Exercise Golfinho
The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

From the Editor’s desk

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to the Editor

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SADC Standby Force borne Exercise Golfinho

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Let your feet do the walking…

SA Army Writing Competition

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Coordinating Concepts cc
630 Jamestown Street
Elardus Park, Pretoria, 0181
Tel: 012 345 6408
Fax: 086 515 2185/6
email: coordinatingconcepts@gmail.com

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Text Editor: Mr Eugene Muller
Translation Consultant: Directorate Language Services
Distribution: Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: 012 355 6341
Layout & Design: Mr Werner v/d Westhuizen
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FRONT COVER: The SADC Standby Force borne Exercise Golfinho: Participants perform simulation of medical support during the Exercise.

(Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
South Africa hosted Exercise Golfinho, which was a multinational peacekeeping operation with over 6000 participants from different security forces and support elements. This Exercise was structured in three phases, the first being the MAPEX, which was the initial part of the exercise followed by the CPX command post exercise, and lastly a training exercise called FTX, a month-long field training exercise at the SA Army Training Combat Centre in Lohatla that took place from 1 to 28 September.

Read more about Exercise Golfinho on page 11.

On page 16 we bring an interview with the Provost Marshal General, Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, who assumed his new duties as a Defence Attaché in the USA. The Military Police Division bade him farewell after he had worked for six years as the Chief of the Military Police Agency.

What do the military do in a democratic state and in peacetime? We give answers to this question on pages 20 and 42, where we show you that the SANDF is compassionate in meeting its social responsibilities roles, on page 20 read about members of SA Army Signal Formation and other members stationed at Wonderboom Military Base who took a moment off their work schedule to donate blood. on page 42 we bring you the Casual Day celebrations when SA Army Signal Formation had the opportunity to demonstrate its social responsibility by reviving hopes of disabled children aged three years and upwards at the New Hope School in Menlyn.

In advancing women’s empowerment and promoting recognition of women in the Department and the SANDF we bring you articles on pages 21 to 28 about women related issues, not because August was women’s month but because we acknowledge that our sisters and mothers do play a pivotal role in a democratic society and organisation.

You are reminded that the department has embarked on a project to curb qualified audits by the Auditor General. The approach adopted by the Operation Clean Audit (OCA) team is to assist the DOD, firstly in identifying and confirming all of the root causes for the audit qualifications, and secondly put measures in place to address the root causes. On page 45 we publish an in-depth article on OCA.

Remember, October is cancer awareness month. The back outside cover acknowledges the cancer awareness month.

**Erratum**

SA Soldier would like to express its most sincere pardon to the Sudanese people for an error that was published on the September issue of the SA Soldier Magazine (special edition celebrating a decade of peacekeeping). This unfortunate mistake was on page 45 where the Flag of Central African Republic is erroneously printed in the place of the Sudanese flag. On behalf of the editorial team and the DOD, we wholeheartedly regret this error and we would also like to emphasize that no disrespect to the government and people of the Sudan was intended in any shape or form. Herewith is the correct flag of Sudan.

We remain dedicated to reporting news with great journalistic integrity and precision.

Lufuno Netshirembe
Deputy Editor  

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At work we all share office space, lifts, parking bays, bathrooms, boardrooms and many other facilities. Mutual respect is a key aspect to maintaining sound working relationships. Good manners can help make work a pleasant experience.

The following two rules of etiquette, among many, should be observed at all times:

Chewing gum etiquette - As with anything else there is etiquette in regard to chewing and disposing of gum. Here are some rules

- Do not chew gum with your mouth open
- Chewing gum is a no-no in meetings

- Do not talk to people and try to chew gum at the same time (especially on phones)
- Do not chew gum during a meal
- There should be no snapping of gum and no bubble blowing
- For heaven's sake, do not pull on it!
- Dispose of it in a responsible manner (not under furniture or in the urinal)
  
  If you work in an office you should not be chewing gum. At work we are to look professional, act professional and chewing gum does not add to this appearance.

Boardroom etiquette - The boardroom is the place in business where we are most under scrutiny. What we wear, what we do and say or do not say, our body language and general demeanour are constantly under the microscope. The following rules and tips may be of help:

- Arrive early
- Remember to listen
- Do not interrupt
- Wait your turn
- Pay attention
- Attend the entire meeting
- KISS - Keep it straight and simple (time is a scarce commodity; nobody wants to listen to someone with verbal diarrhoea)
- Observe protocol.

Mr E. Badenhorst, Pretoria

ODE TO CAPTAIN ANDREW WEBB

1 Special Service Battalion held a Celleno Parade on 10 June 2009. During such parades, soldiers of the Armour Division commemorate their fallen members. Ms Christa Kleynhans wrote a poem in memory of Capt Andrew Webb who passed away on the Lesotho border on 13 August 2004. During the Celleno Parade, Ms Kleynhans read the poem and officially handed it over to 1 Special Service Battalion.

A plea for world peace

Breaking the brightest of skies in flight
Spreading its wings: couching-feeling the currents anticipating observing awaiting

Colours break in the blue bright intensity
While onlookers stand around dazed in bewilderment
The flight draws to an end
And the eagle stops circling and strikes down
Closing in on the prey

Frozen in time

Reality sinks in coldly as bodies start to shiver in shock
Every moment scares to spiral in surrealism
And just stops abruptly

The eagle grasps sinks into the innocence flash
A last gasp of breach signals is the final act of defiance
As the ferryman settles his debts

C'mon, Soldier Boy!
It seems such a long path
It seems such an endless journey

Drums beat deep discipline
Into the sensitive, shy
Perfection gleams mirror-like on boots
Pride prances itself pristine ironed
Glory reflects itself in many radiating faces of the nation
A willingness to gain glory
Through self-sacrifice called patriotism

The pride of a people reflects itself
As testosterone-laden bodies fight a different cause

Than the hand shoving them Dawn-like over regions
Half a good intention is aggravated through propaganda
To play the deadlier overrated games
Sacrificing all morals for a heart playing then wrong

Yet they marched on relentlessly full of pride
Toy soldiers on the board. Not regarded more than replaceable
Not aware of the roll of a dice that determine their face

Arms thrown on the ground. Peace treaties signed
All the peace in the world won’t be enough to bring him back
All thee prayers said won’t be enough
To work the miracle of hope, perspective and justice

With all odds against them. They sincerely serve and protect
Not questioning the warrior motive of the sinister hands that just shove them into the demon’s cages day after day

Tears turn into ice
As condolences are shared with the bereaved
Sadly deceived
By the duel cutting edged the dagger they defended

March on, toy soldiers
For the sake of corrupted missions
March on, in total innocence for a mission
That you know - in your heart - is pure.

Christa Kleynhans

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to ssasoldier@mil.za.

We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor.

Winning letter

Mr E. Badenhorst, Pretoria

OCTOBER 2009
A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN (SANR) G.B. O'SHEA (RET)

Captain (SANR) Gerald Beaumont "Doc" O'Shea, who retired recently after 33 years service in the SA Navy, passed away unexpectedly on 31 August 2009. While serving his country in uniform he fulfilled various roles at sea, as Officer Commanding SAS UNI-TIE and finally as the Senior Officer Maritime Trade.

After completing his schooling in 1960 at Kingswood College in Grahamstown, Doc joined the SA Navy as a volunteer and was drafted to SAS SALDANHA. He clearly recalled that "in we went with long hair looking scruffy and after the joining routine, medicals, allocation to dormitories and issuing of kit we emerged all looking exactly the same!"

While undergoing basic training at SAS SALDANHA he observed that the band had several privileges. He soon joined them as a base drummer and made full use of the privileges on offer! After his year at the Naval Gymnasium, Doc joined the Merchant Navy and then later enjoyed a career in banking. In June 1978 Doc re-attested at SAS DONKIN as a Leading Seaman before his subsequent appointment as a Sub Lieutenant. He served as the Gunnery Officer on board SAS OOSTERLAND and progressed to Navigator and later First Lieutenant. During this period the Seaward Defence Boats (SDBs), i.e. SAS OOSTERLAND and SAS GELDERLAND were tasked with anti-poaching patrols from East London to Mossel Bay. Two Reserve crews worked every alternate weekend to ensure that fishing vessels had the correct licences and that poachers were deterred from fishing in the area.

Doc, an ever enthusiastic small boat coxswain, also participated in the testing of the experimental Harbour Patrol Boat (HPB), which was fitted with BMW engines. It had no cabin. A Boat (HPB), which was fitted with BMW engines. It had no cabin. A

Doc was instrumental in restructuring the Permanent Force staff at SAS UNI-TIE and in ensuring that those committed Naval Reserve volunteers who remained were motivated. With the change in 1994 he oversaw, as OC SAS UNI-TIE, the lowering of the old national flag and the raising of the new "Rainbow" flag with all the decorum expected of such a moment in history.

In March 1996 he handed over command of SAS UNI-TIE and was promoted to the rank of Captain and joined the Director Naval Reserves (DNR) staff where he was involved in rewriting the Naval Reserve Policy.

In September 2001 he retired from his civilian employment at ABSA Bank. After spending several months cleaning and maintaining his and Penny’s home his need for a challenge was answered. He was approached in 2002 to take up the post of Senior Officer Maritime Trade on the staff of Director Fleet Force Preparation (DFFF) to manage Naval Control of Shipping. Although he was expected to retire from this post in September 2007, he was retained until 31 May 2009 when he finally retired from service. During this period the Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) section was restructured and modernised as the Naval Co-ordination and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS).

Relationships were forged with SADC countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia) as well as South America (Argentina, Brazil and Chile), Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Training for SA Naval Reserve members as well as SADC countries was introduced and a variety of NCAGS exercises (DEEP BLUE, FAIRWAY BUOY and BELL BUOY) took place to sharpen skills and test procedures.

This culminated earlier this year when Exercise BELL BUOY 09 was hosted by South Africa with the navies of Australia, Canada, Chile, the United Kingdom and the United States participating, while Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Namibia, Singapore and Tanzania sent observers.

His efforts greatly assisted in bringing awareness to the Southern African countries that the sea routes around the Cape were of strategic importance to all, including landlocked countries that were reliant on maritime trade.

At his memorial service many emails of condolence were read to his family from the members of the different navies with which he had built a relationship. All spoke highly of his professionalism, commitment and dedication to making the seas safer for maritime trade.

At his 33 years service in the SA Navy Capt O'Shea was awarded the Southern Cross Medal, Military Merit Medal, South Africa Medal, Units Medal, John Chard Medal and John Chard Decoration.

Doc’s cheery grin, balanced viewpoint and wisdom, which he shared liberally, will be missed by all his shipmates, especially those young officers whom he mentored.

The members of the SA Navy, both Full-time and Reserves, extend their condolences to his wife Penny, their four children and grandchildren.

Lt Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserves
June 16 is known as the day when South African youth made history by standing up in protest against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. As a result the month of June was declared a time for South Africa to celebrate its youth.

On the cold and chilly morning of 26 June 2009 SANDF COLET undertook a trip to the Hector Pieterson Memorial and Museum in Soweto. The expedition included visiting the Mandela House at 8115 Orlando West. As they say in Soweto: “You cannot visit the Hector Pieterson Memorial and Museum without visiting the Mandela House”. This was confirmed when I realised that the two are only a few blocks away from each other.

When we arrived in Soweto, the Museum was still closed. We decided to visit the Mandela House first. The Mandela House is situated on the corner of Vilakazi and Ngakane Streets. According to the tour guide, the house was built in 1945 as part of the Johannesburg City Council’s decision to build matchbox-like houses for blacks in Orlando. Although the house has changed on account of restoration and structural improvements, it still tells an interesting historic tale of the Mandela family. The metal roof, the untiled floor, the miniature coal stove in the tiny kitchen and the outside appearance has been kept the same. The yard consists of a well-kept garden with flowers and sprinklers. The guide showed us holes on the outer walls of the house that were caused by bullets fired by police during raids. The house has two bedrooms, one living room, a tiny kitchen and bath area. I cannot remember seeing a toilet in the house. What really upset me was the lack of space. I could not imagine Mandela, as big as he is, in that small space of his bedroom. Despite all these shortcomings, Mandela (known for his humility) in his book; The long walk to freedom - describes the house as follows:

“It was the opposite of grand, but it was my first true home of my own and I was mightily proud. A man is not a man until he has a house of his own.”

