they overdo it, if they go for heli insertion they overdo it, and coming to their administration they put in more effort, but if they drink they overdo it”. This was a clear statement to reflect on as committed members of this continent in the eyes of other members states. We just need to eradicate this monster from our missions.

At the time I did not understand why Colonel Davids restricted alcohol in our predeployment phase at the General Ben Viljoen Training Area. But now since coming to the Sudan (an alcohol-free zone), I understand that the Colonel wanted to have peace of mind and to focus on the main effort, namely Exercise SEBOKA. For the sake of the good image of our SA National Defence Force, I suggest that we declare all our external missions as alcohol-free zones.

Lt H.K. Thamaga, 15 SAI Bn, currently deployed in the Sudan

THE SANDF TRAIN

“Shh … Shhh …, Listen, a train”
Here comes a train! Listen
“Choo! Choo! Choo …!”

A train that travels from the streets of South Africa,
Through the continent of Africa,
Down to the streets of the DRC, where it says,
“JAMBO SANA?” (How are you? in Swahili)
And down to the streets of the Sudan, and says,
“SALAM WALEKO” (May the peace of God be with you in Arabic)
And again to the streets of Bujumbura, and says,
“AMAKURU NIMEZA” (I am fine in Kirundi)

This train is carrying proudly uniformed members of
The South African National Defence Force
with
The aim of promoting peace and stability
On the African continent.

This train is not a train for “matatiso”
or “mushgular” (problems)
But a train for love, peace and hope.
This train unites “Abo-Chomi”, “Abo-Rafiki” and “Abo-Sadike”
To become friends.

Please hurry Rafiki, hurry Sadike, this train is waiting for you.

“I’d love to be there when Africa unites”,
PEACE.
Spr M.R Mamabolo, 2 Field Engineer Regiment, currently deployed in Burundi

CONCERT IN MALHA

Gumboot dance at Malha in the Sudan during a concert held on 10 March 2009.
Rfn L.B. Tshivhombela in action - displaying the flexibility of his body during his event at the concert.

Rfn M.J. Moima performing at the concert held by members of Bravo Company.

SA SOLDIER ● MAY 2009
PROUD OF YOUNG SOLDIERS

The people who say that Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members, the so-called “amanadones”, are military hazards must be very careful of what they say, because I can charge you, put you behind bars and throw the key away into the ocean. We should celebrate their current contributions to our new SANDF. The era of the old crooks, the so-called “amaguse” is over now, so let the young lions roar, but in a proper military culture, not in a civilian or criminal style of doing things anymore. You will kiss our military goodbye with that rotten type of attitude. Cowards will not fool us nor false prophets of doom, we will smell them out after our military successes! I don’t know very much about military politics, but what was done by our organisation recently with the MSDS intake was appreciated by many, if not the majority. I don’t need us to undermine them, but we need to face the fact that this may give our SANDF a good image, as many of the young have an excellent academic background, even though some of them still exhibit a school and civilian style of behaviour!

For you MSDS members, I have only three little words to say to you “we love you” so much, and we hope and trust that you are not going to disappoint us, your parents, your Creator, your organisation and your country at large. Together we will protect our country, our continent and combat crime together with the police. Let our SANDF allow MSDS members to play a vital leadership role, and engage more in peacekeeping missions, and hear how and what the best way will be to tackle crime and the war-torn continent head on with our coalition. My only concern is about how these MSDS members behave and how they might or might not engage in criminal offences at a young age, or make a certain kind of impression on their peers and partners, forgetting that crime does not pay, that education must come first and the rest will follow! They publicise everything they do without fear and unaware of the pending risk, like kissing the hard earned job goodbye, drug addiction, HIV and AIDS and face jail sentences, to mention but a few. Some don’t even adhere to the military culture or the Code of Conduct, or even fail to pay the necessary respect to their senior military counterparts (amaguse).

If you question why they misbehave, the answer will be obvious: it is our time and our rights. Shame on you, young soldiers, you are disgusting, your personal and military conduct is used to get attention, or else you will be sorry for yourself! My fatherly appeal to you guys is: honour your God, your parents, your seniors, your SANDF and your country, and your living days will be extended in the land that God gave unto you. Respect yourselves and do not abuse your youthful military image; it is better for you to be proud of your young soldiering, and remember that our country needs you. I hope this letter serves as a wake-up call to all of you young and beautiful soldiers to realise this is urgent. You are the future; our country is in your hands. We salute you all. May God our Lord bless you and sustain you for us now and forever more. Amen. S Sgt (pastor) T.D. Makiti, AMHU Gauteng, currently in the Sudan with 15 SAI Bn.

SAD LIFE OF AN ORDINARY SOLDIER

Unselfishly, we left our mothers and our fathers. We left behind our sisters and brothers, our beloved children and wives. We put on hold our dreams and our lives. In a foreign land we find ourselves planted to fight for those whose freedom was granted. Without our sacrifice their cause would be lost, but we carried onward, no matter the cost. Many horrors we endured and saw many faces that haunted our dreams. We cheered as our enemies littered the ground. When it is over, we all come back; some will leave with memories to face all alone, some find themselves in the company of friends as their crosses cast shadows across the land. Those who survived will be forever scarred emotionally, physically and be permanently marred, but for a soldier who died today, just his wife and children will mourn him, for he lived an ordinary life, getting peanuts at the end of the month, but the soldiers continue with the good work.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great. Papers tell their life stories, from the time that they were young, but the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand, would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand? Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend?

Defend his home, his kin and country and would he fight until the end? If we cannot do him honour while he’s here to hear the praise, then at least let’s give him homage at the ending of his days. Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say: our country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin, but his presence should remind us we may need his like again. For when countries are in conflict, we find the soldier’s part is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start. Smn Thobani Swaartbooi (Kutum Base), currently deployed in the Sudan.

11

MAY 2009 • SA SOLDIER
OFFICIAL VISITS TO MISSION AREAS

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, accompanied by the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, paid a very successful visit to troops deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and the Central African Republic from 22 to 28 March 2009.

During the visit the deployed soldiers had the opportunity to interact with the two generals, who assured them of the continued support of the Joint Operations Division and the SA Military Health Service. In the Central African Republic the President, Pres Francois Bozize, invited the two generals to pay him a courtesy call. During the call further possible co-operation between the two countries’ armed forces was discussed.

Capt (SAN) Sonica van Rooyen, Pretoria

GREAT LEADERS INDEED

What great leaders Darfur region has seen! I am talking about Capt H.S. Mokoditoa (15 SAI Bn) Bravo Company Commander, and his second in command, Capt T. Ngwane, who were deployed at Malha Base, Sudan, from November 2008 to April 2009.

You showed the Malha community and their King that you were leaders with potential and the spirit of UBUNTU. You respected each other regardless of wearing the same rank. For me Captain Mokoditoa was like King Solomon who asked wisdom to lead God’s people. For each and every challenge that came his way, he applied wisdom to find a solution.

I should like to thank Captain Ngwane for encouraging our soldiers by showing them how to use a computer, but most importantly for letting them enrol in United Nations (UN) courses. I regard the two captains as icons in our wonderful SANDF.

I therefore respect them like our leaders who spent sleepless nights ensuring that Africans enjoy the wealth of Africa. Leaders such as Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, Nelson Mandela and other heroes.

Believe me when I say you really sent ambassadors of peace to a troubled Darfur. Our SANDF needs leaders of the calibre of the two captains. May God bless them and their respective families. It shows that they come from disciplined backgrounds.

I may say Sudan, Sudan, South Africans have landed. Sudan was no mushkilah, Malha Base was Tamam, Igwee ... Montana Mogotlane, 15 SAI Bn, Malha Base in the Sudan
It was a lovely Saturday morning, the sky was clear and the well-manicured grass of the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane waited to host the members of the SANDF Spouses Forum. An exciting day on the golf course was bound to take place.

The programme of the day, Saturday 13 March 2009, took off when Forum members gathered in the hall for their quarterly meeting. As soon as the members arrived and were offered some tea or coffee, the Programme Director, Ms Sandy Africa, welcomed everybody and explained to those gathered there the outline of the day. Ms Linda Dabula was also on hand to bless the day with a prayer.

To spic up the event, the members were introduced to golf. All eager to learn and clad up in their golf attire the members headed to the driving range to learn the finer points of the game. This exercise highlighted the commitment of the Forum to sport and recreation.

Ms San-Marie Stevens and Ms Santie Koch explained and demonstrated how to play golf. The members were thrilled as they were also offered the opportunity to strike the golf ball. Most were eager, as they had never played golf before and promised to follow it up and sign up with a local club with the hope of turning into professional golfers.

“I hope one day I will turn professional and challenge my husband. I cannot wait to see the look on his face,” stammered one of the members of the forum. “People have this perception that only men can play the sport, well that’s about to change,” added another.

As soon as the aspirant golfers returned from the range various activities were lined up. These included a presentation by Curves Gym. Their main aim was to highlight the importance of exercising, and the promotion and maintenance of weight. A total of fifteen gym vouchers were awarded to lucky recipients.

Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, Chairperson of the Spouses Forum, was also on hand to give the organisational report. She pointed out the successes achieved by the forum and thanked the members for their continual support of the Goodwill Project, which always brings a smile to soldiers on deployment outside the country. Funding was the main factor she singled out, as lack thereof tended to hamper their intentions. She also mentioned the possibility of expanding membership to spouses of other ranks. Plans are also under way for the business world to support the forum.

Ms Africa also took to the stage to replay a message to the members of the forum. This was in a form of a speech that was delivered by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki Moon. The speech addressed issues such as violence against women and the spread of HIV and AIDS.

