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.

COPYRIGHT: No article or picture in this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

FRONT COVER: A member of the SA Army busy preparing the place where the bridges will be constructed in Tsomo. Read all about this project on pages 22 to 24. (Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
Happy New Year! May 2010 and the FIFA 2010 World Cup be more prosperous than what we could possibly imagine.

The SA Soldier team would like to invite you, all our readers, to write to us on a continuous basis during 2010 and tell us which types of stories you would prefer to see more often published in SA Soldier. In the same breath we want to appeal to you to send us articles and photos about happenings in your environment that will be of interest to the rest of our military family. We shall gladly publish them. Please take note that SA Soldier is compiled two months prior to publication; therefore do not wait for the news to cool down before sending it to us. You can email your contributions to: sasoldier@mil.za. (Please attach the photographs separately in jpg (300 dpi) format.) Otherwise, if you want to deliver them in person, you can pay us a visit at Defence Headquarters in the Armscor Building at the corner of Nossob and Boeing Streets in Erasmuskloof, Pretoria. My office is on the third floor, block two, room 212. Please feel free to come and meet the editorial team.

Each of our four principals wrote a New Year’s message to our readers. You might want to read their messages on pages 10 to 13.

Let us put shoulder to the wheel and kick-start 2010 with a laduuuma! If you are lacking zest, read the message on page 46 on how to bounce back from adversity.

Let us also try and help one another in this new year. Let us care for our neighbour. A practical example is the bridge building project for the communities at Tsomo. Read all about this excellent service delivery on pages 22 to 24.

Laduuuma 2010!

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

*Translation (Afrikaans) by Eugene Muller.*
SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO ALL SANDF MEMBERS AND SUPPORT STAFF!

Get up to R4000 discount on certain vehicles bought at any Auto Pedigree branch countrywide!

- MORE THAN 4000 VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM
- QUALITY, LOW KILOMETRE VEHICLES
- MOST WITH FULL HISTORY
- TOP PRICES PAID FOR TRADE-INS
- QUICK AND EASY IN-HOUSE FINANCE AND INSURANCE
- BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

Visit any Auto Pedigree branch countrywide
SMS your request to 33091 or phone 0860 11 11 33
or visit www.autopedigree.co.za

AUTO PEDIGREE – You deserve a great deal!
In the military we are rank oriented, always looking up to senior personnel for direction and leadership. Often we do not take the time to notice the influence of the ordinary airmen and women in the organisation, with their dedication and passion for the SA Air Force, often just by simply being airmen and women in blue uniform.

One such example is Sergeant Choabi from 85 Combat Flying School at Air Force Base Makhado. He proved that perseverance could take you beyond the mountains and the skies. He is utilised as a Gripen training Instructor at the Centralised Training Centre. Earlier this year he applied for Officers Selection, but unfortunately did not make it. However, that did not deter his spirit.

He then applied for the SAAF Assessor Training Course (NQF 4 and 5) - an eight-week course at the SAAF College. In the sixth week of the course the member collapsed and was admitted to 1 Military Hospital for the whole week. While in hospital the member was approached by the staff members from the SAAF College and told that if he was determined enough he would be allowed to continue with the course. Upon recovery, he returned to the college and successfully completed the course, in spite of the challenges that he endured.

According to WO1 S. Singh of the AFB Makhado Gripen Computerised Training and Simulator Manager, Sergeant Choabi’s commitment, hard work and positive attitude serves as an inspiration to both seniors and subordinates in the unit. Having such a member in our team has been a valuable asset to the Gripen Training Team. Often heroes are only recognised because their great feats and conquests and we overlook the fact that great leaps forward come as a result of small steps taken daily with integrity and perseverance.

Cpl C. Tseuoa, AFB Makhado

As you know, Sunnyside is not a very safe place; there is lot of crime and drugs. In 2008 Ms Nelly Zulu, a student nurse at 1 Military Hospital, and her husband opened a Sunday School at Haemstede Flats Military Married Quarters.

Later they were joined by Cpl David Nkashe, CD Ops VIP Protector, and his family. So we joined Pastor Zulu the brother to Ms and Mr Zulu, as he was willing to help us with Church Services every Sunday.

The parents were happy about that. Most of the children’s parents are deployed beyond South Africa’s borders. The Church decided to give love and care to the children.

We bought presents, hired a jumping castle and held a braai for the parents and children.

On that day parents dedicate their children to God. We want to give thanks to the Apostolic Church in Southern Africa for the love they give to the 48 children of the soldiers and parents at Haemstede Flats.

Cpl David Nkashe

The SA Army Engineer Formation and the new Engineer Terrain Intelligence Regiment celebrated International AIDS Day on 27 November 2009 at Sappers Heights in Lyttelton, Pretoria. Sappers committed to the fight against HIV and AIDS by signing a banner.

(Photo: WO1 Hennie Booysen)
THE NEW GENERATION TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

The SA Army Combat Training Centre at Lohatla recently hosted Exercise GOLFINHO, a multinational peacekeeping exercise that received worldwide coverage. For the first time in the history of the SANDF, the Junior Command and Staff Duties Practical Course was held at the classification shooting range at De Brug near Bloemfontein. All the officers on course lived in tents from 4 August to 16 October 2009. During the certificate ceremony, the Chief of Staff of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, Col L.J. Buys, reminded the officers who successfully completed the training programme that they were clearing a path for their own careers and that the true strength of the SANDF was not its size or weapon systems, but the calibre of its human resources. He encouraged the officers to go back to their units and form groups to make a difference by strengthening the capabilities of the SA Army and the entire SANDF. "As our country continues to join global communities in the quest for peace, stability and good governance on the African continent, these officers will contribute immensely to the output of the SANDF," he added. These officers had a unique experience as they have had the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts and knowledge to practical realities. "They are trained men and women able to command mobile and conventional forces as combat group commanders and to serve as staff officers class one," Col Buys stated.

Maj Lesley Rakhibane, Pretoria

SAAF PROTECTION SERVICES GAMES

The SA Air Force (SAAF) Protection Services Games 2009 were held at AFB Makhado from 1 to 6 November 2009. The games are held annually for protection forces as a team building effort to enhance operational readiness capabilities and to maintain the high standard of fitness required of soldiers, especially in the protection field. Air Force bases that took part in the games were Air Force Mobile Deployment Wing, 68 Air School, Air Force Gymnasium, AFB Waterkloof, AFB Ysterplaat, AFB Bloemfontein, AFB Durban, AFB Hoedspruit, SAAF HQ Unit, AFB Overberg and AFB Laangebaanweg. This was a blood, sweat and tears exercise to determine the team which would prove to be the best of the best. The events comprised fitness tests, bundle sport, musketry competitions and a 25 km cross-country relay.

For the fitness test competition the teams were made up of four males and one female. All five members had to do the 2.4 km run and the last person in the group determined the overall time.

For each item the teams had to stay together. The members proceeded with the push-ups and sit-ups in which each member had only one chance to do the push-ups and the total time per team was seven minutes per item. Following that was the Saml tyre flip, for males only, in which each male had to flip the tyre for a distance of 50 m. This continued until all four participant had finished. All members then participated in a 4 km walk with the last person in the group determining the overall time. This was no easy feat because the teams also had to carry a trunk with a sandbag for the walk.

Day two of the challenges consisted of a shooting exercise. All shotsits had to gather at the 150 mark and, upon the signal dismantle the R5, run to the 100 m mark, pick up the ammunition and the R5, load eleven rounds, assemble the weapon and then engage the target. This exercise was carried out with both the R5 and the Z88. On day three the teams had to compete in a 15 km route march on a gravel road and a tarred road. Teams began at intervals along the route. They received a tar pole, trunk and sandbag. The final test was a 5 km cross-country relay run, in which four males and one female constituted a team. The events closed with a prize-giving ceremony on 5 November, where the AFB Makhado 515 Squadron Team was announced as the overall winner. When push came to shove our team proved to be the best of the best in the SA Air Force as a whole, both at play and at work. These events proved that indeed 515 Squadron members had remained true to their slogan: "Madzula wa Vhamba" - always ready. They were readily available to scoop the top awards, and as the overall winners of the competitions. They are, after all, bred in the only fighter centre of excellence.

Cpl C. Tseuoa, AFB Makhado

REACHING OUT TO OUR CHILDREN

Christmas is a time of giving and sharing, and it is always a blessing when we have our loved ones with whom to share our gifts of love and warmth everyday. That unfortunately is but a far-fetched and distant dream for others. What makes it even worse is to know that these others are not so far from us. That is why Air Force Base Makhado’s "For Our Children Fund" established by WO1 S. Singh and members of AFB Makhado could be used to extend a helping hand and a gesture of love to those less privileged.

That was when the initiative to donate food, clothing, and toys was taken. The first place was Shiloh House, a home for orphaned and abandoned babies, and that served as a halfway house, from where the babies could be adopted. The babies are fed, loved and cared for until the day they join an adoptive family. This home is located in Munnik Street in Louis Trichardt. Another home identified was the shelter for boys, situated at a Roman Catholic Church, which takes care of up to eighteen homeless boys. The boys were elated when they received soccer balls, especially with the FIFA 2010 World Cup approaching.

It was a great honour and privilege to put a smile on someone’s face, and it served as yet another victory for AFB Makhado and its members.

I am certain that if you would ask these children what their little hearts had to say, it would be "THANK YOU".

Cpl C. Tseuoa, AFB Makhado
news from abroad

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

It is with honour, pride and joy that I write this email. I have been deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for 10 months now under Ops TEUTONIC as an IT specialist. I would like to thank the General Officer Commanding, Maj Gen Hlatswayo, Brig Gen ("Oom Koos") Liebenberg and their staff at Joint Operational Headquarters for remember us and our families that we left back at home and for their ongoing support.

It was on 26 November 2009 at about 13:00 when I received a phone call from home telling me that people of my unit had arrived. At first my mom said she was so scared, she thought they had come to give her bad news. Instead she found that the DOD had brought the Mosetwe’s family an early Christmas. This is a year and a Christmas that our families will not forget. They have realised that even if we are not at home, they are not alone and are in good, capable hands. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank my Officer Commanding back home, Officer Commanding 1 Signal, Col Sabuka, the Second in Command, Lt Col Botha, Officer Commanding 10 Signal Unit together with Sgt Vuma (10 Squadron Warrant Officer) and his team for delivering the parcels door to door and making a success of it, and also the support they are giving to their members deployed externally, especially the Ops and Intelligence section. To the sponsors (Bokomo, Huletts, Palmolive, etc and the SANDF Spouses Forum) I would like to say thank you very, very much - you have made a mark on behalf of the DOD to our families back home and to everyone who made the Goodwill Parcel Project a success. Keep up the good work and may God bless. Capt K.V. Mosetwe, OP TEUTONIC, DRC

DOCTORS IN THE SUDAN

27 June 2009 I, Capt T. Motolwana (1 Military Hospital), Capt N.C. Dlomo (1 Military Hospital) and Capt K. Thinane (Area Military Health Unit North West) set off for the ‘forbidden’ Sudan. On clearing out at 1 Military Hospital, the worst horror stories were relayed, so on this chilly winter morning boarding the IL 76 was a mixture of feelings, excitement at new challenges and fear of the unknown. When we arrived in Burundi to stop over for the night, more horror stories were told, making Nightmare on Elm Street seem like a bedtime story. I started wondering what I had gotten myself into, but I was determined to give it my best. After all, I had promised MMHF to write the first success story - a very happy one. But the mosquitoes were not helping at all in their bid to suck every ounce of my living water!

We arrived in El Fasher, Sudan, on the morning of 28 June 2009. As we disembarked uncertainly from the sustainment flight, the NCC’s smile was somewhat reassuring, I do not think the relief flight, the NCC’s smile was somehow the stricken look on Capt Dlomo’s face, unable to figure out how a person washed his whole body in that small thing brought things into perspective for me. I decided that I would forget everything I had heard about the Sudan and take everything as it comes.

Having no expectations was the best thing I could have done. The hot sun suddenly seemed no worse than the heat of Bloemfontein - haak Vrystaat! I will always treasure my Kovsie (University of the Free State) days when they tried to mould this character - I do not think they did such a bad job after all! I have been able to experience such an interesting culture, something so different to anything I have ever known. To share a life with people without judging them opened my mind to learn so much I could not have known otherwise. I got to appreciate even the smallest things we take for granted - like not knowing which restaurant to choose for the night, or which mall to spend a day at. I found the culture rather fascinating. Market days were the highlight of the week, just wondering around dusty streets full of colourful things, different tribes moving about in mutual harmony, everybody minding their own business.

Even the language barrier is easily overcome when money is the only common ground - no one wants to lose out when it comes to money. It is a scarce commodity in these parts.

To the troops who keep watch as we sleep, moving in and out everyday to ensure our safety, working tirelessly in not so favourable conditions, words can never express the magnitude of what you do. Thank you. Things are not always easy. Some will put you down, eg because you wear the coveted Operator’s dagger (and they never will), or you earn more than they do (with their higher ranks), forgetting what we came here for. But such is life - you win some and you lose some. The greatest reward comes when the local contractor comes to show me the baby I helped bring into this world. The sheer joy and gratitude makes it all worthwhile. It is living proof of what wills me to get up every day, even when I just want to curl up and forget about useless, petty issues.