One of the interesting stories told by the guide is that many people did not know what Mandela looked like. When he returned to his house after his release from Robben Island in 1990, people would come and throw stones onto the roof so that he would come out of the house so they could “check him out”. Consequently he only spent eleven days at his house until he was moved to a more quiet place.

The bedroom where the Mandela children used to sleep has been turned into the room of Honourary Degrees and Doctorates. This is where Mandela’s academic awards are displayed. Among the displays is a belt that was won by boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard. He conferred it on Mandela in 1990 shortly after his release. The living room now consists of photos and pictures that depict memories and the history of the Mandela family.

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END OF FIRE MISSION

A career stretching over 45 years came to a close on 19 June 2009 when Colonel Jacobs van Heerden, outgoing SSO Reserves at Artillery Formation, fired his last shot as a Gunner. Col Van Heerden’s military career commenced on the 1st of July 1964 when he was recruited into the Artillery Corps. He attended all relevant courses, inclusive of the Senior Staff Course, and boasts operational experience from 1976 to 1988. The highlight of his career was the period from 1988 to 2003 when he was the Officer Commanding of the Transvaal State Artillery. Next, he was appointed as the SSO Reserves and served in that appointment from 2003 to 2009. During his military career Col Van Heerden was honoured with the Southern Cross Medal, John Chard Decoration, John Chard Medal, Southern Africa Medal, 40 Years Good Service Medal, Pro Patria Medal, General Service and Unitas Medal.

Col Van Heerden expressed his gratitude to every member that helped in shaping his career and instructed his successor to manage the office as SSO Reserves with diligence and love and wished Lt Col Lourens Botha an equally prosperous career. The latter acknowledged the good wishes of Col Van Heerden and said he would follow in the footsteps of his predecessor. Subsequent to the formalities they shook hands as they officially closed the Change of Office to all attending guests. Next, it was time for Col Van Heerden’s last engagement. With the first round fired, he took up position as Gunner No 1, thereafter Gunner No 3 and with the last round fired his last shot as a No 2 Gunner, which symbolised the end of his artillery career. Col Van Heerden, a Gunner at heart, will be sorely missed by many a Gunner within the Artillery Corps. He dedicated his life to the Artillery Corps and along the way influenced others with his diligent, fair and vigilant approach. We salute Col Van Heerden for his endurance in serving a cause close to his heart. Capt Marelda Coetzer, SO2 Corp Com SA Army Artillery Formation

THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOW WE CAN PROTECT IT

What do you think when buying something?

- Do you think about the earth? Do you wonder about the product packaging? Is it too much?
- When you buy a cold drink in a can or plastic bottle do you think about the side effects?
- When you throw away your old computer or electronic spares do you think of where it will end up?
- When you receive a fax do you feel bad if someone sends it twice and there is wasted paper or when someone has misused the copier machine to make unnecessary copies? This is what I feel and think.

I think products have too much packaging these days. When I am in the office and see the cleaning ladies every day with big bags full of rubbish and waste paper and soft drink cans that are not being recycled I feel bad and I think we should all start doing something about it. It is said that a recycled can will save up to three hours of electricity watching TV.

When I was visiting in Cape Town I came across soft drinks in 500 ml glass bottles. Why have I not seen it here in Gauteng? When will shopkeepers also take responsibility?

Old computer parts, electronic devices or X-ray plates should be sent to a recycling plant. The reason for this is that when these parts are buried in the earth at dump sites they will become a toxic waste that pollutes our waters, making them unusable.

With receiving faxes why not receive them electronically and then print them, if needed?

Why this don’t care attitude when one day we will have destroyed what was entrusted to us by God? What would God say?

Here are some solutions to the problem:

- Take your own bags to a shopping centre; do not always buy new ones. Albany bread is in biodegradable plastic. Rather buy that.
- Buy your drinks in glass, so return the bottles and receive your deposit back. Get a lunch box, and take it to where you want to buy food. Let them put it in there for you and do not use extra packaging.
- Electronics, computer parts and X-ray plates are hazardous when they lie on the earth for years, as the website www.desco.co.za explains. They have bins at Makro; use them or phone them and they will collect in certain areas. I like companies like this one for helping us.
- A fax receiving service is free. I do not know why people do not realise it would be better for the environment. You get a 0866 number when a fax is sent. Check your emails if your old fax line is open to send faxes. You can use email to fax, but it will cost you, at least you will receive your proof of fax in your email preventing cluttering in files and offices. You can get a fax to email a number or get more information by going to www.fairymail.co.za and clicking on the Fax 2 Email link.
- Get Ronnie bins for the office paper to be shredded or discarded in those bins.

Help clean the earth and keep it clean. It is everyone’s responsibility. Now that I have this heavy burden off my chest, I hope that you feel the same. Let us preserve the earth and keep it clean and healthy. L Cpl Diderick Daffue, email

OCTOBER 2009 • SA SOLDIER
SA Army hands over a hospice

Article and photos by Lt Sello Segone, Acting Editor Milmed

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, officiated at the handing over of a hospice to the SAMilitary Health Service (SAMHS) on 5 August at 21 SA Infantry Battalion at Lenz Military Base near Soweto.

This came after the Chief of the Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, with the support of the SA Army Command Council, decided on 25 May 2005 to establish a hospice in the Central Gauteng area for the needs of soldiers and their families requiring palliative care. This was fully supported by all stakeholders within the DOD, especially the SAMHS.

The late Secretary for Defence, Mr January Masilela, granted permission on 8 September 2006 for the use of sponsorship and donor funds for the construction of the hospice.

The construction of the hospice provided a practical training opportunity for the prospective members of the soon to be established DOD Works Capability, which will have a dedicated Facility Management and Maintenance capability for the DOD. During the handing-over ceremony, the Deputy Minister said that the facility, built in collaboration with the SA Army Engineer Formation, SAMHS, and the Tshwane South Technical College, would make a modest contribution to the goal of skills development, particularly the Joint Initiative of Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA) and the Military Skills Development System (MSDS).

The hospice was constructed by members of the SA Army, supervised by Murray and Roberts, and funded by private sector donors.

The project was deemed unique, as those who repaired and renovated it were members of the SANDF.

Mr Makwetla alluded to the fact that even though there was still a huge backlog regarding DOD facilities that required maintenance and repair, the DOD could rest assured that in the future it would have to rely on own capabilities with regard to the maintenance and repair of the facilities.

“Through this facility the DOD will continue to make a difference to our members’ and their families’ lives. It will provide us with an opportunity to add a human touch to the SANDF’s constitutional mandate of defending and protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of South Africa, as well as supporting its people. Let’s use the facility wisely to benefit those in need and continue to renew our Government’s obligation with regard to service delivery,” challenged Mr Makwetla.

Fltr: the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, receiving the collage of the hospice.

Fltr: the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, and Brig Gen Snowy Moremi, General Officer Commanding Area Military Health, at the handing and taking over ceremony.
Exercise Golfinho was a multinational peacekeeping operation with over 6000 participants from different security forces and support elements. This unique approach to peace support missions has taken the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region by storm through its complexity. The SADC Standby Force was established as agreed upon by the African Union timeline of 2010 with the aim of participating in peace support missions. Its main objective was to prepare elements of the SADC Standby Force for a multidimensional peace support operation in line with the African Union (AU) standby force road map.

Briefing the media about Exercise Golfinho, Brig Gen Lawrence Smith, the Force Commander, said they had selected scenario six of the prescribed AU training structure, which is an intervention posing difficulties in terms of interoperability. He described it as a way of testing impossibilities by putting together people of different groupings and backgrounds. The composition of the SADC Standby Force consisted of the Mission Headquarters, a civilian component, a police component and the military component. The latter contributes immensely with personnel.

Exercise Golfinho was structured in three phases. The first was the MAPEX which was the initial part of the exercise that entailed mapping and operational planning. This was followed by the CPX command post exercise, and lastly a training exercise called FTX, a month long field training exercise at the SA Army Training Combat Centre in Lohatla that took place from 1 to 28 September 2009. This involved the executing part of the exercise in which forces in member states were mobilized through intervention by airborne forces and marrying up drills by integrating SADC states and their different forces.

Brig Gen Smith said each component had a sector commander to oversee their engagement and had a successful interaction despite minor obstacles with other components. Of the 15 countries that form the SADC, only three: Mauritius, the Seychelles and Madagascar were non-participants in the exercise. Each SADC state had to provide its own means of participation for their forces. The Naval Joint Maritime Task Force at Walvis Bay in Namibia also ran an exercise concurrently with the one in Lohatla.

A simulated hostile take-over of rebel militants on armament vehicles was staged during a demonstration. The scene depicted how a well-inte-
frat SADC force would handle such an incident. The objective of the exercise was to test the interoperability and compatibility of the mission components. Unlike the military and police components, the civilian component had to provide assistance in a humanitarian relief operation.

Mr. Haretsebe Mahosi from Lesotho, Head of the civilian component, told SA Soldier that part of their role in the exercise was to handle political affairs and negotiations among and for victims of civil strife. They also teamed up with the International Committee of the Red Cross to deal with humanitarian affairs, such as assessing the situation and providing assistance. The ICRC also provided training in International Humanitarian Law for different SADC contingents.

The Exercise Golfinho VIP day marked the biggest parade ever to be held in the SADC region. The decommissioning of the SADC brigade and a medal parade for the participants of the exercise took place on 22 September 2009. The highest functionaries at the parade included the honourable Filipe Nyussi, the Mozambique Minister of Defence, who handed out medals to the senior cadre of the SADCMIL, the Honourable Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and her deputy, the Honourable Mr Thabang Makwetla.

Other senior dignitaries included Dr Mathendele Dlamini from Swaziland, the Head of Mission of the SADC Standby Force, who declared the exercise commissioned earlier in September. In his speech, he highlighted challenges encountered during the exercise and how hard they worked to overcome them. “The challenges, however, did not create an insurmountable route to success. It would be remiss on my part if I failed to commend the participating member states and in particular the SADC leadership that provided the means and guidance that made exercise Golfinho the success it was,” he said.

He further stated that the SADC should celebrate the vision of the heads of state for launching the SADC Standby Force and providing the means neces-
Photos A, B and C: The SADC Standby Force showed its strength and capabilities during a demonstration by "rebel troops".

Medical support was vital during the operation for the resuscitation of members injured by explosions.

Dr Dlamini further urged members on parade to take account of the skills they had acquired and to demonstrate a sense of loyalty and assurance to their states and people. "It is without a shadow of a doubt that the skills you have acquired through this training will enable you to perform prominently and effectively even after your integration into the African Standby Force," he concluded.

Medical support was vital during the operation for the resuscitation of members injured by explosions.

Photos D and E: Internally displaced people (IPS) formed part of the exercise. They are visible in cases where internal conflicts arise and they form splinter groups. These refugees clash with police over hunger and living conditions.
Royal Thai Armed Forces Chief receives a warm African welcome

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

During the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) welcoming parade held on 03 August 2009 at Defence Headquarters the Chief of the Royal Armed Forces, General Song kitti Jaggabatara, assured the Chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Godfrey Ngwenya, that his contingent received a pleasant and warm African reception after they landed at the O.R. Tambo International Airport.

The main aim of the visit of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and entourage was to learn about the SANDF’s role and functions in conflict resolution, particularly in Africa.

During the courtesy meeting at the C SANDF’s lounge for formal introductions, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya said that the two countries had friendly relations dating back to the 90’s and it was important for them to engage meaningfully.

Gen Jaggabatara said that it was his first official visit and that he was humbled by South Africa’s warm welcome. The Chief of the Royal Armed Forces said that he chose the SANDF because of its peacekeeping capabilities and hoped to learn some of its skills in that connection.

Gen Jaggabatara and his entourage were expected to visit places such as the Army College, Air Force Base Swartkop and the Naval Base Simon’s Town.
The USA Capstone Delegates visit South Africa

By LCpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A delegation from the USA Capstone under the leadership of General Joseph Ashy (Ret) US Air Force visited South Africa to meet with their counterparts to collaborate on defence and national security matters at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 5 August 2009.

