Our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform
From the Editor’s desk

Letters:
to the Editor

News from abroad

Celebrating a decade of goodwill

MOD visit to hospitals

Our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform

SA Air Force Senior Medal Parade

SA Air Force stood the combat-ready test

Defence Inspectors of SADC convene

US African Command Commander visits DHQ

Logistic Division Migration Parade

The third Combined Joint African Exercise

Civil-military relations

Honouring Defence Intelligence members

Celebrating anchors of family and society

SANDF boosting scarce skills

SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition

The Alma Mater for Policy Writers

Advanced Management Development Programme

The A - Z of Terrain Intelligence Regiment

Dynamic women from Western Cape Signal Unit

Freedom of Entry into Cape Town

Spouses Forum honouring women on deployment

CONTRIBUTIONS:
Although all possible care is taken with articles, the editorial staff cannot take any responsibility for lost articles and photographs.

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD
Mr S. Dlamini
(Chairperson)
Brig Gen M.M. Visser
Capt (SAN) M.J. Josias
Cpln M.P.K. Masemola
Col S.A. Motswadira
Col S.P. Zeeman
Ms N. Pienaar
Cdr C.E. Khumalo
Maj J.V. du Toit
Lt S.E. Segone
Mr L.R.M. Netshiremba
(Secretary)

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

Deputy Editor:
Mr Eugene Muller
Translation
Consultant:
Directorate Language Services

Distribution:
Mr Jim Tshabalala
Tel: 012 355 6341

Layout & Design:
Mr Werner v/d Westhuizen

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

POSTAL ADDRESS
SA SOLDIER
Private Bag X158
PRETORIA, 0001

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

www.dod.mil.za

2005 - Winner of the Government Communicator of the Year Award (GCIS).
2005 - Winner of the National Ubungcweti Award (GCIS).
SA SOLDIER is published monthly - 12 issues per year. The views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Department of Defence (DOD). Acceptance and publication of advertorial and advertising matter in SA SOLDIER does not constitute DOD endorsement or warranty in respect of goods or services therein described. The DOD does not assume any liability in respect of any claims made in advertisements.

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

FRONT COVER: Sgt Ngube holding a baby in the hospital. Read all about our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform during the Public Service labour action from pages 14 to 17.
(Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

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

The SA Soldier team would like to thank our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform for rendering such professional and noble medical services and security support during the recent Public Service labour action.

During the strike the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, visited the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto and the George Mukhari Hospital in Ga-Rankuwa to find out first-hand the situation at these hospitals.

Minister Sisulu was not pleased with conditions at these two hospitals. She said: “This situation brought about by the strikers is completely unacceptable. We have a constitutional mandate to protect Government facilities and we will execute this mandate”. There and then she assured non-striking doctors who were afraid of being victimised by strikers that the military would do everything in its power to protect them. This protection included the patients as well as the nurses who put their moral obligation to serve first before their right to strike.

Our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform once again demonstrated to our nation and the world that they were there to defend and protect South Africa and its citizens. Read all about the good service rendered on pages 14 to 17.

Also read on page 42 about the important role of our women in uniform in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building. The SANDF Spouses Forum recently honoured the women on deployment for their efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security on our continent.

May you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed compiling it for you, our dear readers.

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

* Translation (isiZulu) by Manelisi Ndaba.
Artillery displays its fire power

By Capt Marelda Coetzer, SO2 Corp
Com SA Army Artillery Formation
Photos: WO2 A.A.G. Vermaak

Yet another successful Artillery Open Day was hosted at 4 Artillery Regiment in Potchefstroom on 28 August 2010. The SA Army Artillery Corps is renowned for drawing crowds annually when it displays its indirect firepower capability to members of the public to strengthen its marketing effort. Additional interest was created this year when the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, honoured visitors with his presence.

On their arrival, members of the public of all ages flocked to the static exhibition where the 155 mm GV5 towed howitzer and 155 mm GV6 self-propelled gun howitzer, multiple rocket launcher (Bateleur) together with various other systems could be viewed up close. Awe was the only expression worth using as communicators provided details on each system and assisted those who wanted a closer look inside. Supporting the Artillery Open Day were members from the School of Tactical Intelligence who attracted and entertained most of the younger visitors and painted faces with camouflage cream, with dad in the background, camera in hand and ready for the snapshot. Pipers and drummers from Cape Field Artillery also entertained visitors and soon drew a crowd with their outstanding performance.

The time arrived for the firepower demonstrations to commence. People, whether on foot or by bus, flocked to the “Leërdagstelling” from where the fire power demonstrations could be observed. Armed with hats, sunscreen and chairs, spectators filled the observation area within minutes. Activities commenced with the National and SAA Corps flags being presented to the General Officer Commanding SA Army Artillery Formation, Brig Gen Abé Notshwweleka. Mr Clive Willsworth, author of the book ‘First In Last Out’, presented Brig Gen Notshwweleka with a copy of his book, which is currently being launched in South Africa.

Brig Gen Notshwweleka said the rejuvenation of the Regular and Reserve components through the Military Skills Development System (MSDS) had placed emphasis on the role of women within the Artillery Corps. Women, he stated, were just as capable as men of operating and commanding systems, which demolished the divide previously preventing women from entering the Artillery Corps.

The firepower demonstration began with a small calibre demonstration by the School of Tactical Intelligence. Each weapon with its ammunition, ranging from R4’s to 40 mm multiple grenade launchers, was displayed to the public, and its capability was demonstrated on nearby targets. Subsequently the Light Artillery Regiment demonstrated helicopter assault operations.

Two GV5 launchers that had already been towed into position, fired at direct and indirect targets. Two GV6 launchers, to the amazement of the spectators, subsequently drove into the demonstration area and commenced firing at direct and indirect targets. Rockets from the Bateleur, the main attraction, were fired next, to the enthusiastic applause of the crowd. For the grand finale a series on the fire plan commenced with all weapons and systems firing on direct and indirect targets. This was a memorable occasion as this was the only opportunity for them to experience the firepower and capability of the Artillery.

A G5’s capability on display.
I have come to the realisation that all the academics, engineers, politicians and teachers are themselves products of a primary school teacher who no doubt had trouble getting them used to the school environment and teaching them how to read and write, yet we all tend to forget where our foundations were laid.

It is for this and many other reasons that I decided to write this letter to my former primary school teacher while she is still alive in recognition of her and all other teachers’ hard work in giving the nation the great products that we have all turned out to be.

**My Primary School Teacher**

*She drove every morning*

*She drove far from home indeed*

"She drove to work", I thought to myself

No! Wait she drove to her calling

She drove so that she could teach class 7 of 1998

"Punctuality is imperative children" she’d emphasised.

*Between ha Buasono and ha Shadrack villages*

*Was a peaceful place called*

*St Cecilia Roman Catholic Mission*

*I was brought up there*

*St Cecilia Primary School my foundation*

*St Cecilia Primary School my rock*

*St Cecilia Primary School my consciousness*

*At an assembly point, rose the song*

*Awi masole itukiseng*  

*Ka di thebe marumo*

*Seeing her silver Toyota van*

*Already in the parking bay*

*I’d start running*

*For I knew I was late*

*I ran for it was*

*For my own good*

*I ran for my life*

*I ran to a school of honour and excellence*

*I ran to St Cecilia Primary School.*

"Sello is the only one*

*Who obtained first class at St Cecilia*

*People muttered in December 1998*

*Others asked, “How can that be?”*

*Indeed it was the truth*

*That year, far across mohokare*

*I could see the smile of joy*

*Contentment and work well done*

*On my teacher’s face.*

"Well she drove to work,"

*I thought to myself*

*I see now she drove*

*To make a hero out of me*

*I see now she woke up everyday*

*To give me life*

*I see now she made a real man*

*Out of a young Sello*

*I see now she made*

*A true catholic out of me*

*I’m who I am, where I am*

*Because of her*

*I see now she was*

*My mom away from home*

*A mother who advertently*

*Steered me in the right direction*

*Mrs Margaret Lerotholi would persistently ask me*

"Boy where’s your homework?"

*Education was our daily Theme and bread.*

*She taught me to walk tall*

*And high even in challenging times*

*She taught me to go out to the world*

*For the world won’t come to me*

*She taught me that not*

*All closed doors are locked*

*She taught me to talk*

*My mind assertively*

*She taught me that life*

*Is not a walk in the park*

*Mrs Lerotholi taught me English*

*To its greatest depth*

*"Read a book, not only when in doubt Just read a book”, she’d say calmly.*

*Now I am a man, a South African soldier*

*I am a true African*

*I am a South African Air Force member*

*And proud thereof*

*I am a shining star*

*I am a catholic.*

*Before I die or she does, I want to say:*

"Mrs Margaret Lerotholi you and all the other primary school teachers across the whole world are sent by God to all who live and work around you. Cpl Sello*

*Paul Ntseuoa, Bloemfontein*

* Poem shortened - Ed.*

MY CAREER, MY LIFE

Everyone has a dream to be fulfilled one day

Everyone knows what he or she wants

Everyone desires to have what he/she ought to have.

Everyone loves getting the life of his/her dreams.

I made a decision

I understood the desire of having a career

I read about my career, even though at first

It did not ring a bell in my mind

Now that I call it my career and my life,

You come and want to destroy it.

It took me time to get to know it and

Neither you nor anyone will ever take it away from me

No one will take my career, my life.

L Cpl Busisiwe Mtshwene, 68 Air School
On 6 August 2010, the women of 7 SAI Bn in celebration of Women’s Day decided to give something back to the community by visiting Ntabiseng Special School and Majeje Dropping Centre. The unit adopted the school in 2007 as a project. We raised funds throughout the year for them and on Casual Day we invited them after we identified a need. We tried our best to satisfy that need with the funds that were raised.

Ntabiseng Special School for the physically and intellectually challenged caters for about 40 learners, whose age group ranges from 5 to 25 years. The learners are taught to write, read, use sign language and to calculate. They even started a choir. The school is registered with the Department of Education. There are about 10 extraordinary women working with these children. Apart from teaching they also run a feeding scheme at the school.

After spending a few hours with the children we went to Majeje Dropping Centre. The centre offers afternoon classes besides providing lunch and supper to orphans, children headed by other children and vulnerable (abused and neglected) children. The centre caters for about 500 children from the surrounding areas, whose ages vary from 5 to 20 years.