The occasion was rounded up with the women being treated to a fashion parade. Ms Nandipha Madikiza was on hand to introduce the members to the vast array of the latest fashion trends and accessories.
he South African government through the DOD and SANDF continues to demonstrate an unrivalled commitment to assistance and co-operation to multilateral institutions, including the United Nations at international and regional level and to engage in peacekeeping, security, good governance and military practices.

On 24 March 2009 the Minister of Defence of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr Nelson Jobim, and his entourage, including the Secretary for Defence Politics, Strategy and International Affairs (Brazil), Lt Brig Gilberto Burnier, the Commander of the Brazilian Air Force, Lt Brig Juniti Saito, and other senior officials met with the SA Minister of Defence, Mr Charles Nqakula, and senior delegates of the SA DOD at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

The aim of the visit was to develop further the existing goodwill and strengthen the good relations between South Africa and Brazil. As part of the international trend, the visiting delegates were astounded by the warm reception and formal military welcome parade by our National Ceremonial Guard, the stirring sounds of the SA Air Force Band and the gun salute.

Minister Nqakula in welcoming the Brazilian entourage briefed them on South African and Brazilian political and economic relations and the role of South Africa in dealing with continental and regional challenges that have become threats to human well-being. "We meet at an opportune and important time in the history of not only South Africa, but of the African continent as a whole, as South Africa will be hosting the FIFA Confederation Cup in June 2009 and the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. In a manner of speaking the Confederation Cup will be the rehearsal for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup," said Mr Nqakula.

He added that the two countries valued their military and diplomatic relations which culminated in the signing of the Agreement on co-operation in Defence related matters in June 2003 and provided for the establishment of the South Africa and Brazil Joint Defence Committee, which promotes the implementation of this agreement.

"The agreement seeks to achieve the following: promotion of defence related matters, especially in the field of research and development, acquisition, logistics support, the exchange of knowledge, experience in scientific and technological areas, engagement in combined military exercises and the exchange of information and collaboration in the procurement of military equipment," said Mr Nqakula.

In his response, the Minister of Defence of Brazil expressed confidence in improved relations between the two countries and expressed appreciation for South Africa’s security approach in countering human terror. "Let’s continue to forge good practices and our mutual relations in many spheres. Brazil is strongly integrated in many spheres of human endeavour, infrastructure, and economic development. We also have good relations with the SA Navy in the maritime security domain and trade."
The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, had invited South Africa’s nearest neighbour - the Kingdom of Lesotho - for a goodwill visit from 30 March to 3 April 2009.

The Commander of the Lesotho Defence Force, Lt Gen Thuso Motanyane, was accompanied by two delegates, Brig Gen Thoriso Mareka and Lt Col Ntsohi Tau. Lt Gen Motanyane was overwhelmed by the cordial invitation to foster relations between the two countries.

The SANDF seeks to promote peace and security in the interests of co-operation with other countries. This will result in people working together to stabilise global crises. As human life is the primary objective of security, the SANDF engages in various initiatives by sharing training resources to resolve disputes and socio-economic issues.

Such visits are therefore aimed at strengthening relations between South Africa and Lesotho. South Africa has played a major role in Lesotho in operations such as Operation BOLEAS in 1998 to resolve internal conflicts and Operation QETO in which financial and technical support was provided to destroy excess and redundant weapons in the armouries of the Lesotho Defence Force.
The Tanzanian People's Defence Force benchmarks with SA Defence Reserves

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Chief of the South African Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, hosted the Acting Chief of Militia of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force Reserve Forces, Brig Gen Raphael Muhuga, and the Acting Director of Training Militia of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force Reserve Forces, Col Ayub Amasi, at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 17 March 2009.

Their visit was aimed at promoting the existing brotherly relationship between the SANDF and the TPDF and studying the system of mobilisation and demobilisation of SANDF Reserves, and the record-keeping for veterans and the Reserve Forces in peace and wartime.

On welcoming the Tanzanian delegates, Maj Gen Andersen prepared a presentation to show the delegates how the Division formed part of the SANDF.

The Tanzanian visitors were humbled by the warm welcome they received from the South African Defence Reserves. Brig Gen Muhuga mentioned that it was their pivotal role to visit different countries in order to benchmark with other Reserves systems to enable them to be on a par with those countries.

The Tanzania People’s Defence Force (TPDF) was created in September 1964, and from its inception it was ingrained in the troops that they were a people’s force under civilian control. “The TPDF wants to research the feasibility of a Reserve System that is under full military control as opposed to their own system of militia being under civilian control,” said Brig Gen Muhuga.

Maj Gen Andersen gave an excellent account of the consolidation of the SANDF in its Management of Mobilisation and Demobilisation. The presentation clearly demonstrated that the South African Defence Reserves would eventually consist of 55 per cent of the total Force strength of the SANDF. He elaborated that it was more cost-effective to utilise Defence Reserves in the Department. “Defence Reserves are twice the country’s citizens,” as they work outside the Department, but serve it when called up.

The South African Defence Reserves are support-orientated pillars of the SANDF, for example when there was a Public Service strike back in 2007 the South African Defence Reserves deployed to assist the SA Police Service (SAPS) to stabilise the situation. It is consequently imperative that every country should have such a capability in the military.

After the presentation by Maj Gen Andersen, the guests where taken to other Services within the SANDF where they acquired more specific knowledge with a wider perspective of the objectives they required in the militia in Tanzania.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief of South African Defence Reserves, delivered his presentation to the Tanzanian delegates, fltr: Col Ayub Yusuf Amasi, Acting Director of Training Militia of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force Reserves and Brig Gen Raphael Mugoya Muhuga, Acting Chief of Militia of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force Reserves.
The oceans and waterways of the world are constantly under threat of an oil spill. As long as there are ship movements on our global waters, these threats are a reality. There is a huge awareness about oil spill disasters internationally and countries have put various contingency plans in place in the event of a major disaster incurring in their territorial waters.

The United States Africa Command and the United States Navy Europe/Africa, supported by the United States and Latvian Coast Guard, conducted a regional oil spill preparedness and response workshop at the Maritime Warfare Training Centre from 30 March to 2 April 2009. The event was co-hosted by the Department of Defence and Naval Base Simon’s Town. (The local arrangements were made by WO2 Benito Walters of Naval Base Simon’s Town Environmental Services.)

The stakeholders of the workshop included the US, South African, Namibian and Mozambican navies. Key South African role players were represented by Marine and Coastal Management, City of Cape Town Disaster Management, Transnet National Ports Authority and the Institute for Maritime Technology. Nationally, the SANDF was represented by Cdr Adri Liebenberg and regionally by Lt Col Lappies Laubscher and Capt Rod Jeffery of RFIM Cape Town and Lt Col Roshni Varaden of RFIM Durban.

The workshop was co-ordinated by Mr Art Kolodziejski (United States Africa Command OPS/LOG Directorate), Mr John Owen (US Navy Region Europe and Africa) and Cdr David Haynes (Commanding Officer of the US Coast Guard) assisted by Capt H. Cernovs (Chief of the Latvian Coast Guard).

On arrival the guests were welcomed by R Adm (JG) J.E. Louw, Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town. During the workshop participants exchanged information by means of presentations and question and answer sessions. The aim of the workshop was to discuss appropriate procedures when a significant oil spill occurred which might have an impact on maritime safety and security and sensitive areas, including human health, the environment and economics.

The group was also taken on a tour of the Simon’s Town harbour and given a demonstration of the SA Navy’s ability to combat an oil spill. WO1 Guy Haywood showed the group the monitoring system used by the SA Navy and emergency procedures that have been put in place in the event of an oil spill in the harbour. Capt Glen Knox addressed the group on their capabilities, while a practical demonstration was given of the different types of oil spill control and mop-up equipment at our disposal.

The USA Africa Command and SA Navy initiated Maritime Environmental Security co-operation under the auspices of the USA-RSA Environmental Security Working Group and gained a considerable amount of valuable planning information. They became familiar with the local, regional and national oil spill response procedures and co-ordination requirements in case of a spill incident in the South African maritime region.

Mr Kolodziejski said that the workshop had proved to be very successful in more ways than one. For the first time it brought together the key stakeholders who would ultimately work together to address all the contingency planning and spill response related activities. It also brought together representatives from neighboring countries and gave them exposure to our programme and instigated communication and future collaboration in the disaster response arena. He emphasised that further advanced constructive collaboration in the general area of environmental security affecting the international community was to include South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, the USA and Europe. This entailed advancement of the RSA-USA collaboration under the auspices of the Defence Committee (DRFCOM) and more specifically the RSA-USA Environmental Security Working Group.

Further comments were made by Ms Yael Wearley, a tug pilot at the Transnet National Ports Authority. She said: "The workshop was truly informative, constructive and interactive." Lt Cdr Horacio from the Mozambique Navy also found the workshop very constructive, saying that the information was invaluable to their navy in combating oil spills. "It was an eye-opener to everyone, especially the good links formed by the different navies," said Cdr Shikongo of the Namibian Navy.

Mr Marshall, Senior Oceanographer of Marine and Coastal Management, said that the workshop gave a clear indication of what should be done by the various stakeholders to combat oil spills. He said that note was taken of the need for capacity building, which needed to take place in the form of an oil spill response forum.

The international workshop was a big success as all role players could tap into each other’s knowledge of how they combated oil spills. Most importantly, it highlighted the fact that disasters such as oil spills could not be fought in isolation. The need arose for a forum in which we could all speak a universal language regarding disaster management.
Tension and expectations were high on 8 April 2009 when 47 members of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) boarded a Boeing 737 from South Africa to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Sudan and the Central African Republic to be utilised as election officials to afford deployed members the opportunity to vote in the South African National Elections on 15 April 2009. An additional five SANDF election officials followed suit to Mozambique and smaller bases in the DRC.