As it is a trend in the international community to bridge geographic divides and expand relations, it is common practice in the SA DOD to broaden horizons with friendly nations.

Lt Gen Mgweti, the Chief of Human Resources, welcomed the guests during the courtesy call on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya.

Lt Gen Mgweti officiated as Chairperson of the meeting as the visitors were engaged in discussions with the SANDF delegates. The visit provided an essential forum to discuss key global defence and national security solutions. Mr Nick Sendall, the Chief Director Defence Policy, and senior members of the SANDF briefed the guests on the SANDF’s contribution to the SADC, African Union and United Nations missions in support of peace building. Several aspects relating to the SADC Brigade were also highlighted.

The interactions revealed a move towards civil defence, reconstruction and development in support of government initiatives. General Ashy wholeheartedly praised the SA DOD/SANDF for their unselfish spirit of international co-operation in which they so ably addressed issues of global importance.

“The interactions between the SA DOD and the US DOD highlight the important role that our militaries and governments can play in supporting key initiatives on national and international security affairs,” added General Ashy.

In conclusion, Lt Gen Mgweti expressed his gratitude for the excellent spirit of mutual collaboration that existed among members. He indicated that South Africa was a good citizen of the world. “The problems of the world are too big for one nation, so let us engage each other in a multinational approach to the challenges of the world. If we do not unite, our world will fall apart.”

Fltr: Maj Gen Molefi Mokoena, the Chief Director Human Resources Development, Gen Joseph Ashy (Ret) US Air Force and Lt Gen Derick Mgweti, the Chief of Human Resources, discussing key security affairs affecting the world.
The Provost Marshal General appointed in the USA

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Military Police Division bade farewell to the Provost Marshal General (PMG), Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba, during a parade held at the Military Police School in Thaba Tshwane on 7 July 2009. He will become the new Defence Attaché in the USA.

“Six years ago on 1 April 2003 I was appointed by the Chief of the SANDF as the Chief of the Military Police Agency, as it was then known. It was with some degree of trepidation that having left the familiar surroundings of the SA Air Force I walked into the Agency realising that this was a new experience among mostly unfamiliar faces and certainly a formidable challenge,” said Brig Gen Ledwaba.

He indicated that he was indeed proud of the joint efforts and participation of different agencies that stood against criminality. He paid his tribute to the main role players, which were the upper echelons of the DOD and the Military Police Division. They were the people that implemented strategies, instituted penalties and executed legislation according to prescriptions.

As the Parliament has mandated every government department to provide a strategic approach to curb criminality, an Anti-criminality Strategy
Brig Gen Joseph Ledwaba and his family (his wife Loretta is next to him) and their two sons, Tjikidi and Marabeele, and daughter Malebo.

was developed in 2000, and approved by the Minister of Defence in 2001. The PMG was responsible for implementing the strategy and was an adviser to the Secretary for Defence and the Chief of the SANDF.

During an interview with SA Soldier, Brig Gen Ledwaba had fondly expressed his experience as the PMG and the new challenge ahead of him:

Q: How was your experience as the Provost Marshal General?
A: Being the PMG has its challenges because you interact with people in various ways and may be working with people who are positive and negative. For instance, if a crime is committed relevant punishment must be instituted and people may not be happy with the outcome. Therefore, it is upon the Military Police to make a proper investigation so that the courts can adjudicate and hand an appropriate sentencing based on the information provided. As the PMG and Head of the DOD Anti-criminality Board we are marketing the strategy, making appraisals to check if it was enrolled effectively and review the progress made. When I took over as the PMG, about 50% of Military Police personnel where supernumerary with no future. They applied themselves despite their personal problems, proving to be people of character with high moral and dedicated to their work.

Q: From what you have been doing as the PMG, what is it that you think you can implement in your new working environment as an attaché?
A: Strategy - going through a disciplined planning process and making sure that everything is done according to plan. Developing a vision, strategy and goals to make sure that you do not lose direction in your mandate. The plan, however, must be linked to deliverables and also accepting responsibility and accountability. You must be willing and ready to learn from junior personnel in the organisation.

Q: Being a military attaché is obviously a big responsibility, how prepared are you to undertake such a task?
A: I am prepared based on my knowledge of the organisation. I have been an officer commanding, a director in the SA Air Force, now a provost marshal general, I have also engaged in a decision-making forum in the DOD. I have enough exposure to be able to know how to manage situations. Being a military attaché is to represent the DOD positively in a foreign country. I have an advantage understanding the organisation and how it functions.

Q: To what extent does this affect your family?
A: I am moving with my family and of course they will be interrupted, but this creates another opportunity for them elsewhere. They have been supportive to me and understand that I am a soldier who has to follow instructions.

Highlights

Brig Gen Ledwaba has extensively embarked on numerous occupations in the military environment and acquired prestigious accolades. To mention only the recent few highlights in his career: In 2001 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and appointed Director Operational Support and Intelligence Systems at Air Command. In the same year he entered a national competition regarding the European Excellence Model winning the second prize after Daimler Chrysler.

In 2002 the Chief of the SA Air Force awarded his directorate the Sword of Peace for their overall excellence in the SA Air Force. Brig Gen Ledwaba was then transferred to the Military Police Agency in April 2003. He was a member of the Plenary Defence Staff Council, the Daily Defence Staff Council Board and the Council on Defence. He was also the Chairperson of the DOD Anti-criminality Board.

Brig Gen Ledwaba was then appointed as the DOD Nodal Point on Anti-criminality where he brought the concept of proactive approach to the fight against crime in the DOD. In 2006 a Special Representative of the United Nations sent a compliment to the Chief of the SANDF in recognition of excellent performance by the Military Police Division in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Siyandiza gives young falcons a military taste

By Amn Nwabisa V.Dlevu, Ad Astra Magazine
Photo: WO2 David Nomshongwana

It is crucial that young men and women realise that life is about choices and that they need to exercise them wisely, said the South African Air Force (SAAF) Director Corporate Service, Brig Gen Tersia Jacobs, during the passing-out parade of the Siyandiza-Young Falcons on 18 July 2009 at the Air Force Gymnasium in Valhalla, south of Tshwane.

She urged the learners to work hard for their forthcoming exams, especially in mathematics and science.

The youths had ended their mock training at the Falcons’ camp at Ditholo, near Hammanskraal.

The young people were training in a youth development programme that promoted aviation awareness and described career options available in the SAAF. These are programmes that prepare grade ten to twelve learners from disadvantaged backgrounds all around the country for studies in aircraft skills and acquisition of knowledge.

The Siyandiza Young Falcons’ camp ran from 12 to 18 July 2009 at Ditholo, about 90 kilometres north of Tshwane. First they visited the SAAF Museum in Valhalla, where they were briefed on the history of the Air Force. The lecture was conducted by Lt Martin Matsetse and Sgt Phuti Ngoako.

Next they were introduced the life of a soldier, after which they were taught drills and other disciplinary requirements of the military. They visited 17 and 41 squadrons for general lessons aviation.

During the course of the week they took part in sports parades and visited a game reserve to familiarise themselves with the fauna in the neighborhood. Other modules covered included life skills, etiquette, HIV/AIDS awareness, self-discipline, navigation and its principles, development of air power, military insignia, first aid and drug and alcohol abuse.
L Cpl Solomon Molefe uses Frosty, a Boarder collie to scare the birds away from runways at the Swartkop Airfield.

SA Air Force runways are the safest

Birds strikes on military aircraft cause considerable damage to landing gear, cockpits, windows and engines and cost the South African Air Force (SAAF) a lot of money. However, this will be a thing of the past, as the SAAF has launched a new bird chaser project at the Swartkop Airfield to protect its runways.

The SAAF, which is in a war against bird related damage, has unleashed a new bird chaser, among them Frost, an eighteen-month-old Boarder collie. This dog was obtained on July 23 2009 to ward off and harass birds to prevent them from wandering on to the runways. Phillip and Pippa Andrews at Caledon in the Western Cape trained the dog. Border Collies are chosen specifically for their obedience and ease of training, stamina, innate natural herding instinct and willingness to work in different conditions. One of the Border collie handlers, 24 year-old 500 Squadron member L Cpl Solomon Molefe, had to undergo training for a week and will continue to receive training every two months to learn the basic discipline and the commands to heel, go, stop, return and chase.

The demonstration showed the bonding of dog and handler. When L Cpl Molefe whistled, Frosty took the commands impressively. She reacted to a bird’s presence and also scaring the birds away from a high risk area on the field. An American, Dr Nick Carter, inspired the initiative and it has raised considerable interest among members and promises to reduce damage to aircraft and the loss of aircrew.

Pamela Matjila (17), who will be joining the next intake in August 2009, said that she enjoyed her stay because it was fun and she was taught discipline. When asked by AD ASTRA magazine why she wanted to join the SAAF, she said that she liked a uniform and came from a simple working-class home.

Kamogelo Setlai (19), said that she was attracted by an advertisement of the Young Falcons in the City Press newspaper and applied for a navigator’s post.

Mrs Consolation Setlai, a parent of one of the young girls, hoped that her daughter would take all that she had learned and apply it to her daily life.

Article by Nwabisa V Dlevu, Ad Astra Magazine
Photo: WO2 David Nomtshongwana
A spectacular Air Show display

Article by Sgt Thabang Bapela, Journalist AD ASTRA Magazine
Photo: Sgt Thabang Bapela

Over three thousand people from Gauteng, including learners from different schools around the capital city, attended a most spectacular Air Show display at Swartkop Airfield in Valhalla, south of Tshwane, on 12 September 2009.

The learners who attended the air show were advised by Lieutenant Martin Matsetse, Corporate Communication Officer, South African Air Force (SAAF) Museum to pay particular attention to mathematics and science subjects to become eligible for aviation awareness courses in the SAAF.

According to Mr Monama, Principal of Ratlhagane Primary School, the air show had a positive impact on the learners and they were elated with what they got.

Mr Monama added that, the visit was fruitful and that they would like to visit the South African Air Force (SAAF) again. "I will convince the learners to take Mathematics and Science subjects at High School if they want to pursue their dreams of becoming pilots or technicians in the SAAF" he said.

The aircraft that played a part during the air show were the Dassault Mirage III "Black widow", Atlas Impala MK 1, Pilatus PC-7 MK 2 Astra "Silver Falcons", SAAB Gripen, Hawk MK 120, Alouette, Puma, Dakota, Harvard, C-130 Hercules, Casa 212, Cessna C208 Caravan, Oryx, Agusta A-109 LUH and a Falcon 500.

The South African Airways (SAA) provided a Boeing 737-300 freighter for static display at Swartkop. The Air Force Aerobatics team, the Silver Falcons, and the much-awaited Gripen were the highlight of the day. The Silver Falcons thrilled the spectators when they performed their amazing displays.

The theme of the air show was "Wings and Adventure", and the Adventure theme was chosen to encourage the public to spend more of their recreational time enjoying the beautiful weather and the aircraft of the SAAF Museum, the Mirage III "Black Widow" and other vintage aircraft such as the Vampire and Impala.

Also promoting their products were companies such as BMW, Kawasaki SA, Honda SA, Safari Centre, SA 4x4 National Camps, Cadac and a number of colourful food stalls.
SANDF women on "Mbokodo" Soweto TV

Article and photo by CPO Bongani Khuzwayo, Defence TV Cameraman

On 31 August 2009 four women representing the four Services in the SANDF were interviewed on the Mbokodo programme of the Soweto TV, which focuses on women’s issues.

This pre-recording was broadcast on 7 September 2009. These four women served as excellent ambassadors for the SANDF, and spoke specifically about women in defence, with special emphasis on all the exciting career opportunities for women in the DOD. The four women were Col Zandile Mbete, a Reserve Force member from the SA Military Health Service, Cdr Geeva Moodley from the SA Navy, Maj Mamosala Mokoena from the SA Army Engineer Formation and Maj Annabel McCauley, a pilot from the VIP 21 Squadron in the SA Air Force.

Copies can be obtained from Mr R. Kgapola of the Defence TV offices on tel 012 312 2239.