We offered groceries, clothes, blankets and shoes. We also had the opportunity to interact with the children because we believe that these children do not only need to be fed, clothed and educated; above all they need to be loved. It was a real eye-opener for all the women, as we realised that there was such great need in our communities, and although we could not give groceries, clothes or love to every child, we were able to put a smile on the faces of the children that we visited, which was enough for both us and the children and we believe that we sowed a seed that in its season will come to fruition and hopefully will motivate them to strive to rise above their current situation and become all that the Lord Almighty had created them to be. The children in Ntabiseng Special School sang a song for us, although we could not really make out what they were singing, as some were deaf and others unable to speak. The words were so beautiful and encouraging, and there was a particular phrase that touched all of us: “we are beautiful and unique and God loves us”. They sang that song with so much love and adoration to God and although they might not speak, hear or understand their surroundings, they were aware of their Creator. It dawned on me how ungrateful, selfish and rebellious we at times are, as there are people that are less privileged, but they embrace life and enjoy every moment of it. I realised that if I could change my world around me in a positive way, then the person next to me will also change positively and at the end we will form a chain of positive change. I hope that these few words will encourage you to reach out and touch someone in need.

Capt Suraia Cambinda, 7 SAI Bn, Phalaborwa

WE ARE THE MOTHERS OF OUR NATION

One of the women wrote a poem for the children that we visited:

Most women face enormous challenges
As single mothers
Gone are the days when women and children
Cried everyday and night.
They had no place to hide, no shelter,
No food to eat and no clothes to wear.
In the past men had it easier than women.
In 1956 women of all races marched
To the Union Buildings
In protest against apartheid laws.
On that day women became equal partners
In the struggle for freedom.
They stood up because they knew that
We are the rocks of our society and
We are the mothers of our nation.

When we help orphans
And abandoned children
We are not looking for earthly fame
We do good that we be rich in good works.
We are always ready to give
And willing to share the little we have.
Just because we are the rocks of our society
And we are the mothers of our nation.

We are proud and strong women.
We are disciplined and skilled soldiers
And we know that hard work
And perseverance will get us to the top.
We acknowledge children
As people with value.
They need to feel our love and care.
It was for them we came here.
We give them a shoulder to cry on
When the outside storms are too much to bear.
We fulfil our roles as mothers, wives,
Guardians, employers and employees.
Just because we are the rocks
Of our society and
We are the mothers of our nation.

Rfn Vicky Tlabela from 7 SAI Bn
I dedicate this letter to those who are studying and those who are intending to further their education. The disadvantages of not completing studies are very great. It includes delay in career development, a negative impact on finances and feeling demoralised about learning and academic development.

Some soldiers end up in distress, despair and disbelief, coupled with self-condemnation. I urge soldiers to see the bright side of life in the SANDF at large. There is a great reward for hard work, which is characterised by self-discipline and determination to succeed. Soldiers are not born for the past, but wired for the future. Only laziness is capable of taking them back.

Most soldiers I encouraged were NCOs, as I believe that they were not created to be NCOs forever. The SA Army provides the opportunity for soldiers to grow in many areas of expertise and self-discipline. The SA Army presents its members with the opportunity to improve their competencies by means of study at State expense. It recognises that it requires skilled and trained personnel, especially in areas where the necessary skills are lacking.

It is the responsibility of each individual to take the lead and be in charge of lifelong learning. Soldiers must choose education to better their future. Maj A.B. Ndamase, SA Army Intelligence Formation.

There is no doubt about the ideal of great or born leaders. My question is: What is their purpose? A writer once said: "The purpose of any leader is to enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things". I have to say leaders with leadership skills still make mistakes, but recognise their errors, learn from them and work to correct their faults by giving their troops oxygen for the soul. Lastly, leaders do not hold grudges, but always keep up the momentum. Rfn N. Qheya, Regiment Westelike Provinsie.

In our own SANDF, whether part time, on contract or in the Regular Force, we have examples of humble service orientated leaders. They do not last long, whereas the others always do. People in the first category include Captain Carsten from Regiment Westelike Provinsie, Major Smith from Limpopo and Major Peza from Infantry School. They help the lower ranks, and their example shows how characteristics such as trustworthiness, a passion to serve their troops and a gift of inspiration and hope can result in a good soldier.

Maj Gen J.T. Nkonyane, Chief of Logistics, handing over the 20 Years Service Medal to Lt Col E.S. Matomane, SO1 Corporate Communication Logistic Division. (Photo: Cpl M.S. Rasekoai)

There is no doubt about the ideal of great or born leaders. My question is: What is their purpose? A writer once said: "The purpose of any leader is to enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things". I have to say leaders with leadership skills still make mistakes, but recognise their errors, learn from them and work to correct their faults by giving their troops oxygen for the soul. Lastly, leaders do not hold grudges, but always keep up the momentum. Rfn N. Qheya, Regiment Westelike Provinsie.

In our own SANDF, whether part time, on contract or in the Regular Force, we have examples of humble service orientated leaders. They do not last long, whereas the others always do. People in the first category include Captain Carsten from Regiment Westelike Provinsie, Major Smith from Limpopo and Major Peza from Infantry School. They help the lower ranks, and their example shows how characteristics such as trustworthiness, a passion to serve their troops and a gift of inspiration and hope can result in a good soldier.

Maj Gen J.T. Nkonyane, Chief of Logistics, handing over the 20 Years Service Medal to Lt Col E.S. Matomane, SO1 Corporate Communication Logistic Division. (Photo: Cpl M.S. Rasekoai)
WHAT MAKES SOLDIERING UNIQUE

People who become soldiers had discipline before, but the difference is the unique way of maintaining it. A soldier’s attitude is groomed by being responsible. Therefore responsible soldiers trust in their capability because they are the sole owners of soldiering.

Priorities make soldiers different because they know what to do when, how and where. Soldiers team up, but not like a soccer team. They have a plan, not a game plan. They always win because it comes naturally to them.

Soldiers’ participation in the 2010 Soccer World Cup was felt - well done! The planning was outstanding: no wonder no one was cautioned with a “yellow card”. This tells you why soldiering is unique.
**KEEP IT UP SOLDIERS**

I want to thank all the soldiers who are deployed in and outside the borders of South Africa. We as SANDF members are raising the flag of South Africa on behalf of all South Africans. I am saying this because it is indeed a very hard decision when you have to leave your country and loved ones for such a long time, as it takes a minimum of six months before you can see your family and friends again. So I really want to express my gratitude to 1 SAI Bn members and the contingent at large that are currently deployed in Darfur, Sudan, for the peacekeeping mission under UNAMID. They are really doing a good job and I like the way they overcome the challenges that they come across while on the mission. It is a headache to see people living in such conditions and I want to thank our soldiers for their appreciation and for making friends with the residents. I also want to thank all private soldiers on the ground, in particular for the dedication they have been showing since the beginning of the mission and want to say: "If it was not for you guys, we would not have achieved our goals". Not forgetting Bravo Company Commander, Capt Ndlangamandla from Infantry School. I appreciate his efforts and he made it very simple for everyone so that the mission could be a success.

I finally want to thank the Officer Commanding of 1 SAI Bn, Lt Col Mofokeng, and all the Officers for making it possible and succeeding in the mission. Keep up the good work 1 SAI Bn. Pte M.N. Macheli (1 SAI Bn), currently in the Sudan.

**KEEPERS OF A SACRIFICED LIFE**

Five o’clock in the morning. Outside it is still dark. Lt W.N. Nkosi awakes, still sleepy, but ready for another day. She had a bowl of cereal with milk and a cold shower. Lt Nkosi from Johannes- burg is one of 700 South African peacekeepers that have been posted to north Darfur in Sudan since last May. Most of us are based in Kutum, but there are also more than 200 stationed in Mellit and Malha (both also in north Darfur).

Lt Nkosi said: "Working for peace in the Sudan is hard, but at the end of the day we realise that this experience is also good for our lives." Sandstorms (called ‘haboob’ in the local language), torrential rains, a lack of water, food poisoning … nothing is easy on this mission. For seven months they train, work long shifts and patrol to keep the local people safe.

Working in the peacekeeping mission in the Sudan means some sacrifices for the soldiers. Far from their relatives, they may place only one five-minute call per month from the mission’s official landline, although most of them will spend money using their personal cellphones everyday. The Internet is slow and also restricted because the soldiers are only allowed to log in for 30 minutes a day.

There is tap water for only two hours a day in the compound and food is not abundant. They wash their own clothes and clean the tents where they sleep (12 soldiers per tent). In the base there is little entertainment, so they have to think of activities to kill time during the long hours when they have nothing to do (e.g. reading, watching movies, playing video games, chatting, organising football and volleyball tournaments). A peacekeeping mission is not a holiday, but the soldiers try to find ways to avoid the stress.

Lt Nkosi said: "We are here to represent our country." South Africa currently has 4 500 soldiers deployed throughout the continent. In addition to the 700 soldiers in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) are among those benefiting from South Africa’s contribution.

Lt Justin Heath, now Deputy Commander in Kutum, spent six months in the DRC. Lt Heath, from Boksburg, is awaiting the birth of their baby, but unfortunately he will not see his child in October 2010. Lt Heath said: "This is the life of a soldier." His wife is also in the military. All members of the RSA contingent are actually volunteers. In other words, they are in Darfur because they want to be. Nobody forced them.

But their volun-
MY TEARS DO NOT COME CHEAP ANYMORE

I do not want to cry anymore for something that is not nothing
The price of my tears comes high now
They come from a deeper well than before
A well filled with knowledge I did not have before
Filled with vision, I have never seen before
Filled with emotions I have never felt before
Secrets I have never known before
Filled with children I have yet to birth
Joys I have yet to live and give
Magic I have yet to perform
Dreams yet to dream
Songs to sing that I have not sung
Dance to dance
And words to rhyme
The well is deep
No my tears do not come cheap anymore … Lt B.M. Sebitloane, Op CORDITE XI, Sudan

FPO 312 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

An army without a post office is almost unthinkable. The Greek historian, Herodotus, said about 2500 years ago: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these courageous couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". This was later literally adopted by the OP MISTRAL XIV deployment from December 2009 to May 2010.

We members of the SA Army Engineer Squadron were deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of OPS MISTRAL XIV. Deployment can be a very stressful and strenuous period, as members are away from our families. Telephone calls to our loved ones were not always satisfying. Receiving a parcel from home with all sorts of gifts and snacks is the greatest and closest feeling of being at home with a family. The post office plays a big role and should not be underestimated in the deployment area as a means of keeping the morale and spirits of the soldiers high. Our post at the Engineering Squadron has operated smoothly and without any hiccups under the management of S Sgt Prince. With his morale, passion and flexibility in accommodating and assisting every individual with patience, working long hours, sometimes until late at night sorting the post, he has earned our praise and thanks.

