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STREET ADDRESS
Defence Headquarters
c/o Nossob and Boeing St
Erasmuskloof
PRETORIA

POSTAL ADDRESS
SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

TELEPHONE
Tel: 012 355 6341 Fax: 012 355 6399
email: sasoldier@mil.za
website: www.dod.mil.za

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mr S. Dlamini (Chairperson)
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CONTRIBUTIONS:
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

REPRODUCTION, PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION:
Coordinating Concepts cc
630 Jamestown Street
Elardus Park, Pretoria, 0181
Tel: 012 345 6408
Fax: 086 515 2185/6/7
email: coordinatingconcepts@gmail.com

2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).
2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor:
Ms Nelda Pienaar
Mr Lutuno Netshirembe
Mr Kgabo Mashamaite
S Sgt Lebogang Thaole
Sgt Elias Mahuma
Cpl Ally Rakoma
Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

Deputy Editor:
Mr Eugene Muller
Translation Consultant:
Directorate Language Services
Distribution:
Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: 012 355 6341
Layout & Design:
Mr Werner v/d Westhuizen

www.dod.mil.za
SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER does not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

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FRONT COVER: HONOURING OUR FALLEN HEROES. Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, CEO SA Army Foundation, left and a member of the South African National Defence Force, paying tribute to fallen World War I&II heroes at the Cenotaph, Johannesburg during the National Civic Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony on 14 November 2010. Read all that on page 23. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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

With Christmas approaching we should once more evaluate our personal relationship with Christ. Turn to God so that you can experience a truly Christ-centred festival in your life.

May you sense his intense presence during this Advent time in an extra special way. May He protect you on your journeys and keep you and your loved ones safe. May every day of the Christmas season be an experience for you of the risen and living Christ and may your heart rejoice superabundantly.

May this Christmas time be significant and joyful because God is the centre of it. Perform actions of love and compassion to others by the power that only God who is with you can bestow on you.

Pray for people who are sick and lonely over the Christmas period and convey their names to the Great Healer and Loving Father.

An abundance of Christmas blessings for you and your loved ones on Christmas Day. Ensure that God’s mercy forms the centre of your day and your Christmas celebrations.

Best wishes until we correspond in the New Year.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor
Be like a fruit bearing tree

By Rev Marius Cornelissen, Chaplain General

Isaiah 9:5-6. “A child is born to us ... and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.”

Jeremiah 17:5-8 and Mark 8:22-26. “I see people; they look like trees.”

The traditional Christmas tree is one of the best-known symbols of the festive season. Households will take out the old plastic trees or buy real ones. Kids will decorate them with enthusiasm. Shops are putting up large ones to bring people into the spirit of buying presents for one another, a true symbol of the festive season.

When the blind man in Mark 8 says that he sees people and they look like trees and when Jeremiah calls on us in chapter 17 to be a fruit bearing and not a dry tree, it raises the question at the end of the year - what type of trees are we? If people have to characterise you, what type of tree will you be? A wild bush or a strong, well rooted tree giving strength and shade to those around you, a thorny tree that is untouchable or a fruit tree providing for those in need. An ugly dry worthless tree or a beautiful tree full of flowers?

Jeremiah 17 is calling on us to be a strong tree, well rooted, giving shade and fruit to those around us and contributing purposefully to the world, the country and the communities we live in. In order for us to achieve this, the normal rules for becoming a beautiful, big and fruit bearing tree apply.

- Like a tree we must be pruned from time to time. Pruning is never easy. It is never easy to take out the part that is dry, skew and not fitting and to take out the old parts so that the new fruit and flower bearing parts can blossom. However, we have to allow this to happen.

We have to listen to other peoples’ inputs and advice for our lives. We have to listen to the mentorship and guidance of our seniors and elders. We have to test ourselves against God’s Word and prune our lives to be the shape that God wants us to be. Only then can we represent God fully and be as effective as we want to be.

- Like a tree we need to be nurtured on a regular basis. As a tree needs water and nourishment we need to be nurtured in order to grow strongly, give plentifully and bring shade, fruit and beauty to our environment. This we get by regularly reading good books, listening to good music, spending time with good friends, enjoying the beauty of God’s creation and continuing to study.

- Like a tree we need a firm and strong root system. No tree without a strong root system will outlast the storms of life. In fine weather a tree may look as if it is beautiful, but as the storms of life strike time and again a rootless tree will be uprooted and die. Our root system as people is our relationship with our Creator, God Almighty. The stronger this relationship is the stronger and deeper our root system becomes and the more it becomes easy to stand firm and handle the storms of life. Therefore it is imperative that we should on a regular basis build on our relationship with God by reading the Bible, listen to the preaching of His Word, share with other believers both at home and church and talk to God in prayer.

The result of this is and will be that we will be like a strong tree that is not afraid of dry times or of the storms of life and that we will be able to go into the new year with confidence, knowing that we will be able not only to stand firm but also to provide shade, strength, fruit and beauty to those in need.

Therefore when we see all the beautiful Christmas trees this festive season - let us be reminded that they symbolise a God that has reached out to us in the form of his Son in order to nurture us with what we need, to prune us to be effective, to root us in the Father so that we can be strong in serving Him, His people and His universe in our own Department, country and continent.

May you all have a blessed Christmas season and God inspired New Year.
**WORST NIGHTMARES**

* In recognition of World AIDS Day:

My place to live is the human body.
I enjoy human blood,
I am well known,
Worldwide they know me,
People have unanswered questions,
Where is my origin?
Don't ask, no need for that.
I am HIV the son of AIDS.
Born and raised in the human body
It was during unsafe sexual intercourse
Spread from oneself
To the other through unsafe sex.
You may ask many
Orphaned children about me
They are left motherless and fatherless

Parents are also left childless
I don’t choose;
I just kill young or old, rich or poor,
Educated or illiterate
I don’t have mercy I enjoy watching you
Rot while still alive.

Mind you, I have got my brothers
And sisters: STDs,
They make my job very easy …
To kick those who hate
My uncle condom into the grave.
You men fasten your trousers belt
You women stand your ground
And act responsibly
I am watching you!
You can defect me
By using my uncle condom

He is the only one to defeat me
Or you can also abstain
And remain faithful to your partner,
Because I was born through sex,
You hate my uncle condom;
I will deal with you,
I punish all those who ignore my laws.

You can hate me, I don’t care,
But be wise, respect my uncle condom.
He is here to protect you.
I kill painfully!
I care for no woman, no man, no child,
Even unborn babies.
Respect my laws; respect my uncle condom
And you will live long!

Dolik Kwena Manamela,
2 Field Engineering Regiment

---

**SILENT KILLER**

Ugly like darkness.
Cruel like a snake.
Singing like a death.
Hungry like a grave.
HIV and AIDS

You never bring peace at home
You don’t build, but demolish
You crack every foundation
You are not credible in the society
You never bring prosperity.
You are a good friend of traumatic stress,
Disposal and depression
HIV and AIDS

You don’t consider orphans.
You don’t consider language
You don’t consider colour.
You don’t consider age
You don’t consider positions in the organisation
You don’t consider circumstances
HIV and AIDS

Charity begins at home
AIDS awareness starts at home.
Make a condom your close friend.

Treat condoms as your seat belt
Talk about condoms in the synagogues.
HIV and AIDS

Where is your close friend today?
Where is your neighbour?
Lying in agony in hospital.
In the state of never return.
Silence and master of killing.
HIV and AIDS.

Maj Dance Matamela,
JSB Garrison

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**ASB LIMPOPO GOSPEL STAR BACK TO HIS ROOTS**

S Sgt Mphedziseni Stanley Libunyu released his first album, which was also published in *SA Soldier* in 2002. The gospel star started singing in 1984, before joining the Military in 1990 in the Venda Defence Force, after which he was transferred to ASB Limpopo (Pietersburg). Since joining the SA Army, he has worked in the music Department where he still is. He passed the musical courses up to Principal Musician.

This ASB Limpopo gospel star released his new album on 15 September 2010 - *E joale ke tla oroha* with 10 tracks. This album consists of Zion Church hymns, among others. Most of the tracks in this album have helped heal people's souls. Some of the famous songs are *Madulong a dinyakallo*, *Sefefo sa moya* and *Medingwana*. There is a lot of support from his colleagues and fans all over Limpopo.

To my family, colleagues and friends, "U nembelela ha shamba a si u wa halo". You are encouraged to buy original CDs. I also give thanks to Judith Recording company and Hani Studio as they were supportive in...
"It is almost as hard for friends to meet
As for the morning and evening stars
Tonight then is a rare event,
Joining, in the candle light
Two men who were young not long ago
But now are turning grey at the temples.
… To find that half our friends are dead
Shocks us, burns our hearts with grief
We little guessed it would be twenty years
Before I could visit you again …”

These were the thoughts of the Chinese poet Tu Fu (712 - 770) when he reunited with his retired friend after a long absence, thoughts that are still very relevant today.

Because it always would always be very unlikely to bring together all the members of a particular group (in this case programme) at the same place at the same time, there are a few things in the career of a soldier that leave such a lasting impression as a well-organised and well-attended reunion. This was the case when more than half of the members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 02/00 and their spouses met at the SA National Defence College in Thaba Tshwane for their 10th reunion on 16 October 2010.

Brig Gen CD Schoeman, Commandant of the College, welcomed the members present, while Col Poerrie van Wyk (Ret) confirmed the importance of a well-balanced life. In the absence of the Regal of ENSP 02/00, viz Capt (SAN) Pat Spencer (Ret) who now resides in New Zealand, the reunion was organised by a committee led by Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for the ENSP 02/00. He delivered the opening address on behalf of the Regal and reminded the group why their course slogan was "Second to None". He also presented the sponsors of the event with certificates of appreciation while each member and the spouses present received a gift.

Col Robbie Blake, a Programme Facilitator (PF International Studies) at the College, presented a brief overview of the current ENSP and developments and progress with the programme over the past decade, while the guest speaker, Dr Pinda Udith, provided an analysis of events over the past ten years. Interesting facts provided by Col Blake were that 117 members from other countries, including 22 African countries, have already attended or are attending the programme.

The tradition of opening time capsules with predictions for the future that were made in November 2000 of each programme member, was adhered to, but it was clear that soldiers are much more comfortable dealing with reality. The highlight of the event was a braai at the Grasdak where the members had the opportunity to catch up and exchange personal news of the past ten years.

The members who could not manage to attend, missed out on a wonderful experience. As Tu Fu pondered about the opportunity to meet again in the future: “… Tomorrow the mountains will separate us; after tomorrow - who can say?” Col Riaan Louw, Acting Officer Commanding ASB Potchefstroom (member of ENSP 02/00).
LEARNERS VOW TO JOIN THE SANDF

After a visit to various military installations as the guests of the Chief of the SANDF on 1 October 2010, many learners of the Siyabuswa KwaNdebele Science School in Mpumalanga were committed to joining the SANDF.

The aim of the visit was to inform the youth about the core business of the SANDF and the career opportunities on offer. Learners were exposed to military installations, specifically the SA Army and the SA Air Force, and interacted with SANDF members. The learners started their journey at the SA Air Force Museum at Swartkop Air Force Base where they were shown different career opportunities, and what was needed to join the SANDF was explained to them. They completed their tour at the SA Army Engineer Formation. The Life Orientation, Learning Outcome: Career Guidance Educator, Mr Isaiah Masekela, was impressed with the information given about the different career opportunities. He said: “Learners benefited a lot during our visit. Now they cannot wait to apply and join the SANDF.” He indicated that it was the first time they had visited the SANDF. A learner of the KwaNdebele Science School, Mr Stanley Obokeng Mahlo-bogoane, who is interested in construction management or graphic design in the SANDF, said: “I have learnt a lot about careers in the SANDF. The SANDF is interesting because you do not deal only with fighting, but also with lots of careers, such as engineering. I also learnt more about respect, discipline and how to be a torch bearer”. He encouraged his fellow learners not to think that the SANDF was only about being a soldier and carrying a rifle.