Wonderboom Military Base helps save lives

Article and photo by Maj L. Lombard, SO2 Corp Com, SA Army Signal Formation

True to the SA National Blood Service’s (SANBS) slogan “Take a Moment to give Life”, members of SA Army Signal Formation and other members stationed at Wonderboom Military Base took a moment off their work schedule to donate blood during the blood donation drive at Wonderboom Military Base on 23 July 2009. Some of the milestones achieved on this day included three new first time donors, Sgt L.T.N. Ndaba of 5 Signal Regiment, Cpl I.I. Magengenene of 1 Signal Regiment, and Pte K.A. Sebati of JSB Wonderboom.

A major achievement was also that of WO1 C.J. Cronje of Joint Support Base (JSB) Wonderboom with his 76th donation, Ms A. du Preez of 2 Signal Regiment with her 62nd and Maj L. Lombard of SA Army Signal Formation HQ with her 50th donation.

The unit within SA Army Signal Formation with “the most donations up to date” is JSB Wonderboom with 280 donations. The SA Army Signal Formation also started its own “Blood Donation Hall of Fame” as part of its social responsibility initiative. This will help to motivate members to donate more blood by means of healthy competition among members.

For more information on the next blood donation drive of the SA Army Signal Formation and the rest of Wonderboom Military Base, please contact Maj L. Lombard, (012) 529 0258 or fax (012) 529 0022.
Gender equity is the cornerstone in the government’s attempt to make sure both sexes have an equal opportunity in terms of education, employment opportunities, promotions etc. The SA Army Gender Conference, which was held in Thaba Tshwane, was held to emphasise this point.

The main aim of the conference was to give feedback on what emerged during last year’s conference and to give more attention to issues that would arise at the 2009 conference. Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the Chief of the Army, delivered his keynote address and stated that every government department had its own mandate that it had to adhere to, and the SANDF was not exempted from this mandate and was bound to defend the territory and integrity of our country.

Lt Gen Shoke further explained the importance of gender equity. “Gender equity is a way to clear the imbalances of the past, so that the playing field is level and everybody in South Africa is equal, but we must look at gender issues not only in promotions. We must be holistic in our approach,” he said. “The SANDF must not lose sight of serious issues affecting female soldiers and we must not only empower ourselves, but also our government,” he added.

Lt Gen Shoke was adamant that no incompetent soldiers would be recruited for the army, because the mandate of the army is to fight. “I need soldiers who are fit, that can be deployed anywhere, any time and to give direction, so they must pass my fitness test” said Lt Gen Shoke.

The gender conference was also a platform to talk about the Gender Action Plan that was established by the members of the SA Army. Since 2008, it has been the responsibility of the General Officer Commanding to implement the Gender Action Plan in their units. The Gender Action Plan has six objectives, which are:

- Operationalisation and execution of the Gender Mainstreaming Plan.
- Creating a gender sensitive environment.
- Implementation of positive measures to increase women’s participation in decision making structures and to contribute to operational solutions to human security, peace and stability.
- Implementation of positive measures aimed at increasing women’s skills development, qualifications and competencies.
- Mainstreaming gender in HR policy plans and processes.
The role of women in society

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela
Photo: Elias Mahuma

The Defence Legal Services Division also made their mark during the Women’s Day celebrations by holding a Women’s Day seminar at Thaba Thwane. The theme of the event was “The role of women in society”.

The seminar was opened by the Chief of Legal Services, Ms Elizabeth Kubushi, with a question, namely “what is a role?” She further explained the importance of the coming together of women to assert themselves on this day. She said there were many roles that a woman played, but there was a need for a paradigm shift.

Professor Trudy Stein from the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa (UNISA) stimulated the audience with her motivation speaker presentation. She emphasised that women needed to ask themselves two questions to bring meaning to their lives, namely “did you enjoy life?” and “did you bring joy to life?” She also provided key points on how to change your thinking, such as “stand and count your blessings”, “live a life of gratitude and listen to your inner voice”.

Dr Monica Juma, Executive Director Research at the Africa Institute of South Africa, took to the floor to highlight the importance of the protection of women in the Department of Defence. She said that women, especially in the military, must not settle for the support level, the so-called “soft skills”. They must also be given the opportunity to be at the command level, especially in peace support operations. Dr Juma added that there should be adequate structures dedicated to gender issues and believed that the Defence Legal Services was efficient in dealing with these issues.

The last speaker of the day was Ms Maggie Modipa, Deputy Director-General of National Intelligence Agency. She commenced her presentation by paying tribute to the heroines of the 9 August 1956 Women’s March that changed the rights of women immensely - women such as Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophie Williams. She further explained the importance of women taking themselves seriously as this would in turn result in their being taken seriously.

Ms Modipa added that if you wanted to see a woman at her best, she should be placed at the forefront of conflict, especially in a working environment, because there she can change matters because of her ability to influence people. She said women should help each other to climb the corporate ladder through visionary leadership.

The seminar also included a display of different types of books, courtesy of Ms Phillipa Mitchell of Red Pepper Books, and beautiful music played by the National Ceremonial Guard Band.
Although females make up more than half the population of South Africa and the world, women and girls have endured discrimination in most societies for thousands of years. In the past, their husbands or fathers treated them as property, they could not own land, and they could not vote or go to school. They were also subjected to beatings and abuse and could not do anything about it.

Fortunately that is, however, not the case with the Department of Defence (DOD), specifically within the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Inspired by its slogan "An employer of choice", the DOD has a firm belief in empowering deserving female personnel to occupy powerful positions.

One such is Brig Gen Marthie Visser, recently promoted to the post of Director Corporate Communication (DCC). Brig Gen Visser is testimony to the fact that the ability to hold a job should not depend on the arrangement of the body’s chromosomes, but on the abilities and capabilities of the person as well as on a strong character.

Brig Gen Visser is proof that over the last hundred years progress has been made in gaining equal rights for women around the world, especially in the working environment.

"I take my work very seriously and I do it with passion. I set achievable goals and strive to attain each one of them, no matter how long it takes. I am a realist and am very handy when it comes to small home projects; every-thing I start, I finish. I believe that I have the same competencies as men have, although I do not aim to compete with them. I am feminine and I do not plan to lose my softer side trying to match other people," she said.

Asked how she dealt with the pressure and workload, she was adamant that her approach played a crucial role in distinguishing when to think with her heart and when to use her head. She added that she tries to stay level-headed when making decisions.

This remarkable fifty-three-year old woman, the eldest of four sisters, was born in Vanderbijlpark in the Vaal Triangle. As the first-born, she had to take responsibility at a young age. She had a normal upbringing and the love of her siblings is the essence of her childhood memories.

"I am an extrovert, although I value my private space and sometimes feel the need to be alone with nature and 'connect'. I just thrive on the peace and tranquility of nature. My partner and I, with our dogs, enjoy exploring the countryside at every possible opportunity and appreciating life. We enjoy birdwatching, long walks and of course, nothing beats a good braai on a summer’s day! When I am not busy in the office, you might just bump into me wearing my binoc-ulars and appreciating life," she beamed.

She feeds her mind by reading biographies of people who have made a difference to society, such as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and works on the social sciences. She is also a member of the South African Air Force Association (SAAFA) Pretoria Committee, where she contributes her time to assisting former military members in need.

Although she is not married, she loves her kitchen and cooks well and also enjoys getting her hands dirty in her garden. She adores children and her family, and that is why she is a godmother to her sister’s three children and admits to spoiling them every chance she gets.

**AD ASTRA MAGAZINE OPENED A WINDOW INTO HER WORLD**

Her career background and experience in Corporate Communication includes the following:

- **At the age of seventeen**, she was among the first group of females to be trained in South Africa after World War II. It was in January 1974 at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof.
- **She did her Officer Forming in 1982** and held various positions before she ventured into the field of Corporate Communication.
- **In 1993 she became a Lt Col** and reported to Lt Gen A. Masondo.
In 1998 she was appointed Col (SSO Internal Communication) and reported to Maj Gen Gert Opperman.

In 2000 she was appointed as SSO Corporate Communication (SAAF) under the leadership of Maj Gen L C Pepani.

In 2004 - she became SSO SPP (DCC) reporting to Maj Gen D M Mofokeng and later to Brig Gen K D Mangope.

Q: How many years of experience do you have in Corporate Communication?
A: Sixteen years.

Q: Where and what did you study?
A: I did a BA in Political Science and Communications at UNISA, a Professional Certificate in Government Communication and Marketing with Wits Business School & Government Communications and Information System (GCIS). I also did an Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) at the SA National Defence College, followed by Public Relations Practice and Management with the Public Relations Institute of South Africa (PRISA).

Q: How did you feel when you were given this post?
A: It is a privilege and honour to serve in this post and it is a true milestone in my career. I am a people's person and it adds to the vast amount of experience that I have acquired over the years.

Q: Who did you first share the news with?
A: I initially shared the news with my partner and sisters.

Q: Were you expecting it?
A: Not really, but then again I watched my career grow from strength to strength and I took things step by step and prepared myself for any eventual- ity. My Christian background has also taught me that God is the architect of our lives and all I have is because of Him.

Q: What changes can be expected during your tenure in Corporate Communication?
A: I have a vision to share with my directorate how to communicate better and understand what it means to fully understand our environment. We all have a purpose in life, and that is mainly to be of service to our fellow man. I plan to create a fruitful working relationship with my fellow communicators so that we will be able to have a dedicated professional mustering.

Q: What leadership style have you adopted?
A: Teamwork approach: Together Everybody Accomplishes More
- I have an open-door policy, and
- Leadership is production, not position
- I believe the chain is as strong as the weakest link (the stronger ones must empower the weak), and I have learned to take every person seriously and understand the dynamics of team leadership."

What AD ASTRA Magazine has learnt from this remarkable woman is that the crux for women in senior posts in the workplace is to remain humble in their professions and to keep the eye on the ball. When women thrive, the whole society benefits and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.

68 Air School Celebrates Women's Day

By Capt Gus Moonsamy,
502 Operational Officer
Photo: Cpl Jan Mkhondo

02 Squadron joined forces with its host unit, 68 Air School, in celebrating its annual Women’s Day in August 2009. Maj W D H Abrahamse, the Officer Commanding 502 Squadron, opened the event and acknowledged all the efforts of the women serving in the unit as well as the female spouses or partners of members in the unit. Each woman attending the event received a set of earrings. All women were requested to dress in traditional dress, and the vibrant colours contributed to the splendour of the event. The three best-dressed women in traditional attire were rewarded with jewellery. The celebrations also included a tea with light snacks and a fashion show presented by some male students from the unit. These “professional fashion models” added some humour to the event. 68 Air School expressed a special word of thanks to Capt Ranoto from the Combined Mess at 68 Air School and Ms Reynders, the Social Worker at 68 Air School, for hosting the event. These two special women, as well as all the women of 502 Squadron, contributed towards the success of the event and ensured that everybody enjoyed the day.
The celebration of women’s month is an annual and momentous event in South African history. Not only did the woman of 1956 march for the abolition of the pass laws, but they also insisted that they did not want to be treated as second-class citizens. They challenged the rights of women to be taken seriously and be put in positions that they deserved.

The SANDF is also playing a major role in empowering women by promoting them to higher ranks. SA soldier had an exclusive interview with the first African female Director of the Reserve Forces, Brig Gen Susan Debbie Molefe, to get to know more about how much blood, sweat and tears she had to shed to get her to where she is today.

Gen Molefe is a Regular Force member appointed to manage the Reserve Forces of the SANDF. She started her military career in 1997 during the integration period and was then appointed to the rank of Major. In 2001 she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 2005 she was promoted to Colonel, after completing the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme in 2004, and her ENSP in 2008. Her promotion to Brigadier General was warmly welcomed as it validated the notion that women were a force to be reckoned with. Even though the SANDF was not her original career of choice, Brig Gen Molefe grabbed the opportunities that came her way with both hands.

"The SANDF was in my mind not my line of career, but I considered my alternatives and I decided to take the opportunity offered to me. I was ready for the challenge and I am happy I joined this department because I feel I have contributed a lot and I am still prepared to do more. I am looking forward to seeing more women in the upper echelons of this department”, said Brig Gen Molefe.