S Sgt Prince has upheld the morale and spirit of our deployed soldiers by rendering postal services with dedication, professionalism and commitment. He has added meaning to the word patriot in all respects. Cpl Xhani Tyali, 35 Engineer Support Regiment (deployed in the DRC)

MY EYES LOOK OUT

My eyes look out, look out look out
If you look out for a person
Look out for a smile not a frown
Look out for a cheerful face not tearful face
Do look out for a happy person not a sad person
Look out for a loving person not a hating person
If it ever happens when you look out
You are not content with what you see
Do look for a change in that person

My eyes look out, look out look out
If you look out for words
Look out for sweet words not sour words
Look out for warm words not cold words
Do look out for soft words not scornful words
Look out for loving words not hurting words
Look out for positive words not negative words
Do look out for encouraging words not discouraging words
If it ever happens when you look out
You are not satisfied with what you see
Do look out for a change in those words

My eyes look out, look out look out
If you look out for a friendship
Look out for a building friendship

Not a demolishing friendship
Look out for a constructive friendship
Not a destructive friendship
Do look out for a happy friendship
Not a pain inflicting friendship
Look out for a supportive friendship
Not a deserting friendship
Do look out for a spirit uplifting friendship
Not a spirit crushing friendship
If it ever happens when you look out
You are not quenched with what you see
Do look out for change in that friendship

My eyes look out, look out look out
Look out for those who are powerless to defend them
Do look out for those who are down to lift them up
Look out for those in need to generously give to them
Look out for those in darkness to be the light of their lives
Look out for those who are in despair to be their hope
Look out for those who are weary, tired and hopeless
To be the strength into their lives
My eyes look out, look out look out
Rfn N.J. Biva, Alpha Company (DRC)
Celebrating a decade of goodwill

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

At the annual gala evening of the Goodwill Parcel Project held in Pretoria on 10 September 2010 the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, formally accepted the monetary pledges made by sponsors and thanked them for identifying a need to boost the morale of soldiers.

This year the Goodwill Parcel Project celebrates its tenth year of existence. Over the years the project has become one of the significant events on the calendar of the DOD. Credit must be given to all the Warrant Officers in the SANDF. It all started back in 2001 when the Warrant Officer of the Joint Operations Division established the project. At that stage there was no funding for the Project, and the Warrant Officer of the...
SANDF then requested that all Warrant Officers in the SANDF donate R1 towards the project. The project has since grown and evolved to provide goodwill parcels to all internally and externally deployed members, including hamper packs for these members’ families back home. Sponsors from the private sector, the SANDF Spouses Forum, and this year the Warrant Officers Spouses Forum, joined in. Currently the SANDF Spouses Forum is the custodian of the hamper packs and oversees the obtaining of sponsors and determines the contents of the hampers.

Through this project, the SANDF was able to spread its wings in cultivating, maintaining and enhancing partnerships with community-based structures. These include businesses, churches, schools, orphanages and old age homes, which have benefited from these partnerships.

These projects not only touch the hearts of the deployed soldiers over the festive season, but also their family members back home. Those unfortunate enough to be in hospitals or hospices also share in the project, including those who are on duty on Christmas Day. In order to show that the sacrifices of members who passed away during deployments are not forgotten, the Goodwill Parcel Project through the Warrant Officers Spouses Forum will be extended from this year to include deceased members’ families.

The success of the project is clearly demonstrated by the gratitude shown by the different recipients of the parcels. The aim of the project is therefore not to reimburse soldiers for their efforts, but to show appreciation and support to deployed members and their families over the festive season by means of goodwill parcels and hamper packs.

Representatives of the various sponsors will once again be invited to be part of this year’s Goodwill Visit to all deployed members and hand over these tokens of appreciation. The Goodwill Visit also provides sponsors with the opportunity to convey the good wishes and appreciation of their companies to the deployed soldiers. All activities of the Goodwill Parcel Project carry the good wishes and appreciation of the entire SANDF and the South African community as a whole, and have an important impact on the morale of deployed members and their families over the festive season.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Chief of the SANDF thanked the sponsors for the commitment they continue to show. This gesture is a clear indication to the families of the thousands of deployed soldiers that the private sector is willing to partner the Government in improving the lives of our people.

Norwegian honour for Cape Town Highlander

By Maj Merle Meyer,
Communication Officer
SA Army Infantry Formation
Photo: Col Ray van Zanten

A four-man team consisting of Capt Duggie le Roux from 3 Parachute Battalion, Lt Edward Murray of Cape Town Highlanders and Able Seaman Dumisani Mhlanga from Naval Base Simon’s Town and L Cpl Green Myeko from the Cape Town Highlanders took part in the Military Skills Competition at Stavanger, in southern Norway, during August 2010.

The competition consisted of pistol and rifle shooting, a cross-country obstacle run, a 50 m water obstacle race, a 12 km orientation run, map-reading, hand grenade throwing and distance judging.

Each team consisted of three members. The other three South Africans took part as a team, while L Cpl Myeko was selected to participate in one of the international teams consisting of a member from Holland and one from the United States. This team came first. (Altogether 44 teams took part in this competition.) The competition gave the members invaluable experience in various military skills and they had the opportunity to attend the annual Confederation of International Officers of the Reserve (CIOR) meeting where various presentations was made on Reserves all over the world.

L Cpl Myeko was one of a four-man team of Reserves selected to represent the SANDF in the annual CIOR meeting held in Norway in August 2010. This 28-year-old member from Kraaifontein, who runs to keep fit, appreciated the experience and enjoyed the competition. L Cpl Myeko matriculated from the Michaudal Senior Secondary School where he played rugby and soccer, and participated in athletics. He joined the Cape Town Highlanders in 2005.

L Cpl Green Myeko from the Cape Town Highlanders with his gold medal.
The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, comforts one of the patients who was worried about the strike at George Mukhari (Ga-Rankuwa) Hospital.
patients at these and other hospitals. “This situation brought about by the strikers is completely unacceptable. We have a constitutional mandate to protect Government facilities and we will execute this mandate,” said Minister Sisulu. She assured the non-striking doctors who were afraid of being victimised by the strikers that the military would do everything in its power to protect them. This protection included patients, as well as nurses who put their moral obligation to serve first before their right to strike.

More than 130 members had been deployed at the George Mukhari Hospital and over 70 at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. Minister Sisulu was adamant that she would increase the military personnel at any hospital should the need arise. She said the patients needed to be confident that they could go to the hospital and be attended by either the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) members or the non-striking nurses. When doctors residing in the medical university hostels close to the hospital premises told Minister Sisulu that they had received threats, she immediately issued an instruction that the military personnel needed to make sure that they were protected from any harm.

She told the media that the Department of Defence, the Department of Health and the SAPS were doing all they could to reduce the stress on the non-striking medical workers. These three departments had established a toll-free helpline where distressed medical workers could call in case they were threatened, and help could then be dispatched.

The Minister of Health was quite pleased with the presence of soldiers at Baragwanath and George Mukhari hospitals. He praised the soldiers for doing an excellent job and thanked Minister Sisulu for her willingness to call upon more soldiers to help and for the toll-free helpline.
Our Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Once again our "Angels of Mercy" showed South Africa and the world their selfless compassion and people-centred culture during the labour action by Public Service employees. Our defence mandate is to defend and protect South Africa and support the broader government initiatives of contributing to a better life for all, which is Government’s national strategic vision. The military strategic objective is to provide support to the people of South Africa through operations other than war, e.g. in times of humanitarian need disasters and emergency situations where the responsible State departments do not have adequate capacity to render such support.

On 2 September 2010 the Interim National Defence Force Service Commission (INDFSC) lead by the Acting Chairperson, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana, visited Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria. The aim of the visit was to witness and get first-hand comprehensive information on conditions under which deployed SANDF members perform this nationally important duty.

The Chief Director Military Health Force Support, Maj Gen Lifeni Make, on behalf of the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Vejaynand Ramlakan, updated the Commission and said that the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) was committed to Government service delivery in South Africa. Maj Gen Make said: "When a large number of health care professionals..."
in the public health care sector abandoned hospitals, the SANDF men and women in uniform as the last line of defence, carried out the Constitutional mandate to provide health care to our people.”

The Chief Executive Officer of Kalafong Hospital, Dr Lance Phalatsi, expressing his gratitude, said: “We are glad that the SANDF saved lives, managed our national crisis and delivered health care to patients. The hospital’s daily services were severely disrupted by the labour action. Making matters worse our non-striking health care workers and volunteers were being intimidated.”

The Commissioners praised the “Angels of Mercy in SANDF uniform” for displaying a people-centred culture and patriotism. Bishop Mpumlwana was heartbroken by patients who were on chronic medication. These included patients who were on ARV’s, TB, epilepsy and hypertension treatment who did not have access to medication. He said that failure to ensure an uninterrupted treatment could adversely affect many lives. Bishop Mpumlwana said: “The SANDF is the nation’s backstop; the ultimate reserve hope for citizens caught up in these dire circumstances.”

A worried senior citizen who was a patient at the time of the visit told SA Soldier that the strike was disturbing and, characterised by intimidation, violence and destruction of property. She said: “Our lives are under threat. The presence of soldiers makes me feel like a proud senior citizen of South Africa. With the intervention of the SANDF, I am better off.”

Lt Col (Dr) Robert Netangaheni, a doctor and lecturer at the University of Pretoria’s Medical School, explained to SA Soldier that the medical teams were assisted by volunteers, some from the University of Pretoria’s Medical School and others recruited and trained by the SAMHS. Their support services covered emergency services, the maternity ward, medical records, the medicine quality control laboratory, pharmacy, reception staff, pest control, porters, waste removal and laundry.
SA Air Force
Senior Medal Parade

By Lufuno Netshirembe
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

It has always been a tradition of the SANDF to acknowledge and reward deserving members, either serving or retired, for their loyalty and a job well done. True to this SANDF tradition a parade was held at Swartkop Air Force Base on 24 August 2010 to honour senior members of the SA Air Force who had served for forty and thirty years respectively in the military.

As expected with a parade of this calibre, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, was present to bestow the medals on the recipients. The Deputy Minister, Mr Thabang Makwetla, accompanied Minister Sisulu on this momentous occasion. The following medals were awarded:

The **IPHROTHIYA YEGOLIDE** was awarded to V Adm J.F. Retief (Ret) who had distinguished himself by exceptional leadership, and exceptional meritorious service and the utmost devotion to duty.

The **IPHROTHIYA YESILIVA** was awarded to Maj Gen S.B. Mmono, Brig Gen (Rev) M. Cornelissen and Brig Gen J. du Preez for distinguishing themselves by outstanding leadership, and outstanding meritorious service and particular devotion to duty.

The **MEDALJE VIR TROUE DIENS AND BAR TO THE MEDALJE VIR TROUE DIENS (30 YEARS)** was awarded to Maj Gen M.M.M. Mangethe, Maj Gen N.L.J. Ngema, Brig Gen T. Jacobs, Col R.B. Beecroft, Col J.C.M. Hartley, WO1 M. Bester, WO1 M.J. Ryan, WO1 F.M. Venter and Snr Pnr A. Mashilane who had distinguished themselves by long and efficient service of thirty years.

