SA SOLDIER

The official monthly magazine of the SA Department of Defence

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SA Army Foundation gripped by Soccer World Cup fever

SASCOC unveils SANDF boxers

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FRONT COVER: Maj Jack Olifant, Second in Command 1 Military Print Regiment, won a FIFA Soccer World Cup ticket from SA Army Foundation. Read all about the lucky draw on page 42. (Photo: Thabo Shirinda)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
soccer fever and Gees are still in the air! Vuvuzelas, proudly South Africans dressed in Bafana Bafana attire and flying national flags of participating countries are everywhere to be heard and seen …

Although our National Team did not go through to the last sixteen (second round) they made us proud. They have shown us what they are made of and they can now only go from strength to strength. Viva Bafana Bafana!

Like last month this edition is spiced with photos and news on the Soccer World Cup. (Because SA Soldier is compiled two months ahead we shall also publish the last of the Soccer World Cup articles in the August edition.)

Also evident in this edition are the outcomes of many a learning opportunity offered to members of the Department of Defence. Read on page 20 about the graduates who completed the most senior SA Army course at tactical level. On page 24 read about the graduation of the Emergency Care Technicians: SA Military Health Service.

After ten years the members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 01/00 held their 10th year reunion. (The ENSP is the most senior course in the Department.) Read on page 26 about this occasion.

Read on pages 30, 32 and 33 about young soldiers rejuvenating the SANDF. These Military Skills Development System (MSDS) members completed their Basic Military Training and have now been transformed from a civilian lifestyle to the military culture.

Twenty-five Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) attended the DOD Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme. Read more on pages 34 - 35 about the programme and some feedback from participants. "After this orientation programme, I can honestly say that the more I learn, the more I know how little I actually know. I strongly recommend the attendance of this programme by all employees," said Mr C.M. Nqeto, a Deputy Director from Directorate Career Management who has 11 months of experience in the DOD.

"Knowledge is power." Seize every learning opportunity that the Department offers!

Waka! Waka! until next month!
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ENSURING A FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

It is estimated that glass takes more than 10 years to resolve back into the soil, paper takes 2 to 5 years, tin more than 10 years and most metals like steel will never resolve back into the soil. However, by removing these possible hazardous substances from the environment we can all have a huge impact on the environment.

Many materials can be recycled to be used for other purposes, eg plastic bags end up in tar roads after being recycled. The days are gone when people looked after the environment and picked up rubbish lying on the ground. We believe that throwing paper on the ground is creating a job for someone else. However, although we might be right, we are causing much more damage to the environment than what we think.

Living and working in a clean, safe and hazard-free environment is everybody’s right in South Africa, as it is for every member working in the SANDF.

On 7 April 2010 a group of personnel from 502 Squadron, situated at 68 Air School, committed themselves to making a positive impact on their working environment. The members from the security squadron decided to adopt the Trichardt Road area next to 68 Air School as their own by having a monthly clean-up session to pick up all the rubbish (including papers, tins, bottles, etc) next to the road.

A total of 22 black bags and various dead branches were dumped after their effort. Although this will assist 68 Air School in maintaining a positive image, it also decreases the negative impact that these materials have on the environment. Future plans include the establishing of a well-managed recycling system for all members at 68 Air School.

502 Squadron has taken ownership of Trichardt Road in front of 68 Air School and we therefore challenge other protection squadrons, units and bases to take ownership of their immediate surroundings. Let’s all work together for a brighter future. A Hi Kokeni Swinve – Let’s Pull Together. Capt R. Moonsamy, email

"FOOTBALL FRIDAY" SOCCER FRENZY IN THE SA NAVY

"Feel it, it is here!" The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup has officially kicked off and the SA Navy is ready and proud to support the National Team, Bafana Bafana. One trend that is currently popular in the country is “Football Friday” when South Africans proudly wear South African colours and "Bafana Bafana" clothing in support of the National Team’s participation in the World Cup.

Our line of work does not allow us to take part every Friday in the “Football Friday” project. It is for this reason that the SA Navy identified 4 June 2010 as the Friday” project. It is for this reason that our Southern Africa’s “Football Friday” so that our members could have an opportunity to show their support for Bafana Bafana.

The event was held at Glencairn Sports Complex and naval units from as far away as Pretoria were present to enjoy the day’s festivities. Everyone wore Bafana Bafana colours and displayed South African colours on their vehicles, hair and even their faces!

Four major competitions took place to add to the excitement of the day, namely five-a-side soccer, Potjiekos, Diski Dance and banner competitions. In addition, everyone had a chance to enter the shoot-the-hoop and dance competitions on the spur of the moment.

There were spontaneous outbursts of song and dance during the day as soccer fever gripped all present. It was hard to miss the constant blazing sounds of the vuvuzelas, not to mention the lively music from the DJ’s stand.

In true South African style braais and boerewors rolls sizzled and were cooked to perfection along with the countless Potjies - you would have been hard-pressed to find a hungry sailor anywhere.

No one was surprised when the Naval Base Simon’s Town Fire Department’s ladies were announced the winners of the Diski Dance competition. The girls had rhythm, unbeatable dance moves and the firm support of the crowd. The soccer was riveting to watch and in the end was won by miscellaneous females from Naval Base Simon’s Town and the males of SAS SALDANHA.

The efforts of the SAS SIMONSBERG Maritime Warfare Training Centre paid off in the banner competition, where their attention to detail, composition, bright colours and originality won them first prize.

One has to admire the judges for being able to decide among all the divine smelling potjies entered for the Potjiekos competition. SAS SIMONSBERG’s Beef Potjie proved to be the best Potjie for the day. Members who shot the ball through the hoop during the shoot-the-hoop competition got to keep the ball as a prize. LS T.H. Ramoshaba won the tapping competition after he showed impressive juggling skills with the ball - perhaps the SA Navy has its own Bafana star in the making!

A Hi Kokeni Swinve – Let’s Pull Together. Capt R. Moonsamy, email

R200-00 prize for the best letter

SA SOLDIER welcomes letters to the Editor. Short letters are more likely to be published, and all letters may be edited for reasons of style, accuracy or space limitations. Letters should preferably be typewritten and double-spaced. All letters must include the writer’s full name, address and home telephone number. The volume of letters we receive makes individual acknowledgement impossible. Please send your letters to: The Editor, SA SOLDIER Letters, Private Bag X158, Pretoria, 0001. Letters may also be faxed to (012) 355-6399 or sent via email to sasoldier@mil.za. We would like to hear your comments or ideas, particularly about matters affecting members of the Department of Defence. Regrettably, anonymous letters cannot be answered officially or published - Editor. PO V.D. Maleka and Sea Tshegofatso Sehole

Winning letter
BIG TEA WITH A WORLD CUP THEME

A beautiful Friday morning (26 March 2010) was made even brighter and warmer by the swarming yellow jerseys of Bafana Bafana in all patterns worn by members of the Directorate Army Human Resources as a sign of support for the National Team and in fulfilment of the call to all South Africans to have a “Football Friday”. The sounds of the vuvuzelas reverberated throughout the precincts of Army HQ and added to the festive mood.

People were amazed at this hive of activity; it was the Big Tea of the Directorate Army Human Resources hosted by the Career Management Section. The function was made lively by activities such as competing for the best “war cry” for Bafana Bafana, and the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) section was declared the winner.

Members were then treated to a typical “soccer stadium lunch” of chips and viennas, followed by a dessert of a “soccer field” sponge cake.

It was a really enjoyable Friday. Members were issued with miniature vuvuzelas to practise for the real thing in June - July 2010 - the Soccer World Cup!

“Feel It! It Is Here!” FIFA World Cup, South Africa 2010!

Lt Col A.T. Motloung, email

SOLDIERS ALSO FEEL THE FEVER

The soldiers of 1 SAI who were on course felt it, even those in the fields surrounded by the mountains of Lohathla, but that did not stop them from blowing their vuvuzelas to show their support for their beloved country’s team, Bafana Bafana. So now we feel it! It is here! email

(Photo: Pte B.F. Rooifontein)
The South African Freedom Day reception at the South African Embassy in Riyadh is one of those rare social events that everyone wants to attend - not only because there are some real refreshments in an otherwise “dry” environment, but because it is genuinely one of the best functions on the diplomatic social circuit in Saudi Arabia!

It is also a true celebration of freedom, as was once again proved on the night of 27 April 2010 when the true spirit of the rainbow nation and the joy of freedom were almost tangible in the desert air.

Even though the event was scheduled an hour longer than other national day celebrations in Riyadh, viz from 8 to 11 pm (where regular hours are normally 8 to 10 pm), guests enjoyed the party so much that they did not want to leave. Embassy staff in the end had to use subtle persuasion to get rid of their friends and colleagues. For the third year running, the Freedom Day celebrations in Riyadh coincided with the celebration of the inauguration of the South African National Defence Force. His Excellency Ambassador John Davies has willingly agreed to co-host the two functions in order to have a more substantial event - and obviously to save on costs. This proved to be a recipe for success. Embassy staff in the end had to use subtle persuasion to get rid of their friends and colleagues. For the third year running, the Freedom Day celebrations in Riyadh coincided with the celebration of the inauguration of the South African National Defence Force. His Excellency Ambassador John Davies has willingly agreed to co-host the two functions in order to have a more substantial event - and obviously to save on costs. This proved to be a recipe for success.

In the true spirit of UBUNTU everyone - one at the embassy - transferred officials and locally recruited personnel alike - worked together to make the event a huge success. The gardens in the embassy compound were meticulously groomed and trimmed. The Soccer World Cup display arranged by the embassy’s political desk turned out to be a striking portrayal of the soccer stadiums and the forthcoming events. An impressive slideshow display of our beautiful country graced one wall, while the defence exhibition presented the SANDF’s capabilities, a collection of defence publications as well as the South African defence industry. Arrangements of beautiful proteas by the ambassador’s wife and some of the ladies dotted the gardens, while an excellent choice of food was provided by the Riyadh Palace Hotel - including of course some real "boerewors", "botjie", "melktert" and "koeksisters"!

For the first time at our embassy in Riyadh, a gift bag was handed out to guests as they departed. Even the gift bag portrayed the spirit of cooperation, as an original and innovative product was compiled from a variety of ideas by embassy personnel. The bags were from colourfully printed African theme material, and included a “South African Freedom Day” coffee cup, a sachet of Rooibos tea bags, a FIFA keyholder, a CD with World Cup soccer information and an interactive scorecard. One of our sponsors, Grintek Ewation, added a mini-torch/keyholder combination to round off the contents.

As far as could be determined, the Saudi national anthem was sung for the first time in public by a woman - in Arabic of course. The wife of the defence attaché, Ms Karien Stadler, did an excellent job in singing both the South African and the Saudi anthems. The crowd was almost swept off its feet by a most touching and emotional rendering of the two songs. To crown the event, Ambassador John Davies accompanied Ms Stadler on the keyboard, all of this in the presence of His Royal Excellency Ambassador John Davies.