She has everything necessary to be in her position, including beauty and brains. She has a BA in Social Sciences, which she obtained at the University of Botswana and a postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Management with the Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA). When asked how she felt about her promotion, Brig Gen Molefe answered with a smile, "I am excited, I think it’s a well deserved promotion. My seniors obviously had confidence in me, hence they supported my appointment into this position. I should like to thank everyone who contributed to my success”.

Brig Gen Molefe set high goals for herself in the career path that she embarked on. "I want to move up, this is just the beginning of things in my endeavours to reach positive heights in my career and to contribute more to this department. I am thankful to my seniors and supervisors who played an important role in mentoring me and paving a way for some of us", she said.

She expressed how honoured she was that her promotion came in the month of August and she also hoped that more women would be afforded various opportunities to be in senior positions, especially those that really deserve to be promoted.

Brig Gen Molefe believe that each and every division and service should work in unison to make the objective of the reserve to be a reality. "The role and responsibilities of the Reserves are clear and I, with the support from the Services and Divisions, am going to contribute positively to the SANDF Reserves by ensuring that all their objectives are realised," she said.

It seems as if change is eminent at the Defence Reserves even though there are still some challenges to be overcome. "We are still faced with the challenges of not having a proper feeder system for the Reserves, but we are continuing with the promotion and
marketing of the Reserve Force system to the DOD and the broader public. It is evident that there is need for gender and race representivity, in the Res F structures, there are very few women, and now this needs to be corrected. There are strategies in place to correct these imbalances. It will be my responsibility in support to Chief Defence Reserves to ensure that all corrective measures for Defence Reserves are implemented. Although we have got skilled or professional members that serve in the Res F, we are also being faced with the challenge of having a large number of unemployed young Reserves,” she said.

Amidst all these challenges, Brig Gen Molefe is determined to succeed “I really appreciate this department, for realising the need to establish a Res F. Since my appointment as SSO in the Defence Reserves and currently being the Director, I have realised that as we are still continuing to benchmark on best practice internationally on the utilisation of Reserves, some countries are also benchmarking from us because they think we have established an effective Reserve Force system” she said.

Brig Gen Molefe has been married to Reverend Solomon Molefe since 1991 and they have been blessed with two lovely children Kabo (boy-17) and Olebogeng (girl-13). Her hobbies are reading, cooking and socialising.

Celebrating “Women in uniform”

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thaole

Women in the SA National Defence Force as well as within the Safety and Security sector were recently honoured at a Women’s Day celebration at Mbolekwa Stadium in Atteridgeville hosted by Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane.

The theme of the day, “Celebrating Women in Uniform” gave tribute to all the women in uniform and their mothers, sisters and daughters. The nurturers of the core values of the society within the SANDF, SA Police Service (SAPS), Tshwane, Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg Metropolitan Police, Emergency Medical Services and the Fire Brigade formed up in their different uniforms and marched to the stadium led by the parade commander, Maj Constance Thaole from the SA Army Engineer Formation.

Following the pipes, drums and stirring trumpet sounds of the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Band, the parade was a splendid, colourful sight as women showed their patriotic zeal. In her keynote address Dr Ramokgopa addressed the parade with thought-provoking questions, such as: “What led these women to wear their country’s and city’s uniform? What is it that leads a woman to put aside her own pursuit of happiness, to subordinate her own sense of survival, for something larger - something greater?”

“In each and every woman in uniform here today, and of course many throughout the country, there is a personal journey that eventually led to the decision to fight for her country and defend the freedom we enjoy. These women continue to live out the ideals that stir our nation - honour, duty and sacrifice,” said Dr Ramokgopa.

SA Soldier spoke to the parade commander, Maj Thaole, who mentioned that women were the custodians of the core values of society and morality. They are family builders and unifiers.

“To all women, you are the guiding hands and nurturers. Life has definitively taken a turn for the better. Let us organise ourselves into a potent force for a better life for all and win victory for mankind,” said Maj Thaole.

She continued: “This year we celebrate the SANDF’s ten years of peacekeeping. We wish to commend those who have been deployed and those currently deployed beyond our borders on peacekeeping missions. They play a very important role in post-conflict and reconstruction and development. Indeed it is women like them who make admirable role models. Now is the time that we as women are making modern history, and we must take control of collective security and justice,” she concluded.

Ms Esther Mahlangu, Senior Superintendent from the Tshwane Metro Police, said that they as women in uniform were citizen-centred and committed to serve the public. “Let us stride boldly through life and leave trails that others will strive to follow,” she concluded.
Search where your strength lies and hold on to it. Work at it, develop it and success will have to follow.” These are the words of the first student of the Military Academy ever to obtain an Honours Degree in Mathematics, Capt Lucky Monaledi.

He is of the opinion that apart from his hard work his abilities in the subject of Mathematics are also a gift from God. He compares Mathematics to soccer. “If you know to whom you must pass the ball, or when you have to strike or when you have to shoot, you can play a good game of soccer. Mathematics is exactly the same. You have to know what to do when and the results will be positive.”

Captain Monaledi wrote matric at the Matlaisane High School in Hammanskraal in 2000 and achieved a mark of 100% in Mathematics, but unfortunately on Standard Grade. In 2001 he joined the Youth Foundation to improve on his matric results. At the end of that year he obtained 98% in Mathematics in the Higher Grade and 95% for Physics, also in the Higher Grade. He was also the best overall technical student.

In 2002 he started his military training at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. He joined the SA Engineer Corps and did his corps training at the School of Engineers in Kroonstad where he was the best academic troop officer.

He grabbed the opportunity to be a student at the Military Academy and did the Higher Certificate in Military Studies in 2004. He got the best results in Mathematics (94%), Physics (88%) and Statistics (95%). He was selected to do a B Mil degree in Technology, which he completed cum laude with 17 distinctions.

At the end of 2008 he completed his Honours Degree in Mathematics at the University of Stellenbosch. He did this part-time as he was appointed as an Academic assistant at the Military Academy at the School of Science and Technology.

In 2009 he became a lecture assistant in Mathematics, Physics and Statistics at the same department. His future plans are to enroll for a Masters degree in Mathematics at the University of Stellenbosch in 2010, which he should complete by the end of 2012.

On the question of who his role model was, the answer was not the answer we were expecting - Einstein. He draws a lot of motivation and strength from his friend, Lt Lundi Ncubukezi, who is currently a second year student at the Military Academy. Lt Ncubukezi also joined the military in 2002, but at first was a non-commisioned officer in the SA Engineer Corps. He was selected to become an officer in 2007 and started his studies at the Military Academy in 2008. The two got to know one another in 2002 when they did training at the SA Army Gymnasium and at the School of Engineers.

Back then they studied together. Now they are working together on a project to redesign the calculation techniques module for the SA Engineer Troop Commanders and the Sergeant courses. Capt Monaledi respects Lt Ncubukezi’s commitment and endurance in working hard for what he wants. “Birds of a feather flock together,” was the metaphor he used to summarise their friendship.

Apart from being a soldier and assistant lecturer Capt Monaledi is also a husband and father of two young toddlers.
During the recent Infantry Command Cadre Conference the Officers Commanding and Section Heads signed an accountability pledge. The need for the accountability pledge was identified by the General Officer Commanding of SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde, and all the commanders jointly determined what accountability meant for them.

All the competency indicators were identified and from this an accountability pledge was compiled. The commanders pledged the following:

- We uphold the Constitution of South Africa.
- By accepting the post we occupy, we accept that we are accountable to the people of RSA.
- We accept that authority and responsibility can be delegated, but the commanders remain accountable for our actions and the actions of the members under command.
- We accept that accountability is the positive attitude that is manifested through the commitment of a leader for actions and behaviour that will lead to the finding of solutions and alternatives.
- Accountability is not the decision that a leader has taken, but the sum of credible actions that have taken place.

The commanders further agreed to:

- Carry out tasks with the utmost integrity and honesty.
- Engage in the continual involvement and development of the vision of the SA Army Infantry Formation.
- Commit themselves to the continual development and improvement of personal knowledge and skills so that they are empowered to perform their tasks diligently.
- Accept the role of follower and leader.
- Be true to themselves.

The commanders committed themselves, in the face of resources shortages, to ensure optimal performance through:

- Always displaying a positive attitude.
- Striving for unity of command and mutual trust.
- Ensuring and maintaining open and clear command, control and communication channels, thus enabling effective control and feedback.
- Conducting proper command appreciations and detailed planning to ensure feasible guidelines.
- Promoting learning organisations that continually strive for the development and growth of Infanteers’ capabilities.

The commanders rededicated themselves to an exceptional quality of leadership and this can already be seen in the excellent pre-deployment training that has taken place in support of the SA Police Service during the Confederations Cup. The support provided during the elections, the quick response in returning to the northern border and the excellent financial management and effective spending of the budget are all aspects in which the commitment and involvement of the commanders are seen to be working.
Ensuring the effectiveness of defence policies

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The eighth policy writer’s course took place at the SA Defence Intelligence College from 27 July to 7 August 2009. Forty-five learners, of which some are new to the policy writing environment, were given an opportunity to learn and fine-tune their policy writing skills, confirmed Mr Nick Sendall, the Chief Director Defence Policy in his opening address. The course addressed the needs of the Department by improving service delivery with the limited resources.

The programme has been very popular in the past and to date 443 officials in the DOD and other state departments have been trained as policy writers. Mr Sendall acclaimed policy writing as a “science and art” that has many steps, principles and pitfalls. The course deals mainly with the “science” of policy writing but, “the art” of policy writing is perfected only through extensive practice.

The success of the programme depends on the active participation and interaction of learners expressing their needs and sharing their experiences. Mr Sendall stated that most of the learners on the course were either already working in a policy environment or were earmarked for such involvement. “Policy writing is hard work, policy is politics and, lastly, policy is contentious in nature”, said Mr Sendall.

Professor (retired) Deon Fourie, a renowned speaker on military strategy, was the key note speaker at a function held during the course. He addressed the course on values, policy, politics, strategy and doctrine, putting these terms in context in the Defence policy writing domain.

The Chief of Corporate Staff, Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, officiated at the graduation ceremony. Affirming the course as a resounding success, he congratulated the learners on their wholehearted participation and the presenters on all their time and effort throughout the course.

Lt Gen Jansen van Rensburg stated that according to the controlling staff reports the group attending the 2009 course was deemed one of the most successful groups yet to have participated. He urged the students to involve themselves actively in the policy environment and so become dependable and reliable policy writers in their respective services and divisions. Three members from the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) also attended the course.

Lt Gen Rinus Jansen van Rensburg, Chief of Corporate Staff handing over a certificate to Maj K.P. Molapo at the SA Intelligence College during the graduation ceremony.

Fltr: Mr Nick Sendall, Chief Director Defence Policy, and Professor Fourie at the course function.
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Showcasing the might of the Engineer Corps

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Thaole

The SA Army Engineers (Sappers) held an open day in Kroonstad on 8 August 2009 in an effort to maintain a healthy relationship with the local community and to promote the image of the DOD.

Judging by the number of people attending the event, it was eminent that this event was still very popular among the public.

In addition, the open day left the public with the unique experience of having witnessed the coming together of the SA Army Engineers and the very people it served.

The aim of the open day was to expose the community, especially the youth, to the military environment and to create an opportunity to educate the youth on military matters and the SANDF. It also served to give the public a comprehensive overview of the SANDF’s capabilities and its role in humanitarian and peace support operations.

Schools from the Moqhaka region were invited to visit the Sappers on the Friday prior to the open day, with the aim of inspiring and interesting the present and future generations of young people to serve their country in the SANDF. The open day offered a fun-filled and educational programme for adults and children alike, with various activities and exhibitions as well as static displays which included a wide variety of SA Engineering Corps (SAEC) equipment. Although the focus was on the functioning of the SAEC, various other divisions and SA Army formations also participated in both the static displays and the arena programme.

The mobile operational geographical system was displayed, revealing the technology utilized by the engineers to deliver professional services during operational deployments.

Equipment used by the Combat Engineers was also displayed, including the mobile bridge-laying system, the mobile detection system (Husky and Meerkat), the water purification system, the foldable floating bridge system and the workboat.

Various operational constructions such as wheeled dozers, full track dozers, tractors, cranes and dump trucks were on display. This engineering equipment is currently utilized in peacekeeping operations in Africa to ensure the mobility and sustainability of the forces.