Another learner, Ms Lehlogonolo Phetha, learnt that the SANDF provided regional and national security. She said: “I have learnt how combat engineers construct bridges and maps. In future I would like to join the SANDF and become a social worker so that I can deal with the problems that other people have.” Mandla Mahlangu, Pretoria

F I N A L R E S T I N G P L A C E F O R S A A F B O E I N G 7 0 7 1 4 1 7

The article on page 47 of the September 2010 edition refers.

I am, in particular, referring to the portion: “Highlights of the Boeing 707-328C SAAF 1417” of the specific article, to which I would very much like to contribute as well. A very important event, to my mind, during the service rendered by this specific Boeing and her crew, was the collection and safe transit of the crew of Pelican 16 (the ill-fated Shackleton [1716], that crash-landed, en route to the UK, in the western Sahara on 13 July 1994.)

After the Shackleton crew was safely flown from the town of Tindouf (in south-western Algeria), by a C-130 of the Algerian Air Force to the capital city, Algiers, on the morning of 16 July 1994, they were met by the crew of 60 Squadron in Boeing 1417 that landed approximately half an hour after their arrival. En route from AFB Waterkloof to Algiers, the Boeing crew had landed at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to collect an unser-viceable engine of the Shackleton that was left behind after an engine change.

I was one of the 19 members on board Pelican 16 and will never forget the wonderful sight of the Boeing 1417 touching down and taxiing in at the Algerian International Airport that morning. I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of the rest of the crew, although four members of the crew have since then sadly passed on to higher service.

The Boeing 1417 took off in Algeria at approximately 14:00 (SA time), that same day, bound for Cape Town and, after a direct flight of 10½ hours, she landed safely at Cape Town International at 00:30 on the morning of Sunday, 17 July 1994, where the crew of Pelican 16 was happily reunited with their respective families, friends and colleagues. (This probably marks the second longest flight that was flown by the Boeing 1417, taking into account the information given in your article.) On that historic flight some of the crew members of Boeing 1417 brought home the crew of Pelican 16. The commander, I recall, was Col Bill Good, the 1st Navigator, Lt Col A.J. de Villiers (at present OC AFCP Joint Tactical HQ Western Cape), and one of the Flight Engineers, WO1 J.P. Nel (at present at 21 Squadron).

This letter serves as a tribute to the crew of that flight and in particular to Boeing 1417 (also referred to as Air Force 17), WO1 L. Ashbury, 35 Squadron, AFB Ysterplaat.

Some of the crew members disembarking from Boeing 1417 at Cape Town International Airport on the morning of Sunday, 17 July 1994. [As a matter of interest and quite coincidentally, the first three members in the photograph are three of the four members to have passed on since then. They are fltr: Mr Ron Bussio (former Museum Curator at AFB Ysterplaat), WO2 Frans Fournie (1st Flight Engineer on board Pelican 16) and WO1 (Ret) Vernon “Gus” Güse (former Aircraft Fitter on Shackletons and former WOIC of the Ground Crew at 35 Squadron). The fourth member to have passed on (not in the photograph) was Maj Eric “Oompie” Pienaar ( Aircraft Commander of Pelican 16 and the pilot who executed the crash landing). The fourth member in the photograph, however, (in the doorway), is WO1 (Ret) Gert “Bucks” Bronkhorst (former Flight Engineer Instructor on Shackletons).]
A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY: STEPS TOWARDS MATURITY

We are all particularly touched when someone of another culture treats us kindly, even though we are not a member of that culture, or when they reveal their inner pain, weakness and difficulties. Perhaps it is then that we feel more deeply this bonding in a common humanity. Friendships grow between people of different backgrounds and cultures because they meet as persons, not because they share a common heritage. Such friendships grow because we all belong to the largest group of all, the human race. The situation does not call for Zaccheus to climb off the tree with his silver tongue, announce to us that we are meant to live and grow together, utilise our God-given talents and skills and resources within our reach to serve each other holistically. This entails our upholding and promoting good ethical values and religious practices.

It is unfortunate that some religious and cultural individuals on the other hand see pluralistic societies, where people of different cultural and religious backgrounds meet and mix as dangerous. They feel that religious and cultural values cannot be maintained in such environments. The danger of moral corruption is real, but there is also value in people meeting as members of humanity and not just as members of a group, as hearts meet hearts and people meet people outside of cultural and religious ties. Humanity cannot afford entertaining and justifying shrewd, misleading man-made dogmas by individuals in their endeavours to pursue their selfish ambitions, which in the first place does not feature anywhere in God’s diary.

This cunning concept might sound convincing to the vulnerable and uninformed minds and cannot remain unchallenged much as they can be nicely decorated and painted with bright and beautiful colours. For some reasons some individuals tend to hide behind religion, culture, goals and activities of a group precisely for their own selfish reasons. It is like the governor of the World Bank appearing on national television announcing to the whole world that people should discontinue using paper money because counterfeit notes are on the loose. However, it would be for him to utter such an incongruous statement in public. We are a society that has transcended that infant stage where we used to be tossed by diverse winds; now information is galore and easily accessible. People were created to think independently, be analytical, critical, and able to interpret situations, conditions and make their own judgments and recommendations.

When religion or culture closes people up in their own particular group, it puts belonging to the group and its success and growth above love and vulnerability towards others; it no longer nourishes and opens the heart. When this happens religion or culture becomes an ideology, a series of ideas that we impose on others and ourselves; it closes us up behind walls. When religion or culture helps us to open our hearts in love, fairness and doing justice to all, including those who are not of our faith, our culture, nation, tribe or our political movements. If the objective is that of helping us find the source of inner peace, inner freedom and joy within our own hearts and to grow in compassion and love for others, then that religion or culture is a source of life.

In a healthy belonging, we have respect for one another; we co-operate in a healthy way, listen to each other and learn how to resolve the conflicts that arise when one person seeks to dominate another. In this true state of belonging, those who have less conventional knowledge, who are seemingly powerless, who have different capacities are respected and listened to. In such a place of belonging, power is not imposed from on high, but all members seek to work together as one body for the common good of all humanity regardless of cultural and or religious diversities. The implication is that we see each other as persons, as humans who are sacred. Whatever our capacities or incapacities, whatever our weaknesses or strengths may be, the crux of the matter is that each of us has an instrument to bring to the vast orchestra of humanity and each of us needs help to become all that we might be. It is in that context that we open up and interact with each other, all of us participating in decision-making.

Belonging calls forth what is most beautiful in our capacity to love and accept others, but it can also awaken anger, jealousy, violence and the refusal to co-operate. This growth to maturity might mean that at certain moments authority has to be exercised with firmness. Little by little as we live and work with others, especially if we are well guided, we learn to break out of the shell of selfishness and self-centeredness where we seek to be brilliant and to prove our goodness, wisdom and power. We receive and give the knocks of life. It is like diamonds as they rub together. Based on that fact we can discover that there are others like us who have gifts and needs; not one of us is the centre of the world. We are a small but important part in our universe and we all have a part to play.

We belong with others and see them as brothers and sisters in humanity and so we learn not only to accept them as they are, with different gifts and capacities, but also to see each one as a person with a vulnerable heart. We learn to forgive those who hurt us or reject us. We ask forgiveness of those we have hurt. We learn to accept humbly those who point out errors and mistakes in us and who challenge us to grow in truth, love, fairness and in doing justice to all at all times. The heart is never successful. It doesn’t want power, honours, privileges or efficiency; it seeks a personal relationship with another, a communion of hearts, which is the to and fro of love. This opening of the heart implies vulnerability and the offering of our needs and weaknesses. The heart gives and receives, but over and above, it gives. The heart goes out to those who practise humility and who cry out in their weakness and their need for understanding and love. It is the human heart and its need for communion that weakens the walls of ideology and prejudice. It leads us from closeness to openness, from the illusion of superiority to vulnerability and humility. For that matter, instead of finding security in the group, we find it in our hearts, which find one another. Hearts, which have found inner freedom, serenity, joy and strength, a real maturity. The intensity of belonging together in a pluralistic society provides structure for humankind, helping it find the necessary resources for its well-being and spiritual nourishment. In that environment we can strengthen the bonds among all members through community meetings, celebrations, religious services, times of prayer and of leisure together, and of course through the attention that needs to be given to each individual. In such an environment it would be effortless for us to confront and respond to the question asked during Jesus' earthly ministry: Who is my neighbour?


Rev (Chaplain) F.K. Sello, Joint Operational HQ (I am writing in my personal capacity)

D E C E M B E R  2 0 1 0 • S A S O L D I E R

OOPS!

It was erroneously reported in the November edition on page 13 in the article "Reskilling of Military Veterans" that "Currently, every learner that enrols through CAT qualifies at NQF Level 12." It should read NQF Level 2. We regret the confusion - Ed.
FIRST CITY DOES IT AGAIN

First City was tasked last year with preparing one Rifle Company to deploy with 1 SA Infantry Battalion to Sudan in May 2010. The officer appointed to take on this task was once again Maj Elton Enrico Stone, the Second in Command of the Regiment.

Maj Stone has on previous occasions led his Unit on missions to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). On these missions, Maj Stone’s Company in Burundi escorted 1 257 members of the FNL rebels to safety after they were disarmed as part of the demobilisation process at the time. This was the biggest grouping to be demobilised in one single Operation.

In the DRC Maj Stone’s Company was tasked with launching patrols in the vicinity of Pinga village in an area occupied by two notorious rebel groups, namely Mai-Mai PARECO and FDLR. The Company executed their task, but not without challenges. On arrival in Pinga after a full day’s driving, Maj Stone and his Intelligence Non-commissioned Officer, Cpl Ramaboa, entered into negotiations with the leaders of the two rebel groupings. Things were very tense on the approach to Pinga as members of FDLR and Mai-Mai PARECO took up offensive positions in the dense forest. As this was a clear battle indication the patrol continued to their destination. On arrival in Pinga Maj Stone confirmed the orders presented by him the previous evening. “If anything goes wrong here today, we will stand our ground and die like soldiers.” These were his last words before he tasked a small protection element to accompany him to the predetermined venue where negotiations were to take place.

I, Rfn Kabane, appointed by Maj Stone to accompany him, was never so scared in all my life, but I trusted the judgement of my Commander. On arrival at the house where the negotiations were to take place, aggressive looking individuals armed with RPG7 and AK47s greeted us. We were not allowed to enter with Maj Stone and Cpl Ramaboa, but Maj Stone insisted that I be allowed to take up a position at the entrance to the house. The negotiations started off on an aggressive note, to the extent that the guards of the rebels started swinging their weapons around the room. This went on for what felt like hours. Maj Stone remained calm and convinced these rebels that we were there to help them. The negotiations were successful and new ground was broken for future operations.

I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to be one of the chosen few to be in the Sudan with Maj Stone and being a member of the first ever Reserve Force Company to deploy as Alpha Company of a Regular Force Battalion. Already the Company has achieved much over the last two months. The Company has been thanked in person by the Sector Commander for the most long-range patrols conducted and for the impact we had in our area of operations. Maj Stone would not have had it any other way. Besides the operational successes the Company had the most disciplined component of the Battalion as no incident of ill discipline occurred. The Company also had the highest percentage of serviceable vehicles in the Battalion because of the strict management of resources and the implementation of battle rhythm procedures and processes.

We will eat disciplined, we will live disciplined, we will sleep disciplined and if there is a need we will die disciplined. Reserve Force Company, Alpha Company 1 SA Infantry Battalion I salute you, my Commander. Maj Stone I salute you, Sir. In your words Commander ... “Reserve Force Company, Alpha Company shall lead operations in Sector North, Dafur in Sudan, the rest shall follow”. Rfn M.E. Kabane

Vehicle maintenance parade every Friday in Malha.

SHARING THE

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

As the festive period unfolded on 10 November 2010 at 10 Air Depot, Lt Gen Derick MgwWEBI, the Chief of Human Resources and the Patron of the 2010 Goodwill Parcel Project, officially handed over the goodwill parcel hampers to Senior Warrant Officers from the Services and Divisions to be delivered to the families of the deployed SANDF members.