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RISKS TO LIFE FACED ON PUBLIC ROADS

I am writing this letter to share the risks to life we are facing on public roads. Each and every year innocent people die in road accidents. One might say no one is to be blamed, but I personally know that there are taxi drivers and people drinking and driving. I am a passenger who uses a taxi everyday and what I see is not always comfortable.

Taxi drivers drive with a bottle of beer in their hand when transporting us. They exceed speed limits, drive at 120 km/h in an 80 km/h zone, pass red robots and park where they are not supposed to park.

Their greediness and selfishness end people’s lives because all they think of is money, beer and more loads, which is why they hurry on public roads not realising that there are reasons for speed limits and road signs.

Some drivers do not even have driver’s licenses so it shows that people who are transporting us have no clue what is going on on the road. Whenever there are roadblocks and traffic cops they always find a way out, taking different routes to hide from the cops. Do you call this a better country with such things happening?

I am a victim of circumstances and do not wish to see others in that same position. If only the right people were put in the right positions, none of these would have happened. These people pay bribes so that the law cannot get its hands on them. Let us not drink and drive and stay alive.

Lt P. Rakharebe, Regiment De La Rey

Highness Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz, the Deputy Governor of Riyadh, who appeared to be pleasantly surprised by the singing of his country’s anthem in such a unique way.

As is always the case with functions at our embassy in Riyadh, the African music soon started pulsing through the atmosphere and touched the hearts of the crowds. Dancing then becomes inevitable, even if unplanned, and soon the ladies started treating the guests to some proper African rhythms. And then the crowds joined in ... what a powerful display of joy and FREEDOM!

In conclusion, it is important to convey to our South African readers, who are often exposed to racial intolerance, that our freedom lies in our ability to unite in spite of our differences - as we have done before. At the end of the evening, standing to the side and watching the pure joy emanating from the dancing crowd, the Australian Defence Attaché remarked to the South African DA: “If this represents South African society, and this is the kind of fun you are having, I must visit your country ...” Col J.J. Stadler, SA Defence Attaché: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**MY TIME IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION**

History was probably made on 1 April 2008 when I, Brig Gen A. Lötter, became the first medical doctor to be appointed as the Director of Occupational Health and Safety in the Human Resources Division - what an interesting and pleasant experience it was!

I came to two very distinctive realisations. Firstly, that to manage Human Resources in the DOD is not as easy as it seems. One encounters the whole spectrum of human intricacies of a diverse people - everyone with his/her own particular and sometimes peculiar needs. I take my hat off to the Human Resources staff officers who can still make things happen.

Secondly, I came to realise that a willing medical doctor, wherever he finds himself, can contribute tremendously in relieving the pressure on sickbays and military hospitals. I could easily have registered myself as a “mobile clinic” with all the consultations, prescriptions and referrals I was requested to assist with, but I did it with pleasure!

It was really a pleasure working under the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen D.M. Mgwebi. He is a hard working, strict but fair military leader. As the Director Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) it was also my task to monitor the execution and management of OHS, as a legal imperative, in the Services and Divisions. I found it heartbreaking to witness some unit commanders trying their utmost to comply with the OHS prescriptions and regulations, only to be failed by their higher authorities through lack of guidance, support and/or resources. It was necessary at times to submit unpopular reports to different levels. That, however, was always done having the interests and safety of our soldiers in mind.

I am grateful for the support I received from the Chief of Human Resources. He gave me the freedom to promote OHS awareness on many levels to the benefit of all the DOD employees.

As I am now retiring, my very best wishes remain with the DOD, and I hope that the vast challenges facing the Department will be overcome with honest and dedicated service delivery by all concerned, to develop a National Defence Force to be proud of. Brig Gen A. Lötter

Lt Gen D.M. Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, thanking Brig Gen A. Lötter for services rendered in the Human Resources Division. (Photo: Ms K. Mabiletsa)
**THE DIFFERENCE IS THROUGH US**

Our smiles have shown how proud we are to be making peace for our fellow African sons and daughters. It is not by fighting that we maintain peace, but by winning and showing how unity can help. South Africa, we are a good example of peace. Although in Darfur it has been hard, the proud South Africans of 121 SAI Bn showed that perseverance and unity could make a difference. This was witnessed by UNAMID Police and MILOBS. The Battalion Second in Command, Maj A.M. Nyalunga, stressed the importance of carrying each other’s burdens to make the mission a success. He also encouraged us to take part in riding the bus (deployment). We say the difference in Darfur will be due to us. God bless Africa.

Mulalo Magadani, email

**NETBALL IN THE CONGO**

![RSA netball team in the Democratic Republic of Congo - OP MISTRAL XIV.](image1)

It was a fun-filled, family orientated cultural day at Kutum UNAMID Base on 16 January 2010 when crowds of different cultural groups gathered together as one to witness with extra joy the events of the great day.

The celebration had been tremendously successful throughout the day due to the close co-operation and acknowledgement of locally based civilians and military leader groups. The aim of the UNAMID forces in the Kutum Military Base was to take our relationship with the Sudanese population to a new level in promoting peace and stability.

We, as the RSA Contingent in the Sudan, are determined to succeed and be the best we can ever be. The locally based Kutum band and cultural group were the prizewinners of the day when they were honoured with a special award by the Kutum MEC for Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation from the UNAMID forces, as praise for their positive contribution in bringing peace to their own country. This local group had a positive impact as they knew and understood their culture best. We were surprised and blown away by their rich talent.

Every group shared their traditional cultural heritage on stage with an explosive and memorable performance at the end of the day!

The occasion also encouraged us to embrace and enhance our different cultures and to be tolerant of other groups. Our wish was that every day should be a cultural day here in the Sudan (Kutum Base) when we focussed on our culture and traditions. We should always be proud of our roots as they remind us where we originated. It is equally important for us all to be proud to be what we are. Our countries are full of talent and opportunities and we need to embrace that. As Africans we have a common interest. A culture day is set aside in most countries to remember our shared history. We have a common interest, which is to reinforce our African unity, independence and

![RSA Contingent (121 SAI Bn) “Zulu Cultural Group” renders its own item during the cultural day. (Photo: Maj S. Shezi)](image2)
8 SAI INFANTRY BATTALION OFFERS A HELPING HAND

The morning of 14 May 2010, less than a week before the first flight of the rotation for the RSA Contingent deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over the period November 2009 to May 2010, the RSA Operational Battalion shared their thoughts of welfare and happiness at two local orphanages in Goma. (The RSA Operational Battalion consisted of 8 SAI Bn (Mech) in Upington strengthened by Regiment De la Rey (Mech) from Potchefstroom and an attachment from the SA Engineer Corps.)

Since the start of this specific deployment group a whole programme has been led by the deployed chaplain from the RSA Ops Battalion, Chaplain M.E. Botlhoko. Clothes, other usable equipment and a sum of money were collected by members of the RSA Contingent and other sponsors from outside. The money that was collected was mainly utilised to buy specific

needs indicated by the homes, which could not be sponsored by the members and other sponsors.

The officer group of the RSA Operational Battalion also engaged in these activities and remained helpful and motivated during the planning and executing of this task to help the orphans.

Two unique homes were visited by the group. During these visits the children showed how they engaged in recreational activities every day to become skilled and to gain knowledge in a pleasant and enjoyable manner.

The Acting Battalion Commander, Maj E.M. Motitsi, gave a message to the children and inspired them not to live under the cloud of being orphans and not to grow up as beggars, but to use the opportunity they get to educate and empower themselves as the future of their country and the whole of the African continent relied on them. He also quoted from Hebrews 13:5 where God says: “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you”.

Chaplain Botlhoko concluded with Scripture reading and prayer before handing out all the sponsored items collected through hard work and dedication by herself and a few members. Cpl M. Nelson, Rfn N.C. Mabunda, Rfn M.J. Maloma and Rfn C.N. Molubi had helped her form a small committee. As we are all soldiers conducting a peacekeeping mission in the DRC, widows and orphans are a daily reality of our lives! Therefore the chaplain could not conclude our visit better than by reading from Exodus 22 in which God has given us a command and made a promise to us: “Do not ill-treat any widow or orphan, I will be angry and kill you in war. Your wives will become widows and your children will be fatherless!”

Let us not be the reason why they are widows and fatherless children, but let us be the reason why another human being has a positive future!

Lt D.J. Swan, email

Soldiers deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo donated clothes and other usable equipment to two local orphanages in Goma. (Photo: Lt M.S. Mokopanele)
Understanding the Defence Amendment Bill

By Prof Sipho Seepe, Strategy Consultant and Special Adviser to the Minister of Defence

An appreciation of the current Defence Amendment Bill would be incomplete without locating it within the constitutional mandate and developments in the ever-changing defence environment.

The South African Constitution is deliberate and unambiguous with regard to its expectations of the National Defence Force. It purposefully enjoins us to establish a defence force that is “structured and managed as a disciplined military force.” The emphasis on discipline is obvious. Without discipline the Defence Force would be unable to fulfil its primary function of defending and protecting the Republic, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with the Constitution and the principles of international law regulating the use of force. This translates into defending and protecting our critical interests, supporting our foreign policy by assisting our allies and protecting peace operations on the continent. In addition, the Defence Force helps to beef up the civil power through the support it gives to the police, border protection, disaster or emergency relief.

More often this responsibility involves exposure to enormous personal risks and sacrifices arising from heavy operational commitments. Members of the SANDF are expected to spend large amounts of time away from home on back-to-back deployments. To the extent that they bear the responsibility as the last defence of our democracy, they are our ultimate insurance policy against any threat within and outside the country. For their sake, and ours, we must preserve their calibre and morale.

It does not take much to appreciate that their commitment cannot be reduced to issues of pay. There are other intangibles such as pride in the service of one’s country and “enjoyment of a lifestyle that involves adventurous training and activities [that] make remuneration one of many factors that motivate personnel”.

In her budget vote of 2009, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, sought to underscore this very issue when she said: “I want to assure Defence Force staff that their conditions of service are a concern … We are acutely aware that the state of readiness of the SANDF depends primarily on the morale of our soldiers”.

She went further and said: “We are considering making a request for a separate dispensation for the Department of Defence that would allow us to deal creatively with our own needs and the specificities of our own unique security requirements.” All these commitments, which are the subject of the present bill before parliament, were undertaken to motivate its personnel and encourage recruitment and retention.

The Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans has gone a long way towards establishing a different dispensation. The concept was approved by Cabinet. It also approved the regulatory mechanism to govern and oversee the dispensation. The dispensation allows us to accommodate the unique nature of the Defence Force. It is precisely for this reason that we demand and take extraordinary measures to enforce discipline. Soldiers are not tied to the state by an employment contract but by an oath.

The new dispensation presents a creative space to respond innovatively to the unique challenges of the Defence Force. It has used the space to develop an HIV and AIDS policy that uniquely responds to its circumstances. It is a matter of public record that its policy on HIV and AIDS is not only precedent setting, but is considered the most progressive in the world.