As I prepare to go back to my green hills, my home, my love, my country, I know I will always think fondly of the land of the Fur’s (Darfur). If I take anything home with me, it will be “Sudan is Sudan”. Capt T. Motolwana, Kutum Base (Sudan)

NEW TYPE OF AMBULANCE FOR OPS MISTRAL XIII

It was a relief for the Medical Task Group (MTG) Commander, Lt Col Raymond Kgatitswe, and his MTG members to receive the first new Toyota Land Cruiser 4 x 4 type ambulance. The ambulance was offloaded at Goma Airport in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 10 August 2009. It was the first of its kind to be utilised in the external missions by the RSA contingent.

Currently the medical personnel are utilising Casspir ambulances that cannot
manoeuvre freely on the uphill and narrow roads.

The Casspir ambulance is long and hence it is difficult for it to negotiate sharp curves. The roads in the DRC are very narrow and most of them are in mountainous areas, which affects speed.

Furthermore the deepest concern with regard to the Casspir ambulance was that it was a vehicle used by the SA Army for operations. The SAMHS had always used the Mfezi ambulance and as a result the Operational Emergency Care Practitioners (OECP) cannot drive or operate the vehicle.

Although the Casspir ambulance has some shortcomings it is mine and bullet protected. It comes in handy during mass evacuations, hence the four that are currently in the mission area will still be utilised as the need arise.

**PEACE IN THE HOME OF THE SUDAN**

Through the darkness of midnight
The stars shall shine to give light to the unborn child of the Sudan

A child that will bring peace to those who look and pray for it.
He is a hope to many people of the Sudan.

Shine, shine the stars that light for a young fresh blood that will
Make us free, free from the life of no smile.

We shall rejoice because it’s a blessing to all of us.
We shall bow to show respect in anticipation.

Welcome to your land, your land has already opened its arms to welcome you.
Be happy and be free this is your home, your welcome young fresh blood.

We soldiers of different countries
We are sent as the servant of God to come and do what He commands, as the Holy Spirit comes and shows us the way.

We shall continue His work with pride and dignity and we shall not get tired.
God bless everyone in the home of the Sudan.
Let there be peace. Spr O. Khosa, 2 Field Engineering Regiment (currently deployed in the Sudan)

S Sgt Tabane (OECP) preparing the new ambulance for operations.

The Land Cruiser type ambulance can load one patient lying flat at a time. It has reasonable space for one or two people to work on a patient. It comes fitted with an oxygen cylinder and regulators. It has sufficient red warning lights all around and hence becomes more visible during the day and night during casevacs.

Furthermore the vehicle is faster and smaller than the Casspir ambulance, making casualty evacuation quicker. The furthest Company Operation Base (Delta) is almost 150 km from Goma. Owing to the nature of the roads it can take five to six hours to drive the distance. For priority 1 casualties, air casevac is always ideal, but because MONUC’s flights do not fly at night, road casevac will be ideal. Owing to the nature of the roads, the new ambulance comes in handy. The new type of ambulance will help to reduce the time for casevac and it will improve the patient’s comfort because it can negotiate the humps and turns better with great ease.

Lt Col Kgatitswe placed a request for these ambulances for the first time in December 2008 after a Mamba rolled down the slope en route to Kichanga (one of the COBs). A Casspir ambulance was despatched to the accident scene and after loading a patient it could not make a U-turn to go back to Goma, but had to drive almost 15 km to the next village so that it could make a U-turn.

The MTG members wish to thank the GOC Joint Operations and Mobile Military Health Formation for their support in this regard. Lt Col Raymond Kgatitswe

---

**TEARS OF THE ARAB LAND**

Who can save the Arab land …
from the oppression of the weak
and the groaning of the needy …?

Where is the Nelson Mandela of Sudan …?
Where is the Julius Nyerere and the Laurent Kabila,
Perhaps the Helen Joseph and Lilian Ngoyi of this country …?
Where is that never dying, hard to kill freedom fighters movement of this country …?

Who can rescue the ever-oppressed nation
from this never-ending deprivation
life of war, defence and misery …?
All the brave men and women
Who fought and died for the belief and dream
they had for a peaceful country …
And the innocent blood of those
that spilled and watered the land
of their ancestors and future generations
may this land grow plants of peace
and the names and bravery of the victims be remembered for ever!

All those with the strong belief in ALLAH
and those who fill their heroes’ shoes and follow in their footsteps …
The innocent blood that was spilled
And brave spirits of John Karanka’s
Will never rest in peace
And will never stop fighting for peace
unless this country is at peace!
As for the saints who are in the Sudan
they are the glorious ones in whom is all my respect!

God bless the Sudan and its people …
Rfn Lawrence Mqogolwana, 4 SAI Bn, currently in the Sudan, Kutum Base
The SANDF will continue to be a messenger of peace

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Department of Defence (DOD) and their families a prosperous 2010.

As we usher in the New Year we can look back on the year 2009 with great pride and joy in the knowledge that we have once again successfully carried out our constitutional mandate. Over the past year we observed a significant commitment by all employees towards achieving our set goals, in alignment with the broader Government Programme of Action to support and improve the lives of our people.

The year 2009 saw a continued commitment by all South Africans as they went to the polls to make their mark during the 4th national democratic elections. This affirms the maturity of our democracy and as a result, we have a new Commander-in-Chief, President Jacob Zuma, myself as the new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, and Mr Thabang Makwetla as Deputy Minister. The Deputy Minister and I accepted the appointments fully conscious of the enormous responsibility and expectations that come with the appointments. We are comforted and encouraged by the full knowledge that success can only be achieved through a collective effort. To this end, we committed ourselves to spare no effort in discharging our collective responsibility of serving the people of South Africa.

One of the innovations introduced by the President as the Commander-in-Chief, in his State of Nation address is the reconfiguring DOD into the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, to ensure that military veterans are for the very first time catered for (at cabinet level). In implementing this decision, as Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, I appointed a Task Team to develop policy recommendations for the future administration and management of military veterans in the country. The Task Team was chaired by the Deputy Minister and will be tabling its findings soon. We embrace this move as it is all-inclusive and will significantly improve the lives of our military veterans who were neglected.

Following this announcement, and observing the state of service conditions for our serving members, I commissioned an Interim National Defence Force Service Commission. This Commission was appointed on 2 October 2009 with the mandate to review the current general conditions of service of members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and work towards the creation of a separate and new dispensation for the National Defence Force. On 10 December 2009 the Commission handed over its report to the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans. As the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans I have handed over the report to the Commander-in-Chief who, after consideration, will table the report to the Cabinet for approval. Thereafter an announcement will be made by the Commander-in-Chief with regard to the recommendations contained in the report.

I was delighted that the Commission was able to take on this onerous task and I congratulate them on the comprehensive and excellent report that they have produced.

It must be emphasised that the SANDF is, and should always be, ready to defend the country and its people and contribute towards the entrenchment of our democracy. However, it is the DOD's obligation to ensure that our dedicated soldiers perform their duties under favourable service conditions. On behalf of the leadership of the DOD we would like to thank all our members for exercising patience with the department and staying on course in the service of the people of South Africa. I want to assure every member of the SANDF that we will continue to strive to ensure that every member of the SANDF gets what they deserve, and that they are proud of being part of this family.

Last year, in support of other government departments, the SANDF lent a hand to the Health Department during the medical practitioners’ strike. The strike almost brought our country’s health system to a complete halt. Our appreciation goes to all serving members who responded to this urgent call and delivered us from an untenable situation; indeed you did us proud.

During the past year the country joined the SANDB in celebrating the 10th anniversary of its involvement in support of Government’s diplomatic endeavours aimed at eradicating conflicts in the region and on the continent as a whole. We continue to do this work because South Africa’s security, stability and economic development are linked to the stability of the entire African continent.

Over the past ten years South Africa, through the SANDF, has participated in peacekeeping missions in the following countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, the Ivory Coast, the Union of Comoros Islands, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau and the Sudan. The SANDF does this work conscious of its responsibility as a member state of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN).

The SANDF will continue to be a messenger of peace in promoting democracy on the African continent and will assist millions of tormented Africans to rebuild their lives. As South Africans we are indeed grateful to our men and women in uniform for flying the flag of South Africa high and, with this celebration, we salute them for their noble deeds in the quest for peace and security on our continent and beyond.

The people of our country have a lot to look forward to this year as the FIFA 2010 World Cup is finally at our doorstep as the host country. We are ready to render support to Government to help our country deliver a safe and secure and an unforgettable world class football spectacular.

To all DOD members, I wish you everything of the best this year and I trust that we will redouble our efforts to serve the people of our country in a professional and loyal manner.

Ms Lindiwe Sisulu
Minister of Defence and Military Veterans
would like to extend my warmest greetings to all Department of Defence (DOD) and South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members and their families.

I trust that each one of us enjoyed a safe holiday season and that we are all back at work with renewed energy to serve the people of our country.

Since assuming this appointment a few months ago, I have been awed and humbled by our men and women in uniform who are carving out for themselves a special place in South African history through their hard work. The impact of your work is significant and is recognised by our nation and the international community.

I have been greatly impressed by your professionalism, dedication and generous service, particularly when the DOD is requested to lend a helping hand to other government departments in times of need, in support of our people.

In accordance with its commitment to serve the people of our country, the DOD launched the Military Veterans Association. Being a Veteran myself I cannot describe the satisfaction that this prospect brings to ordinary people who have wholeheartedly and professionally served our country in an extraordinary way.

These men and women who sacrificed their lives and livelihoods to take part in the struggle for freedom and a democratic order have not been adequately and appropriately provided for by the current system of military veterans’ benefits and services. These military veterans and former freedom fighters have faced critical challenges as a result of factors such as inadequate pensions or a lack thereof, improper and insufficient housing, unsuccessful reintegration and re-skilling programmes, inappropriate honour and death benefits, and deteriorating health care, to mention just some of their critical needs. Indeed, we owe our freedom, democracy, constitution, peace, stability and respect for human rights that we now enjoy in our country to our military veterans. They sacrificed their youth for the struggle for our liberation. As such, these men and women should not be allowed to become estranged from the change they fought for.

The great work done by the Task Team will make the leadership of this Department sleep better at night, knowing that the hard work and sacrifices of our forefathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and sisters will not only be acknowledged by the laying of a wreath, but will now form a permanent structure of our Government in the DOD.

It was not an easy road to travel, but it is pleasing to report that we are ready to present the final draft of the report to the Minister in the near future. I would like to thank the Minister for turning the plight of Military Veterans throughout the country, from all walks of life, into her passion. We thank her for confronting this matter to the benefit of all previously excluded Military Veterans.

It is fitting to thank all members of the Ministerial Task Team on Military Veterans for their time and commitment in establishing this necessary entity in the DOD. Minister, know that your work has helped in laying a solid foundation to honour and serve veterans in life and memorialize them in death for their sacrifices on behalf of the nation.

For many years there was a reluctance to face a variety of difficult issues regarding Military Veterans in the country. However, the speed and openness with which this problem is being faced by the new Ministry suggests that we are truly working towards the transformation of the Department. It takes a lot of moral courage for the leadership of an organisation to respond to a suggestion that there is such a challenge by opening up and working towards redressing it.

Accordingly, this may be a huge step for the Department of Defence and Military Veterans in the right direction, but there is still a long way to travel. For the new Military Veterans department to realise its purpose it needs to be well nurtured by good governance and professionalism to ensure an all-encompassing administration.

In conclusion: as Chairman of the Task Team, I have every confidence that the nature and extent of the challenges relating to Military Veterans have been captured fully in the report. As we begin the New Year, we should do so with great sincerity and commitment to our work. We must always remember the work done by people “before us” so that we can honour them by working even harder to serve the people of our country.

May you all have a prosperous and productive 2010.

Mr Thabang Makwetla
Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans

Mr Thabang Makwetla, Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.
New Year’s message

Achieving peace and stability in our region

Mr Tsepe Motumi, Acting Secretary for Defence.

Skills Development System (MSDS). Since the establishment of this programme, the number of young people accepted into the SANDF has gradually increased. During the course of this year we look forward to enlisting more young people under this programme.

In an effort to enable the Department to achieve its defined mandate and objectives within the allocated resources, commanders, managers and supervisors at all levels must strive to adhere to section 44 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) of 1999 (Act No.1 of 1999). They should continue to ensure that the policy regarding the responsibilities of officials is executed in compliance with section 45 of the PFMA.

To further intensify our commitment to the PFMA the DOD has since launched Operation CLEAN AUDIT roadshows, which is aimed at creating awareness amongst DOD members about the importance of complying with the PFMA. It is anticipated that such an effort will improve the DOD’s accountability, financial management, risk management and state of internal controls. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for the way in which members of the Department have responded to Operation CLEAN AUDIT roadshows where they have already been staged. We urge all members of the Department to attend Operation CLEAN AUDIT roadshows currently under way.

In compliance with a Cabinet decision, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans instructed the SANDF to redeploy on border patrol duties. Furthermore, the SANDF will play a critical role in a ensuring that South Africa hosts a secure and successful 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament.

Like any other organisation, the Department of Defence and Military Veterans depends on its employees to drive its programmes and implement its policies and plans. We salute all our members who have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the Government agenda to better the lives, not only of South African citizens, but of our region and the African continent as a whole, is kept on track.