Lt Gen Mgwwebi expressed his gratitude to the leadership of the SANDF, stakeholders, the SANDF Spouses Forum and the sponsors for their leading role as anchors of morale support to our deployed soldiers. He

THE GOODWILL

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Rakoma

The Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, invited MCWO Johan Scheepers, invited SA Soldier to observe the packaging of the 2010 Goodwill Parcel hampers for our deployed soldiers, both internal and external, for the festive season at 10 Air Depot in Thaba Tshwane on 20 October 2010.

The Goodwill Parcel Project is regarded as significant and one that continues to do well by doing good. The SANDF Spouses Forum, chaired by Ms Busicwe Ngwenya (wife of the Chief of the SANDF), the Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, Services and Divisional Warrant Officers and the sponsors of the Goodwill Parcel Project are committed to reaching out to our
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH SANDF MEMBERS

said: “A good friend is an angel who lifts us off our feet when our wings have trouble in remembering how to fly. This can never be more pertinent than in the case of taking a moment to appreciate the enormous contribution of SANDF members both internally and externally and its outstanding value to humanity.”

Mr Gerrit Beumer, the Head of Pensions: ABSA and the Chairperson of the Civilian Leg of the Goodwill Parcel Project, mentioned to SA Soldier that we were made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.

He said that appreciating and preserving the wonders of the human world started right on our very own doorstep. Mr Beumer said: “Sharing the Christmas spirit with SANDF members, we believe and are of the view that we are all on the correct path for the good of humanity. South Africans can be immensely proud of our soldiers’ dedication to their task at hand. We value their contribution to this nation and indeed to Africa as a whole.”

PARCEL PROJECT DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

deployed peace ambassadors.

During the packaging of the 2010 Goodwill Parcel hampers for our deployed soldiers Mr Gary Lewis, the Sales Manager of Huletts Sugar, handed a Goodwill Parcel hamper to Ms Ngwenya and said: “This is our token of appreciation. We would like to assist the SANDF in helping to extend goodwill in our region, continent and elsewhere. We give back because that is the right thing to do. We also give back because we are fortunate enough to do so.” (Huletts Sugar and other business partners contributed to this project and stood fully behind the SANDF.)

Ms Ngwenya expressed her gratitude towards the sponsors of the project and said that the SANDF Spouses Forum, along with the leadership of the SANDF, wanted the SANDF members, their families and society at large, above all to see the SANDF as a responsible organisation which their sons and daughters would want to work for.

The Chairperson of the Goodwill Project, MCWO Scheepers, attributes success to the commitment and dedication of the sponsors who play a vital role. He added that the Goodwill Parcel Project continued to pull out all the stops to change perceptions and the lives of soldiers by reaching out as well to their families during the festive season.

Mr Gary Lewis, the Sales Manager of Huletts Sugar, hands over a 2010 Goodwill Parcel hamper box to Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum and wife of the Chief of the SANDF.
The establishment of the Department of Military Veterans by the President and Commander in Chief of the SANDF marked the beginning of an era for the South African military veterans. Fundamentally this establishment meant that President Jacob Zuma’s administration was legally committing itself to the military veterans’ well-being, regardless of which side they had served.

It was against this background and in the spirit of reconciliation and UBUNTU that the cellphone giant, MTN, approached the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, with an offer to donate R150 000 to help the disadvantaged former military men and women in two provinces. Obviously it would have seemed unfair that out of nine provinces only two provinces would be afforded such a great opportunity. Mr Makwetla realised that it was prudent that the Government acted fairly so he decided that the donation should be distributed across the nine provinces. This was followed by trips to different provinces to hand over food hampers to the military veterans. (It must be explicitly stated that these food hampers were not from the Government, but from a private donor, MTN. In the same breath the perception that the Government is only donating these food hampers must be scotched. The food hampers were bought from the R150 000 sum since this amount would not have been enough to share among all the military veterans) and the food hampers were distributed in the provinces at various army support bases as indicated in the table below.

The handing over of food parcels was not meant to suggest that the military veterans needed to be helped because they were “invalids” who were...
incapable of doing anything for themselves. The primary role of this initiative by MTN was to express its gratitude to the military veterans (especially those from the previous Non-statutory Forces) for the role they played in bringing democratic change to South Africa. The secondary role was to acknowledge their existence and give those military veterans who for various reasons could not be employed or integrated in the private or public sector and were living in less desirable conditions.

In his speech the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans highlighted progress in establishing the new department and he also unveiled new policy initiatives that Government, through the Department of Military Veterans, would implement as part of its efforts to address the plight of military veterans.

In essence the Bill identifies key benefits and support that the Government will provide for the military veterans, including health care Support, housing, business and educational opportunities, military pensions, access to public transport, facilitation of empowerment, burial and honour, job placement and counselling. This legal obligation by Government seeks to restore the dignity and integrity of these freedom heroes and heroines. This will ensure a seamless transition from active military service to civilian life, and restore the capability of military veterans with disabilities, provide comprehensive delivery machinery and a system of benefits and services for military veterans, position them as part of the overall workforce of the country in order to enhance its prosperity and development and, more importantly, ensure that military veterans contribute meaningfully towards reconciliation and nation building.

The Department of Military Veterans, under the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans, was promulgated by the President, Mr Zuma, in December 2009 with the explicit purpose of addressing the varied needs of the military veterans. It has a separate vote within the Ministry and has its own Director-General, Mr Tsepe Motumi, who directly accounts to the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, as part of his politically delegated responsibilities.

Subsequent to the establishment of this department, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe
he Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, held his second Future SA Army Strategy Awards Evening on 8 October 2010 at the Freedom Park Hall of Leaders to give recognition to the many special individuals and organisations that support the SA Army in its ongoing quest to create an organisation that will not only meet the challenges of the future, but that will lead the way forward.

Lt Gen Shoke opened by giving recognition to the large number of loyal individuals who support the SA Army in many small ways, as they go about their daily duties. He also made the point that we must not forget, as we give recognition to the award winners, that these many unnamed individuals collectively carry the SA Army on their backs and form the solid foundation upon which the Future SA Army Strategy will be built.

A number of awards were presented, of which special mention should be made of the new Lion’s Claw - “isiqu” - awarded in three categories. The original “isiqu” or necklace of valour seemed an appropriate symbol for the new award: deserving Zulu warriors were permitted to wear a necklace which they generally carved themselves and which included highly prized lion claws that were reserved for royalty and officials of high rank. Thorn-like spikes were included in the design, to give energy, in line with the past practice of warriors who included blunted thorns in their necklaces. The necklace is mounted on a circular base that symbolises unity and is reminiscent of Zulu kraals and huts.

**One Claw** - Awarded for professional and dedicated service of a high order in achieving the objectives of the Future SA Army Strategy. The recipients were Maj Gen (Ret) J. Jooste from BAE Land Systems SA, Brig Gen H.J.G. Kamffer, Brig Gen A.D. Luck, Brig Gen J.D. Malan, Col B. du Toit, Col H.P. Grobler, Col C.B. Hepburn, Col G.W. Lategan, Col L. Olivier, Lt Col E. de V. Lourens, Lt Col G.J. van Rensburg and Lt Col (Ret) P.I. Moeketsi.

**Three Claw** - Awarded for excellent leadership, superior decision-making and strategic insight in realising the goals of the Future SA Army Strategy. The recipients were Maj Gen L. Rudman, Brig Gen E.F. Drost and Mr E. Jordaan, Deputy Director Defence Policy Formulation, Defence Secretariat.

**Five Claw** - Awarded for visionary leadership and having the courage of his convictions to embark on a programme to rebuild the SA Army. This is an exclusive award, which was presented by the Director Army Strategic Direction (FSAAS Project Leader) to the Chief of the SA Army, as the sole recipient.
Lt T.K. Munzhedzi, the 3rd place winner of the 2010 SA Army Writing Competition, accompanied by his wife.

In his post-presentation address the Chief of the SA Army went on to congratulate all the award winners. He said they had proved that they were not only prepared to go the extra mile for the SA Army, but had indeed shown extraordinary commitment in embracing the Future SA Army Strategy as their own. He made special mention of the winners of the first ever SA Army Writing Competition, which is fully sponsored by BAE Land Systems SA. This competition was created to stimulate the critical writing skills of the SA Army junior officer cadre so that they might make a valuable contribution to the Future SA Army Strategy. The winner was Maj C.S. van der Spuy, who was awarded a cheque of R10 000. The runner-up was Lt Col P.J. de Montfort, who was awarded a cheque of R7 000. In the third place was Lt T.K. Munzhedzi, who was awarded a cheque of R3 000.

The competition proved a great success and it is intended to publish the winning entry in the SA Army Journal. Lt Gen Shoke further praised members for the achievement of a number of milestones during 2010. He highlighted the successful hosting of an interdepartmental scenario formulation work session in April, facilitated by the University of Witwatersrand, which included participants from the Secretariat and other Services, among others. The work session developed four possible futures that could confront the SA Army leading up to 2030, and looked at ways of aiding the SA Army in validating its current strategy and to strengthening its planning capability. The four scenarios have been published in a booklet, which has received critical acclaim from a number of members of the defence establishment.

In May the SA Army hosted a successful “power lunch” for its external supporters as a way of thanking them for their valued contributions, but more importantly, to create an opportunity for informal discussions and networking and to reinforce the mutually beneficial relationships that have brought much success to the SA Army, and hopefully also to its sponsors.

In July, at the end of an arduous yet highly stimulating journey, the SA Army, in partnership with UCT Press, published a peer-reviewed book on counter-insurgency. This was the first time in the modern history of the SA Army that such a project has been initiated and successfully concluded. The success of this venture has spurred the SA Army to pursue the publication of a second book, planned for release in late 2011, on another pressing subject, namely the development of an appropriate post-conflict reconstruction capability for the SA Army.

The Chief of the SA Army concluded his address by reiterating that although the SA Army had created a firm base for future success, this was not the time to be complacent. He expected that everyone would dig even deeper in 2011 to ensure that the SA Army did not squander the opportunity to produce even better results.
Chief SA Navy meets with Military Attachés

By Cdr Prince Tshabalala, SO External Corp Com

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, held a briefing with the Military Attaché and Adviser Corps (MAAC) at the Naval Mess in Pretoria on 14 October 2010. The objective of the briefing was to strengthen and promote existing relations between the SA Navy and South African based Military Attachés. In his opening address, the Chief of the SA Navy said that he was grateful for the excellent relations that existed between the SA Navy and the Military Attachés. He emphasised that the Military Attachés played a critical role in promoting defence diplomacy and international relations. V Adm Mudimu said: "I am proud that the SA Navy has always been in the forefront in promoting diplomatic and military relations with the global community. Our commitment to peace and global security is demonstrated by our involvement and contribution to numerous organs, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standing Maritime Security Committee, the Africa Sea Power Symposiums and other committees in the United Nations and of the African Union." V Adm Mudimu also took the opportunity to commend the success of the Chilean mine rescue mission when he said: "The SA Navy would like to join the rest of the world in rejoicing with our Chilean counterparts for bringing joy to the families of the rescued miners. The success of the Chilean mine rescue mission indicates that if the international community co-operates and works together, more lives could be saved in time of distress". Before handing over to R Adm (JG) Hanno Teuteberg, Director Maritime Warfare for the briefing, the Chief of the SA Navy added: "I am grateful that we have met today with the members of the MAAC as such engagements indicate as the People’s Navy that we are prepared to co-operate in making our world a safer place for all human beings. In future I hope there will be more such engagements to promote relations and co-operation". R Adm (JG) Teuteberg then gave an insightful presentation to the MAAC on the role, mandate and capabilities of the SA Navy.