The present bill, which serves to amend the Defence Act of 2002, is the culmination of a process that started with the Minister’s 2009 budget vote. Three critical concerns are being presented: the first is the establishment of the permanent Service Commission to replace the current Interim South African National Defence Service Commission (INDFSC). Contrary to the misrepresentations, the bill before parliament has been drafted by the INDFSC. Credit (and in some cases criticism) is due to their sterling work.

The second amendment relates to remedying the lacunae in the legislation. The Constitution refers to the President having the responsibility, among others, of appointing the military command. However, no definition is provided in the legislation of what the military is or entails.

The last aspect of the bill deals with the empowering of the Chief of the SANDF to recall members of the Reserve Force. At the moment members of the Reserve Force can only be recalled when the country is at war or during a state of emergency. As a resource, they are underutilised and their combat readiness is severely compromised. The bill aims to remedy this situation inasmuch as it responds positively to their request to be recalled for service when the Chief of the SANDF deems it fit.

Far from wanting to assume dictatorial powers, the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that it delivers on its mandate of structuring and managing a professional, disciplined Defence Force in the service of the country and the nation.
HAVE YOUR SAY

Call for Submissions on the Defence Amendment Bill [B11-2010]

The Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans invites interested persons and stakeholders to submit written comments on the Defence Amendment Bill [B11-2010].

The Defence Amendment Bill [B11-2010] seeks to:

- Ensure that Reserve Force members can be utilised and required to perform service in the Defence Force at all times, including peacetimes, and
- Establish a permanent Defence Force Service Commission – a body that will advise the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans on the improvement of conditions of service of members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Interested stakeholders and persons are also invited to submit written comments on the proposed inclusion of an additional clause in the Defence Amendment Bill that will provide for the inclusive definition of “Military Command”. Section 202(1) of the South African Constitution (1996) requires the President to appoint the “Military Command of the Defence Force”. The Defence Act (No 42 of 2002), however, does not define the concept “Military Command”; instead, sections 7(1) and 13(1) of the Defence Act only stipulates the appointment of the Secretary of Defence and the Chief of the SANDF by the President. An inclusive definition of the Military Command is therefore proposed, to include the appointment of the Chiefs of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Medical Health Services, Defence Intelligence and Joint Operations to this structure.

Submissions and enquiries must be directed to Mandy Balie, the Committee Secretary and addressed to the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans, 3rd Floor, 90 Plein Street, Cape Town 8000, e-mailed to mbalie@parliament.gov.za or faxed to 086 540 2500, by no later than 16 July 2010. Please indicate your interest in making a verbal presentation.

Copies of the Bill may be obtained from either Mandy Balie: 021 403-3673 or 083 709 8431 or on the Parliamentary website at www.parliament.gov.za

Issued by: Mr MS Booi, MP and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans.

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela  
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Agri-SA, South Africa’s farmer organisation, and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, accompanied by the Secretary for Defence Designate, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, with other top leadership structures held a meeting at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 24 May 2010 to discuss their concerns about border management. Discussions were mainly centred on border protection, farm safety and co-operation between the two organisations on matters of common interest.

Farmers were particularly concerned about the raids on and usage of their agricultural land by illegal immigrants as transit routes and hideouts. Because of these activities the safety of farmers could no longer be guaranteed. It has become increasingly evident that poor border management is compromising the integrity of South Africa’s borderlines. The influx of illegal immigrants has led to a rise in criminal activities that undermine the sovereignty of the State and hampers agricultural progress in areas close to the borders.

The delegates all agreed that South African farmers were making a critical contribution to food security and the welfare of the nation. Ms Mpofu said that concerns of this nature had led the Government to take an informed decision on mandating the SANDF to return to the borders. She added that the Department had outlined a comprehensive plan of operation, namely Operation CORONA. It was realised that further discussions with Agri-SA would be necessary to implement this comprehensive plan effectively and efficiently.

Gen Ngwenya said a battalion of about 650 soldiers covered the Mozambican and Zimbabwean borders with South Africa. The intention was to include the Lesotho border as well. Operation CORONA will deal with cross-border offences.

The President of Agri-SA, Mr Johannes Möller, said that strict and consistent maintenance of the integrity of South Africa’s borders was important for trade, disease control, combating of crime and illegal entry, and also for protection of landowners’ right to protect their property against cross-border infiltration and crime.

He welcomed the initiative by the Minister to meet Agri-SA to discuss the new mandate of the Department to protect the borders of South Africa and guaranteed the Minister of Agri-SA’s full co-operation and support for the initiative.
The South African National Defence Force was tasked with the responsibility of assisting the SA Police Force in securing the venues during the 2010 Soccer World Cup Tournament. As the SANDF is very resourceful, it was felt imperative to get them on board for the protection of the air, sea and land support operations.

On 9 June 2010 the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, visited the National Joint Operations Centre and the National Health Operations Centre to evaluate the combat-readiness of the deployed soldiers and to check if all operational bases were on par during Operation KGWELE. During her visit Brig Gen Johan Liebenberg, Officer Commanding Joint Task Force Operation KGWELE, assured Minister Sisulu that they were ready and geared for the Soccer World Cup.

Brig Gen Liebenberg mentioned that this readiness had resulted from two years of intense preparation with exercises such as Exercise SHIELD that gave birth to the final execution of the task, namely Operation KGWELE. Brig Gen Liebenberg confirmed: “This is a huge operation where both Regular and Reserve Force members are deployed on the operational ground and contingency plans are also in place should the need arise.”

At the SAMHS HQ Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, the Surgeon General, also informed Minister Sisulu that support medical task teams would be deployed with all convoys of Heads of State and that a call desk with a 24-hour emergency number would be operational. This call centre will continue after the Soccer World Cup and will assist with any crisis the country might experience. Lt Gen Ramlakan said that the SAMHS had an excellent team and that contingency plans were in place should there be a need for them.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans also took heed of the concerted effort put up by the SA Air Force in Operation KGWELE during her visit to SA Air Force HQ on 15 June 2010. The Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, supported by the Officer Commanding Air Force Command Post, Brig Gen Les Lombard, said at the Minister’s briefing that the SA Air Force mandate was to assist with safety and airspace security, and also to provide general air support. The Air Force also manages the arrival of Heads of State at the Waterkloof Air Force Base.

Brig Gen Lombard said this was the largest airspace security operation yet in South Africa with about 2 180 personnel from the SA Air Force. He noted that this operation had refocussed on the airspace security capability.

Minister Sisulu was pleased with how they had handled their task so far. She made suggestions to the Chief of the SA Air Force about the continuation of the operation, and also on how they could deal with social ills, such as crime. The Minister remarked that the Cabinet had commended both the air show spectacle and airspace security. She conceded that most of the security tasks lay with the SA Air Force, but with the co-operation and assistance to the SA Police Force.

The SA Air Force security management has, however, encountered some negative attitudes from private aviation companies due to restrictions laid down by the SA Air Force. Some flight schools had to be closed for the duration of the Soccer World Cup event.
Massmart hosts Goodwill Parcel Breakfast

By L Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela

One of the contributors to the Goodwill Parcel Project, Massmart, organised the annual Goodwill Parcel Breakfast at the Pretoria Country Club on 11 May 2010. This was in preparation for the annually planned packaging of parcels and visits around deployment areas. The project has now been extended to the families of the deployed members when they are absent over the festive season.

Mr Graham Rebello of Massmart said the project had grown substantially in the past seven years. He commended the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, for the flawless logistical execution of the goodwill parcel packaging. Contributors were also informed about current operations in the different deployment areas.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, touched base about the SANDF’s deployments and thanked the contributors for boosting the morale of the soldiers. The Secretary for Defence Designate, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, noted that the project leading to the visit has emerged as one of the most important events on the DOD calendar. She expressed her utmost appreciation to the contributors that supported the deployed soldiers.

Ms Mpofu said: "Their families allow these members to leave the comfort of their homes to defend the sovereignty of the country." This also afforded them a chance to appreciate the sacrifice of the soldiers. She added that through hard work, discipline and professional conduct South African soldiers are rated among the best in the world. She pointed out that South Africa had lowered its flag at Burundi after a successful peacekeeping mission that had lasted for years. South Africa is rather stretched with peacekeeping mission responsibilities in Africa and this indicates a need to invest in the progress and achievements, limited by the resources in personnel and equipment.

Ms Mpofu said the SANDF was going back to the borders where it would replace the South African Police Force. To enhance security Government has established a Border Management Agency, specifically to deal with challenges in border control.

The list of contributors, including new ones, include: Massmart, Cadbury, Colgate Palmolive Pty Ltd, Kellogg’s, Simba Pty Ltd, Unilever SA, Nestlé SA, Bull Brand, Tiger Brands Ltd, Oceana Brands, Nampak Corrugated, Premier Food Ltd, Snackworx and Tongaat Hulett Sugar.

Chief of the SANDF to attend World Cup

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, will be among the African and international leaders during the opening of the Soccer World Cup after he received a ticket for the opening ceremony at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 7 June 2010. The Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee for the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, Honorary Colonel (Dr) Irvin Khoza, presented a Very Very Important Person (VVIP) soccer ticket to the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, who received it on behalf of the Chief of the SANDF. Col (Dr) Khoza argued that since "we started with the campaign there has been an issue of security unfolding. It is important for the Chief of the SANDF to be invited and to represent the entire force at the ceremony". He added that the country had been part of FIFA since 1910 and the Confederation of African Football since its inception in 1957. Lt Gen Mgwebi said: “We feel honoured to have the Chief of the SANDF representing us.” The handing over of the ticket marks the recognition of the role the SANDF has played in support of the Police to put in place security plans to ensure that South Africa hosts a safe and secure 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Tournament. The Chief of the SANDF will attend the opening ceremony and the match between Bafana Bafana and Mexico at Soccer City in Johannesburg on 11 June 2010. Lt Gen Mgwebi was accompanied by the Acting Secretary for Defence, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, the General Officer Commanding Air Command, Maj Gen Mandla Mangethe (representing the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano), the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, and the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt Gen Mxolisi Shilubane.
A combined company of the Johannesburg Specialised Infantry Reserve units, Rand Light Infantry, Regiment Oos Rand and Regiment President Kruger, started training at Alpha Base, near Heidelberg, on 1 March 2010.

The training consisted of tactical deployment drills and focussed on crowd control duty. It was presented by instructors of the Rand Light Infantry and the South African Irish Regiment and was supported by the Infantry School.

The air support operations were presented by the staff of the SA Army Infantry Formation HQ and 3 Parachute Regiment. Here the members had the opportunity to deploy, using helicopters, and for most of the members this was a first. The Augusta and Oryx helicopters were provided by 17 Squadron of AFB Swartkop.

The members who deployed with the helicopters had to set up a roadblock and provide all-round defence. This was done in the area surrounding Alpha Base, near the Heidelberg cemetery. Here a civilian vehicle entered the roadblock and the members performed the drills without any problems and received excellent cooperation from the driver.