The **MEDALJE VIR TROUE DIENS AND BAR TO THE MEDALJE VIR TROUE DIENS (40 YEARS)** was awarded to Lt Gen C. Gagiano, V Adm J.F. Retief (Ret), Maj Gen M.S. Brazzoli, R Adm (Ret) H.V.E. Bester (Ret), Brig Gen A.R. Cumming, Brig Gen J.R. Wallis, Col J.A. Earle, Cdr T.N. Peters and WO1 K.L. Miller who had distinguished themselves by long and efficient service of forty years.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, awarded the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, with the Medalje vir Troue Diens and Bar to the Medalje vir Troue Diens (40 Years).

In his keynote address the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Gagiano, thanked Minister Sisulu, Deputy Minister Makwetla, and other esteemed guests for taking time off from their busy schedules to attend this ceremony. He praised the men and women in SANDF uniform for choosing a career that is exciting and fulfilling in which they serve and defend the sovereignty of their country, South Africa. "This event and these medals should serve as an encouragement to all of us in the DOD to work even harder, knowing that hard work will never go unnoticed," said Lt Gen Gagiano.

In conclusion he expressed his gratitude to all the members of the SANDF who had given assistance to the Government during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and during the volatile period when Government employees were engaged in labour action to demand salary increases.
SA Air Force stood
the combat-ready test

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

he recently held FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa has afforded the SANDF a great opportunity to showcase its combat-readiness. This was the view of the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, during the SA Air Force (SAAF) media conference held at the SA Air Force Museum in Thaba Tshwane on 10 August 2010 focussing on the progress of the SAAF and its achievements.

The Government, in preparation of the hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, had to combine the expertise of all security agencies to provide comprehensive security for the event. The SANDF was one of the Services of the SANDF that was tasked to safeguard the SA airspace. The tournament gave the SANDF the opportunity to devise a combined operation outside the normal humanitarian tasks that have occupied the country’s military planners over the past few years.

A confident Lt Gen Gagiano said: “A total of 64 games were played during the Soccer World Cup and many supporters travelled by air from different countries to watch the games. All those aircraft needed to be cleared and authorised. To ensure the safety of our guests, the SAAF aircraft flew 2 257 hours to ensure airspace security and ground security. The opportunity further provided the SAAF with the opportunity to test its combat-readiness capabilities in a real-time situation. The Grippers and Hawks were deployed throughout and that did wonders for motivation of the young men and women. The display brought excitement and boosted the morale of SAAF members and South African citizens as a whole. I must also say that the SAAF worked very well.”

Some of the operations conducted in preparation for the Soccer World Cup included exercises SHIELD IV and V in Mpumalanga and the Western Cape. During the period 14 to 28 June 2009 the SANDF also supported the FIFA Confederations Cup by participating with SAAF aircraft.

Outlining the approach to the comprehensive security plan for the Soccer World Cup, dubbed Operation KGWELE, the Officer Commanding of the Air Force Command Post, Brig Gen Les Lombard, said that the main focus and objectives were, among others, to ensure secure airspace during the 64 games, supply air mobility in support of ground forces, supply airborne intelligence surveillance reconnaissance, as well as to ensure the safe arrival of heads of state.

Brig Gen Lombard added: “To achieve the objectives, we had to deploy at least 2 209 SAAF personnel from our twelve SAAF bases and units. The operation has been planned in detail over a long period of time and every venue/stadium was utilised in terms of airspace security over a period spanning from October 2007 to April 2010 and during the training exercises. The concept was also marketed to the civil aviation community to ensure their full support and co-operation. A total of 2 257 hours were flown by participating SAAF aircraft during Operation KGWELE, with 347 combat air patrols resulting in 51 interceptions. The country’s airports experienced a doubled influx of about 64 739 civilian flights and about 12 921 civilian aircrew who needed screening and authority.”

Ftr: The Head of Communication, Mr Siphiwe Dlamini, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, the Chief Director Policy and Plans, Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, and the Director Corporate Communication, Brig Gen Marthie Visser, listen to the presentation by Officer Commanding Air Force Command Post, Brig Gen Les Lombard, during the media conference.
The Southern African Development Community Defence Inspectorate Working Group (SADC DIWG) Conference was held at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town in August 2010. The SADC DIWG has been formed to conduct inspections on the SADC Standby Force and report its state of readiness to the Defence Subcommittee, which is made up of the Chiefs of the Defence/Armed Forces of SADC. It will also conduct regular inspections at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre and report on whether the objectives of the set curriculum are being met. The SADC Standby Force is a multi-purpose force that will respond to security threats at the request of the member states.

It is envisaged that the force could be deployed in a civil war, where it will intervene and separate the belligerents, maintain peace and provide humanitarian support to displaced people under the authority of Chapter 6 and 7 of the United Nations (UN) Charter. It is therefore vital that this joint force be inspected and that it remains combat-ready and deployable at all times in order to ensure the security and continued cohesion of the region as a whole. The capabilities of the force have already been demon-
strated during operations such as Exercise GOLFINO. The SADC DIWG had already assessed the SANF Standby Force’s performance during this exercise and had identified even better ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

At the official welcoming function on the evening of 16 August the SA Army Marimba Band provided light background music during the reception and dinner. The main aim was to welcome everyone present and thank all the sponsors for enabling the SADC DIWG Conference to take place. AMG-Denel Aviation sponsored the farewell function, PGSI (Pty) Ltd sponsored the seminar folders, Manitou (Pty) Ltd, Dezzo Equipment Pty (Ltd), Execulog, Hoxies (Pty) Ltd and Ocean Pearl (Pty) Ltd gave monetary donations, Jansen Pharmaceuticals sponsored the seminar notepads and pens while Ivena (Pty) Ltd sponsored the seminar briefcases.

The last day of the Conference started bright and early on board the SAS MENDI with a welcome and safety briefing by the Officer Commanding, Capt (SAN) B. Mhlana. This was followed by a welcoming reception in the hangar, after which the Officer Commanding handed over to Cdr G. Walker, the Executive Officer.

Cdr Walker briefed the delegates on the history and capabilities of the Valour Class frigates and the composition of the ship’s company. The group was impressed to hear that the ships had made the world’s first use of laser-welding technology for warships and other combat capabilities. The delegates were then split into groups while various technical and combat officers led them on tours of the ship. These took place simultaneously and lasted about two hours on the SAS MENDI, which sailed around the bay and back.

The briefing on the frigates was an eye-opener and led the group to evaluate the importance of the SA Navy. The opportunity to sail was an unforgettable experience for the IGs, most of whom are Army Generals. The SA Navy was shown to be a professional force at the forefront of maritime offensive and defensive action in the region. On behalf of everyone present, the IG of Malawi, Brig Gen G.D. Msonthi, thanked and commended the SAS MENDI and the SA Navy members: “This visit to the SAS MENDI has served to strengthen regional relations, cohesiveness, goodwill and cooperation among South Africa and the other member states”.

The group then proceeded to the Institute of Maritime Technology (IMT). The IMT is a research institute within the Department of Defence, managed as part of the Defence Scientific Technology Institute group, a subsidiary of Armscor. A briefing on its role in the armed forces was then delivered by Dr H. van Wyk, Output Unit Manager. He focused on ocean, atmospheric and sea-floor characterisation, above water signature and sensor characterisation, sub-surface signature, naval staff support, submarine warfare and surface warfare. Mr J. Minnaar, a scientist at IMP specialising in modelling, then spoke on the Combat-readiness Model, an initiative of the SA Navy in the late 1990s, which caught the attention of the IG DOD in 2001.

The IG DOD then launched a project to develop a measurement system of combat-readiness for all Services. Petty Officer Theodore West from the Fleet Quality Assurance Directorate then discussed the practical challenges encountered when implementing the Combat-readiness Model and how it was implemented in the Fleet.

On behalf of the group, Gen S. Sambalanga, the outgoing Chairperson, thanked IMT for the briefing and the high standard in which it was delivered. The delegates then had a “leg stretch”. A short walk to Seaforth Beach was followed by an excursion to Boulder’s Beach, where they were able to view the penguins in their natural habitat before heading back to IMT for the official closing.

At the closing reception on the Friday evening, Gen Sambalanga announced the dates of the third conference, which is to take place in Harare from 29 August to 3 September 2010. Issues left pending from this Conference will be finalised and the handing over of the Chairperson will take place. Gen Sambalanga said that all the IGs had understood and agreed on the implementation and use of the IG Manual and that it had been a fruitful and productive stay in South Africa.

The guest of honour at the closing reception was the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm J. Mudimu, who represented the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Chief of the SANDF. He said that both of them were following the events of the conference very closely, as it was an important structure aimed at strengthening the SADC.

The Chief of the SA Navy impressed upon them the importance of Inspector Generals and the weighty responsibility they have to inculcate accountability and responsibility aimed at improved integration and interoperability. He referred to the Inspectors as the lighthouses of the SADC; “...there is no higher calling,” he commented, “and only through collective effort can we attain our goals; conferences such as these ensure our unity”. He stressed the importance of transforming productive discussions into constructive concrete actions.

V Adm Mudimu concluded by saying: “Africa needs all of us, we must not fail our beautiful continent.”

After three long days of deliberation, discussions and planning over the period 16 to 18 August the group took the opportunity on the 19th to view the breathtaking city of Cape Town. A trip to Robben Island was planned, made possible by the SA Air Force. AFB Ysterplaat provided not only a helicopter, but professional staff as well, which ensured a safe trip to and from the island.

On the island the Inspector Generals (IGs) had an opportunity to engage with the history of South Africa. At the end of the tour the group was taken on a visit to various townships, including Langa, Nyanga and Khayelitsha, with the final pit stop at the acclaimed butchery and eatery - Mzoli’s Place. The IGs used the opportunity to get to know each other on a social level, experience local culture and food, and interact with the locals.
Oordial greetings were exchanged when the Commander of the US African Command (AFRICOM), Gen William Ward, paid a courtesy visit on the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria on 7 September 2010.

The meeting between the two Generals took place to the backdrop of the controversial issue of the African Command. The Command had caused a lot concern across the continent, including South Africa. The country was still under the leadership of President Thabo Mbeki at the time the African Command was established. Gen Ward said: "We had a rocky start particularly with regard to the issue of the African Command, but we are going to build on our friendship."

The General was lamenting on the divisions on the African continent; the African Command had raised more questions than answers regarding its fundamental aims.

Gen Ward alluded to the fact that the US Government and its military were committed to the peace and security of the African continent.

The Chief of the SANDF echoed his words and said it was essential for the African continent to have peace and deal with its security concerns.

A range of issues were discussed, including the deployment of forces to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Darfur region in the Sudan and Somalia.

The African Command, commonly known as AFRICOM, is a unified combatant command of the United States Department of Defense that is responsible for the country’s military operations in all the African countries except Egypt.

AFRICOM was established on 1 October 2007 as a temporary command under US European Command. It is the brainchild of the former Secretary of Defense, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, who under President George W. Bush commissioned a planning team to establish the Command. Authority was given by President Bush to create AFRICOM in February 2007. (Gen William E. Ward was appointed AFRICOM’s first commander.)