Germans honour SAMHS Colonel

By Bibi Sibanyoni
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Joint Operations Division under the leadership of Lt Gen Temba Matanzima is the core unit responsible for the deployment of SANDF soldiers within and outside our borders. It is because of this unit that our peacekeeping missions are recognised in other countries, and soldiers such as Col Crawford Wylie have put the South African military on the map for their excellent work performance and outstanding conduct.

Col Wylie is the Senior Staff Officer of multinational exercises in the Joint Operations Division, a post he attained in 2004. He is in charge of combined and joint military exercises involving the armed forces of South Africa and those of other countries. He has rendered outstanding service in SA-Germany military co-operation and was also involved in the planning and execution of Exercise GOOD HOPE, which is the second biggest exercise outside NATO.

The biannual GOOD HOPE Combined and Joint Exercise Series between the air and naval forces of both countries involves more than 1 500 soldiers and the most recent exercise took place in Cape Town from 15 February to 15 March 2010 with Col Wylie as the project officer. He conducted this exercise for the fourth time. It is his tireless efforts and willingness to put his personal interests aside and his utter dedication during the planning and preparation phase that ensured the smooth running of the exercise that made Exercise GOOD HOPE the success story of both defence forces. His commitment to the project reached far beyond the boundaries of the Armed Forces and included matters related to the police, customs services, immigration and civilian transport companies. His continued dedication has laid one of the foundations for the excellent bilateral relations between the South African and German Armed Forces.

It is for such reasons that the German Minister of Defence, Mr Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, bestowed the Federal Armed Forces Cross of Honour in Silver to Col Wylie on 5 October 2010 in Berlin and the South African Department of International Relations and Co-operation approved Col Wylie's acceptance of the medal. The Federal Armed Forces Cross of Honour in Silver is the highest award that the Bundeswehr may bestow on foreign soldiers.
Defence TV wins another coveted international film award

Defence TV won an international film award in Italy, the third such award since 2001. This year the 21st International Military Film Festival once again took place in Bracciano, Italy, in November 2010.

In the Institutional Information Category the Defence TV entry: “Cheetah farewell” won the first prize and received the coveted Chief of Staff of the Italian Defence Force Award. This film was produced, directed, scripted, shot and edited by Mr John Adler, with aerial visuals, conceptualisation and project management by Mr Kevin Ogden of 2 Squadron.

This is a documentary that focuses on the phasing out of the SA Air Force’s former fighter aircraft, the Cheetah. Asked why Defence TV performed so well at these world events compared to other countries’ television units with considerably larger budgets and more manpower, Mr Adler replied: “It has a lot to do with the fact that we at Defence TV are truly multi-skilled - we have to be. It does not matter whether “Wuthering Heights” was written using a Mont Blanc pen or a 20c pencil, it still remains a classic. But of course one of the biggest requirements is co-operation. The level of co-operation that 2 Squadron gave was the key factor. All members of 2 Squadron are responsible for the fact that this production was such a success”.

The Defence Attaché in Rome, Col Robert Zeelie, received the award on behalf of Defence TV, which had not been able to send any representatives to the event. This coveted trophy, which is on its way to South Africa, will without doubt have a special place at Defence Corporate Communication.

As always, the festival offered a platform to armed forces from all over the world to showcase their role and function in contemporary society. This year 25 countries attended and over 60 films were entered for the seven main categories of the competition. These were in the following areas: institutional information, history, training, environmental protection, promotion, teaching and operational activities.

In this year’s contest the armed forces did not highlight a specific subject, but rather concentrate on social themes, such as peacekeeping, security, environmental protection and intervention relief to people affected by natural disasters. This confirms the multiple functions of the armed forces: preparation and training to accomplish their primary commitments, namely defence and the building of peace wherever it is most at risk, and actions undertaken in internal and international emergencies, for example when a country is devastated by a flood or an earthquake, for example recent events in Haiti and Pakistan where thousands of soldiers had been engaged in rescuing people affected by the disasters.

The winning trophy of Defence TV with Rome in the background.
Armed Conflict Course in South Africa

By Lt Sello Segone,
Acting Editor Milmed

The SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) hosted the second International Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) Course for military medical practitioners, medical staff and chaplains from 10 to 15 October 2010. The course offered medical practitioners the opportunity to participate and receive first-hand international recognised methodologies and knowledge to enable them to participate in international deployments worldwide.

The course was under the auspices of the International Committee on Military Medicine (ICMM), which has delegated the course for the past ten years to the Swiss Armed Forces, as Switzerland is a neutral country.

This course is presented annually in August at Spiez in Switzerland for fifty military medical practitioners. They represent various countries, including African countries such as South Africa, Namibia and Kenya. The LOAC course is aimed largely at teaching the participants the relationship between the medical services rendered and relevant International Law and treaties. It also outlines the duties and responsibilities of officers and medical staff to the patients as required by International Law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, treaties, and ethical codes of conduct, which are all interrelated.

Owing to the international importance of the course for the ICMM, the Swiss Military, as mandated by the ICMM, has built up a Centre of Excellence that not only presents courses in Switzerland and regional courses in South Africa and Saudi Arabia, but also does continuous research on LOAC, medical ethics and war surgery.

The centre will furthermore provide a platform for information, knowledge, ideas, skills, exchange of experience, networking and training.

Addressing the course attendants, the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, warned that in all conflicts the armed forces, need to balance military threats with their legal obligations, and more specifically with the dual obligation of medical staff to follow orders and to adhere to ethical codes that must be well understood and correctly applied.

Col (Ret) Johan Crouse, the Course Commander, challenged all those attending the course to grasp the opportunity to have open discussions, which would ultimately increase their professional knowledge.
68th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein

By Col Bethuel Mathebe,
SA Defence Attaché to Egypt and Jordan
Photos: Mr Mohamed Darwish and Mr Said Abdallaiah

A
n International Commemoration Service of the 68th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein was held at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, El Alamein, on the north coast of the Mediterranean Sea on 23 October 2010. Altogether 1 255 South Africans died in the battle of El Alamein and 495 are commemorated on headstones over the identified graves. At the top of each headstone is arranged the national emblem of the service or regiment, viz its badge, followed by the rank, name, unit, date of death, age and the appropriate religious emblem. Annually, before the commemoration ceremony, the Defence Attaché assisted by the driver/messenger plants the South African National Flag in front of a number of headstones.

The South African Embassy in Cairo was represented by the First Secretary Political, Mr Seemane Abia Molapo, and the Defence Attaché to Egypt and Jordan, Col Bethuel Mathebe, who laid two wreaths during the Commemoration Service of the 68th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein at the main memorial site and at the South African memorial site.

History

The Battle of El Alamein was fought in the desert of North Africa in Egypt. It is seen as one of the decisive victories of World War II. The Battle of El Alamein was fought between two of the outstanding commanders of World War II, viz Montgomery, who succeeded the dismissed Auchinleck, and Rommel. The Allied victory at El Alamein led to the retreat of the Afrika Korps and the German surrender in North Africa in May 1943.

El Alamein is 150 miles west of Cairo, on the north coast of the Mediterranean Sea. By the summer of 1942 the Allies were in trouble throughout Europe. The attack on Russia - Operation Barbarossa - had pushed the Russians back; U-boats were having a major effect on Britain in the Battle of the Atlantic and western Europe seemed to be fully in the control of the Germans.

Hence the war in the desert of North Africa was pivotal. If the Afrika Korps got to the Suez Canal, the ability of the Allies to supply their forces would be severely dented. The only alternate supply route would be around the Cape of Good Hope - which was not only longer, but a lot more dangerous owing to the vagaries of the weather. The psychological blow of losing the Suez Canal and North Africa would have been incalculable, especially as this would have given Germany near enough free access to the oil in the Middle East.

El Alamein was a last stand for the Allies in North Africa. To the north of this apparently unremarkable town was the Mediterranean Sea and to the south was the Qattara Depression. El Alamein was a bottleneck that prevented Rommel from using his favoured form of attack - sweeping into the enemy from the rear.
stampede nearly erupted at Navy Headquarters in Pretoria when SA Navy members rushed to the reception area when the internationally acclaimed Gold Medallist athlete, Caster Semenya, paid a surprise visit to the Chief of the SA Navy.

The purpose of her visit to the SA Navy was to develop a thorough understanding of how the Navy worked and to establish a relationship with it.

In welcoming Caster Semenya, the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, said: "On behalf of the SANDF, I am proud to have met an ambassador of our country, who has proved herself a role model to our young people. The country needs lots of people like Caster to continue to show us the way to become better patriots for our country and to be a symbol of hope to those who come from a previously disadvantaged background".

The Chief of the SA Navy gave a Navy cap and various small tokens of appreciation to Caster Semenya and her delegation for visiting Navy Headquarters.

Caster Semenya was very impressed with the SA Navy and promised that she would visit our men and women at sea in due course.

Able Seaman Tshepisho Sefara posing with Caster Semenya.
Flying our flag high

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: S Sgt Makgae

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, hosted a flag hoisting and medal parade at the Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 22 October 2010.

Lt Gen Mgwebi remarked: "A medal parade is a military tradition and a culture to award deserving SANDF members for their extraordinary contribution to the development of the SANDF."

Lt Gen Mgwebi noted that commitment and professionalism to their work afforded the SANDF the opportunity to be among the best military organisations in the world. He said: "Each medal awarded to you is a true reflection of your diligent and high professional standard."

He said SANDF members should rest assured as their contribution was not going unnoticed, and thus pinning a medal would be a way of honouring them for excellent work done. He also directed his gratitude to the families of the recipients for the support they continued to give to their loved ones.

The medals that were awarded included the Merit Medal in Silver, the iPhrothiya yeSiliva, the Good Service Medal (Gold) and the Bar to the Medalje Vir Troue Diens (30 years).

Brig Gen A. Fakir from the Defence Foreign Relations Division (left) was awarded the iPhrothiya yeSiliva, and Brig Gen S.D. Mashobane, Officer Commanding SA War College, the Bar to the Medalje Vir Troue Diens (30 years).
Exercising the Right of Freedom of Entry in Alexandra

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

For the first time in the history of Alexandra, the township on the outskirts of Johannesburg, an opportunity was afforded to get a glimpse of the SANDF as 21 SA Infantry Battalion and several Reserve Force units marched through its streets on 13 November 2010.

The Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Johannesburg Parade is an annual event in which various regimental associations affirm their right to entry bestowed on them by the city for their efforts to secure the borders of the country and bring stability to the country. During her address, Counsellor Nkele Ntingane, the Speaker of the Council of the City of Johannesburg, said that the event was in recognition of the selfless sacrifices made by SANDF members to safeguard the country.

"Today we pay tribute to our soldiers who make sure that we go to sleep without having to worry about any attack by external forces. The event is also meant to bring our soldiers to the people of Alexandra and to introduce the community to these wonderful people, the soldiers, who are also part of our community. They should not be treated like killing machines, as many people think of them," said Counsellor Ntingane.

The colourful ceremony included a fly-past by three Gripen fighter jets.

The marching columns during the Right of Freedom of Entry Parade in Alexandra, Johannesburg, on 13 November 2010.

The Speaker of the Council of the City of Johannesburg, Counsellor Nkele Ntingane, and Maj Gen Roy Andersen, Chief Defence Reserves, on the podium.
Remembering our fallen heroes

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The National Civic Remembrance Service and Wreath-laying Ceremony was held at the Cenotaph in Johannesburg on 14 November 2010. The City of Johannesburg has once again remembered its fallen heroes who lost their lives during World Wars I and II by paying tribute to them on this remembrance day.

The event coincided with the 150 year anniversary of the arrival of the Indian community in South Africa.

During his address the Acting Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Counsellor Parks Tau, said the annual Remembrance Sunday would be marked in his council as a thematic story of the Indian people.

Counsellor Tau said: "As we lay wreaths today we should not forget the hardships that had to be endured by the Indian community after they entered Natal in 1861. During the Anglo-Boer War between 1899 and 1902 the Indians also made their contribution in the struggle and liberation of this country. During that period Mahatma Ghandi formed an Ambulance Corps and urged about 1 000 Indians to volunteer their services, mainly stretchers bearers. The young Ghandi was subsequently given the temporary rank of Sergeant Major by the Chief Medical Officer in recognition of the service rendered by the Indian community."