The various commanders had the opportunity to command the ground forces from the Augusta helicopter. This was also an opportunity to test the air-to-ground radio communication, which confirmed the excellent co-operation between the SA Army and the SA Air Force.

During the crowd control management phase of the training, the instructors worked closely with the South African Police Force to integrate doctrine. (The Infantry Reserves had the opportunity to join the SA Police Force when the French Police gave them training.) These soldiers acted as the crowd and gained valuable experience, as the SA Police Force will be the first line of defence and the SANDF the second line of defence.

This company, under the command of Maj Lourens van Niekerk, the 2IC of Rand Light Infantry, will be accommodated at the Witwatersrand Rifles lines in Germiston and at Tshwane Regiment in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria. They will deploy as part of Op KGWELE from 26 May to 15 July 2010 at the three soccer stadiums in Gauteng, namely Coca Cola City (previously Ellis Park), Soccer City at Nasrec and Loftus Versveld in Pretoria.

The members are well trained and ready for any eventuality, which can be ascribed to the approach that discipline will not be compromised. This same stance will be taken during the deployment and the country can rest assured that in Gauteng all will be safe for them to enjoy the soccer.
SA Air Force welcomes international leaders

By Cpl Tebogo Kekana, Ad Astra
Photos: WO2 David Nomthongwana

Fourteen African heads of state and other foreign dignitaries, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, arrived at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria over the period 10 to 13 June 2010.

The key aim of their visit was to attend the opening ceremony of the 2010 FIFA World Cup held at Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg. The chief administrator of the United Nations was welcomed at the air force base by the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, Ambassador Sonto Kudjoe.

Ambassador Kudjoe said: “Feel it, it is here! As a host country, we had to be prepared to accommodate our visitors and safeguard our stadiums. The SANDF has done well and I am impressed with the Waterkloof military base. South Africa has indeed set a good example for the rest of the continent.”

The base is home to transport aircraft, and is presently hosting two types of fighter aircraft of Air Force Base Makhado, namely the Gripen and the Hawk. The two squadrons flew in to be centrally positioned during the FIFA World Cup. The base will be used for both air transport and air defence over this period.

The visiting heads of state were welcomed by the following ministers:...
Ms Lindiwe Sisulu (Department of Defence and Military Veterans), Ms Lulu Xingwana (Department of Arts and Culture), Mr Geoff Doidge (Department of Public Works), Ms Edna Molewa (Department of Social Development), Mr Pravin Gordhan (Department of Finance), Ms Dipuo Peters (Department of Energy), Ms Angie Motshekga (Department of Basic Education), and Mr Sibusiso Ndebele (Department of Transport).

Brig Gen Wiseman Mbambo, Chief Director Air Capability Plans, emphasised: "Operation KGWELE was in support of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and like a classroom to me; we are learning as we go along. As a Commander, I am expected to make immediate crucial decisions and determine the overall results of the operation." His message to the SANDF members who are directly or indirectly involved in the World Cup operations is that they should go out there and be mindful that there is a lot they can learn from the visitors.

Dr Lucious Kanyumba, Minister of Youth Development and Sports in Malawi, expressed his happiness about the 2010 opening ceremony. He also noted: "We need to strive for peace in Africa and we must use theatres like these to enjoy sport and to exchange ideas on how to encourage the youth to participate in extramural activities. The military is one of the organisations we can use to enforce discipline within our societies."
Graduates reach milestone in their careers

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The certificate ceremony for graduates who had completed the most senior SA Army course at tactical level took place at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 20 May 2010.

The objective of the certificate ceremony was to recognise the competency and achievements of learners who had successfully completed the Junior Command and Staff Duties Distance Education Phase and the Residential Education Phase over the period 22 June 2009 to 21 May 2010.

At the ceremony Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde, General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, on behalf of the Chief of the SA Army, remarked: "The Junior Command and Staff Duties Course graduates have reached their milestone in their careers and have qualified as combat group commanders, unit commanders and Staff Officer Class 1 after the completion of the Junior Command and Staff Duties Course."

He also stressed how pivotal discipline was within the SA Army. "The Chief of the SA Army would have talked to you about discipline as it is a major concern in the SA Army. Not that it is poor, but poorly understood. We as an organisation have not as yet defined for ourselves what discipline means for officers." His emphasis on discipline was directed to the graduates who were challenged by him to be mindful of their conduct.

Maj Gen Nkabinde urged the members to make a difference in their units by applying their acquired knowledge for the advancement of the SA Army.

The certificate ceremony was sponsored by Saab Systems, Grintek, Old Mutual, SA Army Foundation, Red Pepper Books and Avbob Life.

Achievers
Best Overall Achiever: Maj Wim Strydom from Joint Tactical HQ (Free State).
Runner-up: Maj Conrade Makazhe from Zimbabwe.
Third Position: Maj Craig Alexander from SA Defence Intelligence College.
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For more information, contact Jenny Render 012 355 5260 or Seipato Molefi-Bodikologa 012 355 6382
Cape regiment marks milestone birthday in style

By Capt Will Carter from the Cape Town Highlanders

The SA Army’s oldest kilted regiment, the Cape Town Highlanders, recently marked its 125th birthday with a weekend of high-profile events in the Mother City.

Since its inception in 1885 - founded by a group of volunteer soldiers who felt that this fast growing port city should rightly have a Scottish regiment - the Cape Town Highlanders has certainly made its mark on the city and the country.

Many fine men and women of all races and creeds have served in its ranks with distinction. As a continuously active element of this country’s armed forces, this fine, wholly volunteer regiment has served our country well, proudly wearing the Defence Force uniform of the time, augmented by the Regiment’s “black boots and balmorals” when deployed, and kilts when on parade.

And in early May this year, the Regiment celebrated and paraded in style ...

First off was a medal parade at the historic Castle of Good Hope. The Chief of Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, presented operational and long service medals to officers and other ranks and delivered an address on behalf of the General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation, Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde.

Thereafter, dignitaries - including Infantry Formation Brig Gen Les Fouche - walked the hundred metres across to the City Hall to await the start of the Regiment’s Freedom of the City Parade.

Before long a Guard of Honour, led by the Regimental Drums and Pipes and bearing the Colours, appeared and formed up, facing this magnificent Victorian edifice.

After inspection by the Executive Deputy Mayor, Mr Alderman Ian Nielson (who once served with Durban Regiment) accompanied by Maj Gen Andersen and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Col Pat McLoughlin, the parade was addressed by Mr Nielson who said (in part), “... The regiment we honour today - the Cape Town Highlanders - has come a long way since its formation 125 years ago. In that time, the world has changed remarkably, and not always for the better.

“But the values and ideals that were in place among your founding officers and other ranks in 1885 appear to have remained intact and indeed perhaps strengthened since those far-off days.

“Certainly, your regimental mottos “nemo me impune lacessit” (no man challenges me with impunity) and the second, “bydand” (steadfast), have been tested to the full through the many campaigns and wars where your fine, fighting regiment has been called to action down the
decades. The battle honours borne so proudly on the colours you carry through the city’s streets today are testimony to the fortitude and bravery of those who have gone before you in service to their city and their country.

"On 10 October 1967, the Freedom of the City of Cape Town was formally granted to your regiment. This signal honour allows you the right to march through the Mother City with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating. On behalf of the Mayor, Alderman Dan Plato, and the Council of the City of Cape Town, I am honoured today to reaffirm the right of the Cape Town Highlanders to exercise their Right of Entry to the city, as part of the celebrations of your 125th birthday. I congratulate you warmly on achieving this milestone and wish the officers and men of your fine regiment, God speed, great fortitude and good fortune in the years ahead …".

The Guard of Honour and pipe band then headed back to the Castle to collect the balance of the battalion and an armoured column, and led this full column in a highly visible circuit along three of the city’s principle streets and back to the City Hall, where the Executive Deputy Mayor and Maj Gen Andersen took the salute.

Later that afternoon the Cape Town Highlanders staged a Beating Retreat Ceremony in the Forecourt of the Castle, where the Western Province Army Staff Band entertained guests as the South African flag was lowered.

The Regimental Drums and Pipes then took centre stage and gave an outstanding performance of their extensive repertoire, much of which has been gained from the pipe band’s frequent appearance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and similar events in Switzerland and Korea.

A key part of the concert was the band’s performance of a special commemorative march - "The 125th" written by the Pipe Major. A copy of the score is now part of the regimental archives.

Guests then moved through to the historic Lady Anne Barnard Room at the Castle for the Officers’ Mess Dinner, with close to 100 people around the long table.

The following day, the Cape Town Highlanders - in a private event - staged the Regiment’s annual church parade with the usual column march from the Castle to St Andrews Church in Greenpoint for a rededication service, wreath-laying and then the march back to the barracks.

Afterwards, Officer Commanding, Lt Col Andre van der Bijl, said: "The ethos and credo - in essence our commitment - of service that has driven our regiment has altered little over the last 125 years. Since its formation, we have deployed for uprisings and ‘emergencies’, have stood guard on our borders, been peacekeepers on the Equator and have fought with valour in campaigns and battles in southern, western and northern Africa, as well as mainland Europe and carry - with pride - the 24 battle honours on our Colours.

"Today, the Cape Town Highlanders is still what it always was, an active, fighting infantry regiment manned by volunteer officers and other ranks from the Mother City and across the Western Cape, and is at the forefront of the SA Army Infantry Formation’s mechanised environment.

"With a personnel composition reflecting the population profile of this land, we are a disciplined, credible, reliable and combat-ready element of our country’s landward defence capability."

Proud Cape Town Highlanders arrive at the City Hall and await the inspection party.

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Warrant Officers' Dedication Service

By Thabo Shirinda

The SA Army held its annual Warrant Officers’ Dedication Service at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall on 7 May 2010. The service was also used as a platform to pray for a safe FIFA World Cup. (The dedication service is held every year during May for Warrant Officers only. Every region organises its own event.) The upside to this year’s dedication service was that for the first time more than 300 guests attended. The theme for the dedication service was: "Do you as a leader stand up for what is right in God’s eyes". The SA Army Choir led the proceedings with touching themes that moved some of the Warrant Officers. Judging by the attendance at this year’s event, it is evident that the Word of God resonates very well with most Warrant Officers.

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Emergency Care Technicians graduates played a key role in ensuring the health and well-being of local, national and international participants during the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup spectacle.

The South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) conferred national certificates in Emergency Care Technology on 128 graduates in Pretoria on 14 May 2010 after they had completed the two-year Emergency Care Technology (ECT) Course, which was offered at the School for Military Health Training in Pretoria and satellite emergency care training centres in Bloemfontein and Simon's Town.

Graduates were equipped to become competent in pre-hospital emergency care of clinically ill or injured patients. The Chief Director Military Health Force Support, Maj Gen Leseni Make, who was representing the Surgeon General of the SANDF, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, congratulated graduates and said: “We, at the SAMHS through our Military Health Training Formation, specifically the School for Military Health Training, are proud to be among the first training institutions to present ECT in the country and to produce the largest number of ECT graduates in the country.”