The logistical nightmare faced by the two co-ordinating officers from Joint Operational Headquarters, Lt Col Francois Swanepoel and Maj Landon Botha, to ensure that all deployed members could vote, was handled with extreme skill and constant adjustments as the contingency plans were often altered at the last minute. The sudden refusal of landing rights for the aircraft in the Sudan meant that a disappointed team of seven SANDF election members had to return back to South Africa only to return to the Sudan a couple of days later to ensure that the deployed members there could vote in time.

A total of 1 935 deployed members voted in the elections, of which 728 were in the DRC, 642 in Burundi, 417 in the Sudan, 114 in Mozambique and 34 in the Central African Republic.

Voting of deployed SANDF members in the elections required months of planning and other multiple preparations. This included consultation with the Independent Electoral Commission.
Voters from 6 SAI Bn at the Military Base at Goma, DRC, did not have to wait too long to make their mark next to the party of their choice. (Photo: WO1 van L. van Heerden)

The election officials had to face harsh conditions such as wet roads to reach the voting stations in time in Goma, DRC. (Photo: WO1 van L. van Heerden)

Sealed bags full of completed ballot papers ready to be flown back to Election House in South Africa. (Photo: Lt Col G. Tredoux)

One of the SANDF military bases in the Sudan visited by the election team from the SANDF. More than 400 SANDF members voted in the Sudan. (Photo: Maj. M. Montgomery)

(IEC), government and airport companies, negotiations for landing rights, publication of election dates for deployed members in the Government Gazette and selection and training of SANDF members as election officials.

SANDF members from the Office of the Chief of the SANDF, Joint Operational Headquarters and Division, Human Resources Division, Training Command, Directorate Integrity Systems, Navy Office and DOD HQ Unit (MOD) were trained as Special Voting Officials and Deputy Voting Officials.

Deployed members generally expressed their gratitude to the SANDF and the IEC for caring enough to allow them to exercise their democratic right to vote. A very small minority of voters were disappointed that the IEC regulations stipulated that provincially they could only vote for Gauteng and not the province of their choice.

The election officials from the SANDF mostly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to experience these countries and the challenges facing Africa. Visits to all the main and smaller bases and rebel camps gave the officials a clear insight into the conditions under which both the SANDF deployed members and the rebels lived. This included the realities of life without electricity, water, basic commodities, severe weather conditions with high temperatures, discomfort levels, as well as heavy rainfall and storms.

Overall, it remained a wonderful occasion for the election officials and for the deployed members to know they were worth the effort and that their votes counted. Operation VIMBELA was executed successfully.
Celebrating with the Navy of the People

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA Navy festival in Simon’s Town attracts thousands of people annually, mainly Capetonians. This event attracted 130 000 people last year. This year 150 000 were expected to visit the SA Navy premises over a period of three days, from 27 to 29 March 2009. The SA Navy festival is an opportunity to showcase the SA Navy’s capability and its combat readiness to South Africans; thus it is called the SA Navy of the people. Simon’s Town is also referred to as the home of the SA Navy.

On the eve of the SA Navy festival the renowned SA Navy Band entertained the audience in the Selborne dry dock. This dry dock was commissioned on 10 November 1910. The dock is 231 m long, 36,5 m wide and 14,5 m deep. The width at the entrance is 29 m. The dock was built using fill from the quarry above Simon’s Town, and with blocks of granite imported from Scandinavia. Before the dock was constructed there was only a beach. The visitors and the SA Navy Band shared the dry dock with the SAS DRAKENSBERG, which formed the backdrop during the evening of the concert.

SAS DRAKENSBERG is the largest replenishment vessel ever built in South Africa and was launched in Durban in 1986. At the dry dock it was undergoing routine maintenance and modernisation. It is 147 m long, has a breadth of 19,5 m, a draught of 7,5 m and displaces approximately 12 500 tonnes. The ship’s operational career commenced in February 1988 when she attended the Dias festival in Mossel Bay. Between February and November 2007 the ship was away from Simon’s Town for 250 days of which 195 were at sea. In April 2006 the SAS DRAKENSBERG sailed to France to fetch a new rotor for the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. She plays an important role in supporting the flying operations of the Lynx and Oryx helicopters, as well as providing training for aircrew and flight deck personnel.

In an interview with SA Soldier a 24-year-old percussionist in the SA Navy Band, Able Seaman D.N. Scarcella, who has been in the SA Navy since 2005 and a year in the SA Navy Band confirmed that he was quite happy to be in the band. For him it was not just a dream, it was about following the family tradition, as his father had been a drummer.

In keeping with its tradition (it has a track record of 10 years now) the SA Navy did not disappoint the people. This year’s fes-
The public was given an opportunity to explore South African naval ships, seen here boarding SAS SPIOENKOP.

The public was given an opportunity to explore South African naval ships, namely the SAS AMATOLA, SAS ISANDLWANA, SAS SPIOENKOP and SAS MENDI. They were also treated to tugboat rides and boarding the frigates and submarines.

After a fire-fighting display SA Soldier met Seaman Cindy-Lee van Reenen (20), a young woman who qualified in fire-fighting at the Epping fire department in 2006. She told SA Soldier that fire-fighting was always what she wanted for a career. She was grateful that the SA Navy had provided her an opportunity to follow her passion. "Being a firefighter is demanding, both physically and psychologically. I must be physically fit because of the demands on the body and be psychologically "okay" because a mistake could cost lives", said Seaman Van Reenen.

Training is dangerous and as close to the real situation as possible. Regardless of the rigorous training and rehearsals, accidents remain a big and serious threat to the soldiers. Sometimes these accidents occur in spite of all the precautions. Medical assistance is on alert and stand-by. The medical alert stand-by showed its indispensability when during the mast display Seaman Tsolofelo Masoabi fell off the mast display equipment. Luckily the medical staff acted swiftly and saved the day.

On 28 March at the Right of the Freedom of Entry parade into Simon's Town the Chief of Naval Staff, R Adm Mosoenu Magalefa, quoted what he said was a prayer he was taught by his grandfather: "God give me work till my life ends and give me life till my work ends". Staying true to what he has been taught by his grandfather, R Adm Magalefa will be retiring soon (when he turns 60) from the Regular Force and then he will join the Reserve Force to continue his work "hopefully till his life ends".

When the guest of honour - the Deputy Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Grant Haskin, addressed the audience he thanked the SA Navy for its contribution to the community through the Isivunguvungu Youth Sailing Development Programme that empowers the youth from disadvantaged communities by offering them a whole new life, with skills to take them far in the maritime world and in life. "I want to echo the call for young South Africans to seriously consider joining the SA Navy, not only for yourself, your career, your development, your future, but as a patriotic statement of commitment to South Africa to protect and serve South Africa in the proud tradition that is our National Defence Force," concluded the Deputy Executive Mayor.

The tradition of the Right of the Freedom of Entry Parade is an honour bestowed by some of the municipalities in South Africa on esteemed members of its community or organisations that have given the community heroic service. This allows such members or organisations the privilege of marching in the city with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. In South Africa the custom of tribute being paid to a defence force by the government can be traced back to the year 1879.

The 2009 SA Navy festival came to an end on Sunday at 18:00 with a beautiful retreat ceremony in the arena where the sea warriors in white played music and paraded before the appreciative audience.
A mission ready South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is the key to the Department of Defence (DOD) continuing to succeed in its support of Government’s diplomatic initiatives to help eradicate conflicts in the region and on the continent.

The SANDF is already contributing a large number of its members to peacekeeping missions of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). We do this because we are convinced that our peace, security, stability and economic prosperity are linked to that of the region and continent.

5 SA Infantry Battalion (5 SAI Bn) conducted Operation ZULU - a mission and combat readiness training session in preparation for external deployment to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at Boschhoek training area near Ladysmith over the period 25 March to 8 April 2009.

The scenario and approach of Operation ZULU was closely based on the real situation within the DRC and had the aim of realistically preparing the battalion for its task at hand, which was to ensure that the forces were mission ready. Names like Mushake and Kanyatsi, which derived from the DRC, were used in the exercise to familiarise the forces on the ground with what to expect in the area in which they were to operate in North Kivu Province, DRC, on their tour of duty.

Escorting tasks and foot patrols were done as part of their retraining.

Delta Company, consisting mainly of Reserve Force components, viz the SA Irish Regiment, Johannesburg Regiment, Tshwane Regiment, 11 Maintenance Unit, Witwatersrand Rifles and Durban Light Infantry Regiment going through their paces doing platoon attacks.
They also handled base protection in case there was an attack from the belligerents, while crowd control and negotiation skills were also part of their training. They conducted vehicle patrols and were taught about mine drills, e.g. what to do if the other vehicle should hit a mine during patrols. They learned how to execute defile drills if they were ambushed and to cross an obstacle. Lastly, as part of vehicle patrol training, they learnt the halt drill in case they wanted to rest or eat.

They went through their paces doing the section and platoon attacks, live firing and night attacks with the help of the mortar section illuminating the area for them, as safety is vital in these types of attacks.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Lt Col Chris Els, Officer Commanding 5 SAI Bn, expressed pride in his leader group who always led by example and his troops’ discipline, dedication and commitment, as well as their high morale and the way they conducted themselves for the duration of the exercise.

He prides himself on 5 SAI Bn (SANDF) always being ready to fulfil its mandate, which is firstly to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the country and secondly to support the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other security agencies, and finally to perform and participate in peacekeeping missions.

“Our nation can be truly proud of 5 SAI Bn (SANDF) whose professionalism and discipline is recognised the world over. Through the commitment of the men and women of this battalion we will participate fully in whatever our country calls upon us to do in our quest for peace and stability for a better South Africa and a better world,” concluded Lt Col Els.
The South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) hosted a United States Senior Warrant Officer delegation from 16 to 20 March 2009.