Foreign military attachés accredited

By Bokang Motlhaga, student at Rosebank College
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF held its military attaché accreditation ceremony at SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 20 October 2010. The event was attended by senior officers (military attachés) from various countries, who were beginning their two years’ tour of duty in South Africa. Military attachés endeavour to build strong bonds with the countries to which they are posted.

Lt Gen Abel Mxolisi Shilobane, Chief of Defence Intelligence, expressed South Africa’s sincere gratitude that the military attachés had arrived. He said that he looked forward to an exchange of ideas, which would be to the advantage of both parties.

Lt Gen Shilobane presented confirmation certificates to the military attachés, after which they were given a chance to say a few words and express their feelings about being in South Africa. They declared that South Africa was a big role player on the world’s peacekeeping agenda.

Brig Gen Paul Mehova of the Zambian Defence Force summed it up in his vote of thanks when he said: “South Africa is indeed a peaceful place and no-one could ever regret being in South Africa”.
Nursing is a nurturing profession

By Pte Siphokazi Dlakamela
Photo: Lt Sello Segone

The 22nd Diploma and Pledge of Service Ceremony of the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) was held at Unisa on 8 October 2010.

Of the 103 students who were graduating on this day, 60 students graduated with the Diploma in Clinical Nursing Science Health Assessment, Treatment and Care and 43 with their four year Nursing Diploma.

The ceremony was attended by senior officers of the SAMHS and invited guests from the private sector, including Maj Gen L.Z. Make as the T

Holding the lamp, CO Nape Lesufi and CO Happy Magagula are visibly happy at the prospect of being professional nurses after four years of hard work have finally paid off. acting Chairperson of the SAMHS Nursing College Council, Brig Gen E.M. Joseph, Director Nursing, Prof M.C. Bezuidenhout, and Dr N. Geyer both from Unisa and the Officer Commanding of the Nursing College, Col J.F.M. Mabona.

During the ceremony Ms M.E. Chauke, a SAMHS representative in the Nursing College Senate, said: "The Nurse must cherish certain philosophical light beacons about nursing which are belief, faith, yearning, acceptance, transcending, conservation and change, assistance and support, technology and therapy". Chaplain N.W. Nkosi was in attendance to conduct the Scripture reading and prayer. Dr Geyer, the guest speaker, spoke about leadership and reminded the graduates that as leaders they must not forget to develop themselves and to develop the required skills to be the best they could be at all times.

Immediately after her address the Group AC of 29 students for the Diploma in Clinical Nursing Science Health Assessment, Treatment and Care came in. Between them they had 19 distinctions, most having been obtained from Practicals, Capt J. de Klerk graduating Cum Laude. The 2nd group (Group AD) had 31 students with an overall number of 34 distinctions and Capt A. Pitout graduating with Cum Laude.

The four-year Nursing Diploma Course leads to registration as a General, Psychiatric and Community Nurse and 43 students qualified as Midwives with 13 distinctions and CO C. Govender and CO K.M. Makoku both graduated Cum Laude. CO Makoku took four trophies, and I had to speak to her so that she could share the motivation behind her achievements. It had always been her dream to become a professional nurse since she was at school, where she used to like playing nurse. The 31-year-old CO Makoku worked as a staff nurse in 3 Military Hospital. She said what happened at the graduation ceremony (Cum Laude and four trophies) was the result of her hard work during the four-year training period. She was awarded the following:

- The Charlotte Searle Floating Trophy, which was awarded to the learner who excelled in promoting the image of a student in uniform.
- The Dux Acta Practica Floating Trophy, which was awarded to the best learner in the practical field.
- The Smith and Nephew Floating Trophy, which was awarded to the learner with the best achievement in Community Health Nursing Science.
- The Surgeon General Floating Trophy, which was awarded to the most versatile learner in the academic field.

The Academic Chairperson of the Department of Health Studies at Unisa, Prof M.C. Bezuidenhout, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them not to lose enthusiasm and to be positive role models worthy of imitation who could in future could serve as a catalyst to transform as they instructed, counselled, guided, and facilitated the development of others.

The Officer Commanding of the Nursing College thanked all the participants who made the day possible. She thanked the graduates for choosing nursing as their career. Col Mabona said: "Remember that nursing is not a profession of prestige but of nurturing. It is a giving profession, so spread your wings and fly, the sky is the limit."
By Lt (SAN) Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserve

Three Old Boys of Rondebosch Boys’ High School who are active SANDF Reserve officers returned to their Alma Mater in uniform to attend the annual Remembrance Day Memorial Service on 11 November 2010.

The Rondebosch Boys’ High School Memorial School Hall was built after World War II with funds donated to honour those Old Boys who had paid the supreme sacrifice during World Wars I and II. As an annual tradition the school honours their memory and sacrifice and reminds the young men of the futility of war.

Two days prior to the service the Rondebosch Boys’ High School had opened a permanent exhibition of the history of the building at the entrance of the hall. Tribute was paid to each Old Boy and teacher who had died in World Wars I and II with a photograph. Among them were photographs of Old Boys in uniform who had served in the Cape Town Highlanders, Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) and the SA Navy.

To add colour to the service and to ensure that all who attended had a keepsake, Maj Gen (Ret) John Del Monte kindly provided traditional red poppies from the SA Legion’s offices. Each boy, every teacher and all guests who attended received a red poppy when they entered the Memorial Hall.

The Headmaster, Mr Martin Barker, remarked that he was “pleased that the three Old Boys had participated in uniform, added colour to the service and expressed an interest in arranging a more formal role in assisting with the wreath-laying ceremony for the 2011 service”.

The school’s awareness of the opportunities offered by the SANDF Reserves was heightened and the opportunities provided to young men and women by the Young Lions (SA Army), Young Falcons (SA Air Force) and Sea Cadets (SA Navy) were highlighted to the Headmaster and staff. It was suggested that these organisations market themselves to local schools and expose the youth to the possibilities available. This would assist in ensuring that a continuous supply of potential leaders was maintained to fill the ranks of the SANDF Reserves.

Bravo Zulu to Capt Ian Long from the Cape Town Highlanders for spotting the opportunity and for laying the groundwork to ensure that the SANDF Reserves received this positive exposure.
AS SALDANHA made a clean sweep for the second consecutive year at this year’s West Coast Fittest Military Unit Competition, which was held at AFB Langebaanweg from 26 to 30 September 2010.

The competitors were the four units situated on the West Coast, viz SAS SALDANHA, the Military Academy, 4, Special Forces Regiment and AFB Langebaanweg. This was the second time that this event had taken place. SAS SALDANHA hosted the previous year’s event.

The competition commenced at AFB Langebaanweg’s sportsfield and 16 participants represented their units. Each participant had to roll a Samil tyre to the turning point 2,5 km from the start. At the turning point the members were required to do 10 flips with the tyre and then return to the starting point. The dress was combat boots, camouflage pants, belt and T-shirt.

Participants had to do a bleep test (2,4 km running, push-ups, sit-ups and a 4 km walk), an obstacle test, a 4x4 km walk with kit on a marked 4 km route. Running was not allowed and there were marshals en route to ensure that members adhered to the rules.

The competition was the same as that of last year held in September.

When asked to comment, CPO Bafiami Ditsela of the SAS SALDANHA team, one of the winners, explained that the competition was very hard and that they started preparing a month in advance. Members trained four times a week. AB Mtheleleli Romane mentioned that it was a wonderful opportunity for him to participate. He was happy to receive a certificate and proud to be part of SAS SALDANHA’s team.

**Winners**

**Ladies u/35 years:** Sea Maryke Steyn (SAS SALDANHA)

**Men u/35 years:** PO Jan Oosthuizen (SAS SALDANHA)

**Men 35-44 years:** CPO Bafiami Ditsela (SAS SALDANHA)

**Overall Fittest Unit:** SAS SALDANHA
Don’t blow your bonus!

With the December holiday season fast approaching, perhaps now is the time to give some thought to how you will be spending your bonus, says Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager for Old Mutual.

"Too often, people become caught up in a buying frenzy when they have extra cash in hand, but where will this leave them after the silly season is over? Think before you spend unwisely.

It’s not called the silly season for nothing. With what has been described as a tough economic year, almost behind us, there has never been a better time than now to use your bonus wisely. We’re not saying save it all, just keep some in reserve. Of course, you need to spoil yourself, and after putting in a year’s hard work you owe it to yourself and your family. But, consider, for a moment, the real benefits when you put that money to work for you over the long term," Wilson added.

Ways to spend your bonus

Think about the cost of education! A good education is fast becoming out of reach for many. And, because finding employment in this country is becoming increasingly difficult, a quality education increases the likelihood of your children finding good jobs. Making a financial sacrifice to ensure better prospects for your children will pay dividends in the future.

Think about your retirement! Many company pension funds do not adequately support a comfortable standard of living or at least one that you’ve become accustomed to during your working years. Without a supplement like a retirement annuity or other investment, you could easily come up short at a time when you no longer have any earning capability. While many people have a “live for today” approach, perhaps its time to change course and consider your tomorrow.

Think about your goals! What may seem impossible to achieve could easily be within your reach. A little could go a long way when saved over the long term in an inflation-beating investment that offers stable growth. You will achieve your financial goals much sooner by setting something aside on a regular basis, especially at bonus time.

Think about your debt! If you have debt that’s been gnawing away at your conscience, why not liberate yourself by settling it as quickly as possible. This way you can move on sooner towards saving for the things that really count.

Ways to save

There are many savings or investment options available, from simple bank accounts to more complex investment structures, but the point here is that you save.

The type of investment you choose will depend on your future goals. If you have a shorter investment horizon, perhaps unit trusts could be an option, where you have access to your money, and still get good growth.

A vehicle such as Old Mutual’s Max Investments is flexible in that it allows you to decide whether you want to invest on a regular basis, or ad hoc. Your investment is also structured to provide you with the most tax-efficient growth, based on your personal income.

For more information, speak to your Old Mutual financial adviser, or broker, or phone 0860 INVEST (0860 468 378).
The South African flag and naval ensign flew high as the guests stepped onto the red carpet on their arrival at the annual SA Navy Band Gala Concert at Unisa on 23 October 2010. The occasion was full of glitz and glamour as the gentlemen in their tuxedos accompanied their partners in stunning evening gowns.

The learners of Waterkloof High School mesmerised guests on their arrival for the function with their music. Among other brilliant pieces the SA Navy Band performed on the night were the African Jive, which included songs like Nice To See You, Waving Flag Song, African Dream in The Jungle, Thula Thula, I am the Man. When the SA Navy Band performed Waka Waka the audience was already on its feet and the atmosphere rose to another level. The Band also paid tribute to the late king of pop, Michael Jackson.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, welcomed the guests and expressed pride in the SA Navy: ‘I am pleased to report that the capabilities of the SA Navy were again demonstrated during Exercise IBSAMAR II, which commenced in Durban in September 2010. This is a trilateral exercise between the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa, which has given us the opportunity to participate in naval exercises with the very best sailors and hardware of the world’.

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, giving his speech at the SA Navy Band Gala Concert.
"Don't Look Away, Act against Abuse"

The year 2010 marks the eleventh anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign.

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign is an international United Nations-endorsed initiative. It takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Since 1999 the South African Government has run a parallel campaign that includes issues relating to violence against children. Other key commemorative days during this period include World AIDS Day on 1 December, and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, which falls on 3 December of every year.

This campaign focuses primarily on generating an increased awareness of the negative impact of violence on women and children as well as society as a whole. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region the campaign has gained significant momentum through the adoption of the Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children by the SADC heads of state in 1998.

Findings of the 16 Days-10 years social impact assessment study and the stakeholder summit (held on 25 November 2009) suggest that public and stakeholder opinion emphasises a need for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to fulfil a role beyond simply raising awareness. This has been highlighted by the continued call for the campaign to be implemented throughout the 365 days and the public's call for a move from an events-based approach to one that provides more substantive action in dealing with women and children abuse.