Maj Gen Make added that the inception of the ECT Course was a vital link and boost for emergency care in South Africa. This mid-level worker cadre for emergency medical care has been identified as a critical area of intervention to improve service delivery. The course was launched to standardise the emergency medical care industry and to improve the standard of care provided by emergency care practitioners. The initial graduates were also earmarked to assist with operational support to the 2010 FIFA World Cup and contribute to the 2015 National Health Human Resource Strategy.

Maj Gen Make said the initial pool of students doing the ECT Course had been sourced from the Military Skills Development System. “In the past 18 months, the School for Military Health Training has undertaken the challenging process of seeking accreditation to present the course to SAMHS. After a final presentation to the Academic Committee of the Health Professions Council of South Africa’s (HPCSA) Professional Board for Emergency Care Professionals on 25 March this year, we are pleased to announce that the Board has resolved that the provisional ECT accreditation status of SAMHS would be retained and students who successfully completed the ECT Course would be registered with HPCSA as Emergency Care Technicians.”
HIV Counselling and Testing Campaign

Article and photos by CO R.E. Siaruli

Area Military Health Unit North West (AMHU NW) has responded to the call on World AIDS Day by President Jacob Zuma to the nation, and individuals, communities, businesses and the Government, to take personal and collective responsibility for preventing new HIV infections, providing care and support to those living with HIV and ensuring access to treatment for all people in need.

On 30 April 2010 AMHU NW joined the Department of Health at Matsosana Stadium in Jouberton, Klerksdorp, for the launch of the HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign, or HCT, that has been undertaken as one of the measures to promote the fight against HIV and AIDS, with four objectives: to increase health-seeking behaviour, to encourage South Africans to know their HIV status, to equip those who test HIV-negative with ways of ensuring that they remain HIV negative, and to create a quick and easy entry point to access wellness and treatment services for those who test HIV-positive.

The North West Premier, Ms M. Modiselle, and the Officer Commanding AMHU NW, Col G.T. Pillay, led by example in having themselves tested in public, after the call by Premier Modiselle, who had encouraged everyone to take responsibility, and be tested. YOU! Get tested and know your status and take responsibility, as we are RESPONSIBLE.

Area Military Health Unit North West members helping the VIPs to fill their forms, check their blood pressure, and take blood samples to test for glucose and HIV.
A period of ten years is a long time, or is it? The members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 01/00 held their 10th year reunion at the SA National Defence College in Thaba Tshwane on 14 and 15 May 2010.

The members and their spouses were all welcomed at an informal get-together by the Regal, Brig Gen Chris Gildenhuys, on Friday, 14 May. Although the main focus of the reunion was the Saturday morning programme. Chaplain Langa Msengana who was the Chaplain on the Course in 2000 (currently the Chaplain of the SA National Defence College) opened the event by reading from Psalm 100. His message was that the programme members should give honour to God for everything He has allowed them to achieve.

The official opening was done by the Regal who said that true to its slogan “Pioneering Security Synergy” the members had not only pioneered the ENSP series of programmes, but were also now pioneering anew the series of 10-year reunions that will be followed by all ENSP programmes. Brig Gen Gildenhuys thanked all who contributed to the success of the event, notably the College, his own staff and the sponsors of the event.

The Commandant of the College, Brig Gen CD Schoeman, officially welcomed those present. He gave a brief overview of how the current ENSP curriculum was structured. The programme members found it very enlightening not only to see the developments and progress that had taken place in the past decade, but were also impressed by the high standards still being pursued at the College.

Prof Hussein Solomon of the University of Pretoria then spoke of the macro-trends in the world during the past decade and into the future. It was impressive to see how such a knowledgeable academic could draw together so many significant events from all over the world, happening at different times, to come up with sense-making trends that will continue to play out in the future.

One of the highlights of the event was the opening of the time capsules. Ten years ago the programme started a new tradition by donating a pigeon-holed wooden cabinet to the College in which the “predictions of the future” of each programme member could be sealed and safely stored. This was now the occasion for taking that tradition further by opening these records and comparing the members’ predictions with the reality 10 years later. From the remarks by the programme members it may seem that there was not any real prophet among the group, since everybody were invariably wrong on some issues. A few predictions were closer to current reality.

After an official photo was taken of the (remaining) members of the programme, all were invited to a braai at the Grasdak in the best of ENSP traditions. The members had a pleasant meal together and lingered together in a spirit of nostalgia till all departed.

One may ask - what is the value of such an occasion? Once you have witnessed the warmth of the embraces between old comrades, the sense of belonging and being accepted, then you’ll know the value!
Soldiers' worries settled

By Bibi Sibanyoni
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, held a press conference at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 26 May 2010 to address issues that have arisen within the Department of Defence, which affect over 55,000 soldiers.

The briefing was aimed at calming emotions after the budget vote speech when the Minister of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, announced among others five month back pay to the soldiers. The following statement was read by Lt Gen Mgwebi during the briefing: “Since a full cycle of checks and balances needs to be performed to minimise risks and errors made with calculations, the back pay of the 1 July 2009 salary increases can only be effected on Persol in July 2010”. Lt Gen Mgwebi requested members of the media to work in conjunction with the Department to inform the public that soldiers were not workers and were therefore not allowed to strike. He continued: “Our relationship with the State is not that of worker-employer and is therefore not governed by an employment agreement, but by a solemn oath.”

Addressing the housing allowances, he said that the payment of housing allowances to officials in State housing had been stopped with effect from 1 May 2010 following the findings of the Auditor General. This matter was timeously communicated to all members via the DOD command channels. However, officials who occupy State housing and who qualify in terms of the DOD instruction were invited to reapply for housing allowances before 31 August 2010. The necessary steps have also been put in place to address applications in respect of members currently deployed outside the borders of the Republic. Officials who incorrectly received the housing allowance were not required to pay it back.

In closing the conference Lt Gen Mgwebi thanked Minister Sisulu for her assistance in initiating the Interim Service Commission and the Department’s senior management cadre who ensured that expectations of members of the DOD and other stakeholders were met in order to improve service conditions. “Despite the challenges we are satisfied that significant progress has been made to ensure that the SANDF’s human resources component remains a motivated and disciplined force.”

Fltr: Dr Mary Ledwaba, Chief Director Strategic Direction and Policy, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, Chief of Human Resources, and Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, Head of Communication, at the press conference.
Reviving 21 SAI Bn
military skills

Article and photos by S Sgt
Lebogang Tlhaole

A combat-ready South African National Defence Force is key to the Department of Defence (DOD) continuing to succeed in its quest to support Government’s diplomatic initiatives to help eradicate conflicts in the region and on the continent. The DOD values this training as a foundation on which it can build a solid national defence force that is fully capable of defending the country’s territorial integrity and people. 21 SA Infantry Battalion (21 SAI Bn) demonstrated its capability and combat-readiness at the Potchefstroom Training Area on 15 April 2010.

The Officer Commanding 21 SAI Bn, Lt Col Bongi Vilakazi, used the opportunity to give us a short background regarding 21 SAI Bn for the period 5 October 2009 (when he took over as the Officer Commanding) up to the present. He pointed out that the unit was regarded as inactive. Members of this unit were not allowed to do guard duty and premises were guarded by Reserve Force units. He mentioned that members of the unit were disappearing after roll-call and were not utilised for operations. Discipline, in particular, was a challenge.

"After a meeting with the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, at Rhemardo on 28 January 2010, a decision was taken to rebuild the unit by..."
implementing all programmes and undergoing intensive training to build the morale of the unit, installing discipline and getting the unit to their former glory,” said Lt Col Vilakazi.

On 22 February 2010 the unit started implementing programmes and went through an intensive training programme, which included crowd control and management for 3 weeks, rural/urban and helicopter drills for 4 weeks and field training exercises for 4 weeks. So the Battalion has been engaged with training for 11 weeks and has demonstrated its capabilities to the senior command cadre of the SA Army Infantry Formation and members of the media.

The concept of the operation and demonstration was based on borderline control (Operation CORONA) heavily supported by helicopters. The demonstration was divided into 5 stages, viz the deployment of the observation post, vehicle patrols, immediate action drills, ambush (deployed by helicopter), roadblock (deployed by helicopter) and reaction force (deployed by helicopter). This display was demonstrated to members, including the Director of Force Preparation SA Army Infantry Formation, Brig Gen Sidwell Baartman, and the Chief of Staff SA Army Infantry Formation, Brig Gen Krubert Nel.

Speaking to SA Soldier Lt Col Vilakazi expressed pride in his leader group that led by example during the exercise, his troops’ discipline, dedication, commitment, high morale and the way they conducted themselves for the exercise. He prides himself on 21 SAI Bn for being ready to fulfil its mandate, firstly to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the country and secondly to support the SA Police Force and other security agencies, and finally to perform and participate in peacekeeping missions and borderline control.

His intention is to get 21 SAI Bn combat-ready by means of training, proper command and control, and maintaining a high standard of discipline with the aim of providing combat-ready forces to the SA Army Infantry Formation. In the midst of all these challenges, he and his members are ready to be utilised by the SA Army Infantry Formation anytime, anywhere. He urged all his staff members to work together and focus on the future, while adhering to the guidelines received from the General Officer Commanding SA Army Infantry Formation,

Maj Gen Themba Nkabinde.

The nation can be truly proud of the change of attitude of the men and women of this battalion who are prepared to participate fully whenever the country and the SANDF calls upon them to do their part in the quest for peace and stability for a better South Africa, concluded Lt Col Vilakazi.

Addressing the members of the unit, Brig Gen Baartman urged all members to root out the ill-discipline among themselves and to use the proper channels of command to lodge their complaints. He assured them of his support in endeavouring to revive and rebuild the unit.
The 10th Military Skills Development System (MSDS) Basic Military Training passing-out parade took place at 3 SA Infantry Battalion (3 SAI Bn) in Kimberley on 13 May 2010. 3 SAI Bn provides military practitioners for the SA Army that are competent in basic soldiering skills and ready for further military professional development and utilisation.

The MSDS ensures a continuous intake of young, deserving, healthy South Africans with military skills. It also contributes to their social upliftment by providing them with skills and employment opportunities they will use in civilian life after completing their military service.

The day of the passing-out parade was certainly not an ordinary one for these young soldiers: it was a day of joy and accomplishment. Their parents and loved ones were present to witness this memorable occasion. The event marked the culmination of many sleepless nights of planning, hard work, endurance and dedication.

These young men and women have conquered and completed the vigorous route from having been civilians to being well-trained South African soldiers. They have chosen to serve and, as such, much is expected of them. The nation, their colleagues and commanders will depend on their courage, loyalty and commitment. They will rely on them to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and self-discipline at all times.

3 SAI Bn and Air Defence Artillery School have given them the firm foundation of a soldier. They must continue to study, train and be strong willed to make it to the top.