One of the most fundamental issues has been the location of the Command. AFRICOM is currently housed in Stuttgart, Germany. Gen Ward confirmed that the headquarters will remain in Germany for the foreseeable future. Some of the concerns of the African continent have been the fact that most of them do not really trust this command.

Gen Ward said: "Our intention is not to colonise Africa again as some quarters have been suggesting, our intention is to bring peace and expertise to the continent."

Gen Ward also paid a courtesy visit on the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla. The Deputy Minister also highlighted the importance of SA/US relations, particularly with regard to military issues.

Deputy Minister Makwetla said: "It is our aim to work together with your country to create a safer continent of Africa." He also touched on the creation of the Department of Military Veterans in South Africa.

Gen Ward’s visit to South Africa ironed out some of the fundamental issues and differences with South Africa, but the relationship remains that of a cordial friendship between these two giants of global politics.
The DOD Logistic Support Division has shed some weight to the SA Army by allowing four of its logistic units to migrate to the SA Army. These units are the DOD Main Ordnance Depot, the DOD Technical Service Unit, the DOD Main Ordnance Sub-depot Wallmannsthal and the DOD Main Ordnance Sub-depot Durban.

The migration parade took place at the DOD Logistic Support Formation sports ground in Pretoria on 8 September 2010, where the Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane, and the Chief SA Army Force Structure, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane, exchanged commands.

Previously the units had migrated from the SA Army Logistic Command on 1 April 1999 as part of the then Joint Support Division in the DOD at that time to form the backbone of the current DOD Logistic Support Formation. The objective of that transformation process was to reduce the size of the SANDF and structure it along business lines, with specialised centres of excellence and according to a centralised support concept.

The core business of the DOD Logistic Support Formation is to ensure that the common logistic support requirements of the units being supported are met to allow the Services to focus on their core activities of force preparation and force employment.

Maj Gen Dlulane indicated that in the changed deployment environment the SA Army had to revisit its structure to manage the challenges and meet the demands of the 21st century as spelled out in the SA Army Future Strategy.

Maj Gen Dlulane said: “In line with the SA Army Future Strategy restructuring process the Chief of the SANDF and the Chief of the SA Army recommended, and the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans approved, that identified Logistic Support Units should migrate back to the SA Army.

“This will allow the SA Army to be in control of its support elements in conformity with established doctrinal principles applicable to other armies all over the world. This will also improve command and control, and accountability.”

The Chief SA Army Force Structure, Maj Gen Louis Dlulane (left), and the Chief of Logistics, Maj Gen Justice Nkonyane, at attention for the National Anthem at the Logistic Division Migration Parade.
South Africa's support for international and regional development is a stated policy goal of Government. As a nation of international solidarity its commitment to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) States in alliance with developing countries contributes to creating a stable region that preserves regional peace, promotes good governance, economic progress, trade relations and development.

On 6 September 2010 the SA Soldier team was invited to witness the 3rd Combined Joint African Exercise (CJAX), Exercise UHURU, conducted at the SA National War College in Pretoria from 6 to 10 September 2010. The three participating defence staff colleges were from South Africa, Botswana and Zambia. They utilised the same learning materials and scenario. The exercise was focused on the solution of a fictitious peace support mission scenario and involved the concurrent running of the same peace support operation planning package.

The aim of the exercise was to train in a joint, multinational and interagency environment in order to promote a better understanding of the challenges involved in planning and co-ordinating...
a complex multinational peace support operation.

The SA National War College: Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme 2010 learner group was comprised of approximately 94 students in the rank groups: Maj to Lt Col, including learners from other friendly military forces, i.e. Botswana, Congo Brazzaville, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia, India, Brazil and Egypt.

In his opening remarks Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, the General Officer Commanding of Training Command, reminded participants that African challenges require African solutions. He said: "The fact is CJAX, in the current African threat scenario, has huge growth potential for utilisation as a training tool in our endeavours to qualify the best quality officers in order to address our future challenges with the necessary confidence and knowledge."

The SA National War College as an entrusted state resource continues to reflect the growing engagement and collaboration with other regional defence staff colleges. The SA National War College is a training unit of the SANDF, and is currently running its annual Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme. This senior training programme is aimed at preparing selected officers for senior appointments at the operational level by developing their command, staff and analytical skills, and broadening their professional understanding of single service, joint and combined operations, the management of defence and the wider aspects of conflict.

This year for the first time the SA National War College is co-ordinating the inaugural CJAX, a pilot project within the SADC, which is being undertaken on behalf of the African Union and the African Conference of Commandants. CJAX is a UK sponsored initiative to encourage synergy and common working practices between all African staff colleges, and is modelled on the Combined Joint European Exercise. It is also conducted annually by participating defence staff colleges in Europe. This particular exercise forms the highlight of the current module being presented at the SA National War College, e.g. Military Operations Other Than War.

CJAX 2010 is the most important aspect of the Military Operations Other Than War Module and will not only develop a greater understanding of the joint, multinational and inter-agency environment in order to promote a better understanding of the challenges involved in planning and co-ordinating a complex multinational peace support operation, but will also serve to exchange ideas and concepts between SADC Command and Staff Colleges and other attending role-players or observers within the peace support environment, as well as forge the critically important professional and social link between attendees. In this regard the exercise will have a positive effect on the operational capability of the African Standby Force SADC Brigade. This is the pilot project for the SADC and the wider African Union, which means that this exercise is taking on a profile far beyond any other activity in the Joint Senior Command and Staff Programme."

121 SAI Bn: Casual and Arbour Day

Article and photo by
Capt F.S. Vilane, Communication Officer 121 SAI Bn

Reaching out to people with disabilities does not require much. A little gift offered to them means their lives are touched in a remarkable way.

On Friday 3 September 2010 two hundred members of 121 SA Infantry Battalion wore their Casual Day stickers with pride at the event held to give recognition to members with disabilities.

The Unit Social Worker, Lt N.M. Gumede, spoke to the unit members about physically challenged, handicapped, emotionally and spiritually impaired members and their special needs. The unit was also informed about the Curamus Association, which was an eye-opener to the members who most of the time are on external deployments and seldom get an opportunity to learn about such matters.

Eight trees were also planted to celebrate Arbor Day. Each indigenous tree recycles oxygen and helps unite the different companies and sections.

Major C.B.M. Molefe, the Acting Officer Commanding 121 SAI Bn, plants a tree on Casual Day to commemorate Arbor Day.
Civil-military relations

By Minah Sindane-Bloem, Life Coach/Communication Strategist

Chapter 2 of the Defence Review of 1998 addresses the Constitutional provisions of Civil-Military Relations. As a civilian who has worked in a military environment, Armscor to be specific, this chapter is of particular interest to me. This is an important chapter, which sets out the role of defence in a democracy. It is a chapter that spells out clearly that Defence’s specific role is to safeguard the sovereignty of South Africa and not have it work against its citizens, as was the case pre 1994.

In the 2008 Senior Leaders Seminar held in Washington, DC, the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies delivered a plenary presentation entitled “The State of Civil-Military Relations in Africa” and the following was the definition of civil-military relations, which I subscribe to:

In a broad sense, democratic civil-military relations are about the interface between the security sector and the different segments of the society in which the security forces exist and operate. The relations focus especially on the processes, institutions and mechanisms by which the security sector is brought under constitutional civil authority. This includes how the security forces interface with other state institutions, civil society, the media, and social classes, as well as ethnic and religious groups. Given Africa’s history of civil-military relations, it is a broader meaning of civil-military relations that has applicability to the continent, if security, democracy and development (social, economic and political) are to be realised.

In a broad sense the Department of Defence and Military Veterans (DODMV) has adhered to the provisions of Chapter two (Civil Military Relations) of the Defence Review. For example, the President as Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Parliament which approves the defence budget, the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans who is accountable to Parliament for the SANDF, a civilian Defence Secretariat, professionalism of the armed forces, and the establishment of stable civil-military relations subjects the SANDF to the control of the elected civilian authority.

The Defence Review has the following under Education and Training:

The mission of the civic education programme is to instil respect among military personnel and other members of the DOD for the core values of a democratic South Africa through appropriate education and training.

This has been achieved within the Department. Much training has gone into education and training within the Department.

A closer look at Chapter 2 of the Defence Review makes me realise that the chapter falls short of educating ordinary citizens about the military. What do I mean by this? In the said chapter the section on education and training addresses only the education of military personnel and not that of non-military personnel. It addresses the education of those within the defence environment and not those outside this environment. There are only three sentences under the section on Relations with civil society, one of which reads as follows:

The Minister and the DOD shall consult with interest groups and stakeholders in civil society in the formulation of defence policy, and shall provide the public with adequate information on defence matters.

Perhaps one can advance the argument that that type of education does not fall within the ambit of the Defence Review. However, I reckon that it is a necessary part in promoting civil-military relations. Perhaps it might be something that the Department needs to put great emphasis on with the stakeholder engagement strategy.

Thus far, I am not aware of a properly constituted civil society organisation that promotes civil military relations. From where I sit, I do not see society voluntarily forming such an organisation, for a whole number of reasons, including, for example, the issue of financial resources, human resources with interest and knowledge in defence matters. This then begs the question: who should promote civil-military relations? The answer lies with the DOD. The specific answer is found in the same chapter that addresses civil-military relations:

The Secretary will perform such duties and functions as may be necessary for democratic and civilian management of the defence function and to enhance parliamentary and Ministerial control over the SANDF... Firstly, civilians formulate defence policy and the military executes this policy. Secondly, civilians are responsible for the political dimensions of defence.

Again, this is happening at a formal level. What I am really advocating is a situation where ordinary citizens actively embrace the military as a necessary part of their society. This for me will also go a long way towards countering arguments about the military wasting money. The general public needs to embrace the military as their public insurance. Anybody who owns property continues to pay insurance even if they never claim. They understand its importance. We need to get the general public to that level. A lot of the provisions in Chapter 2 of the Defence Review have been fulfilled as I indicated earlier on. I think that South Africa is ready to move a step further, i.e. education of civilians on the functioning of the military and how the military contributes to peace not only within SA, but beyond its borders. This education will form part of the confidence building measures, which are necessary to repair and enhance the relationship between military and civil society.
The following are a few practical examples that the Department can do to promote civil-military relations:

1. Establish a legal framework to regulate relations between military and civil society. This framework should define what civil-military relations are in a democratic society. It should also define the obligations of the military towards civil society and vice versa. Civil-military relations do not have to be adversarial.

2. Establish civil education programmes to boost the knowledge of civil society about how the military functions. The communications division has in the past embarked on trips to military installations by members of society. There should be a set curriculum, according to which over a period of three days, members of society are given a short course on the military. Armscor has an e-learning course on the military for their employees. This could be a good start for civil society. Civil society can access this course via a portal on the DOD website.