It was estimated that over 10 000 people visited the open day, which is a showcase of engineering expertise. The demonstrations at the open day highlighted the state of readiness of the SA Army Engineer Corps and capabilities that ensure effective participation in any mandated military operation that could be sanctioned by the government.

Various constructions and systems, such as Vlakvark and the mobile bridge-laying system, were also displayed to the community of Moqhaka to demonstrate the capability of the Engineers.
A dream comes true for the best performing school

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: S Sgt Lebohang Tlhaole

Ditsepo Secondary School was recently privileged to receive a fully equipped, state-of-the-art Hawstone iLab computer classroom valued at R1 Million from Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. Mr Douglas Tshoga, School Headmaster, stated that this donation would contribute to an improvement in the matric pass rate at Ditsepo Secondary School.

The R1 million iLab classroom is designed as an integrated, self-contained unit and is fully equipped with the latest high-tech computers to provide learners with access to the computer training environment. The unit has been designed as an integrated solution, is air-conditioned and linked to the internet.

This school, which is among the top five schools in the Limpopo Province with an average 92% matric pass rate, could not have received the gesture at a better time as this school has virtually no infrastructure. The school was built by the Ga-Maja community about 35 kilometres outside Polokwane in 1960, so buildings are outdated and the walls could crack at any minute, since the school was not prioritised by the Limpopo Department of Education.

Handing over the modern computer classroom to the jubilant community, Mr Makwetla commended the school management for their diligence as the school was still producing excellent results despite difficult challenges.

"The track record of Ditsepo Secondary has inspired my department to invest even more in education because it is the only tool to bring the community out of poverty. To realise the fruition of this objective, the SANDF together with SAAB South Africa, their private partners, saw it necessary to provide proper facilities. This was done by bringing the iLab classroom to this school to uplift the standard of education in the community. The learners will have an advantage in getting employment since they would be computer literate," Mr Makwetla said.

Mr Tshoga, who is not only the School Headmaster but also a class teacher and an administrator, was ecstatic over this donation. "The contribution is a dream come true, given the challenges we face in our school. We are struggling with the difficult challenge of acquiring educational tools such as laboratories, a well-equipped library and classrooms. Our school’s physical structures are in a state of disrepair and I hope this donation is the beginning of good things to come. I would like to tell the Department of Defence and Military Veterans that our school intends achieving a 100% matric pass rate this year, in return for the support you gave us," said Mr Tshoga.

Mr Daniel Mabote, the Capricorn District Senior Manager in the Limpopo Department of Education, also welcomed the contribution by the Department of Defence and Military Veterans in conjunction with SAAB South Africa. Mr Mabote said that his department had given the parents the assurance that their children would look after the computer classroom, as it was a gateway to the future.

Some of the learners who spoke to SA Soldier could hardly contain their excitement after the handing over of the fully equipped hi-tech laboratory.

"The classroom will equip me with computer skills necessary for my electrical engineering studies at a tertiary institution. I will also be grateful for the call-up by the SANDF to be trained as an electrical engineer, since I learned from the Chief of SA Army’s speech that they do have Engineers within the service," an exited Mary Makgoba, a Grade 11 learner at Ditsepo Secondary, stated.

According to Prof Mandla Mchunu, the representative of SAAB South Africa, SAAB has, through its Social Investment Programme (SIP), approved a sponsorship for two Hawkstone iLab classrooms to an estimated value of R2 million, after it was approached by the SA Army for assistance.

The SA Army was briefed about the challenges of the school during the Imbizo roadshow by the former Minister of Defence in 2008, as the school had not been prioritised by the Limpopo Education Department.

The event was also attended by representatives from the Bakenberg Traditional Council.

Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, with Mr Douglas Tshoga, Ditsepo School Headmaster, during the handing over of the Hawkstone iLab Classroom in Ga-Maja Village.
Suicide not a viable option to problems

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

ith various problems currently faced by the members of the public in recent times, many people become vulnerable to depression and associated socio-economic hardships, some attempt suicide as their only viable option.

While it is extremely difficult to pinpoint the cause of a specific suicide as each case usually has a different set of circumstances. Psychology experts warn us that societal factors such as marital and relationship discord, medical diagnosis, fiscal problems, etc are major contributing factors to depression, which could result in suicide.

According to Col Sara Motala, Head of Psychology and a Counselling Psychologist at 1 Military Hospital, a person with suicidal tendencies can easily be identified through change of behaviour, mood and thought. These may be indicators of depression.

"It is also important for people to learn to open up ..." 

"A suicidal individual is at times reserved and does not want to share his/her problems with anyone. The person could display signs of dejection and is at times withdrawn from society or is reluctant to participate in social activities. It is therefore important for people to recognise and observe individuals within their communities displaying those symptoms to enable such people to get professional help. However, it does not necessarily mean that if a person is tired and needs a rest, he is depressed. People should be able to differentiate between the two. It is also important for people to learn to open up to those closest to them so that they can receive professional help if they experience overwhelming challenges in their lives," says Col Motala, Senior Staff Officer at 1 Military Hospital’s Psychology Department.

"When a person is beset with some social challenges around him/her and there is not a solid support structure in place, the risk of a person sliding into depression is great and he may be tempted to commit suicide. Support structures could be anything from spouses, family members, community members, Unit Chaplains, Officers Commanding in the Unit level to Unit Commanders or an immediate superior in the workplace," Col Motala added.

Major Christopher Oyston, Clinical Psychologist of 1 Military Hospital, says that a person displaying depressive symptoms, such as disturbed sleep, social withdrawal, loss of energy or undue irritation should consider referring themselves to their nearest medical centre or sickbay, where further medical and/or psychological management can be discussed or decided upon with the patient.

"A depressed individual usually operates from a hopeless and pessimistic point of view and often cannot see a solution to their problems. Sometimes suicide seems like the only option for these patients. However, depression is very treatable and has a good prognosis when managed with medication and psychotherapy. When people notice a change in the behaviour of a colleague or loved ones, when he withdraws from others and is very negative about himself, life and the future, it would be advisable to seek the help of a mental health provider," Maj Oyston said.

Chaplain Sello Museri, a SANDF Chaplain based at Defence Headquarters Unit, advised individuals to earnestly consider enrolling themselves through debt administration institutions in order to have peace of mind.

In his experience as a spiritual counsellor for depressed couples, Chaplain Museri attributes the level of despair to spiralling debt as one of the main causes of the misery of dependent couples, which in most cases can drive a wedge between the members of a family.

"With a looming global financial crunch currently gripping the world economies, families are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Breadwinners are stressed by the prospects of losing their valuable possessions such as cars and their houses, while others simply cannot keep up with bond repayments because of the rising inflation rate. As a result couples can simply accuse one another of over-expenditure and this can cause a rift between them. It is therefore important for a person to sit down and reflect on the situation and consider a credit restraint or approach debt administrators to find relief for their mountainous debts. Such a facility could help individuals to repay a debt within a certain period until it is settled," advised Chaplain Museri.

When an individual has already attempted suicide, it is advisable that he or she be taken to the nearest sickbay or casualty department at the nearest hospital, where emergency medical care will be administered.

Ms Hanle Kirkcaldy, a Clinical Psychologist at 1 Military Hospital, said that when a suicide attempt has been made, the patient should receive immediate medical care. All attempts...
should be taken seriously and the contributing factors should be investigated by a health care professional.

"After the patient has been attended to by medical personnel at the medical ward, the psychiatrist or psychologist on duty will be called to assess the patient. The risk to himself is assessed on the basis of various factors. The patient may then be admitted to the psychiatric ward for further care and treatment by a multi-disciplinary team. This team consists of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists and other health care professionals. Each of these professionals is uniquely equipped to deal with the various aspects of the patient's problems. Together a solution to a problem deemed previously impossible can be found," Mrs Kirkcaldy explained.

The Chief Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, has advised SANDF members against committing suicide, and recommended them to seek professional help. He added that members who commit suicide, do not qualify for any military honours at their funeral services nor will there be military representation at their funerals.

Recently, a Corporal allegedly shot and killed his wife and later killed himself at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane. The Corporal did not receive a military funeral. The South African Police Services (SAPS) and the Board of Inquiry of the Department of Defence are investigating the incident.

SANDF members who need spiritual counselling can contact Chaplain Sello Kenneth Museri on (012) 355 5602 and make an appointment. For further information on the psychological management of suicide and related issues, contact Col S.C. Motala, SSO Psychology 1 Military Hospital, on (012) 314 0614 and she will gladly provide assistance in this regard.
New Hope for the disabled

Article and photo by
Pte K.S. Thobejane, Corporate Communication Clerk, SA Army Signal Formation

On Casual Day, celebrated on 4 September 2009, SA Army Signal Formation had the opportunity to revive the hopes of the New Hope School in Menlyn, a school for disabled children aged three years and upwards. This school has been adopted by the School of Signals. This social responsibility is an initiative that has been managed and executed by the School of Signals for the past three years. "The School of Signals got the mandate to run the event due to its available manpower", said Col H.E. Gunter, Officer Commanding School of Signals. The School of Signals obtains donations annually from SA Army Signal Formation members and private companies as well as by selling R10 Casual Day stickers. Donations in the form of food and sweets parcels were received and distributed and XON Systems, a sponsor, donated caps for the event.

A total of 409 disabled children were given the chance to interact with soldiers. New Hope School is not only a learning institution but also a home to its learners. The school has residential facilities to accommodate these children during the week and on weekends they go home. "My mom or my brother comes to pick me up every Friday. It is nice here," Tumelo Rampatla, a grade 8 learner from Mpumalanga said.

13 yr old Judre Swant counts the days to Casual Day, because he wants to enjoy it with his friends. The principal of New Hope School, Mr Dawie Harmse said "Days such as these boost the children's morale. It motivates them to learn and to realise that they have a place in the Army and the outside world. People tend to discriminate against the disabled and that is not necessary".

The learners happily enjoyed obstacle crossing, which some soldiers dislike. The children were also treated to activities such as soccer, paintball and water slides. "We want to give the children time to laugh, relax and enjoy themselves. Most people reject them because of their disabilities. Last year a learner named Tshepo only wanted to slide on the water slides, because his friends could and he couldn't (owing to the severity of his disability). We helped him to get up on the slide, he then slid down with a smile on his face," said WO2 Maryna Botes.

The event was a great success. WO2 Botes pleaded with individuals, to search into their hearts and support people with disabilities. "Before coming here, I took the event lightly as just another charity, but honestly being here touched my heart and that of my colleagues", she said.

As reporter for the day, I took pictures of honest children who do not have the power to help themselves, but were still positive. Even though it was very emotional it made me realize that we must all thank God for what we have, and give more, rather than take.
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Consumers can apply for the Old Mutual Investment Credit Card Account online at www.oldmutual.co.za/card or by phoning Old Mutual on 0860 007 007.
At the beginning of the year continuous rain over a period of more than five days caused flooding in large areas of KwaZulu-Natal. People were stranded on isolated higher ground without safe drinking water or food, their bodies exposed to the elements. Out at sea, a foreign freighter passing through South African waters sent out a distress signal - one of its crew members was injured during a storm. In the Drakensberg Mountains a group of students hiking during their April recess suddenly encountered the harshness of nature when a girl slipped on dry grass and fell down a precipice, breaking her leg and fracturing her skull. In some rural areas of the Province, there is fear of cholera, a killer disease spread through the innocent looking streams where people meet to obtain their water for drinking, cooking and domestic maintenance. Surely this is a situation that calls for strategic management and co-ordination.

Joint Operations Tactical Headquarters KwaZulu-Natal (JOpTac HQ KZN) in Durban has a unique function in the SANDF that addresses the complexities of a province such as KwaZulu-Natal. The Officer Commanding of JOpTac HQ KZN, Col N. Bavuma, who has been at the helm of JOpTac HQ KZN since 23 August 2006, explained some of the most important responsibilities of JOpTac HQ KZN: “We exercise control over all Defence Air Operations involving allocated air resources in JOpTac HQ, which is the geographical area of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Maritime Exclusive Economic Zone. We ensure that the intelligence section maintains contact with all the phases of operations. We issue warning orders to the relevant flying units and units responsible for supplying the Mobile Air Operations Team for possible joint operations. We do joint planning and integration of all military operations involving air resources in JOpTac HQ KZN and we also provide inputs and guidelines for the utilisation of the air sensors, which may include air photography, tactical image interpretation capabilities, etc”.