Last year we celebrated ten years of our country’s participation in peace support operations under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). Thanks to the hard work, dedication, loyalty and honesty of our members our country is now perceived by the world as an honest peace broker.

The role of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans in international affairs, including in Defence diplomacy and security, has been enhanced by the appointment of our Minister, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, to head the International Relations Co-operation Trade and Security (ICTS) Cluster. While this development has opened new opportunities and space for all of us to positively promote the image of our Department, it also brings with it the responsibility of ensuring that we provide quality support to the Minister.

Domestically, as indicated by the Minister during her budget vote speech in the National Assembly on 3 July 2009, the Department will be expected to play a critical role in the country’s economic development. It is pleasing to note that through its Military Skills Development System (MSDS), the Department is contributing to Government’s efforts to mitigate unemployment in the country. Furthermore, through the MSDS, the Department is helping to alleviate the country scarce skills, including in the fields of medicine, aviation and engineering.

Towards the end of 2009 the Department commenced with its programme to support municipalities deal with backlogs in infrastructural development in the rural areas. A special SANDF task team was deployed in the Eastern Cape to assess the situation. This was followed by the commencement of the project to build bridges at Lefukufuku near Tsomo, Nialful in Port St Johns and Dalalahanga in Mount Aylliff.

In addition, support was provided to various communities to alleviate drought conditions and improve water purification systems in the fight against cholera. Support was also provided to the SAPS with a view to defusing the xenophobia crisis.

The DOD’s performance in the past year was marked by significant progress in critical performance areas, although there were challenges in some areas. The reasons for these have been fully considered, and corrective actions will be implemented during the 2010/11 financial year.

In conclusion, I urge every member of the department to continue to work with diligence, dedication, loyalty and honesty.

I wish all the DOD employees a prosperous, fruitful and healthy 2009.

Mr Tsepe Motumi
Acting Secretary for Defence
SA is recognised as an honest peace broker in Africa

As we roll up our sleeves in preparation for the work that lies ahead in the New Year 2010, I want to pass on my best wishes and recognise some of the remarkable work that you have done over the past year.

During 2009 all of you responded in a magnificent and amazing fashion to the challenge of getting ready to conduct operations, both at home and outside of the country.

The past year was yet another busy one for the South African National Defence Force (SANDF); it was also a busy year for the ordinary citizens of our country. Our nation saw another smooth transition of administration after the 4th democratic elections, which this resulted in a new Commander-in-Chief, a new Cabinet and government officials. The new Cabinet includes the new Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla.

The entry of these two principals into the Department of Defence (DOD) meant a new beginning for the Department as may be seen from her budget vote speech in which the Minister highlighted the fact that our Department was embarking on a Policy Review to ensure that the National Defence Force remained in line with the lived reality of our democracy. This means that we in the DOD must take on board what we have become as a country and as a continent.

In this connection the President, Mr Jacob Zuma, announced as part of the reconfiguration of cabinet portfolios that the DOD was henceforth to be headed by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans. The Military Veteran entity was established to ensure that “military veterans are for the very first time catered for” (at cabinet level). In implementing this decision, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans appointed a Task Team to develop policy recommendations for the future administration and management of military veterans’ affairs in the DOD.

To further address the issue of poor service conditions of the SANDF members, the Minister announced the establishment of an Interim National Defence Force Service Commission to look into this challenge. The Commission submitted its interim report to the Minister on 10 December 2009. We are optimistic about its results and trust that in the near future after it has gone through all the processes, we shall see a great improvement in the service conditions of our members.

On behalf of the SANDF I wish to express our appreciation to the Commander-in-Chief and the Ministry for Defence and Military Veterans for this invaluable Department in the DOD as it seeks to honour and serve veterans in life and memorialise them in death for their sacrifices on behalf of the nation.

In the past year the SANDF has continued to fulfill its constitution mandate to defend the country and its people. In support of other government departments, the SANDF stepped in to answer the call by the Health Department during medical practitioners’ strike, which almost brought our country’s health system to its knees. Our appreciation goes to all serving members who responded to this urgent call and delivered us from an untenable situation; indeed you did us proud.

Furthermore the SANDF, in support of other security forces, ensured a successful and peaceful 4th national democratic election in our country. The SANDF also supported the SA Police Service during the FIFA Confederation Cup and is ready to support other security agencies to ensure that the country delivers a safe and successful FIFA World Cup Football tournament in 2010. Last year the country joined the SANDF in celebrating the 10th anniversary of South Africa’s involvement in diplomatic endeavours aimed at eradicating conflicts in the region and in the continent as a whole. We continue to do this work because South Africa’s security, stability and economic development are linked to the stability of the entire African continent.

Accordingly South Africa participates in these missions, conscious of its responsibility as a member state of the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU). As we celebrate this remarkable success in the history of the SANDF, it is important to highlight some of the achievements of our decade-long participation in peace missions.

The past ten years have seen the SANDF participating in peace missions in countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ivory Coast, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi and Darfur in the Sudan.

Today we stand proud of the work done by our servicemen and women in conflict-stricken parts of our continent. Through your selfless efforts, the Burundians and people of the DRC are governed by democratically elected governments after decades of instability. This has paved the way for the much needed post-conflict reconstruction and development in these countries. This achievement is due in part to the sterling contribution of our men and women in uniform to the peace process in these countries.

Fitting tribute to mark the 10th anniversary of SANDF/RSA participation in peace missions was bestowed on South Africa when it hosted SADC’s peace support Exercise GOLFHINO at the SA Army Combat Training Centre in Lohathla in the Northern Cape over the period 1 to 29 September 2009. This peacekeeping exercise was a further enhancement of South Africa’s stature and experience during the past decade of peace support operations throughout the continent, following on from the first Exercise BLUE CRANE in Tanzania in 2002, THOKGAMO in Botswana in 2005, and this year, on South African soil, SADC Exercise GOLFHINO.

The success that the SANDF enjoyed in the year under review is a demonstration of sheer commitment and professionalism by our members, whether on internal or external deployment. It is through your selfless efforts that South Africa has earned the following accolades:

- Honest peace broker in Africa.
- One of the largest troop contributors to the United Nations.

To all members of the SANDF, be proud of the work that you are doing in the interests of all South Africans. We in the SANDF are an important part of what South Africa is, and we articulate through our actions the values that our country represents. Whether at home, keeping South Africans safe, or on operations outside our country, we embody what it means to serve. I am proud of you, your accomplishments, keep up the good work.

May you have a happy and prosperous 2010.

Gen Godfrey Ngwenya
Chief of the SANDF.
How best do you give thanks to the one who brings peace, hope and happiness to the people? This is the quest that the SANDF Spouses Forum under the leadership of Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the wife of the Chief of the SANDF, and Goodwill Parcel Project under the leadership of MCWO1 Johan Scheepers, Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, attempt to answer every year.

Perhaps I should clarify who these people are that I am referring to as "Angels". They are our men and women in uniform who opt unselfishly to be deployed in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR), and the Sudan to bring peace and stability to the citizens of these conflict ridden countries. These soldiers sacrifice the time they could be spending with their loved ones at home during the festive season. This sacrifice is recognised and appreciated by the two entities, the SANDF Spouse's Forum and the Goodwill Parcel Project, on behalf of the SANDF.

The act of giving hampers to the families of the deployed soldiers' families and the gifts to these deployed soldiers is more than just a mere thank you to them. It is appreciation of the job they do and to say to them that the SANDF cares and that they must never feel neglected by the very organisation that facilitates their deployment.

So what is so special about these soldiers and deployment? I personally asked myself this question and my personal journey was taken to try to answer this question. I decided to call these deployed soldiers "Angels".

At first I really thought deployment was about soldiers making money and getting a few dollars to exchange for rands and so make good money from deployment. My view has changed. Deployment "is not child's play". The conditions that these soldiers work under are unbearable, not because they sleep in tents or weather havens, but because the situation they work under is so unpredictable. Everyday they have to be ready for armed confrontation by illegitimate militia. There is nothing good about living everyday as if it could be your last. As if that is not enough, you have to be constantly thinking of your fellow soldiers that you have to protect and the citizens of the host country that need protection too (okay … I admit I feel overwhelmed by this experience. It is just that the deeper I look at the deployment of soldiers the more I realise that there is not enough gratitude to these soldiers. Deployment is not for everyone; it is for those who have "nerves of steel").

The role of the SANDF Spouses Forum

Through the year the SANDF Spouses Forum solicits sponsors to buy food hampers for the families of the deployed soldiers. These are distributed to them over the festive season. The food hampers were delivered directly to each deployed soldier's home personally (the families did not have to go and collect them somewhere) by 18 December 2009. These hampers go a long way to say to the loved ones at home that the SANDF cares for them and their loved ones.

Goodwill Parcel Project

From 12 to 18 December 2009 sponsors and senior SANDF officials visited the deployed soldiers in Burundi, the DRC, the CAR and the Sudan. In all these countries the soldiers expressed their gratitude not just for the gifts, but also because the people actually took time to visit them in their deployment areas. The soldiers realised that the
Gifts could have been sent via sustainment flights to be distributed to them; to see people from home was a blessing and good morale booster.

In the DRC, Col Barney Modisane, National Contingent Commander for OP Mistral XII and XIII from 43 SA Brigade in Wallmannsthal, north of Pretoria, expressed his gratitude for the gifts on behalf of the soldiers under his command. He said he found the word “Goodwill” associated with kindness, friendliness, helpfulness, concern, care and support, “after finding the meaning of this word which is the purpose of today’s special gathering. The festive season is a time of doing all the things that in terms of the definition of goodwill,” said Col Modisane.

In conclusion he thanked the SANDF leadership and sponsors, saying: "Your generosity, caring, thoughtfulness and support are appreciated. Each effort goes a long way amid the stress and strains of the operational environment".

His speech expressed well how all the deployment Contingent Commanders and the troops felt about the gifts, and most of all to see people from home.

---

Arrival of the delegates, guests and sponsors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Airport.

Two deployed soldiers displaying their gifts.
The choir entertaining the delegates, guests and sponsors, while Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, the Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum (wife of the Chief of the SANDF) sings along.
Awarding excellence at the Government Communicators' Awards ceremony

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Mr Richard Baloyi, addressing the guests at the 2009 Government Communicators' Awards ceremony.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) holds one special day annually in its calendar to award government communicators for communicating with their internal and external stakeholders in a more simple and effective way.

This year the prestigious 2009 Government Communicators' Awards ceremony was held at the Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg on 11 December 2009, where over 500 communicators assembled with the hope of taking the grand finale prize, known as the Government Communicator of the Year Award, worth R30 000, among other benefits back to their Department.

The GCIS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Themba Maseko, applauded everyone for their immense contribution in delivering Government messages to all and said the feedback from the public was positive. He continued by urging all communicators to redouble their efforts, as 2010 would be a big year for all, particularly for South Africa. "All government departments should work hard to send one synchronised message that is clear to our visitors; we should not give mixed messages."

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Mr Richard Baloyi, was also Acting as Minister in the Presidency for Mr Collins Chabane, who could not be there owing to work related issues, echoed the same message of the CEO that communicators had the tremendous work at hand of portraying South Africa in a positive way to our visitors.

As the night progressed guests were serenaded with tunes from Malaika and Black Coffee.

Winners and runners-up

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR
Winner: Chief Directorate Communication North West Province - Office of the Premier

NATIONAL BUA AWARD
Winner: A (H1N1) Communications Campaign Department of Health

NATIONAL UBUNGCWETI AWARD
Winner: Kha Ri Gude Literacy Campaign Department of Basic Education
Finalist: Advocates of African Peace Department of Defence and Military Veterans
Finalist: Chief Directorate Communication South African Police Service

PROVINCIAL BUA AWARD
Winner: Chief Directorate Communication North West Province - Office of the Premier

PROVINCIAL UBUNGCWETI AWARD
Winner: Chief Directorate Communication North West Province - Office the Premier
Finalist: 2010 Communications Office of the Premier Mpumalanga Provincial Government

LOCAL BUA AWARD
Winner: Communications Unit Eden District Municipality
Finalist: Communications Department Sekhukhune District Municipality
Remembering our fallen heroes

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thlaole

The commemoration of the fallen soldiers who died and those who were disabled serving this country is a well-known and acknowledged event in the DOD.

This age-old memorial service was held at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. An annual event is held on the Sunday nearest to 11 November, but this year Armistice Day was on Wednesday the 11th. Sunday 8 November was the day closest to the 11th, hence this commemoration event was held on this specific Sunday.

The Day of Remembrance was instituted to commemorate the peace agreement to end what was known as the Great War (1914 - 1918), which is referred to by some as “the war that ended all wars”. It was signed in the early hours of 11 November 1918. All firing ceased at the 11th hour of that day. All the countries of the British Empire then decided to commemorate the end of this war by holding a memorial Service at 11:00 on the 11th of the 11th month. This is known throughout the Western world as Armistice Day.

Every item associated with this event is significant, eg the wearing of the red poppy by members of military veterans’ organisations, which is a reminder of the “Great War” in which millions of soldiers were killed and maimed. The ground was drenched in blood, and a bayoneted rifle, with the bayonet firmly planted in a tuft of grass and a helmet placed on the butt of the rifle, became a traditional way of marking the burial site of soldiers who served their country and paid the supreme sacrifice.