3. There should be a general inculcation of respect for military personnel in civil society. This respect should stem from the fact that the military personnel are the only people who take an oath to die for their country, a country they will never personally own. This should also be followed by an understanding that the military is not a bunch of gun wielding people ready to attack at the slightest provocation. In fact, society should be taught that military intervention is the last resort when all other interventions have failed. The series run on the SABC of the DOD as the employer of choice was a good programme to help civil society understand the workings of the military.

4. Regular updates on national television on all major peacekeeping deployments. This should ideally be done jointly by both the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. This will avoid a situation where the nation gets to know about a deployment when a soldier has done something untoward.

5. A permanent deployment of at least two senior officers, e.g. a General and a Colonel, to the office of the President. How can we call our President the Commander-in-Chief when there are no officers stationed in his office? It is international practice that the military are present in the President’s office. As to who gets appointed to these two posts could be the decision of the Minister together with the Council on Defence.

6. If acceptable, some of the examples given above could be included in Chapter 2 of the next Defence Review.

It is my belief that relations between military and civil society in South Africa have normalised. There is a general acceptance of the military in civil society. The recent march of striking soldiers to the Union Buildings could, in any democratic society, have been catastrophic. As a civilian, my understanding of a soldier marching to the seat of power is a coup. The punishment for this is execution. However, this did not happen in South Africa, which I think says a lot about how advanced our society is in dealing with military issues. It is for the DODMV to extend its role in promoting civil-military relations as outlined in this article.

Honouring Defence Intelligence members

Article and photo by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The Defence Intelligence Division held a medal parade at the Thaba Tshwane City Hall on 27 August 2010 to honour its men and women who distinguished themselves by rendering excellent service to our country by doing their soldierly duties and who displayed exceptional capabilities in the SANDF.

The Chief Defence Foreign Relations, Maj Gen Dan Mofokeng, was pleased to officiate as the functionary at this parade, as the last time he officiated was at an Intelligence parade in 1995 during the passing-out parade of the Non-statutory Force members graduating from the School of Intelligence in Potchefstroom after completing their bridging training.

Speaking to the recipients, Maj Gen Mofokeng said the parade was organised to thank them for the commendable contributions they had made to the SANDF. He further stated that the medals, decorations, certificates and citations received were a true reflection of the excellent service provided by members of Defence Intelligence to the broader public.

Maj Gen Mofokeng said: “The future of our organisation is not in the hands of the Chief of Defence Intelligence or in those Generals at the different headquarters, but in your hands - members at all levels - shaping the leaders of tomorrow through effective learning and setting the example as you did by serving your country with distinction. Please wear these medals with pride; you earned them and you deserve them.”

In conclusion he conveyed a special word of congratulations from the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, to the recipients for their contribution in providing our country with a combat-ready National Defence Force.
Celebrating anchors of family and society

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The Chief Directorate Transformation Management of the SANDF convened the annual DOD Gender Conference at the Signals Formation at Wonderboom Military Base, Pretoria, from 18 to 20 August 2010. Over 300 male and female delegates drawn from the various Services and Divisions, both uniformed and Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP), participated.

The theme of the conference was "Together Entrenching Constitutional Imperatives within the DOD". The primary focus of the conference was to report on progress made in implementing the Gender Mainstreaming Plan of Action on issues identified at the 2009 conference. As per the commitment made at the 2009 DOD Gender Conference, research on the status of women in the DOD sixteen years into democracy was presented. The research highlighted issues that impinged on women’s advancement and indicated five key areas of focus to move the gender mainstreaming agenda forward:

In welcoming the participants the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, outlined the objectives of the conference and highlighted the disparity between the objective of gender mainstreaming and cultural stereotypes about men’s and women’s roles that people bring with them to the DOD. He called for gender education and training as this was the only vehicle to ensure a paradigm shift in the creation of an enabling environment for women and men to pursue effective careers within the organisation. Thereafter, Services and Divisions presented feedback reports.
on the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan over the past year.

**Creation of a conducive working environment**

The Chairperson of the Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Defence, Ms Hlengiwe Mgabadeli, gave a speech on the Creation of a Conducive Working Environment for Women and Men within the DOD. In her speech she noted that the armed forces took a long time to accept women due to gender stereotyping and the perception that matters of defence were the prerogative of men. She acknowledged that some small strides had been made in recognising women and gender equality.

Ms Mgabadeli concluded by highlighting the key lessons emerging from women’s roles in the political arena, including progress made within the DOD. These were the result of paying special attention to the following:

1) The establishment of appropriate infrastructure for gender equality, and ensuring that the gender machinery is staffed by committed people dedicated to achieving equality.

2) The allocation of appropriate resources for the task, both financial and technical. In the case of military equipment, we must determine what we need in the DOD and approach service providers to acquire exactly what’s required.

3) Working in partnership with civil society, because you need the support of civil society in order to do your job in defence. We need to educate civilians about the DOD.

4) Effective utilisation of research institutions through collaboration in order to ensure alignment, by working with them to ensure alignment.

5) Improved utilisation of technology.

6) The gender mainstreaming strategy must be supported by sustained commitment and sufficient gender expertise at all levels of the department.

7) Last but not least, the gender focal point must be operational and effective, including sufficient financial resources being allocated to Gender Mainstreaming.

**Keynote address**

The Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, in his keynote address stated that 16 years into democracy, women had claimed their space in defence; they serve in all corps, including combat roles, and are represented in all ranks, except Lieutenant General and General. Mr Makwetla said: “The targets are being reached, there are institutions and mechanisms for gender, including performance agreements. However, women are still found more in the support services, and we still need to tackle negative attitudes exhibited by both men and women that inhibit opportunities.”

He affirmed women by telling them that they must play a leadership role in defining the support mechanisms they need. There is a call for women-friendly military equipment. Making the environment within defence user-friendly for women means equipment must be designed with women’s physical disadvantages in mind. We need to create women-friendly defence equipment that can be marketed overseas to benefit from economies of scale.

**Award winners**

At the awards evening, prizes were given in three categories:

- The SA Navy won the award for the Service/Division that has best implemented the Gender Plan of Action.
- The SA Army won the award for the Unit/Base/Seagoing FSE that best promoted a gender friendly environment.
- The SA Navy was given the award as the Service HR Office that has achieved a 40% women recruitment intake over the period 2009-2010.

**Conclusion**

The Secretary for Defence, Ms Mpumi Mpofu, tasked the Chief Directorate Transformation Management to organise a workshop within the next six months to discuss implementation of the recommendations made and promised to provide the necessary resources for this. The conference resolved that the purpose of the workshop would be to develop an action plan to indicate what needed to be done by whom and when. In the meantime, Services and Divisions are expected to discuss possible solutions. Consensus was also reached that as from next year gender conferences would be held regionally across Services. The Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, concluded the conference by responding to all the questions raised by the delegates during the plenary session and undertook to organise a follow-up workshop, as instructed, before the end of 2010.
The Military Skills Development System (MSDS) remains the primary mechanism through which the Department of Defence contributes towards structured military skills development, occupational functional skills development and leadership development among the youth.

The aim of the MSDS is two-fold, namely to enhance the SANDF’s mission-readiness through the systematic rejuvenation of its human resource composition. This is done through annual intakes of young, fit and healthy people. Secondly, the MSDS serves as the feeder system for the Reserves and seeks to provide scarce skills for the youth of the country to enable them to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the country.

Subsequent to their Basic Military Training deserving MSDS recruits are afforded an opportunity to choose training in specific careers, such as engineers, pilots, surveying, etc. On 4 August 2010 MSDS members demonstrated the type of training they had undergone in the School of Engineers at Kroonstad to qualify themselves as SA Army Engineers.

The Officer Commanding of the School of Engineers, Col Willis Nkosi, said such training were vital not only to ensure the SANDF could function effectively, but also to assist the Government in addressing the country’s skills shortage. The skills that these recruits acquire include bridge building, basic field engineering and construction and water purification, all of which can be used in the civilian world when they leave the National Defence Force.

Private Bridget Plaatjie, who is
undergoing training, said the training opened her eyes to the opportunities available to young people to contribute to South Africa. "The skills we learn here, such as how to build a bridge and purify water are what are needed to develop South Africa."

The skills they have learned here can be utilised for various projects, such as when SA Army Engineers recently built bridges for the communities of the Eastern Cape.
The fourth SA Army Fittest Soldier Competition was held at the DOD Mobilisation Centre at De Brug Training Area near Bloemfontein from 16 to 19 August 2010. A total of 256 members from 40 different units, including 10 senior soldiers: Brig Gen Lawrence Smith, GOC 43 Brigade, Brig Gen Sithabiso Mahlobo, GOC 46 Brigade, and Senior Chief Warrant Officer Mothusi Kgaladi, Warrant Officer of the SA Army, participated in the event.

The main objective of the competition was to determine the fittest male and female soldiers in four different age groups, as well as the unit or formation with the fittest team.

Each team consisted of four members. Over three days soldiers participated in health related activities reflecting physical fitness, including body compositions, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, muscular endurance, and muscle strength, while skill related components included agility, balance, co-ordination, power reaction time and speed.

The Iron Lady of the SA Army, Pte Baleseng Motebele, did it again, winning the competition for the third time. She attributes her success over the past years to passion, dedica-
tion and hard work, including total commitment and a belief in her abilities. She has received the award for winning the competition three times.

This prestigious competition was initiated on account of poor results and members failing physical fitness tests. Soldiers from all ranks were put through their paces in both the individual and the team competitions. The competition is unique as it challenges every muscle in the body and every cell in the brain.

**Winners**

Senior Soldier: Lt Col A.S. Nzweni  
(OC 3 SA Infantry Battalion)  
Unit: 1 Special Service Battalion  
SA Army Formation: SA Army  
Infantry Formation  
SA Army Formation HQ: SA Army  
Armour Formation HQ

**Female 40+:** S Sgt S.B. Sawula  
(101 Air Supply Unit)  
**Female 30-39:** Cpl D.C. Nkosi  
(Infantry School)  
**Female up to 29:** Pte M.L. Motebele  
(5 SA Infantry Battalion)  
**Male 45+:** WO2 H.W. Matoeka,  
Army HQ  
**Male 35-44:** Capt D.T. Sekoere  
(1 Special Service Battalion)  
**Male up to 35:** Gnr L.L. Tukula  
(Light Artillery Regiment)

Over a period of three days soldiers from all ranks were put through their paces in both the individual and the team competitions.

The facial expression of one of the participants says it all.

The "Koepel" - the Alma Mater for Policy Writers

By Col J.J.W. Kotze, Departmental Policy Adviser
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

What would the historical "Koepel" at the SA Defence Intelligence College and policy writing have in common? The fact of the matter is that this building has become the proverbial Alma Mater for aspiring Department of Defence (DOD) policy writers. Since the inception of the course, the Koepel has been the venue where the DOD Policy Writers Course is presented.