The delegation’s representatives were Command Sergeant Major Mark Ripka (United States Africa Command), and Command Sergeant Major Robert van Pelt (State Command Sergeant Major New York Army National Guard). Accompanying the two Command Sergeant Majors were Sergeant First Class Steven Ryan and Joey Mitchell from the United States Embassy in Pretoria.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss SANDF Warrant Officer and Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) development, to establish relationships and permanent Warrant Officer/NCO Co-operation Sub-working Group to the SANDF-US Military Relations Working Group in preparation for the July 2009 Defence Committee discussions.

The SANDF visit began on Monday morning with an office call and discussions with the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers. The delegation also met the SANDF accompanying officer for the week, CWO Leon Halgreen, CMIS Division. MCWO Scheepers provided an excellent overview of the history and the challenges of the SANDF since the 1994 “integration”.

After the initial discussion with the MCWO of the SANDF the delegation proceeded to the SA Army College where the WO of the SA Army, SCWO Victor Kgaladi, met and hosted the delegation for the remainder of the day. The delegation received briefings from CWO Fox van Onselen, SA Army HQ Staff Force Preparation, and from the SA Army Formation CWOs. They discussed training in general, followed by WO/NCO development in terms of institutional ways and means.

On Tuesday the delegation was hosted for briefings and discussions by the WO of the SA Air Force, SCWO L.
Dan Tshabalala, at the SA Air Force HQ. The delegation also met with the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano. The SA Air Force briefings covered the SA Air Force’s technical training and WO/NCO leadership development. The SA Air Force College presented a detailed briefing on their organisation, capabilities, and current and future pathway for WOs/NCOs. The US delegation agreed to explore the possibilities of future SANDF-US learner and instructor exchanges.

Tuesday afternoon the delegation travelled to the Joint Operations Division. The WO of the Joint Operational Division, SCWO Thando Gogo, hosted the delegation for a series of detailed briefings on the Joint Operational Division’s roles and functions and the Special Force Brigade’s mission, roles and functions.

The WO of SA Military Health Service (SAMHS), SCWO Moses Sebone, hosted the delegation on Wednesday for a SAMHS organisation-al briefing visit to 7 Medical Group, and a visit to SAMHS Training Formation. The 7 Medical Group provided an excellent mission briefing and demonstrated the Chemical Biological Radiation (CBR) Defensive Protection capability. During the visit to the Training Formation they observed military health training that made use of a variety of computer based and non-computer based simulators and simulations.

On Wednesday afternoon the delegation was hosted by the WO of the SA Navy, SCWO (Master at Arms) Mark Hyde. The SCWO and the WOs at the Navy Office provided an excellent briefing with accompanying discussions focused on Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer, and Warrant Officer professional development. V Adm Johannes Mudimu, Chief of the SA Navy, also addressed the assembled WOs. He spoke, inter alia, of the success of the 3rd Africa Seapower Symposium hosted in SA, the importance of regional maritime co-operation and the relationship with the US. Especially noteworthy was V Adm Mudimu’s comments regarding "cascading these influences at all levels". He was referring to WO level discussions with international partners and general/flag officer level discussions.

The delegation proceeded to the Warrant Officers Academy (WOA) on Thursday where they were hosted by the MCWO of the SANDF and the WOIC-WOA, SCWO Dann Cloete, for a full day of briefings and discussions. Joining us for the briefings was WO1 (Ret) Koos Moorcroft, former WO of the SA Army, who had recently been appointed by the retired WOs to monitor and assist with Retiree Affairs. The MCWO of the SANDF began the day’s discussions by explaining the history of WOs and the new WO ranks in the SANDF. The MCWO explained WO career paths for line and functional specialist WOs.

After his briefing the US delegation provided a short whiteboard discussion on the US National Security Organization, including the US Africa Command. The discussion also covered US WO/NCO education and development. The next series of briefings was presented by the WOA staff and covered the WOA and the Joint Warrant Officer Programme (JWOP). The WOA is currently administering their second intake of JWOP. The US delegation was quite impressed with the year-long, combination resident with the short duration distance learning periods, operational and military/political strategic level focused course. The US delegation agreed to explore the possibilities of instructor/facilitator and learner exchanges at the WOA.

Friday saw the inauguration of the WO/NCO Co-operation Group as another sub-group to the Military Relations Working Group (MRWG) of the Defence Committee. The MCWO of the SANDF and the CSM, US Africa Command, participated and presented achievements, new opportunities, and a recommendation/conclusion to the MRWG. The past week’s visits and discussions formed the basis of the WO/NCO Co-operation Group’s plenary out-brief to the full MRWG.

Most important in the presentation was the recommendation that the WO/NCO Co-operation Group become a permanent sub-group to the MRWG. The recommendation was approved by the MRWG Co-Chairmen, i.e SANDF Chief of the Corporate Staff and DCMO, US Africa Command. The specific achievements and new opportunities items became a permanent part of the MRWG briefing packets.

In conclusion the week-long WO-to-WO level SANDF-US military engagement and discussions created an understanding which enhanced respect, trust and confidence. Moreover, the success of the engagement was also reflected in the addition of a permanent WO/NCO Co-operation Sub-Working Group to the MRWG of the Defence Committee.
Our transport aircrew trained at the Namibian Defence Force

Article and photo by Amn Nwabisa Dlevu, Ad Astra

History was created on 18 February 2009 at Walvis Bay, the chief port of Namibia. The SA Air Force and the Namibian Defence Force took part in Exercise PEGASUS 2.

The purpose of the exercise was to train transport aircrew in an unfamiliar flying environment. "Exercise PEGASUS 2 is the brainchild of the commanders of the air forces of the two countries," said the Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, General Martin Shalli.

From the Walvis Bay Airport the Casa C212 transported invited guests to a location for an air capability demonstration. The Oryx helicopter and the C-47TP aircraft thrilled spectators with their manoeuvres. After the air show the Chief of the Namibian Defence Force addressed the spectators.

The Chief of the Namibian Defence Force congratulated the aircrew on their performance in the capability demonstration. He also mentioned that he had been informed that the exercise had gone smoothly without any incidents. "The road ahead is long and challenging, nevertheless perseverance is important," said General Shalli.

Co-operation between the Namibian Defence Force and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) will continue for many years to come. Over the past fourteen years the Namibian Defence Force has been a recipient of assistance from the SANDF. It is eager for further development of that co-operation and to conduct more joint training exercises.

"We have been planning this exercise for a long time and our aim is to gain experience, exchange ideas and ultimately learn from one another so that when we work together we are on the same wave length," said the General Officer Commanding of Air Command (SA), Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe.

Appreciation was expressed to the commanders of the two air forces for their vision and commitment in instilling confidence and promoting the spirit of good neighbourliness and co-operation among the airmen in this joint exercise.

Among the SA Air Force members who attended were Brig Gen Pierre du Plessis (Director Combat System), Brig Gen Zakes Msimang (Director Helicopter System), Brig Gen Spike Staunton (Director Base Support Services), Brig Gen Tsoku Khumalo (Director Air Transport and Maritime Systems) and Lt Col Jonathan Madumbo (Personal Staff Officer: GOC).

The transport aircrew poses along the ICASA at the Namibia site.
The South African nation as a whole, together with the private sector structures and government departments, share in the common vision of growing the country’s economy and enhancing human security and well-being.

On 17 March 2009 the SA National Defence Force (SANDF), the SA Police Service (SAPS) and other government departments as part of the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (Joints) conducted joint training Exercise SHIELD III at Air Force Base Swartkop in Pretoria to hone security skills to deal with security threats ahead of the June 2009 FIFA Confederation Cup games and the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. Visitors, teams and players, FIFA delegates and the dignitaries need to be safe from threats, including those posed by terrorism, criminal syndicates, explosives and natural disasters.

As the exercise aims to ensure the security of South African airspace, the SA Air Force (SAAF), in close co-operation with the Air Traffic and Navigation Services of the Department of Transport, supported by the Civil Aviation Authority and other elements of the SANDF and government co-ordination structures will be the pivotal role-players in ensuring integrated inter-departmental support to the SAPS.

The SAPS units utilised during this exercise included the SAPS Special Task Force, National Intervention Unit, Air Wing, Dog Unit, bomb disposal experts, hostage negotiators as well as border and ports of entry components. Police Director Sally de Beer, the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure spokesperson, said that activities would be very intense. "There will be a great deal of aerial simulation both during the day and night in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Rustenburg with activities over the venues of Soccer City, Coca-Cola Park, Loftus Versfeld and the Royal Bafokeng Stadium," said Police Director De Beer.

As the proceedings unfolded, the two well-known radio presenters, Gareth Cliff from 5fm and Maurice Carpede from 94.2 Jacaranda, were taken hostage and forced into a SAPS Cessna Sovereign Citation jet as part of the simulation exercise. Speaking after his hostage performance, Gareth Cliff said: "I was really impressed and had total confidence in the personnel on the ground and in the air. What saddens me is that generally we don’t know enough or we don’t care enough [about what our police and military are doing]. These guys are really sharp.”
Twenty-one-year-old Sifundo Zwelakhe’s dream of pursuing a career in quantity surveying was shattered when his parents ran out of funds to pay for his university education. His ambition was, however, given a new lease of life after he met the requirements of the Department of Defence’s Military Skills Development System (MSDS), which enabled him to return to school.

The young Zwelakhe’s ambition to be one of the leading quantity surveyors in the country came to an abrupt end after he dropped out from the Walter Sisulu University owing to financial constraints.

“My parents had done everything possible to help me not to drop out, but eventually I had to pack my bags and return home without any qualification. I could not have been more disappointed with my life. And I cannot explain how happy I am about the prospects of going back to finish my degree with the help of the Department of Defence”, he said during the Department’s tour in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape where hundreds of youth packed the Umthatha Town Hall to enlist with the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

The visit is part of the Department’s nation-wide MSDS marketing tour, which focuses largely on rural areas to attract talented young people into the scarce skills professions, such as pilots, engineers, professional health workers, naval combat officers, airspace controllers and technicians.