Young men and women have conquered and completed the vigorous route from civilian to well trained South African soldier during their passing-out parade.
In support of the National Soccer team, Bafana Bafana, and to build team spirit, members of the Logistics Department of 1 Military Hospital, under the leadership of Maj Weziwe Ngonyama, decided to decorate the entrance of the Logistics Department.

S Sgt Naomi Nel was in charge of the project, as it was well known within the corridors of the hospital that she was a creative person who boasted a Diploma in Interior Decorating. To display their patriotism, the Logistics Department members contributed money to purchase the decorations and donated vuvuzelas, soccer balls and other soccer paraphernalia.

S Sgt Nel spent the first weekend of June decorating the entrance to the Medical Store with what was referred to as 1 Military Hospital Logistics “Soccer City.”

A ceremonial National Flag and small flags of the competing countries decorated the wall. Vuvuzelas and soccer balls were suspended from the ceiling, with newspaper clippings, pictures and a 10 m long flashing strobe light adding further touches. S Sgt Nel even made a soccer field - the famous Logistics “Soccer City” - with pictures of members of the Logistics Department facing their opponents.

From remarks in the comments book, which was placed in the entrance of the Medical Store, 1 Military Hospital personnel and the patients obviously appreciated the endeavour. Mission accomplished: The logistics personnel were in high spirits and fully supported the National Team.
Young soldiers rejuvenate the SANDF

Article and photos by
S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Tactical Intelligence Regiment held the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) Basic Military Training passing-out parade in Potchefstroom on 14 May 2010. The event was symbolic, as everybody on parade knew that another phase in their lives had ended and with the next sunrise would come a new day, new challenges, new experiences and the next step in their military careers.

The primary purpose of the MSDS is to create an effective, efficient and economical human resource composition for the Department. The MSDS is there to ensure continuous intakes of young, deserving, healthy South Africans into the SANDF. The MSDS does not only provide South Africans with military skills, it also contributes to social upliftment by providing skills that soldiers can use in their civilian lives after completing their military service.

The recruits formed part of the pro-

Some recruits expressed excitement about their first step towards becoming soldiers and being called up to serve the larger community of South Africa.
Recruits were taught field craft to enable them to camouflage and conceal themselves from the enemy. They were to complete Basic Military Training with the aim of converting from a civilian lifestyle to the military culture and military discipline. Regular drill sessions were conducted, which is an indispensable part of uniformed members’ discipline. They were also taught buddy aid, which gave them the tools to save lives with the few resources at hand.

Some recruits expressed excitement about their step towards becoming soldiers and being called up to serve the larger community of South Africa. They were happy that this had finally come, as they were different from the ordinary civilians. They said they were now more fit and disciplined than ever.

The MSDS passing-out parade signalled the completion of Basic Military Training and the beginning of Intelligence Corps training, which will take place at the School of Tactical Intelligence. The highlight of their training will be when they participate in the annual SA Army exercise, Exercise SEBOKA, at the SA Army Training Combat Centre in Lohatla to test and verify the various subunits' combat-readiness.

The parade was attended by many guests, including the General Officer Commanding SA Army Intelligence Formation, Brig Gen Job Magasela.
Compulsory Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme

By Ms K. Swart, Assistant Director
PSAP ETD
Photo: F Sgt B.L. Stewart

Twenty-five employees from diverse working backgrounds attended the 6th DOD Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme for Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 8 - 12. It was presented by the Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (Public Service Act Personnel: Education, Training and Development) at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria from 3 to 7 May 2010.

The aim was to induct and reorientate these employees and to provide knowledge and understanding of the core business of the Department.

It is the wish of the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, that induction and reorientation programmes should be presented to all PSAP in the DOD, irrespective of their years of service. Hence, it is compulsory for all employees on salary levels 8 - 12 to attend a centralised Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme, with first priority given to new entrants to the Department.

Feedback from participants

All participants were grateful at having been afforded the opportunity to attend the Departmental Induction
and Reorientation Programme. Eleven of the participants have served for more than ten years in the DOD, the rest having served between 0 - 6 years. Most of the participants indicated that the programme provided a good opportunity for networking and that the information shared was of great value as it could be applied in the workplace. More than half of the participants indicated that the programme was aligned with decentralised Services/Divisional induction.

Mr M. Maholwana has been working in the DOD for three months as a Senior Personnel Practitioner in the SA Navy and he expressed his experience of the programme as follows: “Before the programme started, I had the perception that this would be just another orientation that would seem never to end. It was anything but. All presentations were well prepared and presented in a manner that kept us interested throughout. On a personal note my favourite presentation was on the Defence Policy Overview and Update presented by Mr N. Sendall. My favourite day was the second day, which dealt with HR Rapidly changed. New insights about things were changing right under our noses and we are too busy to see or realise it. I was pleasantly surprised by various informative presentations that enlightened me about aspects that I was not aware of and with which I was not in daily contact. This week definitely added value to my knowledge and understanding of the DOD and my liaison with these structures will have a new meaning for me in the future. Thank you for an enlightening week of information sharing and meaningful interaction”.

Way forward

The next programme will be presented in Pretoria over the period 1 - 5 November 2010. Instructions calling for nominations will be promulgated among Services and Divisions at least four weeks prior to the delivery of the programme.

During the 09/10 Financial Year, Chief Directorate Human Resources Development has been establishing a work group consisting of representatives from the Services and Divisions, which will be responsible for designing and developing a Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme for PSAP on salary levels 1 - 7. The designing phase has been completed and the development phase is now in process. It is envisaged that training for PSAP on salary levels 1 - 7 will commence in the FY 11/12.

General

Induction is one of the cornerstones of organisational investment in human capital and therefore employees who attend the Departmental Induction and Reorientation Programme gain knowledge and understanding of the DOD, which will undoubtedly contribute to creating a positive image of the DOD as a desirable employer.

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development, Maj Gen M.K. Mokoena, was delighted to state that having subject matter experts presenting their strategic issues/topics was fundamental to the success of the programme. The effort put in by the identified presenters from Services and Divisions reflected high professional ethics and was commendable.
"Bon voyage" - the passing of a military career

By Lt Col Roger A. Buczynski, SO1 Regular Force Music

his distinguished military musician who has retired from the SANDF after 31 years of service, has almost single-handedly given direction to the hundreds of band musicians within the South African military band environment.

He initially studied at the University of the Witwatersrand, and subsequently obtained his Ph.D. in the USA at the age of 26 in 1983. During this period he was called up to serve in the then South African Defence Force in 1979 as a National Serviceman, and shortly thereafter completed his Officers Training.

Between 1984 and 1991 Col Williams functioned in the Band of the Light Horse Regiment, later becoming the Officer Commanding. He was subsequently appointed Staff Officer in the Army Directorate of Music and Ceremonial at the SA Army Headquarters, being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and Senior Director of Music in 1992.

After the transformation of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Col Williams developed, structured and staffed a joint Ceremonial and Military Music Office to manage the honours and awards, ceremonial, military dress and military music functions within the South African Department of Defence.

His distinguished military awards include the Southern Cross Decoration, the Southern Cross Medal, the Military Merit Medal, the Medalje vir Trous Diens (with 30-year bar), the Good Service Medals (Bronze and Silver), the Pro Patria Medal, the General Service Medal and the Unitas Medal. He was admitted to the Order of St John by Queen Elizabeth II in 2005 and was promoted by the Queen to an Officer within the Order in 2007. He travels nationally for the Order, advising and assisting in ceremonial matters for investitures.

In his spare time Col Williams is much in demand as a public speaker and also teaches, lectures and conducts music workshops for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). He was appointed a Special Commissioner by the RSCM Headquarters in England and later admitted as an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music at a special service in Coventry Cathedral in 2003 in recognition of his services to church music in South Africa. He was instrumental in the creation of the South African Division of the organisation of which he is now President.

He has travelled widely, both privately and on behalf of the SANDF, to the UK, Ireland, the USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, etc. He recently visited Delville Wood in France, the UK for the commemoration of the sinking of the SS Mendi, Russia for the launch of the first Kremlin Zoria (Tattoo) in Red Square and in April 2008 the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. He has often been a guest of the Commandant at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham, and the Senior Director of Music of the Household Division, as well as the Producer of the Edinburgh Tattoo, Royal Tournament and Nova Scotia Tattoo in Halifax, Canada. He visited the Australian Military School of Music in Melbourne and was hosted by the Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force in Wellington. The administrative abilities and specialist knowledge of music of Col Williams is without equal in the SANDF, and he will be sorely missed by colleagues and subordinates. His astute professional deliberations and mature considered responses within the military music establishment have set high standards to which aspiring military band musicians can relate and indeed should try to emulate.

Bon voyage and best wishes for the future.
The importance of a healthy, dynamic partnership between the Department of Defence (DOD) and the Defence Industry cannot be overemphasised. The Defence Matériel Directorate hosted a gala dinner at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand on 16 April 2010 to promote and strengthen communication between these sectors.

The DOD expects to be judged on its performance in service standards, excellence, ethical standards, openness, consultation rooted in effective and efficient partnership, collaboration, people-centered approach, team-work, accountability and discipline. A partnership built on these principles will ensure that mutual trust and understanding become the foundation on which we promote national security of our country, said Mr Antonie Visser, Chief Defence Matériel.

He further assured the Industries that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, was in the process of finalising a review of the Defence Strategy in order to align defence programmes with the Government’s foreign policy objectives, which means that an upgraded defence strategy and Defence industry strategy will affect the industry and to a great extent, determine the way forward. Mr Visser added: “From my side as the Chief Defence Matériel I am concerned about the inability of industry to adhere to contractual obligations. I call on you to do your part to ensure that the professional relationship between the Department and your companies remains intact. Let us support each other to ensure optimal expenditure, with specific reference to achieving Departmental priorities, but with significant contracting.

“In conclusion, it is the Department’s mission to play a major role in the provision of effective defence for a democratic South Africa and I want to thank you for your continued support of our efforts to achieve our mission. Your contribution is a sterling example of your goodwill and co-operation.”
You could have been forgiven for mistaking the SAS MENDI for Lotus Versveld as South Africa faced off against Uruguay in their FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup Group A encounter. This was the venue that the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, chose when she took some time out from her busy schedule to support Bafana Bafana with the ship’s company of SAS MENDI on Youth Day, 16 June 2010.

Minister Sisulu arrived at Admiralty House accompanied by the Minister of State Security, Mr Siyabonga Cwele, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the Secretary for Defence Designate, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, and an entourage of about 30 people.

Upon Minister Sisulu’s arrival at Admiralty House, she was welcomed by the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, the Flag Officer Fleet, R Adm Rusty Higgs, and the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Base Simon’s Town, R Adm (JG) Koos Louw. The ship had just returned to Simon’s Town after spending a few days at sea off the coast of Cape Town around the Green Point Stadium as part of Operation KGWELE.

With the venue in shipshape condition and ready to host the soccer spectacle, Minister Sisulu was ceremoniously welcomed by SAS MENDI’s Guard of Honour before being escorted to the Wardroom by the Officer Commanding, Capt Bubele Mhlana.