Significantly, the vision of the 2010 campaign is to lay the foundation for a more effective implementation of the 365 days National Action Plan.

Therefore one of the objectives of the 2010 campaign is to strengthen the foundations for a more effective and rigorous implementation of the 365 Days National Action Plan.

The theme for the 2010 Campaign remains "Don't Look Away, Act against Abuse" because the corporate image and theme of the campaign has been well established in society and among participating stakeholders.

WHITE RIBBON

Nationally, there is a call for all South Africans to support the campaign by utilising the white ribbon symbol in innovative and inventive ways to reflect solidarity with abuse victims and commitment to campaign objectives and by wearing these ribbons for the duration of the campaign period.

TORCH OF PEACE

The "Torch of Peace" forms a link between the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and the other major national campaigns that support the thematic programmes that underpin Government's national outreach activities. The Torch of Peace was lit before the National Prayer Opening Ceremony on 25 November 2010.

CALL FOR ACTION

The rights of women and children are fundamental human rights entrenched in and protected by the Constitution. They are thus inalienable from, integral to and indivisible from the human rights framework. Violence against women and children in all its different guises is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated. Hence, the call to society is "Don't Look Away, Act against Abuse".

Information courtesy of Government Communication and Information System
SA Army Pace-stick Competition

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SA Army Training Formation recently presented its 16th annual SA Army Warrant Officers/Non-commissioned Officers Competition. This event was intended to enhance the standard of basic soldiering by providing tools to judge the present standard of Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of the SA Army.

The General Officer Commanding of the SA Army Training Formation, Brig Gen Addinall Fredericks, officiated at the opening ceremony held at the SA Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg on 14 September 2010.

The aim of the competition was both to maintain and improve the standard of all basic military requirements for soldiering. Invitations were extended to members from the defence forces of neighbouring countries, such as Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Namibia.

In his address Brig Gen Fredericks gave an overview of the history of the competition. He said: “In the mid-nineties the SA Army decided to institute a special day for the Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned Officers in the organisation. It was decided to celebrate it in the form of a competition. The first competition was a great success, and thus it became an annual event.”

The competition was subdivided into two main competitions, namely the individual competition and the pace-stick championship, and was based on different rank groupings: Lance Corporals, Corporals, Sergeants, Staff Sergeants and Warrant Officers, who competed against each other in six different categories. These categories included shooting, fitness, general theoretical aspects, personal drills, personal neatness and map-reading skills (all qualities of a well-disciplined soldier.)

The pace-stick championship was held to determine the best pace-stick team in the SA Army and was run at the same time, but as a separate entity from the individual competition.

**SA ARMY COMPETITION**

**Individual Competition**

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

**Fittest Soldier:** L Bdr R.J. Mashaphu (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Lance Corporal:** L Cpl J. Williams (SA Army Armour Formation)

**Best Corporal:** L Bdr T.J. Nthethe (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Sergeant:** Sgt O.E. Matokoe (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Staff Sergeant:** S Sgt C.S. Makhambi (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Warrant Officer:** WO1 F.N. Nxuthu (SA Army Infantry Formation)

**Best Staff Sergeant:** S Sgt M.A. Sebotsa (SA Army Infantry Formation)

**Best Warrant Officer:** WO1 F.N. Nxuthu (SA Army Infantry Formation)

**Pace-stick Championship**

**Best Pace-stick Driver:** WO1 F.N. Nxuthu (SA Army Infantry Formation)

**Best Pace-sticker:** Sgt Mabuku (Botswana)

**Best Pace-stick Team:** Lesotho

**AFRICA COMPETITION**

**Individual Category**

**Best Shottist:** L Bdr F.S. Amupanda (Namibia)

**Fittest Soldier:** L Bdr R.J. Mashaphu (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Lance Corporal:** L Bdr R.J. Mashaphu (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Corporal:** Bdr T.J. Nthethe (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Sergeant:** Sgt O.E. Matokoe (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Staff Sergeant:** S Sgt C.S. Makhambi (SA Army Artillery Formation)

**Best Warrant Officer:** WO2 T.M. Makwea (SA Army Training Formation)

**Pace-stick Championship**

**Best Pace-stick Driver:** WO1 F.N. Nxuthu (SA Army Infantry Formation)

**Best Pace-sticker:** Sgt Mabuku (Botswana)

**Best Pace-stick Team:** Lesotho

The Africa Trophy for 2010 was awarded to SA Army Artillery Formation.
The Pace-stick Team of the Zimbabwean Defence Force.

The Pace-stick Team of the SA Army Intelligence Formation.
The Bedfordview community got a glimpse of the SANDF when 46 SA Brigade held a Military Career Open Day at Elandspark High on 6 November 2010.

The aim of the day was to introduce the youth from Bedfordview and surrounding areas to the SANDF’s core responsibilities and capabilities so that they could make informed decisions about joining the SANDF. This will assist the youth to choose a mustering that will help them to map their career paths.

After a parade and a few thrilling musical items rendered by the National Ceremonial Guard, the General Officer Commanding of 46 SA Brigade, Brig Gen Sithabiso Mahlobo, said that the event provided an excellent platform for the youth to introduce themselves to the SANDF.

Brig Gen Mahlobo said: "Today the Bedfordview youth is fortunate in that all components of the SANDF have come here to offer career opportunities and showcase their defence and support capabilities to the country. This is further proof that the SANDF is also committed to community upliftment regardless of its tight schedule and other defence related commitments, both externally and internally, and that our SANDF will always be ready should the public require its services. Our youth should also seize this opportunity to socialise and get as much information as possible about career opportunities available in our National Defence Force. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to join this proud organisation.”

Among the representatives were members of 35 SA Army Engineering Support Regiment. The group displayed a mobile water purification system, better known as a Reverse Osmosis unit. According to Sgt Pogiso Tsetse the system comes in handy when the regiment is deployed to areas where water contamination is a problem. Other eye-catching items on display were mine warfare tools. Interested young people could not wait for Sgt Sello Rakale to help them fit on a bomb suit and hold a mine detector.

Sgt Rakale said that the equipment became handy during missions where landmines had been planted.

The spectators were further captivated by the airlifting of an injured soldier on a simulated battlefield by an Agusta Westland AW109 helicopter. Young and old swarmed towards Lt Stopper Modisaesi from 17 Squadron after he landed the helicopter. The community members were allowed to pose for photos with the crew members and to enquire about careers within the SA Air Force, especially on the qualifications needed to become a pilot.

After the day’s proceedings, a clearly impressed Grade 9 Elandspark learner, Luyanda Dabula, said that he was interested in joining the Air Defence Artillery Corps to become a gunner, after what he learned during the presentation by Lt Peter Mabobo at the stall of the Air Defence Artillery Formation. 16-year-old Dabula was even more fascinated when Lt Makadikwe Phahlamohlaka, a 35 mm Anti-air Gun Troop Commander, lifted him onto the equipment and explained the capabilities of the machine.

The SA Navy and the SA Military Health Service also participated in the open day. They made presentations about possible careers within their Services and the response from the community members and the youth were positive, considering the fact that by the end of the day their tables had been cleared of information brochures and the Military Skills Development Systems application forms.
SANLAM AND THE SANDF – A PERFECT PARTNERSHIP

In 1999, Sanlam, in collaboration with the SANDF, engineered a unique solution that was relevant to the particular perils faced by members of the defence force.

The resultant SANDF Group Life Scheme is a unique scheme designed specifically for serving soldiers in the SANDF, and is the only scheme of its kind in South Africa. The purpose of the scheme is to provide immediate financial support (by way of a tax-free cash benefit)

- for dependants in the unfortunate circumstances of sudden death of a breadwinner; and
- to support the family should a breadwinner become disabled.

Since the scheme’s establishment, thousands of beneficiaries have enjoyed the flexibility and speed with which insurance money has been made available. The scheme provides the necessary confidence to all those joining the SANDF that the risks they may encounter are provided for.

**Premiums and benefits**

The current premiums and basic benefits payable are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Premium/ benefit</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly premium for members with dependants</td>
<td>R100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly premium for members without dependants</td>
<td>R70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefit value for members with dependants</td>
<td>R125 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death benefit value for members without dependants</td>
<td>R90 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sum disability benefit</td>
<td>R125 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military disability benefit</td>
<td>R60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military disability benefit for MSDS members post completion of BMT</td>
<td>R6 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefit: Principal member</td>
<td>R3 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefit: Spouse</td>
<td>R3 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefit: Child 14 - 21 years</td>
<td>R3 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefit: Child 6 - 14 years</td>
<td>R1 750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral benefit: Child 0 - 6 years</td>
<td>R875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Added benefit**

The Burial Repatriation Benefit is a free service that allows for the transport of the deceased member’s body back home to the final funeral home closest to their place of burial in South Africa, if the death occurred away from his/her home.

Other services, which are aimed at simplifying the death/ burial for the family, include:

- If death occurs in South Africa, the service also allows for transportation arrangements for a single relative to accompany the mortal remains to the final funeral home; and overnight accommodation for a single relative.
- Assistance and advice on claims procedures is provided to the surviving family;
- If necessary, legal assistance can be arranged to assist with the interpretation of the Will and the management of the necessary documentation;
- Advice will be provided on matters such as obtaining a death certificate and cross-border documentation;
- Referral to a pathologist will be made if an autopsy is necessary;
- Referral to reputable funeral parlours and providers of other funeral services such as catering and transport can be made, and clients benefit from our experience and knowledge of suitable providers; and
- Assistance can be provided when looking for a tombstone supplier.

These services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling our 24-hour specialised call centre on 086 0004 080. Calls can be answered in any one of the official South African languages.

**Goodwill**

Sanlam’s relationship is also reflected by the group’s leading role in the Goodwill Parcel Project. Through this project goodwill parcels are delivered to soldiers in the field. Sanlam was one of the founding sponsors and in 2008 doubled their contribution to the project.
Occupational Health and Safety Training Session

By Col G.S. van Eeden, Acting SSO ETD
Photo: Directorate OHS

Over 40 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Managers and Co-ordinators as well as doctors, nurses and hygienists from all Services and Divisions attended a three-day OHS training session hosted by the Director OHS at AFB Waterkloof Officers Mess from 12 to 14 October 2010.

The aim of the training session was to equip the OHS Managers with knowledge and information so as to empower them to advise their Chiefs, General Officers Commanding and Officers Commanding on matters affecting OHS legal compliance.

12 October 2010 was dedicated to training in the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks in the workplace. The assessment commonly called the “HIRA” must be submitted by all units by the 31 August for purposes of health and safety monitoring, and surveillance and rectification actions. The HIRA thus serves as a situation analysis for management, especially Chiefs, General Officers Commanding and Officers Commanding on health and safety risks in their formations and/or units. Lt Col C.L. Rielander of SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) Area Military Health Formation, supported by Lt Col (Dr) J.J. Truter of SAMHS Regional OHS Centre Simon’s Town, Lt Col J. Mostert of the SAMHS Regional OHS Centre Bloemfontein and Capt M.J. Muthambi of the SAMHS Regional OHS Centre Thaba Tshwane presented this topic.

On 13 October the focus shifted to monitoring standards. Awareness training international OHS management standards, i.e. OHSAS 18001, took place. The aim of this training was to enhance awareness of this standard, which has been accepted as the OHS management standard for the DOD. Formal training in OHSAS 18001 is available for members. Interested members can consult the OHS website on the DOD Intranet for more information.

The last day of the training session addressed legal matters, liability and compensation. Maj F. Steynberg, a SAMHS legal officer, pointed out that the health assessments undertaken through the comprehensive health assessment (CHA) process were conducted to determine the suitability of the member to work. This report, the DDS0, assisted the Department to assess the correct placement and use of a member.

The guest speaker, Mr D. Marais from the Statutory Risk Management Consulting cc, spoke on OHS legal compliance and liability. He stressed that having standing operation procedures (SOPs) and safety plans was not enough to ensure compliance and avoid liability as such SOPs and plans must be monitored and any deviations from procedure must be corrected immediately.