The course is the result of a dire need in the DOD to equip its personnel within the policy-writing environment with the necessary skills, knowledge and attributes to initiate, develop, communicate and control departmental policy according to DOD prescripts.

The first Policy Writers Course was presented at the stately old Koepel in 2002; since then a total of 371 officials have graduated as DOD level 1 Policy Writers. This includes eight members of other state departments and this year's 41 learners. The courses are co-ordinated by the Directorate Departmental Policy Support under the auspices of the Chief Defence Policy, Strategy and Planning headed by Dr T. Gamede.

From the inception of the course, Mr Ken Bornman, Director Departmental Policy Support, has been spearheading it and has seen the course grow year by year. It must be with a feeling of great pride that he has seen off this year's learners, since he is going on retirement early in 2011. The ninth course took place over the period 26 July to 6 August 2010. In his welcoming speech, delivered on behalf of the Secretary for Defence, Mr Bornman alluded to the fact that policy writing could be seen as both a "science" and an "art". He referred to the two-week course as learning about the "science" of policy formulation, approval and implementation, but said the actual writing of policies was more an "art" than a science. This message is of the utmost importance since policies, as expressed in policy documents of the DOD, must be user-friendly, objective, concise, focussed and written in such a way that they are understood by even the lowest ranks.

Although the course is directed at policy writers of Departmental Level 1 policies (at Service and Divisional level) it must give clear guidelines as to what policy direction has to be taken at any level. At the departmental level we get Department of Defence Instructions and SA National Defence Force Orders. This is turned into Service specific instructions at the next level (for example an Air Force Instruction) and at the next level (level 3) the ordinary member and employee may see it in the form of a Unit Order.

It has been said that writing a policy is also the making of history since the policies we write today are actually history in the making. Over the years many important meetings have taken place in the Koepel, many of them resulting in decisions that have had a great impact on our history as a Department. In its own way we hope it has also contributed to producing departmental policy writers in their own right, who by writing departmental policies, help to make history.
Twenty-six Public Service Act Personnel on salary levels 9 - 12 recently successfully completed an Advanced Management Development Programme at the Public Administration, Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA).

The programme provides middle managers with cutting-edge competencies and prepares them for the future challenges of the Senior Management Service.

It was presented by the Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (PSAP: Education, Training and Development), through PALAMA in Pretoria over the periods 24 - 28 May 2010, 28 June - 2 July and 26 - 30 July.

On completion of all three blocks the learners were requested to evaluate the programme. More than 90% of the learners rated the overall programme, including the content, logistics and the facilitator as excellent. They indicated that the programme had re-energised them with knowledge and the competencies required at an advanced management level.

The Assistant Director (Social Work) SAMHS, Ms M.L. Abrahams, said: "The AMDP opened one's mind and thinking abilities. It also ensured introspection and the ability to evaluate one's own department and directorate against the key performance areas of effective service delivery and how improvement plans could be implemented."

The Assistant Director (Cash Payments) Financial Management Division, Mr A. Johnston, said: "Upon completion of the third block, the participants were of the opinion that the Programme (and its contents) was practical, relevant and applicable to the middle management echelon of the DOD. The approach adopted by the facilitator also enabled the entire learner group to discuss 'real-world' problems in an academic environment where every learner was entitled to his or her opinion, thereby sharing perspectives from various functional environments. Participants were also forced to 'think outside the box' regarding the solving of challenges presented in the case studies."
The A - Z of Terrain Intelligence Regiment

By Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The amalgamation of 1 Military Printing Regiment (1 MPR) and 4 Survey and Mapping Regiment (4 SMR) in 2009 led to what is now called the Terrain Intelligence Regiment, a unit that specialises in Engineering.

The reason for merging the two SA Army units was that their tasks were similar and they usually worked together. Integrating the two meant an increase in effectiveness and efficiency.

SA Soldier spoke to Capt Mpho Moatshe, Adjutant of the Terrain Intelligence Regiment, who took us around the building.

The previously known 1 MPR is utilised primarily for operational and classified printing and photographic tasks. Operational tasks are performed in-house or when the SA Army is deployed in the field. The day-to-day tasks are performed in the base, including the printing of manuals, doctrines, placards, leaflets, etc.

The previously known 4 SMR on the other hand is a combat-ready section that supports the landward mapping strategy of the SANDF. It specialises in well-timed and cost-effective mapping products within the unit’s allocated budget as required by the SANDF or other clients.

To get a comprehensive understanding of operational aspects of this newly established unit SA Soldier spoke to some members of the Terrain Intelligence Regiment.

Capt Ramaitse Maduna of the 47 Survey Squadron said: “47 Survey Squadron updates maps, but also focuses on training areas. We collect topographical data and process it, then pass it on to 44 Digital Mapping Squadron to update the maps.”

Capt Vusi Makhanya, the Squadron Commander of the Cartography Section, said: “The Cartography Section updates digital maps of South Africa, which are also made available to other countries. The minimum requirement a person should have to work in this section is a Diploma in Cartography. Here we use a programme called LAMPS to digitalise maps for the Department of Defence (DOD) and other clients. We also have a plotter machine that prints up to an A0 size after digitalising the maps. The recorder then scans them in the library for future use.”

Cpl Orient Nyokong of the Photography Section said: “The Photography Section is responsible for taking photos, loading them on the system, editing and printing them. We take pictures during official functions of the SA Army and other Services on request. The photography course..."
is provided for us by 68 Air School and some tertiary institutions."

S Sgt Deon Liebenberg of Desktop Publishing Section said: "Desktop Publishing Section works with page layouts and graphic design. We use a High-end Apple Macintosh with specialised software. Our programmes include quad-express for page layout and adobe for graphic design and photo manipulation. We prepare work for printing on the big machine by means of lithographic plates. The plates are colour separated by a computer."

S Sgt James Ntsoane in the machine room said: "All the jobs from the Desktop Publishing Section with a job card and lithographic plates are printed in the machine room. The plates are called image carriers. The machine is filled with different colours in sections to enable it to determine the colour density of the product. The density of the colour, however, will depend on the density of the colour dot."

Sgt Puleng Nthoroane of the Bindery Section remarked: "Document and loose pages are developed in the machine room and our responsibility is to bind them together. We also have a folding machine in cases where pages are too long. Pages are bound together by folding, stapling, sewing and gluing. We also trim documents for the final cut. We have what we call a Mobile Operational Geographical System (MOGS), which is used in deployment cases and has the capacity to perform the same in-house task."

Mr Cassuis Kiwitt from Transito said: "The Transit receives and despatches merchandise. We deliver everything that is from the production line."

Maj Trevor Plaatjies, the Planning Squadron Commander, confirmed: "All the tasks are planned according to cost as determined by the quotes from the production line. Clients are informed of the costs on the basis of the quotes. One dummy (copy) of a product will be completed, after which proof-reading and error rectification take place before mass printing."

This in a nutshell is what happens at the Terrain Intelligence Regiment.
Celebrating women of substance

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

Women’s Day is a significant event on the South African calendar. August marks the important roles that women have played in the democracy of our country. Women have fought and finally attained the right to vote, the domestic violence bill has been passed as well as the right to choose whom to marry.

Wa thinta Abafazi Wa thinta Imbokodo: you strike a woman you strike a rock. These were the words echoed by the women attending the Women’s Day celebration of Training Command held at Gerbera Officers’ Mess in Thaba Tshwane on 27 August 2010. The women were beautifully dressed in their traditional attire. The event was opened by the General Officer Commanding of Training Command, Maj Gen Manfred Mabuza, who praised the women who had made their voices heard by marching to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1957. Maj Gen Mabuza said: “I am much honoured to be standing in front of these flowers of the nation. Thanks should be given to women such as Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi and Helen Suzman.” He added that the March of 1956 had brought unity to the country. “Who would have thought that we would be here seated together, black and white.”

The women were also encouraged by the CEO of Legally Independent People’s Co-operation (LIPCO), Mr Chris Majondo. “You have the law on your side,” Mr Majondo explained, “LIPCO is unique in that we do not only advise, but offer security and peace. Our

Dynamic Signallers

By Lt Col Debbie van Rensburg,
Officer Commanding
Western Cape Signal Unit
Photo: WO1 Mark Roberts

What makes this unit different from other units in the SANDF? Believe it or not, this unit’s management structure, including the Officer Commanding, the Second in Command and the RSM are all women! Western Cape Signal Unit is the only unit in the SANDF, to our knowledge, which is run by such a structure. The Officer Commanding is Lt Col Debbie Janse van Rensburg, the Second in Command is Maj Vanessa Mostert and the RSM is Senior Warrant Officer Class One Annette Singleton. These three women constitute a formidable team. They are disciplined, energetic, assertive and an inspiration to their unit members.

In 2003 Lt Col Janse van Rensburg was appointed as Officer Commanding of the then Command Management Information Systems (CMIS) Regional Service Centre Western Cape, now Western Cape Signal Unit. She is also the first woman to command this unit since its establishment. Three years later, in 2006, both Maj Vanessa Mostert and WO1 Annette Singleton were transferred to the CMIS Regional Service Centre.

This caused many a raised eyebrow: how was this to work? Despite all the existing contradictions inherent in what is primarily a man’s world, these three women have managed to achieve what many other units aspire to achieve.

When one visits the unit there is a warm and harmonious feeling to the unit. It exudes friendliness, yet one can sense that there is discipline in unit lines.
One can see that the unit is well maintained, and yes, there is definitely that feminine touch! One senses this among the unit members too. This is a team. What makes this unit “tick”?

Lt Col van Rensburg was initially transferred in 2003 as part of the stabilising and restructuring of the CMIS, now Western Cape Signal Unit. Her area of responsibility spanned the four Service Centres, viz Langebaanweg, Simon’s Town, Bredasdorp and Oudtshoorn. In 2007 these Service Centres were returned to the respective Services and the CMIS Regional Service Centre became Western Cape Signal Unit shortly thereafter. These units and approximately 400 personnel had to be managed.

Despite the demands and expectations placed on Lt Col Janse van Rensburg, she does make time for her own extramural activities. She is adventurous and an avid motorcycle enthusiast, which takes her off the beaten track. She also exercises in the gym and generally keeps fit. Last year she took part in the Fittest Soldier Competition in the category 40+ and came second.

The Second in Command is a mere 1,60 m tall, but do not be put off by her size. The old adage of “dynamite comes in small packages” is a fitting description of this petite and assertive lady. She keeps the unit intact and is responsible for ensuring that the unit is a well-oiled machine. There is no end to Maj Mostert’s abilities: nothing is too much or too hard for her: she will overcome almost insurmountable odds to achieve the unit’s goals, including her own.

Maj Mostert is the key to many of the events organised at the unit which contribute to the success of the events. Her thorough dedication and persistence have resulted in the unit boasting a very healthy financial status. She too has a team that supports her creativity, which ultimately is ploughed back to the benefit of the unit members.