The memorial service was also attended by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and various communities, military veterans’ associations and representatives of foreign countries.

The stirring music of the SA Military Health Service Band and the reading of a poem by a Canadian medical officer called In Flanders’ Field complemented the event. Piper Dave Berry from the Pretoria Highlanders serenaded the guests by playing the customary laments on his bagpipes.
The skies rumbled the previous night; lightning spread its bright fingers across the skies of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) on 5 December 2009. The heavens wept; it came down very hard in Durban.

Three coffins, of the seven members that passed on, stood side-by-side ... waiting to be lowered into the ground.

Tears flowed as loved ones, family, colleagues and friends of the fallen heroes stood around shocked by the result of the accident that claimed the lives of eight members of 1 Medical Battalion Group in KZN. The accident happened on the N3 near Harrismith in the Free State on 26 November 2009.

Members were returning from Thaba Tshwane after writing their preliminary exams in preparation for the FIFA 2010 World Cup. They met with a fatal accident when their vehicle collided with a truck that had just jack-knifed.

A full military funeral was held to honour the fallen men and women of the SAMHS. The military funeral for Sgt Moferefere Maseme (46), Pte Sindiswa Mkhize (35) and Pte Noncebo Ngcobo (30) took place at the Durban Light Infantry Regiment.

The mass funeral service was attended by members of the SAMHS led by the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, and the KZN MEC of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo. They paid their respects and offered condolences on behalf of the various departments they represented.

During the service, Col Vevanathan Perumal, Officer Commanding 1 Medical Battalion, related the events that led to the untimely death of his subordinates, who he affectionately referred as “1 000 hours” as they were mostly seen in provincial hospitals serving their 1 000 hours, which would have seen them qualify as operational emergency care practitioners.

Dr Dhlomo sang the praises of the fallen heroes. He described their contribution to the SANDF and to the community as immeasurable. He pointed out that they would probably have taken part in preparations for the FIFA 2010 World Cup. He thanked the DOD for the equal treatment they offered to their Reserve Force members.

The Surgeon General also praised the deceased as they had died in the line of duty and promised that there would be a trust set up to take care of the educational needs of the children of the deceased.

Hambani kahle maqhawe ethu!
The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, attended a memorial service on 3 December 2009 at St Anne’s Catholic Church in Durban for the eight members of 1 Medical Battalion Group who were tragically killed in a road accident on the N3 near Ladysmith on 27 November 2009. They were returning from Pretoria where they completed an entry exam for the Emergency Care Technician’s Course, a two-year course, which has now replaced the “old” Ops Medics Course.

Attending the memorial service was the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, the Chaplain General of SANDF, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, Senior Officers, Regional Officers Commanding, representatives from the private and business sector, men and women from the SANDF. The photographs of the eight members were placed in front of the chapel against the background of the SA National Flag and the Flag of the SA Military Health Service.

Loved ones, families and friends of the deceased sat together on this solemn occasion as the Officer Commanding of 1 Medical Battalion Group, Col Devanathan Perumal, addressed the memorial service. He said: “I do not have words to describe our loss. This has been the saddest week for 1 Medical Battalion Group. We had a professional working relationship with the men and women who have now gone to a higher calling. They had successfully completed their 1 000 hours of voluntary work at the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital and were going to be presented with their certificates.” He continued: “Their eagerness to serve the group and the community will always be remembered by all who had contact with them. They were loyal and sincere. It is with deep regret and profound sympathy that I extend my condolences to their families.

“Our hearts and minds go out to the seven who are injured. I wish them a speedy recovery. Our late members were accepted on the Emergency Care Technical Course and were earmarked to be stars and trailblazers of 1 Medical Battalion Group. Go well, Hambani Kahle.” This was followed by the soulful rendition of Somlandela ujesus, Flowers of the forests, Highland Cathedral and Soldiers Lament by the 1 Medical Battalion Group Pipe Band.

In his address at the memorial service, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans said: “Death has robbed us of our valuable people. We are here this morning to mourn the tragic loss of our National Defence Force personnel. Death is the necessary end of life. We die because we live. Death brings pain and confusion to our lives.

“They were trainees on a mission to save lives. In their work environment they had an angelic mission to save lives, but succumbed to death.

“They served our country with honour and confirmed their worth as men and women worthy of their uniform.

“We have a history where we come from. The old order used total strategy to prevent change. Military sat in the middle. Our military since 1994 has been appointed to the defence mandate. We are a defence in a democracy, civilian accountable and transparent.”

On the subject of remuneration for SANDF personnel, Mr Makwetla said: "As South Africans we must realise that our country must honour our men in uniform. The Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans has established a 10-man commission to determine the salaries of soldiers and introduce regulations to ensure the SANDF runs effectively. The commission will assist the Defence Ministry with the conditions of service, remuneration and any other matters that immediately affect the
Families of the late members of 1 Medical Battalion Group enter the St Anne’s Catholic Church for the memorial service for their loved ones.

SANDF. "In recognition of your commitment to national security, we will finalise the new Service Dispensation for the SANDF in January 2010.”

He added: “Our members’ lives are worth more than we can repay in monetary terms. We sit here today to mourn and pay tribute. The death of fellow South Africans on our roads is too much. More bodies come from our road accidents. Our attitude towards road usage in motor vehicles must change. Road usage must be done with the utmost care. Too many precious lives are lost in road accidents.

“The SANDF will increase its role and visibility in the development of South Africa. Our soldiers are going back to the borders. The SANDF will contribute on our borders to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity." The SANDF is associated with the shielding of our people. We want to be relevant for the development of our structures. The SANDF wants to make a contribution in creating a better life for our people.”

He concluded: “The military veterans are not looked after well. A policy will be passed that will improve their conditions of service. Why must our soldiers who serve with honour have to strike first to get increases when they are prepared to sacrifice their lives in defence of our democracy? Our thoughts go out to all those families who have lost their loved ones. May our Lord grant them strength and provide guidance to the families to carry on.”

Mr Makwetla then lit a candle from which family representatives of the deceased lit their candles from its flame in honour of their loved ones.

Each family representative came forward and paid tribute to their loved ones who had passed away.

The late S Sgt Daniel Maseme’s brother, Letswe, said: There is nothing I can do, but accept that my brother has passed on. There are no words to describe him because with him I felt like everything was possible. He had so much to live for and so many plans for the future. He loved his uniform and the Army.”

He added: “The SANDF has been very supportive in assisting our family. We are indeed grateful. They have been there for us.”

The deceased members

- S Sgt Moferefe Daniel Maseme (46) from Newlands East
- Sgt Thuliswe Thobile Sitsele (31) from Lamontville
- Sgt Cynthia Phindile Nsele (31) from Kranskop
- Cpl Zinhle Brightness Nokubonga Mbhele (28) from Isipingo
- Pte Gladness Nomvula Msomi (33) from Chesterville
- Pte Mziwenkosi Wellington Nxele (26) from Donnybrook
- Pte Sindiswa Cytronella Mkhize (35) from Clayfield Phoenix
- Pte Noncebo Angel Ngcobo (30) from Ntuzuma

As the people left the church with their heads bowed, Sgt Thomas Fuller (Pipe Major) and Corporals David Oosthuizen and Bradley Boxall played Amazing Grace.
Not everyone can be famous, but everyone can be great because greatness is determined by service,” said Dr Martin Luther King Junior.

Members of the SANDF are assets to the organisation. Without their dedication, devotion, commitment and loyalty the SANDF will never be effective or efficient. Their efforts matter. Loyalty in this context means commitment to keeping the SANDF flag flying high.

Following several interdepartmental meetings involving the Departments of Defence and Military Veterans, Public Works and the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, it was resolved that the task team be formed and that Public Works
should be a leading department in addressing the current status of roads and bridges in rural areas.

The Eastern Cape was identified as a priority province. The Task Team visited the province from 1 to 3 July 2009 to do on the ground assessment. Three crossing points, viz at Lefukufuku, Ntafufu and Daluhlanga were then identified as in need of bridges. The required deliverables for these areas are two vehicle crossing points and one pedestrian crossing point.

The construction project, which is driven by the Department of Public Works and the SANDF, and is part of the Expanded Public Works Programme is aimed at bringing service delivery to millions of South Africans living in rural areas, many of whom are cut off from schools, clinics and towns during the rainy season.

The project, which was launched at Tsomo in Intsika Yethu Municipality on Monday 23 November 2009, will see SA Army Engineers from 2 Field Engineer Regiment building bridges that will link remote communities to established infrastructure. These bridges will be built using Bailey bridge components that are redundant DOD stock.

A number of people were swept away following floods after heavy rains. There are only two access roads to the villages in Tsomo and if it rains heavily, many residents, especially learners, find it difficult to reach their homes.

Intsika Yethu Municipality Mayor, Mr Sithembele Plata, said that soldiers had been brought in at the right time, as there was a crisis in some parts because of lack of service delivery to the people. "We have been waiting for this kind of support from the Government," said Mr Plata.
He further mentioned that the SA Army intervention would help save millions of rands. “At least we will not be paying consultants and tenders. Soldiers are here to help us to develop our areas through their skills and expertise.” Ms Nonyaniso Mtshazo who lost her son in 2006 when he tried to cross the river said that her wish was not seeing another person die because of the river. “Though I suffered a lot after I lost my child, I am happy that at least lives can now be saved,” added Ms Mtshazo.

The SANDF once again showed the nation that it had a national defence force that it could be proud of. The SANDF is one that people can count on and that can make a difference.

Sappers putting the bridge panels and decks together in Tsomo.

The villages where bridges will be built to link remote communities to established infrastructure.
The SANDF made its mark in the city of Johannesburg when it held its Freedom of Entry Parade, which was held on 7 November 2009 in Mooki Street in Orlando East where members of 21 South Africa Infantry Battalion (21 SAI Bn) and several Reserve units marched and trooped to a military band.

The main functionary at the event was the speaker of the Johannesburg city council, Councillor Nkele Ntingane, who commended the Reserve Force for supporting the city’s activities: “The Reserve Force regiments have over the years played a vital role in support not only of civic functions, but also of the citizens of Johannesburg. Most memorable was the deployment of bands and guards of honour during the visit to the city by the former South African President, Mr Nelson Mandela, in May 1999, and at the Orlando Hall in Soweto on 14 May 2004. The SANDF, especially the Reserves, is part of the fabric of the city and therefore it is important that the citizens see them on parade,” said Councillor Ntingane.

Councillor Ntingane added that the city of Johannesburg had a long and valued association with the regiments and they wished to continue with this legacy: “Johannesburg has always had a close involvement with the military, which goes back to the Anglo-Boer War. At that time British regiments consisting of men of the Witwatersrand were raised to fight against the Boer commandos. Both sides had black soldiers, both combatants and non-combatants,” said the Councillor.

She also thanked the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, for authorising not only the parade, but for the valued participation of the SANDF in the annual National Civic Remembrance Day for the last 50 years, and officers and men who participated in the parade for their high standard of dress, bearing and discipline and for having their colours on the parade.

Different regiments march through Orlando East.
SA Navy says "No" to women and children abuse

By Seaman Phathu Nedzanani
Photos: Leading Seaman Tumi Sehloho

Violence against women and children causes much misery in the households of our country. On 26 November 2009 sailors of the SA Navy wore white ribbons on their crisp white uniforms and joined to march through Pretoria from Church Square to the SA Naval Mess to demonstrate their support for the 16 Days of Activism campaign to combat violence and abuse against women and children. They also called on the public to support people living with HIV and AIDS.

In his address to the members that participated in the campaign, the Chief Director Maritime Strategy, R Adm B.H. Teuteberg, said: "The consequences of violence are not limited only to victims; violence is the worst of crimes against humanity given its ability to strip men and women of dignity, erode trust, and destroy the collective democratic values of our society. Its presence among us demands that we collectively take action, and that during these 16 days, in particular, we re-energise and re-direct our efforts in order to ensure that this campaign becomes a 365-day long effort to restore the dignity and pride of all people, including the vulnerable among us'.

The invited guest speakers that participated in the campaign were Superintendent A.S. Makuwa from Men for Change, who discussed violence against women and children. Mr G. Payne and Ms R. Lehloko from AIDS Consortium talked about how gender based violence was linked with HIV and AIDS. Lt Col G.G. van der Niet from Military Legal Services spoke about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

The Institute of Security Studies conducted a research project in 1999. They found that
- 90% of the women interviewed experienced emotional abuse and humiliation in front of others.
- 90% had also experienced physical abuse, being pushed or shoved and slapped or hit.
- 71% had experienced sexual abuse, attempts to kiss or touch followed by forced sexual intercourse.
- 58% experienced economic abuse. Money taken without consent was most common.
- 42.5% of women had experienced all forms of abuse.
- Partners, lovers or spouses committed 60% of all cases of abuse.

A shocking report compiled by Solidarity Helping Hand said one child was raped in South Africa every three minutes, and in addition
- 88% of child rapes were never reported.
- In 2007/08 1 410 cases of child murder were reported, 22% more than the previous year.
- 45% of all rapes in the country were child rapes.