Dr M. Lekalakala of the Compensation Commissioner’s Office (Department of Labour) spoke on the matter of procedures when claims for compensation for injuries on duty were considered. It was evident from her presentation that all incidents must be registered and records kept. Claims for injury on duty must be submitted within seven days to the Compensation Claims Office.

She reassured the DOD that late or delayed claims were considered carefully as long as there were medical reports supporting the application and reason for delay. The Human Resource officers at units have the necessary claim forms and will assist employees in submitting their claim. It should be noted that compensation may take different forms besides a cash payout; an employee may receive assistance to acquire a wheelchair or other prosthesis, or funds to pay the medical bills.

Further training sessions and seminars are already planned for February and May 2011 to empower OHS functionaries to advise employees and Officers Commanding on health and safety in the workplace. For more information on OHS legal compliance visit the OHS website on the Intranet.
Empowering SA Army Officers

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SA Army College presented the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course certificate ceremony at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 21 October 2010. The theme was viewing the South African military in an international sense and the SA Army College’s diverse training history throughout the world wars.

The aim of the course is to train officers commanding and staff officers at tactical level, which is one of the essential core activities of the SA Army. Commanders and staff have to equip themselves with the skills of war fighting during this course.

A selected group of senior military officers started the course on 18 January 2010 as part of the Distance Education Phase. After completion they continued with the Residential Phase until 22 October 2010. In total the group consisted of 67 learners of which four were international fellows from South Korea, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, congratulated the learners and acknowledged their families’ support. He pointed out that officers needed to portray a positive attitude as the course was a method of building confidence and developing and improving one’s workplace.

He said endurance and discipline were key factors in the military to achieve success and move up the ranks. Lt Gen Shoke said: “You are expected to be a good example as you are being prepared to be future commanders. And you need to be firm and fair.”

Lt Gen Shoke highlighted other roles of the SANDF apart from warfare, and said that the military had increased its responsibilities to resolve conflicts on the African continent and to ease internal disorder in the country following the recent public strike.

The three best performers, fltr: Maj C. Brown from the SA Army Intelligence Corps (third place), Maj A. Claassen from the SA Army Infantry Corps (second place), and Maj T. Fourie from the SA Army Infantry Corps (first place). The SA Army Foundation sponsored the first prize.
Time to tend to those dear to him

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Albert Einstein once said: “The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not what he is able to receive.” During a farewell ceremony held at the Joint Operations HQ in Pretoria on 29 October 2010, members from the Chief of Joint Operations and close friends bade farewell to Col Paul Magoro, Senior Staff Officer Operational External Support, who retired after serving as a soldier for almost 37 years of service in the SANDF.

Brig Gen Samuel Motau, the Director Joint Operational Support, speaking during the farewell ceremony, said that Col Magoro had been a worthy ambassador of the people of South Africa and that he deserved the time to tend to those dear to him (his family). He said: “I appreciate the opportunity of having worked with you. On behalf of the Chief of Joint Operations, and as a father figure in the Directorate, you have given us the legacy of engagement and hard work. It is not easy to bid farewell to someone who has left such an indelible impression.”

Col Magoro was born on 19 September 1950 in Siyabuswa (Mpumalanga) and joined the South African Defence Force on 18 March 1974. During his illustrious career he served in the 21 SA Infantry Battalion, General Support Base Gauteng, Army Office Directorate Army Logistics and Chief of Joint Operations.

Speaking to SA Soldier, Col Magoro said that looking back at almost 37 years of service he had seen a lot of changes after a great deal of uncertainty during the nineties when big developments was taking place, e.g. the dawn of the new South Africa and the immense task of integrating the former Statutory and Non-statutory Forces to form the new SANDF.

Giving his message to his colleagues he said that life was a treasure much more than we knew, which was why the earth turned on its orbit for us. Col Magoro said: “Most of us who live among the crowd on this earth never press the pause button in our lives and stop for even sixty seconds to reflect on why we are here and what we are meant to do.”

Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of Joint Operations (right) presenting Col Paul Magoro with a plaque of Chief of Joint Operations during his farewell ceremony.
The 75th anniversary celebration of the Dakota

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Light is the only truly new sensation that man have achieved in modern history” - James Dickey.

On Thursday evening, 21 October 2010, members of Air Force Base Ysterplaat (35 Squadron), the SA Air Force Museum, past and present Dakota aircraft pilots, flight engineers, load masters, telecommunications operators, technicians and enthusiasts celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Dakota, also known as the Douglas DC3T/C47-TP at a biannual aviators function held at AFB Ysterplaat. The theme of the event was: “Dakota 75th Anniversary”.

The Dakota aircraft, true to its historical heritage, is charged with diverse roles day and night in missions and operations in support of the SANDF and other stakeholders. It can be used for maritime security, coastal air patrols and port operations.

Lt Col Gerrie van der Merwe, the Officer Commanding of 35 Squadron, elaborated on the milestone that has been achieved by the Dakota (a legend in her time). He said that it was without a doubt one of the best-known aircraft in the world today still regarded with respect. The Douglas DC3 aircraft ranks among man’s greatest developments of the 20th century and is still able to fly on combat ready maritime air patrols.

Maj Andre Vollenhoven reiterated what Col van der Merwe had said: “That with around 2000 in service on the 75th anniversary of her first flight, the Dakota is one of the most enduring. She is popular for many reasons and has satisfied both military and civilian needs, and has surpassed all expectations”.

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma
How to avoid vehicle hijackings

By Capt E.M. Mathebula, SO3
Personal Staff Officer to Provost
Marshal General

The festive season is the busiest time of the year, and when we are busy we tend to ignore things or take them for granted, especially when we are driving to our holiday destination. It is the duty and responsibility of the Military Police to educate and inform the military community about the do's and don'ts on the road to avoid being victims of hijackings.

The most important fact to remember while driving a motor vehicle is to be alert at all times. This is why the K53 driving method of driving is beneficial since the method concentrates a lot on the regular use of the rear-view mirrors. As you drive, be on the lookout for suspicious vehicles and persons.

**Suspicious vehicles**

You are driving from home and a new vehicle follows you for thirty minutes and stay in the same lane as you, takes the same turns-offs as you. If this vehicle has an old registration number, e.g. BCG 500T, the registration number is false as all new cars should now have new number plates. The most important fact to remember while driving a motor vehicle is to be alert and observant at all time.

**Suspicious persons**

A suspicious person can be any person that you feel acts in a strange manner. The problem with suspicious persons is that there are no distinguishing features. Hijackers come in any form or shape. Colour, race, sex or age are not distinguishing features. The best way to identify a suspicious person is to see all unknown persons as being suspicious. In most cases when we refer to hijackers, we refer to men, but occasionally to women as well. Hijackers tend to be very young, in their teens and early twenties, although some victims report the presence of a “team leader” who seems older. Women are used to full potential victims into a false sense of security, since most of us feel less threatened in the presence of a woman as opposed to a man. These people are sometimes well dressed, but not always. They may wear a jacket or jersey under which they may conceal weapons, mostly handguns and knives, but occasionally AK47, R4 and R5 assault rifles.

**Do’s**

- Always travel with the car doors locked.
- Keep all windows closed or, at most, not open more that would allow a hand to fit through.
- Leave enough room between your car and the one in front to avoid being boxed in.
- Remain in your car if it is hit from behind. Inspect any damage only once you are sure it is not a hijack attempt.
- Attract the attention of other motorists or pedestrians if you think you are in danger. You can use the hooter, flash your lights, put your emergency lights on or shout.
- Be aware of anybody who approaches your car or is loitering near traffic lights, stop streets, parking areas or your driveway.
- Constantly monitor what vehicles are travelling behind, ahead and next to you. More than one vehicle could be involved and they could be setting a trap to stop you. If you are suspicious of vehicles around you, take (responsible) action to get out of the situation.
- If you suspect that you are being followed, you should ideally drive to the nearest police station (or Military Police station). If this is not possible, drive to another safe place, but do not go home.
- At unusual or unexpected roadblocks, keep windows closed and doors locked and ask for the police or traffic officer’s identity card. Show your identity document to them through the window. Trust works both ways. The same goes for being stopped by traffic officers at speed traps.
- On long journeys only stop overnight at safe places. Parking next to the road or in a parking area overnight is not safe.
- Report any suspicious looking strangers and vehicles to the police (or Military Police). Give a description of the occupants and their vehicle.

**Don’ts**

- Do not stop at the scene of an accident unless you are convinced it is genuine. Accidents can be set up in the hope that you will stop to assist. Sometimes a “body” is placed next to the road. Rather drive on and report the incident at the nearest police station (or Military Police station).
Avoid asking directions from strangers which would render you vulnerable to hijackers.

Avoid driving late at night or in the early hours of the morning when the roads are quiet. If possible, never drive alone.

When parking your vehicle check the rear-view mirror to ensure that you are not being followed.

When returning home after dark, ensure that there is an outside light on, or have someone meet you at the door.

When exiting your vehicle, be cautious and aware of surrounding obstructions and shrubbery that may be concealing a hijacker.

Never sit in your parked car without being conscious of your surroundings.

Sleeping in a stationary vehicle is particularly dangerous.

Never leave any item(s) lying around in your car, even if you are driving, because such things invite thugs to break into your car. Lock up everything in the boot.

Finally, let us all enjoy the festive season. Remember, do not drink and drive, arrive alive.

Remember the Military Police are your friends and always at your service. Our toll-free number is: 0800 222 0911.

Forty-five delegates attended a one-day Transversable Competence Seminar presented to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 9 - 12 at the Officers’ Mess Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria on 15 October 2010.

This high impact training intervention contributed to the development of middle management by renewing their commitment to serve and restore their motivation to excel. The Chief Director Human Resources Development supports the ongoing development of middle managers in the DOD.

The theme for the seminar was “Knowledge and Understanding of Strategy and Organisation Design in the Public Sector” that forms part of the learning content of the Khaedu Programme in the Public Service.

Feedback from participants

All delegates were ecstatic at having been afforded the opportunity to attend the seminar. They indicated that the seminar gave them the opportunity for networking, personal growth and practical exposure to new techniques to be applied in the workplace. The practical information shared applies to all working environments and contributes to creating unity during discussions. Participation by other Public Service departments will contribute to sharing best practices.

Ms N. Pienaar, the Editor of the SA Soldier, wrote the following: “My knowledge and understanding of strategy and organisation design in the public sector have been broadened. A good strategy is only useful if the management team has the capacity to implement it. Strategy is the science of allocating scarce resources to a limited, defined and measurable set of objectives. Three to five realistic strategic objectives are the best - NOT more! One must base a strategy on analysis and look at previous successes and failures, and learn from them. One must implement the successes and not repeat the failures, hence find things that work and build on them. To implement a strategy successfully one must be realistic by looking at the strategy and the available resources and skills. If the objectives cannot be met with the available resources and skills, these objectives must be omitted from the strategy. Otherwise the strategy is just a fantasy document. It is of critical importance to establish what support the units/sections need in order for them to deliver effectively and therefore it is vital to design the structure of the organisation/directorate "bottom-up". If the structure is built “top-down”, one burdens the delivery units/sections.”

Ms E.J. van Vuuren, a Deputy Director in the Finance Division, commented as follows: “The seminar was of outstanding quality. The facilitator provided the delegates with practical examples of well-reorganised public organisations, which was very informative. He also divided the group into syndicates to apply the knowledge gained during the day. This also provided the delegates with networking opportunities. The value added by this seminar will definitely ensure that we as managers think twice when developing a new organisational structure, and thus ensure that all members and employees are utilised to their full potential as multi-skilled personnel that can be utilised in different environments.”