Like Mr Zwelakhe who achieved an “A” in Mathematics, the Department has found many such students who, because of lack of information, become part of the unemployment statistics.

“Our focus in the rural areas is to respond to the challenges of lack of information facing rural communities,” Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, the Ministry’s spokesperson, said.

The Department’s MSDS recruitment drive and awareness campaign, which was launched at Manguzi in northern KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) in February 2009, it continued in the Eastern Cape’s Mthatha and Ngangelizwe on Thursday, 19 March and proceeded to schools in Qunu on 20 March. On Saturday, 21 March, the recruitment campaign for the SANDF took place among the youths of Lusikisiki and Flagstaff.

On Sunday 22 March the marketing and recruitment campaign visited the youth of Highflats at Phungashe in KZN and was concluded on 23 March 2009 at Maluti and Matatiele villages.

So far, the Department has had successful MSDS career exhibitions and recruitment events in the North-West Province, Ganyesa village and Manguzi, a rural area in KZN. Career exhibition events will be conducted in all the provinces of the country.

The primary aim of the MSDS is to rejuvenate the SANDF, provide it with scarce skills and serve as a feeder system for the Defence Reserves. The system will, in turn, improve the rank-age profile of the SANDF.

More importantly, the MSDS supports Government’s focus on sustainable development opportunities for South Africa’s youth. In this regard, the MSDS is part of the Government’s Apex priorities. The Government has committed R700 000 000 to this programme.

Ndumiso Sepepa from Umsobomvu in the Eastern Cape commended the programme, saying it brought hope to the youth of the country. He added that a strong partnership between the Department of Defence and youth structures, such as Umsobomvu was very important to ensure that more young people were reached.

Two SANDF soldiers with learners who formed part of the marketing and recruitment campaign of the Department of Defence.
Moving towards a greater goal

By Bibi Morget
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

It was a Saturday well spent, an investment in the lives of many learners who came to seek greener pastures in their career choices, as the Department of Defence (DOD) visited a village called Ganyesa in the North West on 7 March 2009.

This DOD Career Day was seen as a tool for recruiting young learners with subjects such as mathematics and science. The main aim of the day was for learners to be given a chance to fill in application forms on the spot, which would give them an equal chance of being selected for the next Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake. This will help to eliminate poverty and unemployment in these communities.

During the event Brig Gen Thandi Mohale, Director Human Resources Acquisition, addressed the learners and described in detail what they should have in order to stand a chance of being selected.

The DOD is reaching out to the broader public and targets rural areas so the youth there get a fair chance of being selected for the next MSDS intake. This will help to eliminate poverty and unemployment in these communities.

The following criteria were essential:

- Be aged between 18 and 22
- Possession of a green South African ID book
- Not have a criminal record
- Have good grades, especially in maths and science
- Have a Matric qualification
- Gender or race not specified

“This is an open invitation to all who are interested and are passion driven. This organisation is open to all,” said Brig Gen Mohale in closing the event.

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Mpho Eaone and Lephoro Kesaoleboga of Huhudi High School filling in application forms to join the SA Army.

An officer explains to the learners what they should have to stand a chance of being selected.
Personnel School instills knowledge

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The School of Personnel Service Corps provides clientele service training to members of the SANDF. As a support corps its members are expected to run all administration from unit level to higher HQ. The school receives a certain number of Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members annually for their five-month Senior Personnel Clerk Course. These members are later utilised as personnel clerks.

Heavy rainfall on 20 March 2009 could not dampen the jubilation of the 52 students from the SA Air Force, the SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) for whom a passing-out parade was held at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane to mark the successful completion of their course. These graduates will be staffed in various DOD sections as Human Resources practitioners.

"Today marks a historic turning point in your careers in the DOD as graduates from this institution. In our quest for a professional DOD, you are today entrusted with a responsibility to contribute in the development of our organisation," remarked Brig Gen Thanduxolo Mandela, Acting General Officer Commanding Training Command and the officiating chief functionary at the parade.

He urged them to develop academically and take advantage of the opportunities that the SANDF afforded them. Brig Gen Mandela expressed his gratitude to the Commandant of Personnel Service School and his staff for a job well done. Talking to SA Soldier WO2 Patrick Motlana, Acting MSD Warrant Officer, was pleased with the overall performance of the learners. "Their discipline and dedication was their recipe for their outstanding participation in the course," he said.

Their competencies were mainly judged on functional Human Resources work and computer mainframe and Human Resources support during operational training. Pte Tumelo Mokgosane was awarded for being the best academic learner with an average score of 1863.5. Trailing him was Seaman Khulong Seema with 1822.5 in second place and Seaman Mab-rukah Moses with 1777.5 in third.

The trophy for the most disciplined member was awarded to Seaman Elliot Mohlamme for his good conduct and dedication to the course. The fittest female award went to Pte Nthabiseng Modibedi and the fittest male award to Pte Bongani Moabinyana.
The South African National Defence Force’s Joint Operations Division says it is concerned about the country’s strategic airlift capability and is anxious regarding reported delays with the Airbus A400M Loadmaster, on order for the SA Air Force under Project CONTINENT. Maj Gen Jerry Malinga, Chief Director Operational Development SA Air Force, says the country’s capability in that field has a number of gaps.

"In terms of strategic airlift, and I use the term deliberately, we know there are a few gaps. If you follow what is happening internationally, you find many operations elsewhere conducted by other people who are facing the same problem," Maj Gen Malinga said.

R Adm Phillip Schoultz, Chief Director Operations, noted: "Air transport is in an international crisis. All operations are battling with this. United Nations (UN) operations, NATO operations; so much so that Europe is creating a centralised agency through which it can channel air requests … there are just not enough transport aircraft in the world to get around anymore and the world’s fleets are aging."

Maj Gen Malinga added that part of the gap was the result of planning done in 1996-7, "when we transformed to the joint concept. The planning was that we would only start peace support operations from 2007. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending at how you look at it, events overtook us."

Another transport aircraft project?

Maj Gen Malinga added that apart from the A400M there was "also an effort within the SA Air Force to get large to medium transport aeroplanes. "The SA Air Force is engaged in an exercise at filling the gap just below the A400M, meaning a replacement for the C130s and maybe the CASAs, the current CASAs we have. You will recall the C130s are well over 45 years old, probably the oldest C130s flying in the world today. It is an expensive exercise to keep them flying." He would not say whether this included a look at the Brazilian Embraer C390, currently on the drawing board. "There is an exercise going on… What will be decided on we cannot say. No one can. The choice will depend on the utility of the type, affordability and where it falls in the scamp (Strategic Capital Acquisition Master Plan) prioritisation."

Regarding the A400M, Maj Gen Malinga said that the situation was "largely beyond our (control)". Recent announcements suggest the programme was delayed by at least three years. The SA Air Force was meant to receive the first of eight aircraft purchased at a price of R7.4 billion next year. SA has so far paid R2.889 billion towards the purchase.

"All the countries that have ordered the A400M are sitting with the same problem. So are many customers of the super-large A380 airliner. They are experiencing similar problems. We are (conducting) planning exercises … we (are looking) at how to overcome these gaps in the meantime," Maj Gen Malinga said.

Sustainment flights

Maj Gen Malinga also agreed with the contention that the area SA had to cover with sustainment flights to deployed forces was growing every year. "The area we have to cover is vast and getting bigger." He said flights to the Sudan - where overflight rights had been an issue - were no longer a "major problem as we are using Al Fasher as a staging area. Then we normally rely on UN flights and convoys to ferry what we have to ferry (to troops deployed at Kutum, Mellit and Malha, to the north of Darfur town). Burundi is no challenge. The Central African Republic is no challenge. The Congo is our biggest problem. We use Burundi… If we have a large aircraft, we fly into Bujumbura and then use an SA Air Force C130 to fly the cargo forward into the Congo. We also use Kampala, Uganda, as a staging area. Beni, in the north is closer to Uganda. "The challenge remains of ferrying equipment forward. We are using civilian companies in the area. They are not 100 per cent effective; equipment sometimes arrives with some damage, but … we have an obligation to ensure our troops are well supplied."
Warrant Officers completed a Project Management Course

By WO1 S.W. Booth  
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Since the establishment of the Warrant Officers Academy at the Military Base Wonderboom, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has found itself going through a paradigm change within the warrant officer rank group.

For the first time warrant officers have been afforded the opportunity to complete a Project Management Course as part of the 2008/01 one-year programme. The Joint Warrant Officers Programme has been accredited by SASSETA and carries 122 credits. On completion of the programme, the learner body will graduate with a National Certificate in Multi-national Operations and Security Management.

There are fourteen learners on the current programme, and for this phase of the programme the group was divided into two syndicates of seven persons. At the commencement of the project management phase a project management brief was given to each learner in preparation for the 10-day programme. This brief indicated to the learner body that as part of the qualification a simulated project would have to be undertaken. Each group was given a prototype weapon system to

Col Bobby Keller, the facilitator of the course (left), with the first group of Warrant Officers who launched their product as the “Alpha Aerospace”.

S A S O L D I E R • M A Y 2 0 0 9
design and build for incorporation into the SANDF, and in this case for utilisation by the SA Air Force.

The programme commenced with fourteen very confused and unsure learners on 9 March 2009. The facilitator, Col Bobby Keller, said that he had never seen such worried looking faces in all the time he had presented this project management model. The big shock to the learner body was the size of the management manual and the number of credits, viz fourteen, that have been allocated to this part of the programme, which when broken down according to the number of hours to be spent on this model works out to 140 hours.

After the display of the first set of slides and the completion of the first chapter of the manual things started to become clearer and the water was no longer so deep and murky. Col Keller then indicated that syndicate one would have to design and build a prototype Tornado fighter aircraft, while syndicate two would have to design and build a prototype Apache attack helicopter, both for incorporation into the SA Air Force.