HIV and AIDS in South Africa is a prominent health concern. It is believed there are more people with HIV and AIDS than in any other country. Three candles were lit by Capt (SAN) Raburabu as a tribute to all those who had died from HIV and AIDS, all those living with the virus, and the last candle was one of hope that we would win this encounter of life, not knowing what is going to happen tomorrow.

For support and counselling please contact
Life Line 011 728 1347 or 086 132 2322
Woman Abuse 0800 15 01 50
Child Line 0800 05 55 55
AIDS Helpline 0800 012 322

Capt (SAN) Tsietsi Raburabu lighting the candles.
Act Against Women and Children Abuse

By Bibi Morgets
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

Imagine if, for 16 days there was no child abuse, no sexual harassment, no rape and no emotional abuse. The 16 Days of Activism campaign challenges everyone to declare a truce on violence against women and children and ultimately to make it permanent. Violence against women and children has become a pervasive human rights violation that affects all women and children around the world.

South Africa is taking part in the eighth year of this campaign against women abuse has and also included children in the campaign because of the high incidence of child abuse in the country. In union with fighting this plague the City of Tshwane hosted a parade in honour of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign on 27 November 2009 at the Pretoria City Hall. The parade consisted of the security cluster, which was a combination of the SANDF, the SA Police Service and the Community Safety Organisation known as the Metro Police and the Fire Brigade.

It is an event celebrated worldwide from 25 November to 10 December to raise awareness of all forms of violence directed at women and children and how it has manifested itself in society and the negative impact it has on the development of these vulnerable groups.

The theme for this year’s event was: "Commit, Act and Demand". The purpose is to convey a message that not all men are perpetrators of violence and also to demonstrate the spirit of brotherhood that exists among men in the security cluster by encouraging others to change their attitudes and behaviour towards women and children.

The Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, said: "Commend all our men wherever they come from who continue to support us unconditionally by taking a stand against any form of violence directed at women and children. To all these men we say, you are our men, you are our brothers, you are our fathers, you are our grandfathers, you are our great grandfathers and we say we love you unconditionally."

She congratulated President Jacob Zuma on being in the forefront of encouraging men to accept women in previously male dominated positions in government service, the establishment of the newly formed Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities, under the leadership of Ms Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya, and said it was a clear message towards prioritising issues related to women and children.

She concluded by saying: "Violence against women causes untold misery, harms families across generations, and impoverishes communities. As a city we are determined to play our role of being a strong player through a stronger, better co-ordinated and more visible leadership. We can only achieve this through a strong partnership with civil society."

Let’s all take responsibility for shaping our country, bearing in mind that women are the life carriers and children are the future. We should come together as a nation and take a stand against these perpetrators who continue to violate the precious gifts of human nature in others.
Thirty-three members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 20/09 visited the Kingdom of Lesotho from 27 to 29 October 2009. The visiting delegation was headed by Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College, assisted by the Programme Co-ordinator and Programme Facilitators.

The aim of this visit was to allow members of the ENSP 20/09 the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the national security policy and strategy, as well as the forces and trends shaping the foreign and domestic policies of Lesotho.

**Itinerary**

Members of ENSP 20/09 arrived at Moshoeshoe International Airport in Maseru on Tuesday, 27 October 2009. The group was met by Col Eric Boihang, the non-resident SANDF Military Adviser in Maseru, and Brigadier Mahao from the Lesotho Defence Force together with Capt Lekoatse, the Liaison Officer. The group’s first stop was a courtesy call on the South African High Commission where we were briefed by the High Commissioner, Mr H.H.L. Mahlangu.

The High Commissioner informed the visitors of the importance of Lesotho to South Africa and of the responsibility of South Africa to ensure that Lesotho advanced beyond being the least developed country in the world. The briefing was followed by lunch whereafter the group visited the Defence Headquarters for a briefing on Lesotho’s foreign policy. At the end of the briefing the group left to book in at the beautiful Lesotho Sun.

Very early on Wednesday morning the group left for a visit to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP). The journey by bus took four hours on the most picturesque mountain road. The group eventually arrived at the Katse Dam where we were briefed by LHWP Management on the origins of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The LHWP was a joint venture between the Lesotho and South African Governments that started back in 1985. This partnership brought about the realisation of the Katse Dam catchment area that supplies the Gauteng Province with water.

Following this briefing there was a presentation by Brigadier Mahao, the Acting Chief of Staff of Human Resources and Administration in the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF). Brig Mahao, who is also an ENSP graduate, highlighted the roles and functions of the LDF, which are to defend the territory of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to prevent or suppress acts of terrorism and internal disorder and to maintain essential services, including law and order. The LDF may also be called upon to perform other duties such as disaster relief, assistance with the construction of clinics and bridges, as well as assisting with vaccination drives and the distribution of educational material. Brig Mahao also mentioned the good relations existing between Lesotho and South Africa and quoted from a speech delivered by the then Lesotho Prime Minister, Mr Leboa Jonathan, to the United Nations General Assembly in 1967. In the speech the Prime Minister mentioned the strategic importance of the relationship between the two countries and that for Lesotho to contemplate adopting a hostile or bellicose attitude towards South Africa would be unthinkable and ill-advised.

These briefings were followed by a sightseeing tour of the dam where the most spectacular views were witnessed. After a short but scrumptious lunch the group left the Katse Dam for the long four-hour journey back to Maseru. That evening the Lesotho Military hosted a cocktail function in honour of ENSP 20/09.

On 29 October, the third and last day of our visit, the group attended briefings presented by the Lesotho Department of Health and the Department of Finance. Ms M.B. Boikanyo, a Director in the HIV and AIDS Department in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, gave a very honest and open presentation on the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Lesotho. Lesotho, one of the smallest and poorest countries in the world, has the third highest HIV and AIDS prevalence rate in the world, in response to which the Government of Lesotho has embarked on various treatment programmes to curb this disease. And so, enriched with a better understanding and knowledge of the beautiful Kingdom of Lesotho and its people, ENSP 20/09 bade Maseru farewell and returned to Pretoria.

The SA High Commissioner in Lesotho, Mr H.H.L. Mahlangu (left), and Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College.
The ENSP group visits Argentina

By Col B.A.M. Hadebe

 Altogether 34 members (4 international fellows, 5 from other RSA State enterprises and the rest uniformed members from the SANDF) of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 20/09 visited Argentina from 15 to 20 November 2009.

Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, the Commandant of the SA National Defence College (SANDC), assisted by the Programme Co-ordinator and Facilitators, headed the visiting delegation. This international visit formed part of the International Studies curriculum of the ENSP 2009 programme. Comparisons with South Africa were made and crucial issues at strategic level were identified. The tour also provided an opportunity to assess the potential for conflict and the effect that this might have on South Africa’s national security.

Members of ENSP 20/09 arrived at the Ezeiza International Airport in Argentina on Sunday on 15 November 2009 at 16:30. The delegation was met by Capt (SAN) L. Johnson, the SA Defence Attaché in Argentina, and Ms Deborah Connon, the Liaison Officer. Capt (SAN) Johnson, Ms Connon and two interpreters accompanied the SA delegation to the visits and presentations.

The group’s first business of the day on Monday, 16 November, was an address by South Africa’s Ambassador to Argentina, Mr Tony Leon, to the group. The Ambassador informed the visitors about the political trends of Argentina in particular and South America in general. Capt (SAN) Johnson, the SA Defence Attaché in Argentina, and Ms Deborah Connon, the Liaison Officer, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 17 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 18 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

Dolmen for the formal briefing at the Argentinian Department of Foreign Affairs. The group was briefed by Ambassador Stanconelli on international negotiations, G20 and the WTO. Ms Alicia de Hoz spoke about the political relations of Argentina with the rest of Africa and South Africa. Lastly Councillor Alejadro Pofo discussed Mercosur, economic and commercial affairs and Argentina SACU relations.

In the afternoon the group visited CITIDEF, a scientific research institute for defence. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 17 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 18 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 17 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 18 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 17 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.

On 18 November 2009 the group visited the Joint Staff HQ. After the welcoming address a slide show presentation on the military/definition strategy was held. The President of CITIDEF, Eng Eduardo Fabre, welcomed the SA delegation. A slide show presentation was then held for the group, followed by a presentation to highlight the missile programme. Next a group tour of the graphic and visualisation simulation project took place. Lastly, a briefing on project crisis management was held.
Friday 27 November was a special day in the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) as it was set aside for the Corporate Awards. This is an annual event held to honour those who have excelled during the year.

Tertiary Military Health Formation, the hosts for the year, ensured that the evening was most unforgettable in the minds of all those attended. They transformed the Thaba Tshwane City Hall into a stunning venue fit for the occasion. The evening saw a number of trophies awarded to the worthy recipients and also history being made as the Surgeon General’s Mohale Award had more than one recipient. It was shared among four winners, namely Brig Gen J.A. Jansen, Col S.S. Fortuin, Lt Col R. Maritz and SWO M.J. Solomons.

More winners
The Human Resource Trophy in Excellence (WO1 J.M. Kgosaana)
Excellence in Logistical Management (2 Military Hospital, Col N.P. Maphaha)
Sword of Peace (Operation ITHEMBA, Brig Gen Piet Oelofse)

CLINICAL SERVICE AWARDS:
Health Promotion and Prevention (Nursing Department: Upington Sickbay)
Combat Readiness (Area Military Health Unit Mpumalanga)
Quality Improvement (Nursing Officers, 3 Military Hospital)
Clinical Excellence (Lt Col (Dr) R. Tshivase)

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Area Military Health Unit Western

Cape (Gold)
Area Military Health Unit Eastern Cape (Silver)
2 Military Hospital (Silver)
2 Military Hospital (Best Improved)

BEST ACHIEVER PER SPORTING CODE
Netball - Lt S. Sono (Institute of Maritime Medicine Simon’s Town)
Road running - Cpl M.P. Kobue (AMHU Northern Cape)
Soccer - Cpl I.C. Khumalo (School for Military Training)
Volleyball - L. Cpl T.D. Njomo (School for Military Health Training)
Shottist - Maj M.J. Swanepoel (Institute for Aviation Medicine)

BEST ADMINISTRATOR PER SPORTING CODE
Netball - Cpl T.P. Mahlabane (AMHU Limpopo)
Road running - Cpl M.T. Malebye (AMHU Limpopo)
Soccer - S Sgt N.B. Nikani (3 Military Hospital)
Volleyball - Lt Col B.A. Roos (SAMHS HQ)

BEST PROGRESS AWARD PER SPORTING CODE
Netball - Cpl T.P. Mahlabane (AMHU Limpopo)
Road running - Pte D. Mmitseng (2 Military Hospital)
Soccer - Cpl I.C. Khumalo (School for Military Training)
Volleyball - Pte N.M. Ravhandalala (AMHU Limpopo)
Best Sporting Code of the Year - Volleyball
SAMHS Sports Achiever of the Year - Maj C. Collins
Sport Administrator of the Year - Capt B. Mtungutungulu
By Mandla Mahlangu

The Brazilian Embassy awarded four Medals of Friends of the Navy to commend civilians and members of other military forces who acted to improve their relationship with the Brazilian Navy during an award ceremony held at the Embassy offices in Pretoria on 9 December 2009.

The Friends of the Navy Association began in 1972 in São Paulo. The Friends of the Navy is normally celebrated on 6 November, which is the birthday of the former Minister of the Brazilian Navy and Patron of Sociedades Amigos da Marinha (SOAMAR), Fleet Admiral Maximiano Eduardo da Silva Fonseca.

The recipients were required to exercise moral responsibility and exemplary personal conduct and have an interest in the Navy and in related maritime subjects.

Brazilian Defence and Naval Attaché, Captain Márcio Magno de Farias Franco e Silva, awarded the Assistant Director of the South African Navy Foreign Training, Ms Lilia Neumann, and Brazilian Embassy member of staff, Mr Samuel Magoai, Friendship of the Navy Medals.

Ms Neumann told SA Soldier that she had been assisting the Brazilian Navy with training logistics. “There’s training going on between the SA Navy and the Brazilian Navy. I receive people from Brazil for training and liaise with their office about it.”

The Brazilians, SO1 Ronaldo Rodrigues Borges and Captain Márcio Magno de Farias Franco e Silva, were also awarded medals by the Brazilian Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Jose Vincente Pimentel.

Such training sessions are vital as they focus on cleaning audit qualifications in the Department of Defence (DOD) in order to achieve a clear audit report. The roadshow aims to empower the DOD officials with skills and competencies to ensure the achievement of the objectives of Operation CLEAN AUDIT.

Since May 2009 Operation CLEAN AUDIT has made good progress and improved its financial reporting on the FY 2008/2009 audit period. The report was issued on 31 July 2009 and three out of seven audit qualifications have been cleared. However, the Auditor General has issued two new qualifications. New measures are now to be put in place in order to clear and prevent the recurrence of these qualifications.
DOD commemorates World AIDS Day

Article and photo by Lt Sello Segone, Acting Editor Milmed

"Prevention is our most powerful weapon against the epidemic," said President Jacob Zuma in his address during World AIDS Day on 1 December 2009.

These were the sentiments shared among those who gathered at the Pretoria Military Sports Club to commemorate the day. Each year on 1 December, various organisations within the health sector organise World AIDS Day commemoration events. Similarly, the SAMHS, as one such organisation, hosted the annual international AIDS Day commemoration on behalf of the DOD.