This is a phenomenal co-ordinating task, including helicopters from 15 Squadron at Air Force Base Durban, and non-military interest groups, such as:

- SA Search and Rescue Organisation, which is humanitarian in nature and accepts its moral obligation to assist aircraft and people in distress.
- Mountain Club of SA and/or Nature Conservation
- Metro Police KZN
- Provincial and Local Disaster Management (primarily Fire-fighting Services)
- Marine and Coastal Management (Department of Environmental Affairs)
- Sea Patrol Co-ordinating Committee (Cape Town, Southern Cape, Overberg and Northern Cape)
- Medical Rescue and Co-ordinating Committee
(Pietermaritzburg, KZN)

- Netcare 911 (provides pre-hospital risk management and emergency assistance)
- EMRS (Air Mercy Services helicopters)
- Volunteer Emergency Medical Association
- Airports Company South Africa - Durban
- KZN Wildlife (marine and land based)
- National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa
- Private and State hospitals
- Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Committee (Cape Town)
- Various specialised SA Police Service units (Special Task Force, National Intervention Unit, including K9 Search and Rescue)

JOpTacHQ KZN is staffed by members of all the Services with 44 full-time members and 18 Reserve Force members. This team works very closely together in order to support the people of South Africa through the co-ordination of search and rescue operations, disaster relief, border patrolling and response to possible crises that might arise during certain situations, such as elections or the FIFA Soccer World Cup in 2010.

Col Bavuma, is very proud of his staff component. “My staff are motivated, co-operative and highly disciplined. This is proved particularly during the numerous deployments in which we participate. They walk the extra mile - they go beyond the call of duty.”

There is a distinctly close relationship between 15 Squadron at Air Force Base Durban and JOpTacHQ KZN. Col Bavuma explained that according to the specific situation the contribution to be made by the SANDF must be analysed - particularly the risk involved to military aircraft and the safety of the crew. He explained: “We have regular meetings with other agencies where all matters that affect the province are discussed. Owing to the complexity of the province, specific disaster management meetings are also held on a regular basis as a separate forum”.

Lt Col JJ Geldenhuys, SO1 Air Operations at JOpTacHQ KZN, is the man with his finger on the provincial pulse. He is a strong advocate of stakeholder relationship management. With his amenable character, the people in his network of responsibility learned through experience that he was a man who could be relied upon - always available to manage any strategic situation in the province. The safety of the people is his concern and his passion is his Service, the SA Air Force.

“Every time you speak to any of your stakeholders it is an opportunity to market the services of the SA Air Force. Through your track record you have proved that it is an organisation that can be relied upon,” said Lt Col Geldenhuys. A considerable number of sea rescue operations are co-ordinated through JOpTacHQ KZN each year.

In 2008 Lt Col Geldenhuys realised that for sea rescue operations the helicopter pilots and crew were highly trained, but he identified a need for an accompanying support team. He therefore established the specialist rescue support team consisting of a doctor, paramedic and two SA Navy divers, now known as a “Medical Airborne Rescue Team”. If a rescue mission is far out at sea, two helicopters are tasked in support of each other, both with a Maritime Rescue Team on board. “This is very important, because if something goes wrong with one helicopter, then you have a back-up team to continue the mission,” said Lt Col Geldenhuys.

The success of JOpTacHQ KZN is to be seen not only in the regular exercises held between 15 Squadron and the Medical Airborne Rescue Team, but in the wider context joint exercises of all the stakeholders. Lt Col Geldenhuys finds his work deeply satisfying; as he described it: “The Tactical HQ makes a positive contribution to the province. Everybody knows we are there for support; we all form a strong cohesive bond in service of the province which makes me proud to wear the SA Air Force uniform.”
Musketry performance that inspired admiration

By L Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Martina Navratilova once said: “When you are a winner, you have to set the standard for excellence wherever you go and time and again come up with one consistent great performance after another.”

The Warrant Officer of the SA Army, SCWO Mothusi Kgaladi, hosted the 2009 Warrant Officers (WOs) and Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) Regimental Skills Evaluation at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg from 17 to 20 August 2009.

The musketry skills at the heart of the competition revealed a wide variety of skill-at-arms in various categories, e.g. fitness, theory, neatness, shooting, pace stick and map-reading. The event was a good reflection of military tradition and was a wonderful display of precision. Participating teams from the SA Army and international teams from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, Swaziland, Malawi and Zimbabwe provided spectators with a spectacular and thrilling show of skill, intelligence, obedience, agility and mutual confidence.

All waited in anticipation of the final massed drilling, including a demonstration of foot and arm drills performed in slow and quick march that showed qualities of exceptional teamwork.

At the closure of the competition, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, the Chief Army Force Structure, said that the primary value of drill was to prepare troops for battle. “Drill instills discipline and discipline is an integral part of military life. Drill teaches an individual to respond to commands without hesitation. The objectives that are accomplished by drill are teamwork, confidence, pride, alertness, attention to detail and esprit de corps, and these are as important to modern armies as they were to the ancient armies,” said Maj Gen Dlulane.

Catalysts for uplifting discipline, fltr: WO1 Letlhogile Tshweu (Botswana), WO1 Peter Matsabisa (Lesotho), WO1 James Kamphenga (Malawi), CWO Erick Snyders (SA Army), A S/M Franklin Peters (Namibia), WO1 Fana Dlamini (Swaziland) and WO1 Julius Ncube (Zimbabwe).
The competition was made possible through the generous sponsorship of SA Army Foundation.

**Results in the Africa Competition**

**Individual Competition**

The Africa Trophy for the fittest soldier: Cpl M.M. Makanatleng (Infantry Formation)

Best Shottist: Cpl Moraladi (Training Formation)

Best Lance Corporal: L Cpl D. Mwalinaga (Namibia)

Best Corporal: Cpl M.M. Makanatleng (Infantry Formation)

Best Sergeant: Sgt L.C. Netshivhambe (Training Formation)

Best Staff Sergeant: S Sgt T. Balemogi (Botswana)

Best Warrant Officer: MWO S. Louw (Infantry Formation)

**Pace Stick Competition**

Best Team: Infantry Formation (A Team)

Best Sticker: Cpl B.R. Scotch (Botswana)

Best Driver: Sgt S.J. Mabuku (Botswana)

**Results in the SA Army Competition**

**Individual Competition**

The SA Army Trophy for the fittest soldier: Sgt S.S. Makhooe (Engineer Formation)

Best Shottist: L Cpl V.H. Fillis (Armour Formation)

Best Lance Corporal: L Cpl V.H. Fillis (Armour Formation)

Best Corporal: Cpl D.J.P. de Bus (Armour Formation)

Best Sergeant: Sgt P.M. Mvandaba (Infantry Formation)

Best Staff Sergeant: S Sgt R.C. Els (Armour Formation)

Best Warrant Officer: MWO S. Louw (Infantry Formation)

**Pace Stick Competition**

Best Team: Infantry Formation (A Team)

Best Sticker: Sgt J. Louw (Training Formation)

Best Driver: WO2 T.B. Makhasani (Training Formation)

**AFRICA GRAND PRIX TROPHY:** Combined first place - Zimbabwe and Infantry Formation

**SA ARMY GRAND PRIX TROPHY:** Armour Formation

**Soldiers showing exceptional teamwork during the pace stick drill.**

SCWO Mothusi Kgaladi, the Warrant Officer of the SA Army, presenting the SA Army Grand Prix Trophy to CWO Floors Venter, the SA Army Armour Formation Warrant Officer.
A galaxy of volleyball stars from at least six South African Developing Community (SADC) Defence forces went to the Army Support Base Bloemfontein for the CISM East and Southern African Liaison Office (ESALO) 2009 volleyball tournament at Tempe Military Base from 27 to 31 July 2009.

Borrowed from the French word for the Military Olympic Sports Games, the CISM ESALO volleyball tournament is held every four years and its main aim is to unearth and showcase talented military volleyball players from the SADC member states.

The championships featured military personnel from the SANDF, the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), Botswana Defence Force (BDF), Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force (USDF), Namibian Defence Force (NDF) and the Angolan Armed Forces (AAF).

The men’s semi-final games started like a house on fire with the SANDF pitted against the USDF on Court C. At stake was a place in the finals, and the winning team would be crowned the reigning champions for the next four years.

The SANDF won the first set 25 - 15, much to the delight of the home crowd. However, the SANDF’s performance took a downward spiral after the break and they lost three consecutive sets, eventually loosing out to the USDF by 1-3. The SANDF men then had to settle for third and fourth place play-offs, which they lost by 4 sets to 1, effectively relegating the SANDF men to the 4th place.

The SANDF ladies had the better of the USDF, beating them by with 3 sets to 2 in the semi-finals. The CISM ESALO ladies were held on Court A at the Bloemfontein Indoor Sports Complex. There were some fireworks as the SANDF locked horns with the NDF. Both teams matched each other pound for pound in each set, the winner of each set managing to register high scores.

The NDF drew first blood, beating the SANDF 25 by 24 in the first set. The SANDF then came back with guns blazing in the second set, beating the NDF by 25 to 21 to level the score. The NDF clawed its way back to the top by beating the SANDF 25 to 22 in the second set. The NDF then extended its lead in a closely contested third set by registering 30 points against the 28 of the SANDF, which resulted in the NDF clinching the sought after CISM ESALO Volleyball 2009 Championships trophy, registering a 3-1 win over SANDF.

The equally pulsating CISM ESALO Volleyball Championships men’s finals between the BDF and the USDF produced another exciting match. The BDF had the advantage of the USDF contingent as it fielded three lanky players to produce ferocious blocks and serves. The BDF took the first set by 25 points to the 22 of the USDF. The BDF then extended its lead in the second set by 25 points to the 14 of the USDF in the second set. The USDF then tried to claw their way back in the third set and reached 20 points only to be passed in the last minute by the BDF’s 25 points. The BDF was declared the CISM ESALO Volleyball 2009 Championships winners in the men’s category.

Addressing the CISM ESALO 2009 delegates at the glittering closing ceremony, the General Officer Commanding of the Army Support Base Bloemfontein, Brig Gen Morris Moadira, thanked the organizers for hosting a highly successful tournament. “When you came here on the...”
first day of the championships, I made a promise that your stay would be a memorable one, you would always cherish. The facilities here at Tempe are of a high standard and when a request comes we will be ready to host another tournament”, said Brig Gen Moadira said.

The tournament organisers did an excellent job and ensured a successful event, I will report to the SANDF top management. The organisers worked tirelessly day and night to ensure that everything ran smoothly. I must make a special mention of the Army Support Base Bloemfontein, which provided excellent facilities,” concluded Brig Gen Sedibe.

The following players won awards that were presented to them by Brig Gen Sedibe at the closing ceremony:

SPIKER: Pte Machawe Malindiza (USDF men) and L Cpl Tjerije Magtte (NDF); BLOCKER: L Cpl Francis Dingwe (BDF men) and F Sgt Petro van Niekerk (SANDF women); SETTER: Pte Ntlhanngoe Lebohang (LDF men) and Pte Kasheeta Ndinelago (NDF women); SERVER: L Cpl Boitumelo Baleseng (BDF men) and L Cpl Sepiriti Marethabile (LDF women) as well as the MOST VAUABLE PLAYER: Lt Col Emmanuel Fernandez (FAA men) and L Cpl Jabu Mzizi (USDF women). The special award for the team of the tournament went to the Botswana Defence Force for showing consistency and fair play through out the tournament.

“The Head of Delegation of the CISM ESALO tournament, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, also praised the various stakeholders for ensuring that the logistics and the planning of the tournament went according to plan.

Players in action during the CISM ESALO Volleyball men semi-finals between the SANDF and the USDF. USDF beat the SANDF by 3sets to 1.
Let your feet do the walking...

By Kgabo Mashamaite  
Photos: Cpl Itumeleng Kedijang, 6 ASU Bloemspruit

An estimated 500 SANDF members braved two chilly mornings on 9 and 10 September 2009 to participate in the 5th SANDF 2009 Walking Championships in the DOD Mobilisation Centre in Bloemfontein at the De Brug training area.