As the programme progressed it became ever more interesting to see how projects came into being and were approved for starting up. By the end of day three, Col Keller said that he had never seen such enthusiastic learners as these warrant officers. He added that he was very happy with the way the learner group was progressing, and that the warrant officers are now able to strategise and become project officers for projects in the SANDF. All the required tools were supplied to the learner body in the form of manuals, MS Project computer programmes, documentation templates, model aircraft, etc.

The two groups were given further instructions to appoint a project manager, a configuration manager and a project champion and the remainder of the group were allocated tasks, such as a feasibility study, charter, baseline plan and a close-out report. All the tasks were then followed to the letter and the various appointments were made and then it was down to work to put this project together.

Each day as the programme commenced new things were learned. One of the most amazing tools that we were privileged to work with was the Gantt chart. This programme and printout are just short of tap dancing, as it does everything else for one. It was then also decided by the learner body that the Gantt chart could be used for a number of activities other than project management, Col Keller and a number of outside sources confirmed this. The Gantt chart can also be utilised for career management. The SAPS Superintendent, P.G. Louw, utilised the Gantt chart for the plotting of their Senior Management System Career pathway.

Mathematics and formulae are also the order of the day as they lead one to the final product and reveal how much the aircraft will eventually cost, including all the project team salaries, which in the end will give the grand total. Days are also calculated to give the length of the project.

Eventually, 18 March was the day when all our efforts were recognised, as it was the launch, sign-off and handing over of the various prototype weapon systems. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Col Keller for the time and effort he has put into this project management programme and also for creating fourteen new project managers who are now keen and interested in making a difference in the SANDF.
Our Navy was granted the Right of Entry into Ladysmith

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

On 4 April 2009 the SA Navy exercised its Right of the Freedom of Entry into Ladysmith. It brought the town and its traffic to a standstill for a while and heralded the start of the town’s Siege Weekend celebrations.

The SA Navy previously received the Freedom of Entry into Ladysmith on 22 October 1999 during the centenary commemoration of the Anglo-Boer/South African War of 1899 to 1902.

The SA Navy Band and members of the guard travelled from Simon’s Town for this historic occasion and rehearsed at Naval Station Durban. Also present were Senior Staff Officer Naval Foreign Relations, Capt (SAN) Thobani Sopangisa, and WMAA of the SA Navy (Designate) WO1 Pragasen Moodley.

The presence of the 99-man Ceremonial Company comprising men and women from Durban and Simon’s Town drew curious and enthusiastic attention from the local population and tourists.

When the SA Navy Band led by Cdr Kenny Leibrandt played Mama Thembu’s Wedding song it drew resounding applause.

Ladysmith is located in the uThukela District of KwaZulu-Natal. It is 230 km north west of Durban and 365 km south of Johannesburg. The town has a population of 225 452 (2001 census). It is a town that is etched in history and was the location for battles fought between the Boers, the British and the Zulus.

It is also the home to the internationally acclaimed Ladysmith Black Mambazo, led by Joseph Shabalala, and boasts famous personalities, such as the Rugby Union Player André Joubert and World Boxing Council Thulani “Sugar Boy” Malinga.

In her address, the Mayor of Emnambithi/Ladysmith, Councillor Dudu Mazibuko, said: ”It is indeed an honour for me to welcome the SA
Navy to our beautiful town. I commend you on your commitment and continued efforts to strengthen a good relationship between our two organisations. It is my great pleasure and honour to present to the SA Navy represented here today by the Chief of Naval Staff, R Adm Mosoeu Magalefa, with a Certificate of Civic Recognition and once again you are granted the Right of Entry into Ladysmith”.

She added: "One might ask why the SA Navy has the Freedom of Ladysmith. The answer goes back more than a century to the Anglo-Boer War when the SA Navy’s predecessor, the Royal Navy, played a major role in the defence and relief of Ladysmith. The town was besieged for 118 days during the Anglo-Boer War and through the efforts of ordinary sailors, such as these present here today, Ladysmith was defended and eventually relieved through unwavering bravery and courage."

In reply R Adm Magalefa said: "I bring you greetings from the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu. It is indeed an honour for me to stand here and accept on behalf of the SANDF and the SA Navy the honour bestowed upon the SA Navy by the people of Ladysmith. In receiving the Right of the Freedom of Entry, I have to say it goes with responsibilities and obligations."

R Adm Magalefa concluded by stating: "As the military we have pledged to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our people. The SANDF has pledged to strive to create a better life for all South Africans. As citizens of our country and members of the SANDF we have pledged to act as a disciplined force and show respect to the people of this country. We have felt the warmth of the people of Ladysmith. May this relationship continue for many generations to come. I ask you to encourage your sons and daughters to join the SANDF and be part of the mighty SANDF. Every city and village must be represented in the SANDF. Let us fight criminality and support the people of Ladysmith."

The march past led by the band through the main street was a stupendous sight, which was last seen ten years ago. The precision drill movements on each drum beat will place the SA Navy firmly in the memory of all those that were present for a long time and will be discussed in many a household and conversations in general.
DOD Intranet Information Sharing Day

By Maj Quintus Eksteen
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

History was made on 27 February 2009 when the Command Management Information Services (CMIS) Support Formation, together with State Information Technology Agency (SITA), hosted the first DOD Intranet Information Sharing Day, which took place at the SITA Auditorium in Centurion, Pretoria.

The main theme of this day’s activities was to determine the current status quo of the DOD Intranet services and the road forward regarding development and how key role-players foresaw the application of the DOD Intranet for strategic purposes.

The General Officer Commanding CMIS Support Formation, Brig Gen Ray Cumming, opened the day’s activities. “Although we have technology to assist us in our day-to-day responsibilities and activities, we must never forget that we can never replace human to human communication. This is the reason why the DOD Intranet is being utilised as a communication tool to communicate additional information to one another,” Brig Gen Cumming said. He stressed the fact that the DOD Intranet was in actual fact a faceless system and that this day was indeed the perfect opportunity for all stakeholders to put a face to the work that was displayed on the DOD Intranet and for all members to make use of the opportunity to share information and ideas with one another.

Problems experienced with the DOD Intranet were identified and are to be discussed during the DOD Intranet Steering committee meeting at a later stage to enhance the image and effectiveness of the DOD Intranet itself.

The main guest speaker of the day was Mr Kenny Moodley, Chief Adviser Group Communication Division from Eskom. “When we know where we are going, we can plot the path to our destination. To achieve this we need to know where we are,” he said. Mr Moodley gave a thorough presentation regarding the requirements of a top Intranet and the long-term benefit thereof, and discussed the critical elements necessary to have a successful model. “The process of planning an Intranet, and the role of executive management and end users in developing the plan, determine the potential success of the Intranet,” Mr Moodley said. He also indicated that people were the most crucial and critical determinants of a successful Intranet.

“The Intranet is a powerful internal information sharing and strategic communication tool” was a combined remark by Lt Cdr Andrew Wood Wright and Mr Paul van de Venter from Defence Corporate Communication (DCC), who gave a brief presentation on marketing and corporate branding within the DOD.

Other key role-players (SA Army, SA Air Force, SA Navy and DCC) also gave presentations during the day, which added value to the main aim of the day. Restrictions, limitations and challenges within the various Services and Divisions were indicated and lessons learned from the past were shared among one another.

Throughout all these presentations it was clear that the DOD Intranet could indeed be utilised as a management tool, and the only way this could be achieved was for the command structure of the DOD to be closely involved regarding support and for officers commanding to take part and to accept ownership and responsibility of the various websites that are currently active on the DOD Intranet.

The CMIS Division would hereby like to invite all DOD members to make use of the Intranet and to forward any suggestions to add value to the current web content to Maj Quintus Eksteen on (012) 482 3291 or (012) 482 2894 (fax).
SANDF - Overall Winner of the Polokwane Show

Article and photos by Lt A.R. Brand

Wow! Amazing, brilliant, interesting, and excellent. These were some of the remarks from members of the public visiting the SANDF exhibition and the Polokwane municipal show for 2009. It has become a tradition for the military exhibition to receive an award, but the top honour this year, was the first time this prestigious award was offered.

The military showcase comprised an indoor and outdoor exhibition with vehicles and weaponry from 5 Special Forces Regiment at the entrance to the exhibition. Needless to say the SANDF exhibition was the main attraction and very deserving of the award presented to us. One of the factors that contributed to our winning the award was our friendliness and the way we approached members of the public and assisted them by answering their questions.

Members of the public regularly attending shows as exhibitors commented that it was one of the best military exhibitions that they had been to in a very long time. Hearing these comments gave immense satisfaction and made the aching feet, tired bodies and long hours worthwhile and instilled a sense of pride in our achievements.

The theme was "Promoting the SANDF". Army Support Base (ASB) Polokwane, 5 Special Forces Regiment Phalaborwa, Area Military Health Unit Limpopo, North Signal Unit, Human Resources Acquisitions, Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo and Polokwane Military Police participated in this event from 4 to 7 March 2009.

Some visitors stated that their perception of the SANDF had been that we all carried guns and nothing more. However, they were astounded at all the different sections of the SANDF merging and fitting into one big picture and that the soldiers were also people with professional occupations.

The ASB Polokwane displayed various uniforms and other items of interest. The communicators informed the visitors about how and when these items are used. The ASB Polokwane Band entertained members of the public and marched with the drum majorettes.