The theme for this year's commemoration was "Universal Access and Human Rights".

All Services and Divisions in the Pretoria area attended the event in order to ensure increased HIV and AIDS awareness within the defence community.

Brig Gen Lulu Siwisa, Director HIV and AIDS in the DOD, gave an address to elaborate on the prevalence of the disease. She appealed to everyone to take the day seriously and use it as an opportunity to learn something new about the disease and its prevention. She also maintained that there was nothing wrong with being HIV positive, as it is a manageable disease that can, with proper treatment, be brought under control.

She further appealed to all not to discriminate against those infected and to those who were infected not to hide as the SANDF cared and there were programmes in place to assist them. She warned of the price of ignorance as it led to devastating consequences.

In concurring with the appeal of the Minister of Health, Mr Aaron Motsoledi, Brig Gen Siwisa also extended the challenge to members to undergo voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), as there were stalls of nurses from Area Military Health Gauteng on hand to provide counselling on site.

The day’s activities included visiting stalls, which offered VCT, combating HIV and AIDS through spiritual and ethical conduct and Love Life. Volkswagen Arcadia (one of the sponsors) was also on hand to display some of their latest vehicles.

**New developments on the HIV and AIDS front**

- All children under one year of age will get treatment if they test positive. Treatment will therefore not be determined by the level of CD cells.
- All patients with both TB and HIV will get treatment with ARV’s if their CD4 count is 350 or less.
- TB and HIV will now be treated under one roof. This policy change will address deaths arising from undetected TB infection among those who are infected with HIV. Approximately 1% of the general population has TB … the co-infection rate is 73%.
- All pregnant HIV positive women with a CD4 count of 350 will have access to treatment. At present HIV positive pregnant women are eligible for treatment if their CD4 count is less than 200.
- All other pregnant women who are HIV positive will be put on treatment at fourteen weeks of pregnancy to protect the baby. In the past this was only started during the last term of pregnancy.
- In order to meet the need for testing there work will be done to ensure that all the health institutions in the country are ready to receive and assist patients, and not just at a few accredited ARV centres.
- The implementation of these announcements will be effective as of April 2010.

(Additional information as obtained from President Jacob Zuma’s speech on 1 December 2009)
Friday the 13th is normally associated with things going wrong, but this time they went right in the SAMHS. This was history in the making as the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, officially opened the Lephalale SA Military Health Service Training Facility on 13 November 2009.

As per military custom a parade took place to mark and celebrate this huge and momentous achievement in the SAMHS. The journey to the achievement was described as a long and arduous one.

The need for the establishment of the training facility came after the SA Army had, rightly so, suspended all SAMHS basic training activities in Lohatlha. This was because the SA Army Combat Training Centre was meant mainly for combat exercises and, to a lesser extent, for joint developmental training, and not for the basic training purposes the SAMHS was using it for.

The bilateral meeting held on 11 March 2009 at the SAMHS HQ between the Surgeon General and the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, brought about a breakthrough when Lt Gen Shoke acceded to the request for the training facility. For that reason the SAMHS remains eternally indebted to the SA Army.

All the paperwork to concretise the handing over of 118 SA Infantry Battalion to the SAMHS was concluded by the latter under the leadership of the Chief Director Military Health Force Support, Maj Gen Lefeni Make, who engaged the Department of Public Works to ensure that all the necessary processes were initiated.

Col Sydney Fortuin, Project Manager and MWO Milton Solomons, Site Manager, have spent long hours, mostly beyond the call of duty, to get the facility up and running. The Surgeon General acknowledged their personal sacrifices, especially in terms of time spent away from the comfort of their homes. The SCWO of the SAMHS, SCWO Moses Sebone, addressed issues relating to discipline and the upkeep of the facility. He also acknowledged the contribution by Cpl Tlotlego Malebye and her team for their discipline during the period of construction.

The facility was handed over to the General Officer Commanding Military Health Training Formation, Brig Gen Jabu Msimang, and the Officer Commanding School for Military Training, Col Josias Tshabalala, for utilisation. However, the Surgeon General warned how much money had gone into the facility so that greater care needed to be taken to see to it that the facility was maintained properly at all times to prevent any dilapidation and deterioration a few years down the line.

The Surgeon General further assured everyone that all health services were to be rendered on site so that students did not have to leave the premises to receive such services, which can have a negative impact on discipline.
The function was filled with fun events and life orientation lessons for the children. Fun events enjoyed included playing on different swings at the Bokkie Park, observing the SA Air Force water truck spraying water on the grass, and watching some of the aircraft displaying flying techniques.

The two tour guides, Lt Matsetse and Sgt Ngoako, walked around the hangars with the group to explain the different aircraft and their functions. Children left the hangars knowing that some aircraft were made for fighting and others mainly for transportation. This information was very valuable as the children were not only hearing about the flights, but it was also possible for them to see and touch the aeroplanes.

Information gathering and processing is made easier for these children when various senses are used.

With Outcomes Based Education (OBE) curriculum in schools these days we can never overexpose our children to information. The SANDF is very rich in resources that are essential for OBE learning. The nature of the work of SANDF members does not always make it possible for parents to explore and enjoy the resources with their children, such as the Air Force Museum. That is why celebrating the end year function at the museum was perfect for both children and parents.

The big moment of the day was a tour inside a big Boeing. Children entered the plane as though they were boarding to fly to some destination. They all rushed in straight to the cockpit and were amazed by the number of buttons and controls pilots have to deal with. After wandering about the cockpit children took their seats inside the Boeing. Some lay on the beds, while the older ones bombarded tour guides with questions. The day ended after party packs were presented to our little pilots. It was therapeutic for the therapists to observe parents sharing some of the long hidden information about flights and their flying times with their children.

Gratitude: Occupational Therapists from 1 Military Hospital would like to extend their gratitude to the Officer Commanding of the Air Force Museum, Lt Col W.A.J. Nel, Lt D. M. Matsetse, WO1 J. J. J. Venter, Sgt P. M. Ngoako and everyone from the Museum for making the day memorable for our children and their parents. This day was made possible through sponsorships from the following organisations: Pick ‘n Pay Centurion Mall, Spar in Valhalla and SAMI, Centurion Sweets and Ice Cream, McDonalds in Centurion and Mr Rian van der Merwe. To all our sponsors we say thank you for everything.

Lt Matsetse showing the group an Air Force Cheetah.
Youth visit to Durban

Article and photo by Thabo Shirinda

It was two days of fun and learning for the 45 youngsters who were part of the Youth Visit to the coastal city of Durban, according to those who were part of the DOD’s Youth visit. These learners came from all nine provinces of South Africa.

They left Pretoria on 10 December 2009. Their journey included a visit to the Air Force Base Durban, Naval Station Durban and a stop at the Area Military Health Unit Bluff. It was an emotional trip for some, as most of them had never slept in a hotel, let alone been on a plane. “This has got to be the most memorable day of my life; I never thought that one day I would be in an aeroplane,” said Mapule Morulane from Polokwane in Limpopo.

The SA Air Force proved to be the most popular for the youngsters, as most of them wanted to be part of the SA Air Force. "This is what I have always wanted. I would like to be a military pilot one day and play a role in protecting our country,” said Modiegi Mokoena from Atteridgeville, Pretoria. They were taught about the operational side of the SA Air Force, and also about the different types of aircraft. Some of the things taught included fire-fighting, command and control and transportation.

Their next stop was Naval Station Durban at the Durban Harbour. They got a chance to engage with members of the SA Navy and so learnt about the Navy and its operations. They were taught how the SA Navy protected our shoreline and also about other operational matters. Steve Mnisi from Hammanskraal said: “This is where I want to be; I also think the fact that I am a good swimmer will work to my advantage.”

On the last day they made their way down to a South African Military Health Service unit - the Area Military Health Unit Bluff. Judging by their reaction it was a memorable trip for them. It started in a sombre atmosphere, as most of them did not know what to expect, but ended on a high note. They all left with smiles on their faces and new friends.

Some had this to say: “I always thought that the military was all about fighting and lot of wars. I never thought that I could find journalists, doctors, lawyers, etc in the military,” said Samuel Diloane from the North West.

Mfundo Mahlangu from the Mpumalanga province said: “This is the happiest day of my life; what I am hoping for now is just for the military to hire me, as I am more interested than ever in joining the military.”

“The military is more interesting than I thought. It is not about doom and gloom as we heard from the outside. When I join it will not be about making a living, but offering a service to my beloved country,” said Keokopile Tumisang from the North West.

It was indeed a memorable trip for the young people of this country. They all sounded optimistic about their future. If this is anything to go by, then the country need not worry about its future generations.

Participants in the Youth Visit to Durban at Naval Station Durban.
Supporting 16 Days of Activism

Article and photo by
Maj R. Roberts

Members of the ASB Eastern Cape participated in the march against women and children abuse on 4 December 2009. 16 Days of Activism is a period of global campaigning during which thousands of people and organisations all over the world take a stand against gender-based violence.

The participation of the ASB Eastern Cape and the Harley Davidson Motorcycle Club were a wonderful addition to the campaign against abuse and much attention and publicity were generated for the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereniging (ACVV) campaign and every participating organisation, including the SANDF. (The ACVV is an organisation with seven branches that works with women, children and families in Port Elizabeth.)

This was a national campaign and every province hosted such an event. The function was held in the Commando Hall at the Military Base in Forest Hill and Harley Davidson motorcycles and two SAMIL vehicles led the march from Hilton Crescent to the Commando Hall. Banners were displayed on the SAMIL vehicles.

Children with ASB Eastern Cape members who participated in the march against women and children abuse.
The economic climate in South Africa has in recent years placed tremendous pressure on the budgets of our people. It has therefore become evident that we need to position ourselves to deal with these financial challenges we face.

As part of the social responsibilities of the Chief of the SA Army, he tasked a team to develop a programme in personal finance to support members in facing these challenges and how to deal with them. The programme strategy was presented to the Army Command Council and to the Extended Army Command Council and the decision was made by the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, to roll out the pilot programme: “Personal Finance Mastery”. As with all pilot programmes, it needed to be tested, so the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, Brig Gen L.L. Eggers, kindly offered SA Army Signal Formation as the testing platform.

Twenty-two members showed up at the SA Army Signal Formation Auditorium on 16 November 2009 thinking that the course which would end on 19 November 2009 was merely going to be on “How to do your budget”, but they were pleasantly surprised.

The course dealt with the following issues:
1. Understanding the economy and how it impacts on me.
2. Understanding what savings are.
3. Understanding why I must manage my own finances.
4. Understanding banking.
5. Understanding my payslip - what it means.
6. Planning my savings and retirement.
7. Developing a personal budget.
8. Managing my budget.

A quick overview was also given on how to register for and do SARS e-filing. A highlight of the course was the Personal Finance Portfolios handed to each member to use as a tool in structuring and securing all their personal finances and other important information and documents in one file.

The course was presented by Maj Robert Brown, assisted by Lt Col Ferdi Matthee of SA Army Budget Management, both experts in their field. Some members described the course as “a wake-up call”, “an eye-opener” and “a long overdue initiative”. Everyone agreed that this pilot programme must be rolled out to every single person in the SANDF and that the Chief of the SA Army should be commended for having taken the decision.

The Personal Finance Mastery Programme will, in due course, be presented to every unit in the SA Army. This is certainly a course that will help members to turn their personal finance mystery into personal finance mastery.
A night of glitz and glamour

By Maj Lizette Lombard, SO2 Corporate Communication
SA Army Signal Formation

The annual SA Army Signal Formation/SACS Ball can be described as a night of glitz and glamour. It was held on 6 November 2009 at Vilmore, Erasmia in Pretoria and was arranged by 3 Electronic Workshop. More than 500 people from SA Army Signal Formation, CMIS Division members and corporate clients and members of industry gathered for this special evening. At this annual event, members and units/regiments are awarded for their achievements during 2009. Before the handing out of trophies commenced, the master of ceremonies, Lt Col A. Rossouw (Second-in-Command of 3 Electronic Workshop) said: "History has demonstrated that the most notable winners usually encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to become discouraged by their defeats".

Unit and regimental trophies:
- The School of Signals Trophy was awarded to the Junior Training Wing.
- The 1 Signal Regiment Trophy was awarded to the Procurement Section.
- The 2 Signal Regiment Continuous Improvement Award was awarded to 21 Signal Unit.
- The 2 Signal Regiment Reutech Floating Trophy was awarded to Free State Signal Unit.
- The 3 Electronic Workshop Award was awarded to the Radio Workshop.
- The 4 Signal Regiment Award was awarded to the Corporate Communication Section.
- The 5 Signal Regiment Award was awarded to the Umhloti Centre.
- The JSB Wonderboom Award was awarded to Internal Services.
- The 11 Field Postal Unit Award was awarded to Maj Frans Potgieter.
- The SACSA “Nanoteq” Trophy was awarded to F Sgt Van der Merwe.

The following SA Army Signal Formation trophies were handed over by the General Officer Commanding SA Army Signal Formation, Brig Gen L.L. Eggers, and the Formation Sergeant Major, CWO E. Kahn:
- The Sports Person of 2009 Trophy was awarded to Maj L. Lombard.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Trophy was awarded to 2 Signal Regiment.
- The Reserve Force Trophy was awarded to 11 Field Postal Unit.
- The Best Level 4 FSE Award was awarded to 5 Signal Regiment.