Pre-game jitters were hardly evident as the ship’s company bellowed war cries to liven up the mood before the crucial crunch encounter and the dignitaries could not help but join in the action. The moment everyone had been waiting for had finally arrived and all were in a jovial mood in what was expected to be a favourable outcome for “Mzansi”, but it proved to be far from it.

After a rather subdued first half, Leading Seaman Phila Mnyanda, a chef on the SAS MENDI, was on hand to provide some comic relief for the guests before snacks were served. The match resumed with everyone upbeat about Bafana’s chances in the second half, but it was not to be as Parreira’s men were edged out by Uruguay 3-0.

After the match Minister Sisulu jokingly admitted that she had offered the team the opportunity to go to SAS SAL-DANHA to give them fighting spirit and an additional edge. The guests’ mood was improved by the news that Seaman Patience Molikoe, a chef on the SAS MENDI, was celebrating her 20th birthday.

Fltr: The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Strategy Consultant and Special Adviser to the Minister of Defence, Prof Sipho Seepe, and the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, sharing a joke before the game.

The club is named after the Comrades Marathon veteran, Jackie Mekler, one of only five people to have won the Comrades Marathon on five occasions. Jackie Mekler made an early start to his Comrades’ career at the age of 20 coming 7th in his first run. His first win was achieved in 1958 when he finished 45 minutes ahead of the field.

In 1960 the golden moment belonged to Jackie who became the first man to break through the six hour barrier on the up run, in those years considered unachievable. In 1963 he also set a new down record, therefore he held the up and down records at that time. Jackie Mekler’s five wins and five other top five positions over a 16 year span were achieved against very competitive fields, proving his worth as a world-class runner.

The Jackie Mekler Race was first presented by the Pretoria Marathon Club in 1980. In 1986 the Pretoria Military Marathon Club took over the event and the venue was moved to the Pretoria Military Sports Club in Thaba Tshwane. The event comprised a 25 km race, 10 km run and walk and a 5 km fun run. The 50 km run did not take place this year due to the earlier rescheduling of the Comrades Marathon as a result of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The race has increased in popularity over the years, attracting some of the top ultra-distance athletes in South Africa. Sponsored by Konica Minolta South Africa, the company is proud to be associated with this prestigious race for the sixth consecutive year.

The first male member to cross the finishing line in the 25 km race this year was Sekeke Lesole (Global) in a time of 1:18:53 and the female winner was Thabitha Tsatsa (Mr Price) in a time of 1:35:34. The 10 km race winner was Lucky Mohale (Gauteng Striders) in a time of 30:21 and the female winner was Helen Chiundo (Nedbank) in a time of 37:44.
The 85th Ultimate Human Race

Article and photos by Col Zirk Lourens, with acknowledgement to the Comrades Marathon Association

The Comrades Marathon attracts competitors from throughout South Africa and around the world. It is widely considered to be the most significant ultra-marathon race in the world and therefore attracts the world’s best ultra-marathon athletes. It is also regarded as one of South Africa’s most popular and inclusive sporting events and attracts runners of all ages, both sexes, all cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and of all levels of athletic ability. Recently an American athlete was quoted on his experience of the Comrades Marathon: "Running in the Comrades Marathon is like competing in the Super Bowl". This is proof of the special place the Comrades Marathon holds in the world of athletics.

"The Time Is Now - Join The Legacy" was the theme for the 2010 Comrades Marathon. This year was a "down run", an exception to the custom of even-numbered years being an "up run" - a distance of 89,28 km.

SANDF achievements

A total of 23,500 athletes entered this year’s 85th Comrades, while 20,000 runners qualified for the Comrades. Altogether 16,459 runners started the race and 14,393 successfully completed the race. A total of 2,066 runners did not make it to the finish line before the 12-hour cut off time. Altogether 155 runners from the DOD, including the Reserve Force, completed the race.

The Chairperson of the Comrades Marathon Association, Mr Dave Dixon, said the 2010 Comrades Marathon was the 85th presentation of this “Ultimate Human Race” and it coincided with the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, the biggest sports event ever to reach our shores.

The Comrades Marathon took place on Sunday, 30 May 2010, a mere 12 days before the start of the FIFA World Cup. It started at 05:30 at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, and finished at 17:30 at Sahara Kingsmead Stadium in Durban.

The SANDF had a special stand at...
Previous gifts of the SANDF are kept in the Comrades Museum in Pietermaritzburg.

Sahara Kingsmead Stadium in Durban where all the families and friends of the runners got together to watch as the runners entered the stadium. The stand could be identified by the National Flag and SANDF Flag. Banners were displayed in front of the stand for easy identification. Lt Col Craig-Mackie and his team from the KwaZulu-Natal Military Athletic Club assisted the SANDF runners with their personal needs and also provided warm soup for the runners. The Area Military Health Unit KZN, which normally mans a water point 40 km from the finish, could not do so in 2010 due to involvement in Soccer World Cup activities.

The first SANDF athlete to cross the finishing line was Mr Muziwakhe Hlongwa from SANDF Athletic Club Western Province. His overall position out of the 14 393 runners who finished was 122nd in a time of 06:40:17.

In the second position was Leading Seaman (Reserve Force) Tholag Moloi also from SANDF Athletic Club Western Province in a time of 07:24:20 and an overall position of 508th. The third position was Mr Johhny Malgas from SANDF Athletic Club Eastern Province in a time of 07:25:16 and an overall position of 523rd. These runners obtained their silver medals for running under the cut-off time of 12 hours with only two minutes to go was Maj Mario van der Westhuizen of the SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (AFB Makhado) in a time of 11:57:53.

In the second position was Cpl Benise Geyser from SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (118 SA Infantry Battalion) in a time of 08:46:27 and overall position 2 276th (181st position among the women runners). A total of 3 129 women runners completed the race. (She also achieved second position among the SANDF runners during 2009 Comrades race.)

The first Defence Reserve Force runner was Mr Mdumiseni Zondi, of Natal Carbineers Athletic Club, in a time of 06:37:05 in an overall position 106th, an excellent achievement. He also achieved first position among the Defence Reserve Force runners during 2009 Comrades race.

Col Zirk Lourens (09:45:01) and Mr Richard Hammil (11:38:38), both from SANDF Athletic Club Pretoria, completed their 26th consecutive Comrades Marathons. Lt Col Chris Steyn, also from SANDF Athletic Club Pretoria, Chairperson of the SANDF Road Running Association, completed his 19th consecutive race in 08:04:30 seconds. The last SANDF athlete to make the cut-off time of 12 hours with only two minutes to go was Maj Mario van der Westhuizen of the SANDF Athletic Club Limpopo (AFB Makhado) in a time of 11:57:53.

History

The first Comrades Marathon was run on Empire Day, 24 May 1921, when 34 runners lined up before the Pietermaritzburg Town Hall to commence a race to Durban to commemorate the spirit and camaraderie of the soldiers who fought in the Great War. It owes its origins to the tireless efforts of its founder, Vic Clapham (war veteran and SA Railways engine driver) whose vision it was to create a living memorial to the spirit of his “comrades” who had suffered so greatly in the war.

The first race was run on gravel roads, with the runners having to pass through several gates and at least one stream. It was won by Bill Rowan, a 26-year-old Transvaal farmer, in a time of 08:59:00 which would be the slowest winning time in the history of the race. There were 16 official finishers of the first race.

The following year the race was run from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, and thus began a tradition of alternating the race each year between “down runs” from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, which are staged in odd numbered years, and “up runs” from Durban to Pietermaritzburg which are staged in even numbered years.

Future

The 2011 Comrades Marathon will take place on Sunday, 29 May 2011 and will be an “up run”, starting in Durban and finishing in Pietermaritzburg. The race will commence at 05:30 from the Durban City Hall and finish at the Midlands Cricket Oval in Pietermaritzburg. After the hugely successful implementation of the new early-entry process for the 2010 Comrades Marathon, when over 23 000 athletes responded to the call for entries, the Comrades Marathon Association has opted to stick with the winning formula and will open entries for the 2011 Comrades Marathon on Wednesday, 1 September 2010.

Entries will be limited to a maximum of 18 000 athletes. This means that the entries will officially be closed when the maximum number of 18 000 entries is reached.

*Any enquiries in this connection can be directed to Col Zirk Lourens, PRO for Comrades Marathon 2010 - Cell: 083 501 3640, tel: (012) 312 2060 or fax: (012) 312 1259*
SA Army Foundation gripped by Soccer World Cup fever

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

In the spirit of the first ever global soccer showpiece in Africa – the 2010 FIFA World Cup – the SA Army Foundation handed over R100 000 worth of category 1 match Soccer World Cup tickets to lucky members to watch the games live at venues closest to them.

The gesture resulted from a public announcement by the Foundation in which it asked members to update their details to stand a chance of winning World Cup tickets. A series of lucky draws were subsequently conducted countrywide during the week before the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup kick-off. The handing over for the Gauteng Province’s lucky draw winners was conducted at the SA Army Foundation HQ in Pretoria on 11 June 2010. During the handing over ceremony, Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, SA Army Foundation General Manager, said that the event was one of many ways of rewarding the loyalty displayed by members and stakeholders over the years.

Maj Gen Mokoape also urged the members to involve themselves actively in administration and to give inputs on improving their organisation.

An excited recipient, Ms Violet Makhubele, a cleaner at the Special Forces’ office in Thaba Tshwane, said that she was glad that she could be counted among the people who would make history by watching the games in the stadiums during the first ever FIFA Soccer World Cup to be staged in Africa.

Ms Makhubele won herself a ticket to watch a group D match pitting Serbia against Ghana at Loftus Versveld Stadium in Pretoria on 13 June. (Ghana eventually beat Serbia 1-0.)

Mr Benny Msiza from the office of the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwela, also won himself a ticket to watch a group D match on 19 June when Cameroon lost to Denmark 2-1. They also played at Loftus Versveld Stadium.

Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, SA Army Foundation General Manager (front, third from right), with SA Army Foundation Gauteng Province members who won 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup category 1 tickets. Among the staff members present were the SA Army Foundation Marketing Director, Mr Angel Ramphele (back, fourth from left) and the National Sales Adviser, Mr Henk Redelinghuys (next to Mr Ramphele).
The countrywide boxing talent search for the 2012 Olympic Games by the SANDF, South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), Boxing South Africa (BSA) and South African National Boxing Organisation (SANABO) that ran in all provinces and ended at Booyens in Johannesburg and Garankuwa in Pretoria late in November reached its climax on 27 May 2010 when 107 amateur boxers were introduced at Infantry School in Oudtshoorn. Thirteen of the amateur boxers will go to Cuba on an exchange programme.

SANABO and BSA were responsible for technical matters and operations of the project while SASCOC oversaw its implementation and ensured that the existing structures had proper support systems to track and closely monitor the selected squad to ensure the smooth running of the project.