Mr D. Shibambu, an Assistant Director from the office of the Minister of Defence, provided the following inputs: "The significance of the seminar to me was in understanding organisation design processes and procedures. Structures support strategies and should be revisited and revised at least annually. I have also learned that work must be compensated according to the workload and not be based on assumptions that the work is the same. In most successful organisations, one manager would have at least four assistants, but here in the SA Government, one assistant assists six managers. Vacancies should be filled, structures must be balanced and reporting lines must be made clear. We cannot have somebody in an acting position for more than four months, because when a person can effectively do the work for four months, why then not appoint him/her? Benchmarking has become a popular exercise for officials in the SA Government. However, it is not helping us at all, as in most cases we do benchmarking with developed countries that have very well implemented structures and policies. At the end of the day you have a very good document/proposal that cannot be implemented because of a shortage of resources and skills."
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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY
Using Army skills to tame animals

By Capt J.M. Mabidikane,
Photo courtesy Maj M.J. Els

A hippopotamus, regarded as the most dangerous animal in Africa and responsible for most deaths due to wild animals, turned out to be as harmless a creature as one can ever find in the farming area of Viljoenskroon near the border between Free State and North West Province.

Maj Marthinus Johannes Els in his 22 years of service as a soldier acquired the skills to work with animals, especially horses. This led to an interest in the habits, feeding and training of animals.

In 2006 he went on a game capturing course for three weeks in Bela Bela. The course empowered him with the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude to deal with wild animals. He specialised in the chemistry involved in capturing and transportation. During his initiation, he was exposed to the "Big Five" - lions, elephants, rhinos, leopards and buffaloes.

The course was mainly practical and presented under the supervision of Professor Melzer who is a veterinary surgeon from the University of Pretoria.

On completion of the course, Maj Els decided to fence off his farm situated in the Viljoenskroon district near the Vaal River to breed with animals. The same year a one-day-old hippopotamus wandered out of the Blyde River in Hazyview. Other animals posed a danger to it at its tender age as its mother had abandoned it.

Mr Edhern rescued it and took it to the Rhino and Lion Park near Johannesburg. He then contacted Maj Els after six months to find out if he was interested in the hippo. With his love of animals, this was an offer that Maj Els could not resist.

He later named it Humphrey, and since then they have developed a father and son relationship. The "Famous Great Bush", the Lion Man of New Zealand, who broadcasts in one hundred and forty countries around the world, heard about the story and produced a film called Humphrey the Hippo.

Asked about his ability to handle such dangerous animals Maj Els said: "Were it not for the eighteen weeks of training at the Potchefstroom Equestrian Centre, I should not have been able to overcome my fear of animals, especially the wild ones". 

Humphrey the Hippo.
Celebrating Cultural Day with a difference

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Culture can be described as a learned pattern of behaviour in which a person lives his or her own life. Culture forms an integral part of every society because it binds people together in the form of similar music, food, art and literature.

This rang true when Training Command Unit celebrated its Cultural Day, formerly known as the "Potjiekos Day" at Personnel Service School in Thaba Tshwane on 29 October 2010. The unit put a spin on the celebration of this social event by not wearing the traditional attire on this day, but having a laid back approach with groups such as the "Hobos", the "Sophiatowns", the "School Kids" and the "Ekasi".

The event was opened by the General Officer Commanding of Training Command, Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, with a moment of silence for South Africans who lost their lives during car accidents and those murdered by gunmen. Maj Gen Mabuza affirmed that the "Potjiekos Day" had not been eliminated: "the potjie has not been killed, but forms part of the whole - the whole being the Cultural Day. The Cultural Day is the bigger picture through which a strong nation can emerge. Let us all strive toward the attainment of that noble goal".

The groups were also given an opportunity to cook whatever they desired, using any recipes.

RIGHT: The "Ekasi" Group preparing their food.
Chief of the SA Navy Prestige Golf Day

By Able Seaman Nokuleko Zulu, Jnr External Corp Com Clerk
Photo: Seaman G. Motlolisi

The Chief of the SA Navy’s Prestige Golf Day was held at Clovelly Country Club in Cape Town on 8 October 2010. The 18-hole par 72 golf course has in the past hosted a number of the SA Navy’s golf days and was a fitting venue for this year’s event. A total of 128 golfers participated in a four-ball: comprising three players representing their company and an SA Naval member acting as the host for the day.

The format of the Golf Day was an America Scramble, which made it enjoyable for the players while making it possible for them to play their natural game in a relaxed environment. The trademark of the event was the incredible contributions and support of the business community towards the SA Navy, which presents the event every year with L3 Naval Systems the main sponsor of the golf day for the second consecutive year.

After a day on the fairways, the participants enjoyed refreshments while reflecting on the day’s play before the prize-giving ceremony. When addressing his invited guests the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, talked about the tremendous contribution of the SA Navy’s stakeholders towards the success of the golf days. He pointed out how their donations helped the SA Navy in making a difference to the lives of the less fortunate. The sterling work of the business community was highlighted when invited guests were invited to pledge whatever donation they could for a worthy cause; members responded by raising a total pledge of R51 100 during the evening.

**Winners**

**Longest Drive (9th hole)** - Patrick Layman (J&D Shipyards)
**Accurate Drive (18th hole)** - Eugene Pienaar (Datacentrix)
**Closest to the Pin (6th hole)** - Pule Hlahane (Invitation 3)
**Closest to the Pin (8th hole)** - Graham White
**Closest to the Pin (11th hole)** - WO2 April Prins
**Closest to the pin (16th hole)** - Ivan Sassman (Duplex Liquid Meter)

**Prizewinners**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Player 1</th>
<th>Player 2</th>
<th>Player 3</th>
<th>Player 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st place</td>
<td>Invitation 4</td>
<td>Esso Komane</td>
<td>Kgampepe Morotolo</td>
<td>David May</td>
<td>Molefi Oliphant</td>
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<td>2nd place</td>
<td>Old Mutual</td>
<td>Capt Richard Goveia</td>
<td>John Laidlaw</td>
<td>Tony Klopper</td>
<td>Tim Armstrong</td>
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<td>3rd place</td>
<td>Microzone Trading 529</td>
<td>WO2 Brent Jones</td>
<td>Raymond Small</td>
<td>Mendel Jakey</td>
<td>Donovan Willemans</td>
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<td>4th place</td>
<td>COATEC</td>
<td>Capt Michael Girs</td>
<td>Ian Walsh</td>
<td>Mike Henn</td>
<td>Wayne Morar</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th place</td>
<td>Invitation 3</td>
<td>Pule Hlahane</td>
<td>Barry Lekhasi</td>
<td>Tiaan Fourie</td>
<td>Lazi Mphasane</td>
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History was made once again among the golf fraternity of the Potchefstroom Military Sports Club (PMSC) with the recent appointment of Chaplain Kaiser Cornelius as Club Captain by the Potchefstroom Country Club.

Chaplain Cornelius has presided as Chairperson of PMSC over a number of years. He has been involved in golf for many years in which time he successfully negotiated reduced membership rates for all SANDF members who wanted to join the Potchefstroom Country Club.

The PMSC Execute Committee congratulated Chaplain Cornelius on his achievement. It also pledged its support for his endeavours and expressed the hope that the management of Army Support Base Potchefstroom would join hands with the PMSC Golf Executive Committee in supporting Chaplain Cornelius following his appointment as Club Captain.

Christmas came early for 25 children from Amadea Safe House who visited 10 Air Depot Recreational Club in Thaba Tshwane on 3 December 2010. This safe house was adopted on 30 August 2008 as way for the Department of Defence to give back to the community.

The home, which is situated in Pretoria North, houses abandoned and abused children between the ages of 1 and 10 years. According to Lt Komsana Ojukwu, Technical Stores Officer and Project Leader, the home was identified for children from different backgrounds. Lt Ojukwu said: “The reason we chose this safe house is that it is multiracial, and people at the workplace no matter which race, will be able to contribute to improving the lives of these children.”

During the event the children were given presents and entertained by a clown called “Bubbles”.

The hosting of the Christmas tree party for the children was not the only project the members of 10 Air Depot embarked on. In winter there was also a Pyjamas Project when the children were brought slippers and pyjamas by each and every member of the unit who even helped cleaned up the home.

Even though there are challenges, Lt Ojukwu is adamant that these will not stop them improving the conditions and lives of the children. Lt Ojukwu said: “We have challenges with regard to funding, but praise is due to the members of the unit and some private donors for their contributions.”
An outreach project was initiated by the Codification Section at Directorate Fleet Logistic and Maj Gadija de Klerk, the Social Worker at Naval Base Simon’s Town. The aim of the outreach project was to uplift and improve the conditions at the Children of Hope Crèche in the Red Hill informal settlement.

The crèche caters for approximately 40 children ranging from two to six years. The team had certain goals that they wanted to achieve, and the exterior painting of the containerised accommodation units was first on the to-do list. The team initiated a self-sustaining community garden and provided bedding and covers for the foam mattresses.

Several role-players involved themselves in this project by donating much needed equipment and necessities in order for the project to be successful. It was undeniably a joyous affair on 1 October 2010 to entertain the children with a party to celebrate the outcome of the initiative. The section envisaged this opportunity as a team-building exercise and to enjoy the time with the children. The children displayed utter delight when they sat down to enjoy their treats.

The spirit of UBUNTU was aptly displayed in the selfless acts of the Codification Section and Maj De Klerk as they had truly given back so much to their community. They shared with and empowered others that were in need and reclaimed their humanity and dignity.

The next step in this outreach programme is to upgrade the interior of the accommodation facility, the play area and the install kitchen cupboards and shelving.

A great day was enjoyed by all, especially those who worked very hard to complete this project and make the crèche a place of safety and a pinnacle of hope for the Red Hill informal settlement.

The spirit of UBUNTU was aptly displayed in the selfless acts of the Codification Section and Maj De Klerk as they had truly given back so much to their community. They shared with and empowered others that were in need and reclaimed their humanity and dignity.

What a feast! Donated toys and treats for the Children of Hope Crèche.
SA Navy hosts annual Prestige Charity Ball

A multitude of dignitaries from various private companies convened at Union Caterers in Pretoria on 22 October 2010 to heed the call of the SA Navy to build relations with SA Navy flag and senior officers and to raise funds for the SA Navy charity causes.

The Chief of the SA Navy said: “This Prestige Charity Ball is a wonderful opportunity to consolidate friendships and forge new relationships. It is a time of laughter and dance, and of celebration of togetherness. However, it also serves as an important means to make a contribution to those around us and to expand the life and liberty of those who would own the tapestry of dreams without the means to achieve them.”

On completion, the Master of Ceremonies invited the Chief of the SA Navy and his wife, Ms Yvonne Mudimu, to open the floor to music of the internationally acclaimed SA Navy Dance Band.

The SA Navy has prided itself on making a concerted effort to engage with the community in order to empower and change the lives of the needy. This has been made possible by initiatives such as the Chief of the SA Navy Annual Charity Prestige Ball.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight

The Area Military Health Unit Gauteng in Pretoria got the local community to celebrate Christmas with them when it hosted a Christmas Carols by Candlelight evening on 24 November 2010.

The objective was to obtain maximum community interaction and for the unit to show the community that it cared for them. This also helps build the image of the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) within the broader community in line with the objectives of the Department of Defence.

The Officer Commanding, Col Pieter Welgemoed, said that the event was the first of this kind to be held at this unit and he hoped to expand it in the autumn and spring to showcase the talents of the SAMHS Band, Area Old Age Home, Villa Rosa Home, Ons tuis Old Age Home, Hendrik Verwoerd Hoërskool and NG Kerk Riviera.

The SAMHS Band performing Christmas Carols at the Area Military Health Unit Gauteng in Pretoria on 24 November 2010.

Military Health Unit Gauteng Choir and the Pipe Band, which performed the Christmas Carols.

Among the people present were members of Seniordal Old Age Home, Villa Rosa Home, Ons tuis Old Age Home, Hendrik Verwoerd Hoërskool and NG Kerk Riviera.
South African Coat of Arms

The Motto
- Ine e: /xabra /ke, written in the Khosian language of the /Xam people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride – Unity, in Diversity.

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