The event began on the Wednesday morning in (5 degrees Celsius) perfect weather for endurance athletes that came from all military walking associations countrywide. The athletes’ enthusiasm was high as they took advantage of the favourable conditions to negotiate the difficult obstacle course on the route.

While portraying a positive image of the SANDF, the main objectives of the event were to enhance force preparation in the SANDF, promote team building, general physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

The first day was a 75 kilometre route where athletes encountered course obstacles while for others it was a dress rehearsal to measure their walking time and to explore different walking rhythms.

Precisely at 08:00 a cannon was fired to mark the start of the 5th SANDF 2009 Walking Championships and highly enthusiastic masters and senior ladies’ teams began to race. The event over two days had to be calculated to get the average time of the winners in all categories.

The categories were as follows: Masters men & women teams, Veteran men & women teams, Senior men and women teams (a&b), Senior mixed men & women teams and individual men and women. Among the course obstacles encountered were rocky and steep Pieters Kop, a muddy and steep driving range used for off-road and infantry combat vehicles.

On Thursday, which was the second and final day of the race, athletes were in high spirits as they sang and danced. The atmosphere was electric. At exactly 07:30 a cannon was fired to mark the start of the walk day of the championship. The first group of walkers passed the 10 km mark at about 08:20 with the mixed infantry team.

According to Capt Kobus Jacobs, Army Support Base (ASB) Bloemfontein Range Safety Officer, who was driving the leading vehicle to clear the way for the athletes, the last leg of the event was more of a test of character than just a championship walk.

“Today’s route will not be the same for all the athletes, the obstacle courses are towards the end of the 40 km and, as I see it, this is not only a test of one’s fitness but of mental ability as well. To make it more interesting, the athletes will have to negotiate all obstacle courses and their fitness and mental state will be tested to the utmost”, said Capt Jacobs.

At the refuelling point after 11 km the leading teams could be seen strain ing in 12 cm of sand.

The leadership positions started changing after the 22 km mark. The first obstacle course (the driving range course) favorites were: CPO Nhlanhla Khanyile won the championships by clocking an impressive 7:27:18 time, followed by Rfn Schwartz with an overall 7:41:49. Rfn Kolokome came fifth with an overall 7:58:50.
CPO Khanyile was declared the overall winner of the 5th SANDF Walking Championships 2009 in the men’s category by clocking an impressive 7:27:18, followed by Rfn Gregory Schwartz with an overall of 7:41:49 and AB Myolisi Xayo with 7:42:21. They were followed by Pte Tshegofatso Leshiba with 7:44:10 and Rfn Setshaba Kolokome with 7:58:50.

The fastest walker in the senior ladies’ category was 24 year-old Simons Town Fleet Command based S Lt Mphoki Bokaba, who registered an overall time of 8:44:39, followed by Mantshadi Lemela, a 22 year-old 2009 Military Skills Development Mechanised Infantry Combat trainee at 1 SA Infantry Bloemfontein who clocked 9:26:53 and A.L. Sono with 10:28:46.

The other results were as follows:

**Senior Men’s Teams:** BMWC with 6 members 8:03:18; SAS Saldanha 5 members 8:14:49 and School of Engineers 5 members 8:34:24.

**Ladies Teams:** BMWC with 5 members 10:01:33; WC Snr Ladies with 5 members 10:29:25 and Potch Defence "C" with 5 members 10:46:25.

**Prestige Teams:** 10 Air Depot 9:30:30 with 5 members and SE Cape with 5 members 9:59:07.

**Veteran Men Individuals:** Mkololo V.J. clocked 7:59:54, Msulwa T.E. 8:12:00; Macabela M.K. 8:35:57.


**Masters Men Individuals:** M.A. Ramaotswa 8:30:16; W.D. Carolus 9:14:45 and S.P. Shoba 9:58:44.

**Masters Ladies Individuals:** G. van Heerden 9:33:07.

Addressing the delegates at the prize-giving ceremony, Lt Col Kobus Louw, the Second in Command of the DOD Mobilisation Centre thanked all the participants for the good competitive spirit and behaviour during the event. Lt Col Louw also thanked Bloemfontein Unit Commanders and all their walkers and personnel for their logistical support that made the event a success.

As he was handing out trophies and medals to the winners, Col Etienne Step, Chairperson of the SANDF Walking Association, said: "The handing out of trophies and medals to honour military members and sportsmen and women is a custom that stretches over many years. However, trophies and medals are not merely handed out, but are earned. It is my honour and pleasure to congratulate the receivers of the trophies and medals on their achievements. With almost 400 walkers, the relatively high temperatures and the difficult terrain the competition was very strong and it was no easy achievement. You have all deserved it."
Operation CLEAN AUDIT - It starts with YOU!

“The responsibility for the implementation and ultimate success of Operation Clean Audit (OCA) rests with everybody within the department and I, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, have pledged my full commitment and cooperation to ensuring that the department achieves a clean audit in the foreseeable future. I urge you to do the same; remember it starts with you” - quote by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, on Operation Clean Audit.

Operation CLEAN AUDIT (OCA) is an initiative of the Department of Defence (DOD) to clear the audit qualifications for the Department. The Auditor General of South Africa has for the past four financial years issued a qualified audit opinion on the financial statements of the DOD. The Auditor General has a constitutional mandate as the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of South Africa. SAI exists to strengthen our country’s democracy by enabling oversight, accountability and governance in the public sector, thereby building public confidence.

The biggest challenge for the Department, as is the case in most of the government, is that the current systems, in particular the financial management systems, do not necessarily support all the requirements for the DOD to comply with the relevant accounting standards and the Public Finance Management Act, the PFMA. Other factors that are inhibiting the DOD from complying with the PFMA include the inherent challenges in developing and implementing key internal controls within the department and non-compliance with the relevant policies and procedures. This has led to the DOD not being able to account for and report on its resources for the past number of years.

These problems are compounded further by the capacity constraints facing government in general, and the lack of the required skills and competencies in accounting and auditing.

All these known factors have directly and/or indirectly contributed to the DOD receiving the qualified audit reports from the Auditor General.

How the OCA aims to assist the DOD in achieving a clean audit report

The approach adopted by the OCA team is to assist the DOD, firstly in identifying and confirming all of the root causes for the audit qualifications, secondly to put measures in place to address these root causes, including developing and implementing improved policies and procedures and internal controls and, thirdly, to train and provide DOD employees with the skills to be able to perform their duties more efficiently and effectively.

The ultimate objective is to achieve quality financial reporting and to adopt an adequate system of internal controls as well as improved policies, procedures and adherence thereto, all of which are critical to achieving a clean audit report.

The OCA team is made up of members of the DOD and a team of external consultants, who have been brought in to provide the DOD with the additional capacity and the accounting and auditing skills and expertise required to carry out a project of this nature. However, the ultimate responsibility for implementing the solutions being introduced by the OCA team rests with every member of the DOD.

OCA progress so far

The project is currently in its ninth month of implementation and progress has already been made in the 2008/09 financial year in which three audit qualifications from the previous financial year have now been cleared. Roadshows are currently being planned in which the team will share more details on the project with everyone affected and provide some basic training in what is required of them to participate in and contribute to achieving a clean audit report. So look out for the roadshow near you and remember: It starts with YOU!
SA ARMY
Writing Competition (PTE - LT COL)
“How to improve SA Army Force Preparation for Peace Missions in Africa”
31 July 2009 - 26 February 2010

Background

In 2005 the SA Army commenced with a project, today known as Future SA Army Strategy, to identify future challenges and how to overcome them. One of the challenges that was identified is the lack of a reading and writing culture in the organisation. One of the SA Army’s objectives this year is to facilitate a writing competition for members in the ranks of private (Pte) to lieutenant colonel (Lt-Col) in the organisation to encourage all members to think about contemporary and future challenges that the organisation may face, as well as to develop their reading and writing skills. This forms part of the concept of creating a learning organisation.

Topic

The broad topic for the writing competition is ‘How to improve SA Army force preparation for peace missions in Africa’. Members are encouraged to write about personal experiences, lessons learnt and/or case studies pertaining to African peace missions. Future challenges may also be addressed. Any force preparation aspects can be covered, namely capabilities, doctrine, ETD, multinational, mission-readiness, force or formal training, as well as tactics, techniques and procedures. Members are be encouraged to make specific recommendations that are focused on the topic.

Title page

All papers should have a title page with the following information of the entrant:

- Title of paper
- Force number
- Rank & name
- Unit
- Appointment
- Cell phone number
- Work telephone number
- Work fax number
- Postal address

Contact us/Submit entries

The contact details of the organisers of the competition are:

- Telephone number: 012 355 2588/7
- Email: armycompetition@yahoo.com
- Postal Address: Future SA Army Strategy, SA Army Headquarters, Private Bag X172, Pretoria, 0001

Competition Rules

1. Entrance (Pte to Lt Col). Only members in the ranks of private to lieutenant colonel may enter. Only SA Army members may enter the competition. Members of the Future SA Army Strategy project team, as well as lecturers and researchers of the Faculty of Military Science (Military Academy) are not allowed to enter. Academic assistants as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students of the SA Army at the Military Academy may and are encouraged to enter.

2. Number of Authors. There may be only one author per paper. No co-authored papers (papers written by more than one author) will be allowed. No more than one paper may be submitted by the same author.

3. Length of Papers. Papers should be a minimum of 3,000 and a maximum of 4,000 words. Papers outside the length restrictions may be penalised.

4. Electronic Format. Papers must be submitted in electronic format only. No hard copies or faxes will be accepted.

5. Copyright. The SA Army reserves copyright of the writers’ papers.

6. Plagiarism. Any forms of plagiarism will result in disqualification. The direct copying of text or parts thereof from other papers, articles or sources, except for the purpose of quotations (with source reference) will result in disqualification.

7. Source Referencing. Each entrant must have detailed source references in addition to the bibliography. It is compulsory to use endnotes, footnotes or the shortened Harvard method for detailed source references. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification.

8. Technical Layout. The Conventions of Service Writing or the Military Academy’s Guidelines for the Writing of Assignments and Staff Papers can be used for the technical layout of the paper. This rule must be read in conjunction with Rule 7.

9. Original Work and Verification of Sources. All papers should be the original work of the entrants. Papers submitted to other competitions where results are still pending are not eligible for entry. Entrants may be required to verify their sources within 12 hours. Entrants may also be asked to take part in telephonic interviews in the event that plagiarism is suspected and to verify sources. Entrants do not cooperate in this regard they will be disqualified.

10. Language and Spelling. Papers with poor language and spelling will be penalised.

11. Submission of Entries. Entries should be submitted in electronic format via email to armycompetition@yahoo.com or in CD format via mail to Future SA Army Strategy, SA Army Headquarters, Private Bag X172, Pretoria, 0001.

12. Closing Date. Entries will be accepted after 26 February 2010. It is the entrant’s responsibility to confirm that the paper was received by the organisers before the closing date. No hard copies or hand-written papers will be accepted.

13. Mark Sheet. The mark sheet of the Military Academy’s Guidelines for the Writing of Assignments and Staff Papers will be used as one of the tools to determine the prize winners. Aspects like originality, logical flow, relevant facts, quality of research, arguments, breadth, depth, synthesis, conclusions and recommendations (among others) will also be considered to determine the best papers.

14. Evaluation and Judging of Papers. From all the entrants, the SA Army Future Strategy project team will select seven finalists. From the finalists a panel of judges will determine the first, second, and third prize winners.

15. Quality of Papers. Should the papers notice of the desired standard the organisers and/or panel reserve the right not to award any prize or award prizes.

16. Disqualification. Entrants who fail to comply with any of the above-mentioned rules will be disqualified.

17. Decisions. The decisions of the panel will be final.

18. Enquiries. For enquiries contact the SA Army Future Strategy project team telephonically at 012 3552588/7 or send an email to armycompetition@yahoo.com

The prize money will be awarded as follows:

1st prize: R10 000
2nd prize: R7 000
3rd prize: R3 000

BAE Systems is the sponsor of the prizes.

SA army
Department: Defence
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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