Addressing the media SASCOC President, Mr Gideon Sam, expressed his sentiments on progress made so far: "Boxing has always been very close to my heart and I am excited how it's going. This programme is largely a pilot run and I have to say it would be ideal if we could extend a programme of this type to other sporting codes to unearth more budding talent".

According to the SASCOC President, eliminated boxers will be part of SANDF personnel and the selected boxers will form part of the high performance squad being prepared for London 2012.

The SANDF Patron for Boxing and the Director Doctrine Development Joint Operations, Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, explained that the boxers chosen are first soldiers and then boxers and not boxers and soldiers afterwards, hence they are required first and foremost to have undergone basic military training.

Director Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, praised the boxers for putting Western Cape on the boxing map.

According to Brig Gen Sedibe, the project has contributed to the rejuvenation of the SANDF: "It has enhanced the fitness levels of members of the National Defence Force. The required force preparation and combat readiness of SANDF members have been demonstrated to perfection. Projects of this nature are essential for the sport development and peace initiatives of the United Nations as well as sport for peace forums of organisations like the Council for International Military Sport (CISM)".

Recruit Mikateko Chauke shows SASCOC President, Mr Gideon Sam, how she punches her opponents during women's boxing competitions.
Walking for cancer support

By Thabo Shirinda

Military Hospital, in conjunction with its sponsors, decided to have a fun walk in support of and to raise funds for the Cancer Support Group. The fun walk was held in Thaba Tshwane on 28 May 2010. The point of departure was 1 Military Hospital and it finished at the Cancer Hospice. It was a jovial affair with everybody taking to the streets clad in Bafana Bafana jerseys and draped in South African flags.

Lt Lesego Mashishi, Occupational Therapist at 1 Military Hospital, was the co-chief organiser of the walk. She said: "It was our aim to make sure that we raised funds for the hospice and at the same time enjoyed the day."

The idea of the concept arose from the plight of cancer victims, a disease that continues to claim many lives worldwide. "We plan to make this an annual event, where lots of money will be raised for the victims of cancer," said Lt Melissa Gurupersad, the co-chief organiser of the fun walk. The fun walk was also used as a ploy by 1 Military Hospital to reach out to the National Defence Force.

The fun walk was not really about winners or losers, as people enjoyed themselves in the name of charity. Ms Christine van der Merwe, Admin Clerk: Human Resources at 1 Military Hospital, said: "For me the walk was not about who wins, it was about lending a helping hand to those affected by cancer; it was my way of contributing to charity."

It was an emotional experience for Capt Selina Motaung, who is one of the personnel working at the hospice: "It is very encouraging to see that people really care about our patients. I would also like to thank those who sponsored the event with food". It was a lovely Friday and everybody enjoyed the walk, though for some the walk was also about personal fitness.

Dr Matha Lebea from 1 Military Hospital said: "I wish that we can actually do this walk each and every month, as it would be good for our health." Hopefully this is the start of good things to come for the cancer patients at the hospice. This has clearly demonstrated the level of caring and humanity within the SANDF, which has come to characterise the Military of South Africa, especially 1 Military Hospital.

17 Squadron reaching out

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela

The Code of Conduct for uniformed members states: "I will treat all civilians humanely". It is good to know that 17 Squadron (SA Air Force) adhered to this code by establishing the 17 Squadron outreach programme. The main aim of this programme is to bring a smile, food, blankets and toys to orphans and children that are less fortunate.

Schools, orphanages, abuse centres and hospitals in Cullinan, Soshanguve and Bronkhorstspruit were grateful to 17 Squadron on 14 May 2010 when they flew in mattresses, books, clothes and food. But the giving did not end at those three destinations. Children converged on Swartkop for a fun-filled day and to be flown in a helicopter for a few minutes. For some children a minute in an Oryx helicopter is something that will be imprinted in their minds for a lifetime. Sibusiso Ndumiso (17) from Leamogetswe Safety Home in Atteridgeville was so excited to board the helicopter. He said: "This is my first flight; I am a bit scared, but I want to do it so that I can tell my friends about it."

Ms Desree Makhubela, Matron of the Leamogetswe Safety Home, expressed her gratitude to everyone who brought a smile to the children. She said that it was the second time that she was part of this event, and that she hoped they would be invited again next year, "because I know it means a lot to the children and I would like to thank everybody who made it possible".

A vote of thanks should also be given to the sponsors: Kit Kat, Hotel Formula 1, Pick ‘n Pay, Glo Cell and Sasko Sam for making the day a great success.

By Thabo Shirinda

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Katlego and Lesego from Soshanguve ready for fun at 17 Squadron.
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Cleansing ceremony: a religious rite

By Chaplain F.K. Sello
from Chief Joint Operations

The great floods as recounted in the Holy Scriptures destroyed life on earth because of man’s wickedness. Noah alone was spared when God identified him as a just man and tasked him to construct an ark to save himself, his family and the animals. With Noah safely in the ark, God summoned the waters to cover all the world’s mountains, sparing no living creature.

If that is the case, then water represents disaster and death. The answer is No! Not always does water represent calamities. Water has its lofty position as a source of life and plays a significant role in many religions. For instance many people of the Hindu faith make pilgrimages to the Ganges River to bathe, and it is commonly felt that life is not complete without having cleansed oneself in the river at least once. Hinduisim is not the only faith that upholds the central importance of water as a holy symbol. There are other major world religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism, in all of which water plays a vital role.

Although different faiths treat and employ water in distinct ways, water has two common spiritual functions: to symbolise spiritual cleansing and to signify the source of all life. In Christianity water plays an important role in many rituals and stories. One enters into the Christian faith through the sacramental cleansing with water, a ritual called baptism. When baptised, one is either sprinkled with, or in some cases partially or fully immersed in water, depending on the understanding and teachings of that particular church about baptism. In so doing a candidate is said to be welcomed into the Christian faith.

Christian denominations interpret the act of baptism by saying that it signifies symbolic spiritual cleansing. In such cases a minister of religion, a priest or bishop sanctifies the water to be used for baptism. Not only do they use sanctified water for baptism, the water can sometimes serve to repel evil spirits according to their belief. Again the water sanctified by a priest can also be used to cleanse a place where lives have been lost in tragic incidents, such as vehicle accidents, stampedes, shootings, or mass killings. These religious customs are performed as a symbol of addressing the souls of the departed in the hope that they will rest in peace and that surrounding communities will be healed of any trace of traumatic experience, fears and or any emotional instability that might affect them.

Interestingly, not only faith organisations embrace the concept of cleansing. The African traditional healers also believe in the cleansing of people, places of residence, objects and places where people who died in a violent manner. In their case not only is water used but herbs as well. Again in other faiths, such as Islam, water is used as a ritual to cleanse or purify one’s spiritual or moral self. The Koran, the holiest text in Islam, states: “from water every living creature was created”. Islamic principles uphold the right of all people to quench their thirst and water their plants and animals. Many mosques have a pool of clean water in the courtyard that enables worshippers to practise ritual cleansing before entering to commune with God. Muslims must be spiritually pure when approaching God in prayer. In Buddhism water symbolises purity, clarity and calmness and is used as a vehicle through which one can cleanse one’s mind and learn the teachings of the Buddha. In the Jewish faith ritual washing in water also plays a central symbolic role in the spiritual cleansing of its adherents.

The transcendent importance of water in religious ritual and thought is probably a reflection of the fact that water is essential to life. In one of the Gospels, Jesus is referred to as the Living Water.

As a point of departure, much as humanity cherishes different beliefs and views, especially with regard to interpreting visible and tangible objects in the material world, even in a pluralistic society such as South Africa, one can attain spiritual objectives by embracing these simple but refreshing thoughts. Not only can one benefit from these life changing experiences, one can also experience upliftment, contribute significantly to the wellness and improvement of society, the environment and the entire creation. However, one needs to take full responsibility not to miss the symbolic spiritual meaning of these practices, and to refrain at all costs from deviating from the core objectives of the customs, taking heed that the clay is not the most important thing, but the Potter. Acknowledge these religious practices as symbols that connect us with our Maker, our inner self, others and creation with the purpose of redesigning and recreating a picture of man as he was created originally morally correct and above reproach.

Meet Francois Goosen (13) from Pretoria who was diagnosed with diabetes three years ago. According to his mother, Francois has been in ICU five times in the last three years and is injected with insulin up to five times a day when he is not feeling well as a result of his sugar levels being out of kilter.

Like every other ordinary child, Francois dreams big. His dream was to sail in a submarine. His parents, Mr Johan and Ms Elsa Goosen, approached the Reach for a Dream Foundation and discussed Francois’ dream with Ms Heidi Rowley, the Western Cape Branch Manager.

After a series of emails and letters between the Goosens, the Reach for a Dream Foundation and the SA Navy, the prospect of fulfilling this dream seemed brighter; it was just a matter of time before the two organisations could put a smile on the dreamer’s face.

SAS QUEEN MODJADJI I was scheduled to sail fairly close to the harbour to perform some tests and exercises. Space was reserved on the submarine for Francois and his family. Francois’ visit to the SA Navy was scheduled for 4 May 2010.

When the big day came, Mother Nature refused to play along. Clouds hung low and refused to give way to sunshine. And unfortunately the submarine’s sailing programme was rescheduled, but this did not stop the team from pulling out all the stops to bring some joy to Francois.

The Officer Commanding (OC) of SAS QUEEN MODJADJI I, Cdr Andrew Souma, and his crew were delighted to have Francois on board, even though, sadly, the submarine would no longer be sailing.

Lt Johanna Delport, the Detection Officer, gave Francois and his family a tour of the boat, during which the OC presented a delighted Francois with a submariner’s badge and cap. That was not all; Francois was also given the opportunity to look through the periscope and listen to sounds on the radar system.

The Officer in Charge of the Submarine Training Centre, Cdr Neville Howell, welcomed Francois and explained what the rigorous training to become a submariner entailed. He then took him to the Model Room where Francois viewed details of the submarine’s design and functionality.

The tour got even more exciting at the submarine simulator, where Francois had the opportunity of handling the planes. In the simulator he was allowed to dive down to 300 m! He was awarded the Certificate of Competency for his “bravery” and for being such a good sport during his visit to the SA Navy.

Since part of Francois’ dream was to sail, it was arranged for him to be taken on a boat ride around the harbour and to the Roman Rock lighthouse on a Namaccura. He did not seem to mind the fact that he was getting wet from all the thrills and spills on the water and said that the ride was very refreshing and that he rather enjoyed the splash of sea water on his face. His attitude and conduct throughout the visit was one of a real submariner!

While the organisers of the visit were concerned that Francois’ dream could perhaps not be realised, he was thrilled by the opportunity that was presented to him by Reach for a Dream and the SA Navy. His parents were also very pleased and said that they were grateful that their son could enjoy such an exciting day at sea.

Wherever you are, whoever you may be, whatever your situation is - dare to dream!

To find out more about Reach for a Dream, visit their website at www.reachforadream.org.za.

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