Members from 5 Special Forces Regiment training commando astounded the visitors with their awe inspiring knowledge of weapons and survival techniques. Demonstrations on making fire and survival skills were presented to the public. The brave visitors could sample nature’s survival delicacies, such as locusts, wild mushrooms, mopani worms, etc … which were displayed on the table. Some other visitors politely

Certificate for overall winner and a medal to the SANDF by Polokwane Municipality for the excellent and interesting exhibitions by the Army Support Base Polokwane, 5 Special Forces Regiment Training Commando, Area Military Health Unit Limpopo, North Signal Unit, Human Resources Acquisition, Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo and Polokwane Military Police as a team.
declined the offer …

Area Military Health Unit Limpopo proudly displayed a slide show of our members in action along with some medical instruments and nurses’ uniforms. This was an attraction as they could see that we had professionals in the SANDF and that we were also proud to be soldiers. Photos of members participating in Operation BATA were displayed on the notice board and the slideshows. Members of the public were intrigued, as they did not realise that the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) and other members of the SANDF were this much involved during the Public Service Strike. When the show communicators communicated with the youth they focussed especially on the Department of Defence (DOD) and the Military Skills Development System (MSDS). When communicating to the public in general - the taxpayers - they focussed on the various services and support rendered by the four Services.

Human Resources Acquisitions manned a desk with application forms for teachers to give to interested learners and parents for their children and relatives. The questions of the learners could be answered and they were assisted in making the correct choice as to which Service they would like to join or which career to choose. Many application forms were distributed and the learners were very positive about becoming part of the organisation. Visitors were very impressed at the many career opportunities for the youth who could be trained to become professionals. Some parents were of the opinion that joining the SANDF would be very good for their children. The Defence Reserves Provincial Office Limpopo was also involved and it joined in to recruit members to join the Reserves and to create awareness among the members of the public who were not always aware of its existence. This objective was met and several members signed up.

North Signal Unit displayed various pieces of equipment and could show the visitors the various methods of communication in the SANDF. Children were given the opportunity to talk to each other over the radio, which they found very amusing.

Polokwane Military Police also displayed items of interest and members of the public were amazed to find out that the SANDF had their own police. The children were especially interested in the motorbike on display.

Show exhibitions are necessary tools for marketing the organisation and, judging by the response received, one could say that success in this endeavour was achieved.

Overall one could say that it was a great opportunity to create awareness of the SANDF and all its functions among the members of the public. It was an opportunity to show the nation that regardless of the challenges we sometimes face we are and will remain very proud to be a part of this organisation.
The Reserve Force Council in conjunction with the Defence Reserves held their annual Military Skills Competition as part of force preparation at ASB Potchefstroom from 23 to 28 March 2009. The participating teams were comprised of Reserve Force units from across South Africa and also featured the Netherlands Defence Force and the USA Marines teams. A positive mood prevailed among the competitors and a strong sense of sportsmanship was clearly visible as every participant was eager to achieve good results.

The gruelling military skills competition consisted of rifle and pistol shooting, hand grenade throwing, a water and land obstacle course and the 8 km cross-country run - some events consisted of physically and mentally demanding challenges.

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: WO2 David Nomthshongwana

Reviving Defence Reserves' military skills

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SA Soldier conversed with Col Wim Alberts, Senior Staff Officer Strategy Defence Reserves, who revealed that the military skills competition was a platform to revive and put military skills to the test and weigh Reserve Force members’ abilities against the best in the world as the military skills competition is part of the Confederation Interallie des Officiers de Reserve (CIOR) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s (NATO) and annually the SANDF Reserves are invited to take part in the international arena.

"The event is part of the honing skills and skills transfer required to be combat ready, and to understand and learn how Reserves of other countries operate and do things. By hosting this competition we make certain that we select the best team to represent us on the international stage," commented Col Alberts.

Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chief of Defence Reserves, addressed members during the prize-giving banquet and said that good progress had been made in rebuilding the Reserve Force and it could not be denied that with the SANDF’s many obligations both internally and externally the Defence Reserves were a critical and vital component of the SANDF and an integral part of the One Force Concept. "The combination of Defence Reserves and civilian professional expertise encourage at all levels of interaction a spirit of service before self and they are ambassadors for civil/military co-ordination," said Maj Gen Andersen.

Overall results

Shooting
1st Guest competitor: Capt J. Bras (Netherlands Defence Force) - 1 036 points
1st SA Reserve member: 2Lt E. Murray (Cape Town Highlanders) - 1 140 points

Water Obstacle
1st Guest competitor: Capt C. Versteegden (Netherlands Defence Force) - 952 points
1st SA Reserve member: 2Lt E. Murray (Cape Town Highlanders) - 844 points

**Land Obstacle**
1st Guest Competitor: Sgt K. Newberry (USA Marines) - 850 points
1st SA Reserve member: Gnr E. Gumede (Transvaal Horse Artillery) - 818 points

**Hand Grenade Throwing**
1st Guest competitor: Lt H. van Dommelen (Netherlands Defence Force) - 950 points
1st SA Reserve member: Pte T. Mfeka (Durban Light Regiment) - 940 points

**Cross-country**
1st Guest competitor: Sgt K. Newberry (USA Marines) - 30.33 points
1st SA Reserve member: Gnr E. Gumede (Transvaal Horse Artillery) - 29.51 points

**Overall Winner**
1st Guest competitor: Lt H. van Dommelen (Netherlands Defence Force)
1st SA Reserve member: CO Z. Ditshego (Mobile Deployment Wing SA Air Force)

**Best Team SA Reserves**
Cape Town Highlanders

Eight South African Reserve members were chosen to form a training squad from which four will be selected to represent South Africa in the CIOR Military Skills Competition to be held in Bulgaria from 3 to 8 August 2009.

What a performance - US marine and SANDF soldier showing who is the toughest man.
The School of Artillery walk the walk

Article and photo by Capt Werner Joubert, Communication Officer
School of Artillery

It was a chilly Saturday afternoon in Potchefstroom, just after a heavy rainstorm when the School of Artillery once again confirmed its commitment to our community. On 14 March 2009 fifteen members from the School of Artillery participated in the CANSA Walk for Life. The CANSA Walk for Life is a fundraising initiative for members who are affected by cancer.

The unit’s Support Wing Commander, Lieutenant Nel, was the team captain and organiser and she ensured that the School of Artillery team was ready for the challenge. The team, which was made up of members representing almost all the rank groups in the unit, was highly motivated and determined to put the School of Artillery on the map.

The evening started off with a tribute walk by members who had overcome cancer, while the spectators and other teams held candles along the track as a symbol of hope and life.

After the tribute walk the real games started when the walking teams hit the track. Naturally the team from the School of Artillery quickly stole the limelight with their colourful banners and flags and very high morale and loud cries of motivation while running around the track. The team had so much fun that some of the other members came to join our team and even members of the public started to support the School of Artillery team.

In spite of intermittent rain the spirit of the walkers seemed to increase with every shower. Members were singing and shouting cries of encouragement throughout the night. The smell of braaivleis filled the air and the scene was set for a truly festive mood. Members could buy delicious food, including hot dogs, braaivleis, potjiekos, and much more. Live bands provided music to capture the mood and competition after competition ensured that the walk remained interesting. The walk gave rise to many new friendships and it was truly rewarding to interact with so many members. By midnight the rain poured down, but it did not influence their spirits. Members actually enjoyed walking through the mud pools with their bare feet. By the next morning a very enjoyable night came to an end and we looked back at the small contribution that we were able to make as members from the School of Artillery. Hopefully it made a difference in someone’s life.

The School of Artillery is proud to be part of the Potchefstroom community and has set an example in community involvement. The unit is actively working towards sound and friendly relations with the public in our area. Other projects that the unit uses for marketing include the Aardklop Arts Festival, the annual Artillery Open Day, the Potchefstroom Spring Show, a motorcycle breakfast run, an off-road cycle challenge and involvement in various local schools.

The School of Artillery leads the way!

Members of the School of Artillery who participated in the CANSA Walk for Life.
Captain (SAMHS) Gretha Prinsloo had the unique honour of being selected by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) to be the assistant referee at the BWF Championships in Mulheim, Germany. Captain Prinsloo is a qualified nursing sister at Gauteng Medical Command.

The championships were held from 19 to 27 February 2009. Twenty-six countries, including Asia and Europe, participated in this tournament. She was the only South African referee.

Captain Prinsloo stated: “The tournament was of a very high standard and the sets were fiercely contested. Decisions had to be accurate as the winning margins were very narrow. I had to have total focus in each game as the correct decision was vital in the championships.”

Asking about her experiences with regard to the tournament she said: “I have gained valuable experience in Germany. The players not only play the game, but live the game with deep commitment and understand the rules of badminton in every facet of the game”.

Gretha, as she is affectionately known in badminton circles, is also the Chairperson of SANDF Badminton and the SANDF Badminton representative at Badminton South Africa (BSA). Those who have the privilege of being associated with her know that she is very exacting when it comes to the management and advancement of badminton.

Captain Prinsloo has SANDF colours for badminton and still plays competitively. As the SANDF Sports Administrator of the Year for 2008, she is very professional in her approach to the game and is committed to develop both male and female players for competitive play.