The winning Level 4 FSE Trophy awarded to 5 Signal Regiment, fltr: CWO E. Kahn (FSM SA Army Signal Formation), Col M.O.H. Mokoma (OC 5 Signal Regiment), MWO M.C. Haasbroek (RSM 5 Signal Regiment), Brig Gen L.L. Eggers (GOC SA Army Signal Formation). (Photo: Cpl N. Otto)
guidelines. The Joint Warfare module fell under the Joint Advanced Term designed for the core business of an operational level Commander or Staff Officer and "Military Operations Other than War" to conduct and apply the Military decision-making model within the environment of peace missions. Skills and knowledge acquired during the programme were put into practice in a final exercise known as Exercise TLHONTLHORI (APEX).

The General Officer Commanding Training Command, Maj Gen Mansred Mabuza, addressed the attendants and said the SANWC was a college of a special type. "It is unique [and] it does not compare with any grading contemplated in the DPSA," he said.

Maj Gen Mabuza said: "During the opening address of the SANWC on 30 January 2004 the previous Chief of the SANDF, Gen Siphiwe Nyanda (Ret), now the Minister of Communications, made special mention that the then Military Council (now Military Command Council) considered the JSCSP to be one of its flagships and it enjoyed a high priority within the SANDF.

"Therefore, any officer selected to attend this programme is considered to be privileged and I also believe all the graduates realise how honoured they are to be given an opportunity to attend this programme." Maj Gen Mabuza said: "I was his PSO (Gen Nyanda) and little did I know that I would today be the main functionary at this prestigious function and be able to quote him".

The Commandant SANWC, Brig Gen Sipho Mashobane, said the SANWC was established to develop Senior Officers and future military leaders to meet the demands of the future. "We are convinced that what we have been tasked to do we have done to the best of our ability and we have delivered on our promise of empowerment."

He elaborated: "The graduating Officers have had the opportunity to be educated, trained and developed by experienced and knowledgeable staff, supported by a complement of international directing staff and prominent local and international guest speakers. To date, the college has produced 645 graduates of which 47 have been international fellows from friendly countries around the world." He stressed: "Our product is marketable anywhere in the world and the programme is accredited and registered with the SA Qualification Authority at level six on the National Qualification Framework."

Brig Gen Mashobane congratulated graduates and advised them to: "Make us proud and make a difference. I request that you take up your new appointments with enthusiasm and a desire to apply what you have learnt; your colleagues and subordinates will be expecting this of you."

**Awards winners**

Two floating trophies for Best Literature Review and Best Command Research Paper 2009 (with compliments of PRISMA), Lt Col Boitumelo Dube (SAMHS).


Best Command Research 2009 for an International Fellow, Col Chris Sibanda (Zimbabwe).

Best Overall Command Research Paper 2009 for SAMHS learner, Lt Col (Dr) Johannes Pretorius.®

Ftr: Lt Col Virginia Vardhan (SAMHS), Capt (SAN) Rendy Masutha, Lt Col (Dr) Johannes Pretorius (SAMHS) and Lt Col Lizzie Allworth (SAAF) pose with their awards after winning at the SA National War College.
hav had her own day centre for many years, Ms Helena Langenhoven felt the call to give something back. Six years ago she teamed up with Ms Annah Modise and Ms Elmien Viktor for the running of Tekkies Day Care, a non-profit centre situated in Tek Base in Lyttelton.

Together they decided that a happy environment where less fortunate children could learn, love and be loved, was far better than making a profit. Serving a less fortunate sector of society is very challenging.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, held his annual Prestige Golf Day on 13 November 2009 at Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane with the goal of raising funds to benefit the Tekkies Day Care and the hospice in Lenz.

SA Army Armour Formation, the organisers of the Chief of the SA Army’s Prestige Golf Day, was responsible for the Christmas party for 22 children at Tekkies Day Care on 17 November 2009. A day full of surprises, fun and laughter was planned. Ms Busiswe Ngwenya, Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum and wife of the Chief of the SANDF, and Ms Charlotte Shoke, wife of the Chief of the SA Army, joined the children for this Christmas party. These two remarkable women of the SANDF Spouses’ Forum co-ordinated the generous donations and contributions to renovate Tekkies Day Care (also read the article in SA Soldier, November 2009, page 47).

At 09:00 Sgt Edthian Dampies, Communication Clerk at SA Army Armour Formation, dressed up as Father Christmas arrived to spoil every child with a Christmas present. Their faces lit up with smiles and one could see the gratitude in these children’s eyes as they received most probably their only Christmas presents this year. The jumping castle was the greatest treat and a party pack full of sweets made them feel as if they were in heaven. At 10:00 Pepsi the clown arrived and the children had to join in the magic tricks with the words “sim sala bim”. They could not believe that a torn paper heart could be healed and that a cup of sugar could be changed into a cup of sweets when these magic words were said.

Pepsi was also a face painter and therefore all the children had the opportunity to select a theme to be painted on their faces. Anything from Spiderman, lions, tigers, butterflies and even Barbie girls were painted. A job well done!

At lunch the children were treated to hot dogs and their daily nap followed directly after. They soon fell asleep, because of the excitement of the day.

This day would not have been possible if it had not been for the generous contributions and sponsors of the Chief of the SA Army Prestige Golf Day. It was indeed a day in these children’s lives they will not forget soon. Thank you also to the personnel of Tekkies Day Care, Ms Langenhoven, Ms Victor and Ms Modise for your hard work and providing these children with a safe haven and lots of love.

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. They are the world’s most valuable resources and its best hope for the future. This future you and I now hold in our hands. Donations and assistance for the Tekkies Day Care will be welcomed. Please contact Ms Langenhoven at 084 657 0171.
Children entertain the audience with dance during the Christmas Service.

**Chief Army's Prestige Golf Day**

Compiled by L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

The Chief of the SA Army Prestige Golf Day was held at the Services Golf Club in Thaba Tshwane on 13 November 2009. This golf day presented an ideal opportunity for high-level networking and contributed towards raising funds for the establishment and management of a hospice and orphanage to the benefit of SA Army members and their families.

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, welcomed all the participants and sponsors at the evening function after a day of playing and interacting on the golf course.

“I want to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the support that we received from the players and the sponsors. Our objectives with this golf day are to raise funds for the SA Army Hospice as well as our new project, the Tekkies Day Care Centre. As you will see tonight, great progress has been made with the establishment of the hospice, and you have made this possible. We would appreciate your support and assistance for our new project as well. We value your friendship, the interest shown and your comradeship,” Lt Gen Shoke said.

He congratulated the prizewinners and expressed his gratitude to the main sponsor for the event, SAAB South Africa, and all the other sponsors: AB Logistics, Alkantpan Test Range, Armscor, Armscor Business, Armscor DMD, ATE, BAE Systems, CSIR DPSS, Carl Zeiss Optronics, Da Gama Textiles, the Defence Institute, Denel Corporate, Denel Dynamics, Denel ISS, Denel Land Systems, Dick Whittington, Fulcrum Defence Systems, Gelvenor Textiles, Global Communications, Grintek Ewation, Internet Africa, Inter-technic, IVEMA, Jorsin the Group, Ken Forrester Vineyard, Microsoft, Knightsbridge, Nissan South Africa, PGSI Group, PISA, Pretoria Metal Pressings, Reutech Solutions, RDM, RSD, Satreno, SITA, SkyGistics, Thales South Africa, Thoroughtec, VME and Walog Training. They had all taken an interest in the fifth Chief Army Prestige Golf Day.

**Learners overjoyed over early Christmas presents**

By Mandla Mahlangu

Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Thlhaole

Learners from different backgrounds were overjoyed when given early Christmas presents during their specially hosted gospel and fun-filled Christmas Service at Technical Service Unit on 9 December 2009.

One speaker after another stressed the importance of protecting and caring for children at all costs.

Addressing the children, a motivational speaker and a member of the Area Military Health Unit Gauteng, Maj (Dr) Monica Molatlhegi, said everyone must use their potential and “not make graveyards the richest place in the world because people die with their potential”. Maj (Dr) Molatlhegi encouraged support for families with single parents and involvement in community projects.

Col Gilbert Mofela, Officer Commanding Technical Service Unit, said: “We have decided to set aside this day in order to give thanks to the Almighty for His wonderful mercy throughout the year. We had some challenges and still managed to overcome them and attain our goals.”

Col Mofela handed over certificates of appreciation to 28 Technical Service Unit members for their loyal support and hard work throughout the year. The event was organised by Chaplain Brenda Siqaza on behalf of Technical Service Unit and attended by learners from the Makgatho Primary School in Atteridgeville.
SA Navy participates in the Inter-forces Soccer Championships

Article and photos by Leading Seaman Tumi Sehloho

reland has appealed to the world soccer governing body, FIFA, to be allowed to compete as a 33rd team in the FIFA 2010 World Cup finals. However, based on the performance of the SA Navy Female Soccer Team at the Inter-forces Soccer Tournament that took place in Thaba Tshwane from 23 to 27 November 2009 they have serious competition for that unprecedented spot.

The Men’s Soccer Team played their final match against the SA Army on 27 November 2009. With nothing but pride to play for, the two teams battled it out for third and fourth positions. The match ended in a draw, but the SA Navy won with a penalty shoot-out and claimed third position. The SA Air Force walked away with the laurels in the male division.

Then it was time for the SA Navy’s own “Banyana Banyana” to showcase their stuff at the tournament. The unbeaten ladies’ team played their final match against SAMHS. Their final encounter was as tough as nails, but nothing they could not overcome. Seaman (f) M.L. Mboweni from SAS SALDANHA was the star of the tournament and, befitting a lady with her talent, scored the winning goal for the SA Navy, thus ensuring that they were crowned the female champions in the SANDF. Seaman Mboweni made such an impression on the selectors that she was nominated as player of the tournament and even included in the SANDF Ladies’ Team that was selected at a previous tournament. These ladies proved that the SA Navy was not only unchallenged at sea, but also on the soccer field.

The two female teams greeting each other before playing.

The proud winners of the female Inter-forces Soccer Championships 2009.
SAAF Benevolent Fund donates to the blind

By CO Solomon M. Kotane,
Ad Astra
Photo: Cpl Riaan Calitz

The SA Air Force Benevolent Fund donated R50 000 to the Johannesburg Society for the Blind on 19 October 2009 at Rose Acre, south of Johannesburg.

“We can only salute you for the good work that you are doing,” emphasised Brig Gen Tersia Jacobs, when she presented the cheque to the societal delegation, which was led by the organisation’s CEO, Ms Vangile Nyamathe. Two members of the SA Air Force and Brig Gen (Ret) Daan Retief, the Benevolent Fund Manager, accompanied Brig Gen Jacobs.

Brig Gen (Ret) Retief gave an overview of the SA Air Force Benevolent Fund and explained why it took almost two years before it could respond positively to the Society’s request for a donation. He explained that there were many deserving organisations and individuals on the Fund’s list. However, he expressed his happiness that the Society’s letter did not get lost in the system.

This non-profit organisation was founded in 1926 after World War I to help civilians who had been blinded during the war by providing them with employment and accommodation. In the aftermath of the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa, the organisation changed from helping people of Caucasian origin only to providing holistic services to all visually impaired persons.

The 83-year-old organisation is committed to promoting the rights and abilities of visually impaired South Africans through rehabilitation programmes, education and the provision of skills and resources for independent living. It represents the human rights of all blind and partially sighted persons in the country.

Furthermore, it provides mobility training, disability grants, employment, job creation and skills development and helps the blind claim their human rights as enshrined in the South African constitution. It is also involved with the HIV and AIDS care outreach programmes (funded by the National and Gauteng Departments of Health) for virtually blind persons. In addition to this list of responsibilities, it conducts Adult Basic Education, computer training and lobbies Government departments on issues affecting blind people, especially voter education for blind persons. The organisation, with 24-hour medical care, currently accommodates about 64 virtually and totally blind people. It also caters for cane furniture repair and manufacturing, gives training in cane weaving and basketry, has an assembly and packaging workshop, presents adult education in Braille, and has a computer training centre accredited by the Information System Electronic Telecommunication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA). It also hosts the white guide cane-manufacturing project.

The cane repair and basketry section of the organisation has a current annual turnover of about R350 000 per annum and employs two sighted people, nine blind persons, two deaf persons and two persons with other disabilities. Fifteen blind and partially sighted people are being trained in furniture manufacturing through the Forest Industries Sector Education and Training Authority (FIETA) SETA.

Additionally, the assembling and packaging workshop has a current annual turnover of approximately R500 000 and employs 70 people in total: 32 blind, 17 deaf, 8 with other disabilities and 13 sighted persons. The HIV and AIDS outreach programme has reached 5 346 blind people in the year ending March 2008. The Society currently owns the premises it operates from and the latest evaluation done in July 2008 by the City of Johannesburg stated that it was worth R13 million.
2009 will go down as a year of major advancements and achievements for military golf in the Western Cape. Under the enthusiastic Chairmanship of Col Tol Snyman and his dedicated committee, the Defence (WP) Golf Club has seen one of the most competitive seasons held in many years.