Her travels concerned with badminton have taken her to sixteen countries outside Africa. She is also the court official of BSA, an official of the Badminton Confederation of Africa and sits on the BWF panel, which has its office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
### Group Stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Match</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 June 2009</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>South Africa - Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 June 2009</td>
<td>Rustenburg</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>New Zealand - Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 June 2009</td>
<td>Mangaung/Bloemfontein</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Brazil - Egypt</td>
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<td>20:30</td>
<td>USA - Italy</td>
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<td>Spain - Iraq</td>
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<td>17 June 2009</td>
<td>Rustenburg</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>SA - New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 June 2009</td>
<td>Tshwane/Pretoria</td>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>USA - Brazil</td>
</tr>
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<td>18 June 2009</td>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Egypt - Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June 2009</td>
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<td>20:30</td>
<td>Spain - SA</td>
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<td>Tshwane/Pretoria</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Italy - Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 June 2009</td>
<td>Rustenburg</td>
<td>20:30</td>
<td>Egypt - USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SEMI-FINAL

**Winner A**

Match 13 - Mangaung/Bloemfontein  
24 June 2009 - 20:30

**Runner-up B**

**Winner B**

Match 14 - Johannesburg  
25 June 2009 - 20:30

**Runner-up A**

**Match 15 - Rustenburg**  
28 June 2009 - 20:30

### FINAL

**Winner 13**

Match 16 - Johannesburg  
28 June 2009 - 20:30

**Winner 14**

**MATCH FOR THIRD PLACE**

Loser 13  
Match 16 - Johannesburg  
28 June 2009 - 15:00

**Loser 14**

**Match for Third Place**

Loser 13  
Match 15 - Rustenburg  
28 June 2009 - 15:00

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**On the greens**

By S Sgt Colin Fitch,  
Army Golf Representative,  
WP Defence Golf Club  
Photo: Mr Maans Roelofse

With perfect conditions for golf the 2009 Western Cape Regional Army Golf Championships were held at the Parow Golf Club on 12 and 13 March 2009. Going off the back tee markers the golfers found the course a lot more challenging than what they had been used to.

The overall 2009 Western Cape Army Golf Champion was S Sgt Henk Steenkamp from the SA Army Band. The Army Team has been the regional Defence (WP) Golf Club Champions for three of the last five years. S Sgt Patrick Layman has represented SANDF golf in the past while Sgt Mo Jacobs represented the SANDF at the World Military Golf Games in Canada in 2008.

The winners in the various divisions were as follows: A Division (WO2 Johan Britz from 9 SAI Bn), B Division (S Sgt Henk Steenkamp from the SA Army Band), and C Division (Sgt Louis Olivier from Army Support Base Western Cape). The Western Cape Army Golf Team was supported by Pelma Truck Repairs and Mr Price.
Training for Reserves improved in Gauteng

By Maj Merle Meyer, Com Officer
SA Army Infantry Formation
Photo: Maj Piet Pretorius

The General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Temba Nkabinde, officially opened the Kensington Garrison Indoor Shooting Range and Distance Learning Centre (DLC) on 27 February 2009. They are the first of these facilities to be opened in the Gauteng area.

The indoor shooting range consists of the R4 combat rifle simulators and a live firing range. The shooting range will be used by all the Reserve units in the Gauteng area and will be managed by the SA Irish Regiment, which is the SA Army Infantry Formation Gauteng Reserve training nodal point.

DLCs have been established at several SA Army Infantry Formation units to ensure cost-effective training and to enhance computer literacy. These centres will enable Regular and Reserve soldiers to do their research and assignments for most of the Infantry and joint SA Army courses on the Intranet. Reserve members will have more opportunities to attend military courses. These centres will bring significant savings, as the residential phases of the courses will be shortened.

Maj Gen Nkabinde has emphasised the importance of these facilities as they will contribute to effective training and will give more Reserve soldiers the opportunity to improve their military training and skills (something that is not always possible as the Reserve soldiers work full-time in a civilian job and cannot always attend the long military courses).

The use of simulators is a world-wide trend to improve training in a cost-effective way and in this regard the SA Army Infantry Formation is leading the way. It is not always possible for Reserve soldiers to spend days on a shooting range, but they may use these facilities after hours and improve their skills. One of the basic military skills that all soldiers and specifically Infantry should be masters of is musketry. The use of simulators will also save live ammunition.

The Officer Commanding of the SA Irish Regiment, Lt Col Marius Bennett, would like to thank the following institutions for their generous contributions towards the function after the opening ceremony, namely BAE Systems, Marksman Trainer, Rand Light Infantry, Transvaal Scottish, Regiment Oos Rand and SA Irish Regiment.

SANDF Jukskei goes green

Article and photo courtesy SANDF Jukskei

South African National Defence Force Jukskei went green when Maj Lizette Lombard, its PR/media representative, was appointed to the Jukskei South Africa Corporate Communication Committee in November 2008, as the member responsible for marketing and sponsorship. She received her Protea Jacket in March 2009 and proudly wore it to the 69th South African Senior Jukskei Championships held in Kroonstad, Free State, from 27 March to 3 April 2009.

On 2 April she was the Media Liaison Officer for Jukskei South Africa, when Transworld Sport, a British Broadcasting Company based in London, filmed the day’s games, especially the international test between South Africa and Namibia. The programme was broadcast on SuperSport Channel 205 and in 80 countries around the world in May 2009.

Maj Lombard is the SO2 Communication for Project DOMINO, CMIS Division and the Acting SO1 Corporate Communication, CMIS Division. She is also the PR/media representative for the Pretoria Military Jukskei Club. Members interested in Jukskei as a military sport can contact Maj Lombard on 082 442 6286.

Major Lizette Lombard proudly wears her Protea Jacket.
Motivation in the work context

By Lt Col Lumkile August,
Acting SSO HRSS
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Motivation to many persons means different things. To the layman being motivated is being satisfied with the working environment he finds himself in.

However, other schools of thought define motivation using thoroughly researched definitions. These vary and people in the workplace may agree or disagree depending on whether they identify with the definition being offered or not.

Employee satisfaction may broadly be summarised as the fulfilment of his needs and desires within the occupational (working) environment. When these needs and desires are largely met, the employee’s satisfaction is increased.

The result of this is an increase in the level of efficiency in the organisation.

Theories of motivation
ABRAHAM H. MASLOW’S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is well known and this model is applied to many work environment situations.

The theory alludes to the fact that individuals have needs and these have to be satisfied in a certain order.

Lower order needs are a priority for employees within the lower ranks or in the non-professional fields, i.e., general duties. These lower order needs would, among other things, include basic life needs, safety and relationship needs.

The more senior and professional employees would on the other hand be more inclined to see esteem and self-actualisation needs as being more important for high-level motivation.

Even though these two groups of employees are driven and focused on different orders of needs, it does not mean that the other order of needs is unwelcome as it also forms part of the needs hierarchy.

HERZBERG’S TWO-FACTOR THEORY

Frederick Herzberg, a renowned and well-respected psychologist, attempted to understand motivation and satisfaction of employees by conducting research on professional employees.

Herzberg suggested a two-step approach to understanding employee motivation. His theory involved two factors, namely motivators and hygiene.

Human nature can be said to be simple to one person and yet complicated to another. Managers/leaders ought to understand this before attempting to deal with issues of motivation in the work context.

This will then enable management to lead with a reasonable degree of efficacy.

In Herzberg’s theory, the “motivators” are things that ensure that employees (including management) are motivated. Without these, one begins to show signs of demotivation, e.g., absence from work, latecoming, not meeting deadlines, etc. The question to be asked by management, when these symptoms begin to surface, is which of the motivating factors is insufficiently available to the employees.

The hygiene factors on the other hand are those that keep one afloat, i.e., happy. Their presence does not make one motivated, but happy, and their absence is a demotivator.

One cannot help but notice the presence of salaries or wages among the hygiene factors. Money is not a motivator, but its presence helps us to achieve some of our desires. However, money alone is not able to motivate employees.

Hygiene factors are a platform from which one’s aspirations can take off. When such a platform is undermined and unattended the employee feels there is nowhere to go. Managers ought to pay attention to these factors and always take heed of the difference between the two.

* Source: Adapted from Berl, Williamson and Powell, 1984: 33

1 MBA of Rhodes University by Glen Samuel, January 2005.
Call for photos and stories

JOINT OPERATIONS DIVISION
PHOTO COMPETITION

Readers are invited to enter their photographs in the Joint Operations Photo Competition, which will run from April to September 2009. Entries will be accepted in three categories and all photographs complying with the set requirements will be published on the Intranet. Winning photographs will be published in SA Soldier.

**Competition rules**

1. Entries for the photo competition must reach the organisers by 2 October 2009 (12:00). No late entries will be accepted.
2. When participating in this competition participants accept all terms, rules and legal conditions.*
3. Photographs of current operations, both internal and external, and ongoing joint exercises may be entered for this competition.
4. All photo entries will become the property of the Joint Operations Division and may be published in any future Joint Operations and DOD publications with credits to entrants.
5. Photographs that have been published before may not be entered into this competition.
6. Entries are to be emailed to: photos@jopsdiv.co.za or may be saved onto a CD/DVD (with required information included) and forwarded to SSO OPCOM at the Joint Operations Division.
7. Confirmation of receipt of each photograph will be sent to the email address provided by the entrant or handed to the person delivering the entries to SSO OPCOM.
8. Members currently deployed in mission areas are encouraged to take part in the competition.
9. All photographs received will be published on the Intranet on the Joint Operations page.
10. Members of the organising committee, the panel of judges or their families may not take part in the competition.

**Categories**

Photos may be entered in three categories:

- Internal Operations
- External Operations
- Joint Exercises

**Your entries**

- Photographs must be in JPG format and about 1 meg (1 000 kb) in size.
- Only electronic entries will be accepted.
- Photographs may not be digitally enhanced or manipulated.
- Participants should only enter their best photographs.
- Only photographs taken by the participant may be entered.
- Entries per participant are not limited.
- Send only one photograph per email.
- Participants must provide a caption for each photograph.
- Participants must provide their full names and contact details with each entry.

**The judging**

The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

The panel of judges reserves the right to:

- judge a photo in another category than that for which it was entered; and
- refrain from announcing a winner in any category should the photographs received not fulfil the quality requirements.

The winners in each category and the overall winner will be announced between 19 and 23 October 2009 by DOD Info Bulletin.

The winning photos will be published in SA Soldier, the Joint Operations Calendar 2010 and on the Intranet.

The prizes will be announced in a future edition of SA Soldier.

Note *Details of legal conditions are on the Intranet; J Ops page.*
Happy Workers Day

Power to you the worker, who keeps our country working.

01 May 2009

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