The club has three very exciting and competitive leagues running from January right through to November 2009. They are the Interservices Betterball League, the IPS Interservices League and the Fed (WP) Cup. A competition on similar lines to the very successful FedEx Cup was the PGA tour in the USA. A total of 9 teams and over 90 golfers participated in the league events. They were made up from present, retired and Reserve Force members from the SA Navy, the SA Army, the SA Air Force and the SA Military Health Service and an invitation team from the Correctional Services.

In addition to these events the club also competed in an Interforces Challenge over three rounds with members from the SA Police Service and Correctional Services in the Western Cape. This series was immediately followed by another two days of a President's Cup format event in which the same teams played. While the Defence (WP) Golf Club successfully managed to defend the series title they won in 2008, they narrowly lost to the SA Police Service in the President's Cup. The Defence (WP) Golf Club also ran their annual Club Championship over two days and has been actively involved in hosting an event in the Sanlam Cancer Challenge. This is combined with the many WP Golf Union events that the club supports and participates in.

2010 will see the enjoyable matchplay format returning to the club when the top 32 golfers from this year's IPS League go head to head over 4 rounds.

Defence (WP) golfers have continued to dominate the annual SANDF Golf Championships and 2009 was no exception. The members took home no less that 7 of the 11 titles on offer, as well as the much converted team trophy. Two members of the Defence (WP) Golf Club were selected to represent the SANDF. They were S Sgt Patrick Layman and Sgt Mo Jacobs from the Army Support Base Western Cape.

Last but certainly not least, the Defence (WP) Golf Club has implemented a very strong and active development programme, which will see more young golfers of colour hitting the fairways and greens over the next year. The development clinics are jointly run between the SA Army and the SA Navy under the direction and guidance of Maj Kevin Bence with strong support from the Cape Town Military Sports Club. These clinics are held at the Vodacom Golf Village on a regular basis and are set to increase in both the number of clinics and participants in 2010. Advanced clinics for the lower handicap players also form part of the planning for 2010.

Defence (WP) Golf Club Development Clinic.

B Division Champion - WO2 April Prins (SA Navy)
SANDF Golf Championships -
C Division Champion - WO2 Johan Britz (SA Army)
Defence (WP) Golf Club
Regional Results for 2009
Betterball League Champions - Correctional Services
IPS League Champions - SA Navy A
IPS Individual Champion - WO1 Johan Wahl (AFB Ysterplaat)
Fed (WP) Cup Champion - S Sgt Colin Fitch (ASB Western Cape)
Interforces Champions - Defence (WP) Golf Club
Interforces President's Cup - SA Police Service
Defence (WP) Golf Club A Division Champion - Mr J Grove.
Defence (WP) Golf Club B Division Champion - S Sgt Henk Steenkamp (ASB Western Cape)
Defence (WP) Golf Club C Division Champion - Capt Piet Kruger (2 Military Hospital)
Defence (WP) Golf Most Improved Player - S Sgt Henk Steenkamp (ASB Western Cape)

Any aspiring military golfers in the Western Cape who would like to find out more about the club or would like to join can contact Maj Kevin Bence on 021 5902806 or 083 3003915.
Swimming now on the map at ASB Eastern Cape

By Maj R. Roberts
Photo: Ms N. Weir

The SA Army Support Base Eastern Cape is actively involved in sport and one of the main reasons behind our success and motivation is that we have a qualified, diligent and hard-working physical training, sport and recreation (PTSR) officer. Maj Werner Els obtained a BA Ed Human Movement Science Degree in 1989 at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and completed his postgraduate degree, B Tech Business Management Degree, in 2005. Another accomplishment of Maj Els is a Certificate in Sports Management from the International Military Sport Council Sports Academy, which he obtained in 1997.

Maj Els enjoys being involved in physical activities and the organising of such events at the unit. Most recently a Potted Sports Day was successfully held at the unit, which was sponsored by Ford and enjoyed by everybody, including the Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP).

One of Maj Els’s mottos, in which he strongly believes, is that a healthy body houses a healthy mind, and his long-term objective is establishing a love for sport. He believes that together with physical training, recreational sport can contribute to the force preparation and force maintenance function of the SANDF. His interest in swimming started in 2002 as part of a project that was launched at ASB Eastern Cape to teach swimming as a life skill to members of the DOD in Port Elizabeth. Maj Els and WO1 Johan Gouws started the project and in 2004 they assisted the Joint PTSR School with the Curriculum Development of the Basic Water Orientation Course that was presented to DOD members to help them become water safe and make them combat ready for deployment in areas with water obstacles.

Maj Els is currently the SANDF Chairperson for SANDF Swimming and received the Sports Administrator of the Year award from Swimming South Africa during the annual award session that was held in Durban on 15 October 2009. He also received the Port Elizabeth Sports Club Award as the Best Sports Administrator for 2009.

In December 2009 Maj Els and WO1 Gouws presented a Learn to Swim Course to the children of DOD members in Port Elizabeth to teach them how to conduct themselves in rivers or at sea, which is something completely different, requiring different skills and knowledge. Through this initiative their main goal was to make the children competent in swimming to minimise the risk of drowning and to create an opportunity for the children to enjoy recreational resources on their doorstep, ie the sea and swimming pools. Both Maj Els and WO1 Gouws completed the Swim SA Learn to Swim Course in 2008.

Members of Prince Alfred’s Guard Regiment who were trained by him in swimming have since 2008 been participating in international triathlon events, which include swimming in the sea. Pte Jennifer Mbande from PAG became the first African woman to complete an international triathlon event.

This year the SA Army Support Base Eastern Cape received the award for the fittest unit in Category C and, for a non-combatant unit, it performed fairly well.
How to bounce back from adversity

By Chaplain K.S. Theko, Information Chaplain
SA Army Engineers

Life is full of the unexpected. It has been said that life is what happens when we have other plans. Positive unexpected events are not normally a problem; in fact, we tend to look for good fortune. But the negative events that intrude on our lives are much more likely to derail us and rob us of appreciation and enjoyment of each day. Everything we do in life has either a right way of doing it and wrong way of doing it. When we do it the right way we meet with success. Needless to say, when we do it the wrong way we are unsuccessful. Understanding this is important because it puts failure in its proper perspective and removes the fear around it. This is a challenge that we all have to be tested against.

Everyone wants to be successful in life. I have never met anyone who purposely set out to be a failure. Theodore Roosevelt said: “The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.” Failure is one of those ugly realities of life, a common experience to all of us to some degree. Thus the ability to handle failure in its various forms and degrees is a vital part of the spiritual life and another sign of maturity.

The Bible reveals that most of the great figures of Scripture experienced failure at one time or another, yet those failures did not keep them from effective service for God. Mentioning a few, people such as Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David and Peter experienced failures and despair in their lives. Though they failed at some point, and often in significant ways, they not only recovered from their failure, but they used it as a tool for growth; they learned from their failure, confessed it to God, and were often able to be used in even mightier ways.

The following are some of the failures experienced by great leaders in the Bible:

1. When Abraham should have stayed in the land and trusted the Lord as promised, he fled to Egypt because of the drought.
2. Moses, in trying to help his people, ran ahead of the Lord and killed the Egyptian. Later, against the command of God, he struck the rock in his anger.
3. When David should have been out in the field of battle, he stayed home and committed adultery with Bathsheba and then plotted the murder of her husband.
4. Peter, in spite of his self-confidence and his great boast, denied the Lord; as did the rest of the disciples who fled on the evening of our Lord’s arrest.

The worth of a man must be measured by his life, not by his failure under singular and peculiar trials. Peter the apostle, though forewarned, thrice denied his Master at the first sign of danger; yet that Master, who knew his nature in its strength and in its infirmity, chose him as the one He could build His church on.

Life is neither fair nor unfair. It just is. I regard it as neutral. It brings each person unique opportunities to learn and grow as a result of the events or circumstances that cross his or her path. Everyone, regardless of age, sex, nationality, religion, career status or financial position is a student in life. No one is immune to the teachings of life. Class is always in session. School is never out. Everyone has inner battles of one kind or another that they are fighting.

Everyone at least once in his or her life experiences some form of setback, adversity, failure or loss in at least one area of his or her life. Adversity can strike with or without notice. It can hit a relationship, a loved one, a career, your business, your health or your financial status.

According to Tim Coner, "Life is circular not linear. First there is birth, then growth, then maturity then death, followed again by birth or rebirth and so on." This is the law of the universe, whether it is life itself or a change in career or a relationship.

"The most tragic thing I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside today.” - Dale Carnegie

It is appropriate to use every obstacle you face as a stepping stone to move closer to the life you desire. The more stones you have, the closer you are to your goal. And at the end it is not the years in your life that count. It is the life in your years. Resilience helps us bounce back from adversity.

How to bounce back from adversity according to Mayo Clinic staff (20 January 2008, Jerry Lopper):

1. Building strong, positive relationships with people who will listen and support you.
2. Changing personal habits.
3. Developing personal interests.
4. Using humour and laughter to find something funny in your stressful situation

Chaplain K.S. Theko.

5. Ethics and relationships.
6. Improving relationships.
7. Learning from your experiences by recalling how you have coped with adversity in the past.
8. Personal ethics.
9. Remaining hopeful, optimistic, and expecting good results.
11. Taking care of yourself, both physically and emotionally.
13. Being flexible and looking for the opportunities available within any situation.
15. Working toward your goals by doing something every day that gives you a sense of accomplishment.
16. Learning new things about yourself and the outside world, nurturing yourself, self-confidence and self-esteem so that you feel strong, capable and self-reliant.

The following are tips for bouncing back from adversity:

- “You must have the determination of a mirror. It never loses its ability to reflect, even if it is broken into thousands of pieces.” - Unknown author
- “When this power is I cannot say; all I know is that it exists and it becomes available only when a man is in that state of mind in which he knows exactly what he wants and is fully determined not to quit until he finds it.” - Alexander Graham Bell
- “Beginning today I will take a moment to step off the beaten path and to revel in the mysteries I encounter. I will face challenges placed before me with courage and determination. I will overcome what barriers there may be which hinder my quest for growth and self-improvement.” - Penny Jacqueline White

The bamboo tree that bends is stronger than the oak tree that resists. (Japanese Proverb)
- “The mind is like a parachute: it works only when it is open.” - Unknown
- “Attach yourself to your passion, but not your pain. Adversity is your best friend on the path to success.” - Unknown
- “When life makes you have to put up with mean and hateful people, think of them as sandpaper. They may scratch you, rub you the wrong way, but eventually you end up smooth and polished and sandpaper is just going to be worn out and ugly.” - Unknown
- Life experience tends to show us that most of the negatives of life are transient. We lose a job, but find another. We lose a friendship, but enter into a better one. We make a poor choice and suffer a loss, but learn from it and make better choices in the future.
- “This too shall pass”, is a good phrase to keep in mind when events intrude. Resilience is the ability to bounce back after a setback.
To balance their academic and social/cultural life, 65 students from the Universal College Outcomes (UCO), which is a computer, business and early childhood development skills training institution, visited the SANDF on 5 November 2009.

The UCO offers short courses and learning programmes leading to qualifications in the FET band of the National Qualifications Framework. For most of these students it was their first encounter with the military. Away from the college they are at times exposed to a holistic life that we cannot imagine and life itself becomes a challenge.

The group consisted of keen, friendly, bright, and inquisitive youngsters. To our surprise they were on time, something not really expected of students making use of public transport! Chaplain M. Otto opened the proceedings with Scripture reading and prayer. The learners were keen to learn more about SANDF recruitment and the different Services.

The Human Resources Acquisition Office provided important information regarding the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) intake and explained how the system worked, as well as the requirements necessary to become an MSDS member. Lt Col Desire Fouché of the Defence Reserves Provincial Office Eastern Cape provided information about the Reserve Force system, with specific reference to the differences between the Regular Force and the Reserve Force. Chaplain Otto, who is currently the Acting Officer Commanding of 3 Medical Battalion Group, entertained the students with his experiences as a Chaplain in the Reserve Forces and laid emphasis on the quality of recruits.

SAMHS discussed the professional career paths that can be followed, and the students were briefed by the “Ops Medics”. The new military ambulances and equipment were exhibited so that the students could familiarise themselves with “Ops Medics” duties in the military environment.

One of the highlights was the lucky draw when the students received various sponsored prizes and vouchers. The students cheered each other on as they received the prizes and everyone was in high spirits.

They were then transported in Samil vehicles to the Port Elizabeth Naval Station. The students were looking forward to the boat ride, but unfortunately because of the damage to the slipway it was cancelled. Video footage was shown on the diving courses presented by the SA Navy, followed by an informative briefing.

The day was concluded with a visit to the SA Air Force Museum and, to test whether the students were still wide awake, a competition was held. They were divided into groups and each group received a questionnaire that had to be completed in 20 minutes. Excitement was running high as students were running around searching for answers inside the Museum and the hangar. The winners were totally beside themselves with joy. After the promotional items had been handed out to the winners, the students stayed to take pictures of the Impala and other aircraft on display in the Museum.

The UCO Principal, Ms Ansie van der Merwe, expressed the wish that UCO students would visit the SANDF again in 2010 and hoped that in future it could become a yearly arrangement between UCO and the ASB Eastern Cape Communication Section that had organised the visit to the SANDF.
Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika - South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee.

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.