In 2007, while her Officer Commanding was away on Senior Staff Course, she had to ensure that each of the Service Centres was handed back to the respective Service, a task that was executed professionally.

At some point in one’s military career there is that feared, yet highly respected RSM. WO1 Annette Singleton aptly fits the bill. She performs her duties with esteem and pride, as befits an RSM and is highly disciplined. She therefore more than meets the expectations of her Officer Commanding. Just because she is a woman does not mean that the members can get away with murder! On the contrary, WO1 Singleton ensures that the members of the unit adhere to the disciplinary procedures laid down by the higher headquarters.

She may be highly disciplined, yet she is compassionate in the manner in which she executes her task and is well informed and at all times promotes the image of the unit. She also finds the time to participate in extramural activities. If she is not tasking members in the unit, she assists with netball coaching and the umpiring of matches.

All three of the women are part of the SANDF veterans’ netball team, which won the championship in 2009. WO1 Singleton also captained this side during the 2009 tournament. None of these women are afraid to get their hands dirty: they get actively involved in cleaning up the unit and working in the gardens.

Despite their busy schedules and the target dates that each of them must meet for the higher HQ and 2 Signal Regiment, there is still time to represent their unit on the netball fields in the veterans’ teams of the SANDF. Western Cape managed to walk away as champions of the netball tournament in 2009, which WO1 Singleton captured!

While Lt Col van Rensburg had to manage the Signal Troop deployed on Operation KGWELE, Maj Mostert and WO1 Singleton had to ensure that the unit was still managed on a daily basis. This they did successfully.

This unit is a team. There is an amazing mix of dynamic personnel in the unit. The unit has its fair share of men too. Put all these members together and you have a dynamic unit.

What makes the three women successful? They are a winning team. There is a synergy among the three in supporting one another, the headquarters and their team.

The Officer Commanding is self-motivated and has a positive attitude, the Second in Command is energetic and sparkling, while the RSM is disciplined and assertive, thus a winning team of unit members, and a recipe for success.

They give the following advice to women: “Believe in yourself, seize opportunities”.

These three women have certainly left a mark at Western Cape Signal Unit and are representative of the calibre of training of SA Signals Formation.

Let it not be said that women are not capable in what is primarily a “man’s world!”

**Flr: Maj Vanessa Mostert, Lt Col Debbie Janse van Rensburg and SWO Annette Singleton of Western Cape Signal Unit.**
Air Force Base Ysterplaat recently exercised its Right to Freedom of Entry into the City of Cape Town for the first time. Located in Brooklyn, Air Force Base Ysterplaat was awarded this prestigious civic award on 16 April 2009 in recognition of its maritime reconnaissance, search-and-rescue and disaster relief operations.

The Executive Deputy Mayor, Mr Ian Neilson, handed over the official scroll confirming their Right to Freedom of Entry into the City of Cape Town at a special City Hall ceremony on 21 August 2010.

In his address the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Dan Plato, expressed his pride and said: "For the past 80 years, AFB Ysterplaat has provided vital aerial support to the City of Cape Town, the Provincial Government, the SA Police Service (SAPS), the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) and the Wilderness Search and Rescue WSAR". He added: "During the Soccer World Cup, the Air Force Base played a vital role in ensuring airspace security over Cape Town Stadium, the Grand Parade Fan Park and the Fan Walk. This was regarded as the largest airspace security operation in the history of the SA Air Force".

According to the Officer Commanding, Col Bill Cowan, Air Force Base Ysterplaat is home to 35 and 22 Squadrons. It boosts enthusiastic and knowledgeable personnel that aim to provide South Africa with an excellent maritime service and landward air operations. Col Cowan said: "35 Squadron operates the C47-TP Dakota aircraft, which has been in service since 1944. With this trusted aircraft the squadron executes missions such as maritime air patrols, air transport, aerial photo-reconnaissance, search-and-rescue, electronic warfare and air navigation. During the past year 35 Squadron successfully executed six search-and-rescue operations".

The Executive Deputy Mayor, Mr Ian Neilson, taking a salute from Col Bill Cowan, the Officer Commanding of AFB Ysterplaat.
and conducted 62 maritime reconnaissance missions to help combat illegal fishing operations and safeguard marine life.”

22 Squadron operates the M2 Oryx helicopter in maritime and landward roles. It is capable of performing mountain rescue, air-sea rescue, aerial photography, crime prevention, flood relief, fire-fighting, medical evacuations and similar humanitarian tasks.

During the past year, 22 Squadron flew 35 fire-fighting missions and conducted ten separate mountain rescue missions and medical evacuations. It also took part in 36 training and hoisting exercises with the NSRI and the WSAR. Various missions in conjunction with the SAPS were also undertaken as part of their crime prevention support programme.

Air Force Base Ysterplaat has been the top air force base three times in the past four years although it is currently the second best air force base. It has also received numerous prestigious awards, such as the Permanent Flying Unit of the Year, the Aviation Safety Award, the Sword of Peace for Community Support, the Fire Rescue Services Section of the Year, the Protection Squadron of the Year, and the Air Servicing Unit of the Year.

As part of its social responsibilities, the SA Air Force Museum in Brooklyn receives thousands of visitors annually and the Air Force Base actively promotes career opportunities within the SA Air Force by means of school visits and work-shadowing assignments. Beneficiaries of its social upliftment programme include the Atlantis Home for Abused Women and Children, the Alta du Toit School, the Salvation Army, the Athlone School for the Blind and the Western Province Blood Transfusion Services.
Honouring women on deployment

Women on deployment were recently honoured and celebrated by the SANDF Spouses Forum during Women’s Day celebrations held at the SA Army College in Thaba Tshwane on 28 August 2010. The Forum recognised the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building. Also stressed was the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

The Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, the Chaplain General, Brig Gen (Rev) Marius Cornelissen, and the Master Chief Warrant Officer of the SANDF, MCWO Johan Scheepers, graced the occasion with their presence and recognised the commitment of women on deployment. They pointed out their selfless dedication to the safety of the Republic and the continent, and their determination to protect those who are vulnerable and insecure.

A former VIP Protection Commander in Burundi, Maj I.J. Owen, is such an unsung heroine. She is young and is passionate about being a woman in arms serving her country and its people. In her speech she took the audience on a tour of her deployed duties and shared her experiences and the conditions that women endure on an equal basis with their male counterparts on deployment.

The story that touched the audience most was that of two SA Police Service (SAPS) women, Col Ntolgeleng Menda Aucone and Constable Mnasebelalo Macey Ramantsi, who were abducted in the Sudan on 15 April 2010. They shared their 15 days of endured emotional suffering. These two unsung heroines conducted themselves peacefully at all times, regardless of the abduction and despite all the cowardly acts to dampen their spirits and threats to their lives. They remained focused on their mission: to protect, serve, empower and execute their tasks with excellence.

The meeting was also conducted to observe the impact that external military deployments have on the families of deployed soldiers. Maj Sello Maganwe shared his family’s experience when his spouse was on an external deployment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He related the nature of social support services that should be rendered to families and evaluated the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of existing social support services to families of SANDF members while on deployment.

The Director of the New York National Guard Family Programs, Lt Col Kelly Hilland, was the guest speaker and she shared with the delegates the family programmes established and facilitated by the National Guard for families of members deployed. She mentioned that a strong bond meant a stronger defence force. Some of the programmes included the Yellow Ribbon event, family wellness, family readiness assistance, youth and community programmes and family assistance specialists. She stated that these programmes were facilitated by ongoing communication, involvement, support and recognition between the National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both.

The Chief of the SANDF said that South Africa was immensely blessed to have the kind of women we have: women, who despite the challenges and hardships that life often throws at them, become victorious in the end. They endure the struggles and negative challenges, yet through their dedication and commitment they remain as firm as rocks.

The Chairperson of the SANDF Spouses Forum, Ms Busisiwe Ngwenya, said that it was a special and joyous day: A day of honouring the commitment, dedication, selflessness and amazing women on deployment. Ms Ngwenya concluded: “One is bound to find such a woman, a woman of character and dedication; an exceptional woman who goes beyond just her normal duty, but puts in an extra effort. As the SANDF Spouses Forum we recognise and honour you for your contribution to creating a safer Africa.”

The SANDF Spouses Forum is an important initiative within the SANDF. Its role and objectives include providing a platform for women’s contributions and participation in changing the lives of ordinary citizens, particularly the families of members deployed on external military operations. Deployment and separations are issues that the SANDF cannot avoid. Deployment is a parliamentary objective that is non-negotiable. As a result spouses and family members of SANDF members are exposed to many frustrations and challenges emanating from external military deployments.
Empowering women via DIY workshop

By Thabo Shirinda
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The concept of do-it-yourself (DIY) was taken to another level when women in the SANDF, both civilian and uniformed members, recently exchanged their normal working attire for tracksuits and tekkies to carry out chores that men usually do. The chores include such things as changing a flat tyre, putting out fires, fixing electrical appliances and using physical force to defend oneself.

Directorate Career Management organised a two-day DIY (Do-it-yourself) practical workshop at Swartkop Airfield on 30 and 31 August 2010 as part of National Women’s Month celebrations.

The SA Police Service was also involved in this exercise. They provided the women with ways and means of defending themselves when attacked. SA Soldier journalist, Cpl Mapule Raphela, said: “I enjoyed the part where the police women were teaching us how to defend ourselves; it will come in handy if attacked.”

Deputy Director of Directorate Career Management, Ms Hessa Ely, said: “This exercise first took place in the SA Navy in Cape Town; then I took the initiative to roll it out in Pretoria, but it was in 2006 that this programme really picked up and a lot of women within the military started to take notice.”

Ms Ely emphasised that the days of women relying on their male counterparts for help had come to an end. She said: “We want women to do things for themselves, as by so doing, they will empower themselves.” As part of the Women’s Month celebrations, the concept of women empowerment has been taken to another level with this initiative.

It was previously unheard of for women to be seen putting out fires. Most of the women seemed delighted to handle fire extinguishers, which they did with great success during the DIY Workshop.

DIY is a term used to describe the modifying or repairing of something without the help of professionals or people who have experience doing that particular job. The phrase “Do it yourself” is used with reference to home improvement when no assistance is needed. In recent years the term DIY has taken on a broader meaning that covers a wide range of skills. DIY is associated with men doing chores around the home without outsourcing help. With the recently held DIY Workshop women are now encouraged to help themselves by doing some of these physically demanding chores.
The annual International Military Sports Council (CISM) Bilateral Military Games were held at the Army Support Base Potchefstroom from 24 to 26 August 2010. Unfortunately the Botswana Defence Force could not participate, which forced the CISM to narrow the games down to two defence forces, namely that of Lesotho and the SANDF.

On the second day of the competition, during the 20 km road relay challenge, the SANDF Road Running Club members soon opened a 500 m gap, leaving fellow competitors from the Lesotho Defence Force behind. The SANDF went on to win the challenge by 59 points against 53 of the Lesotho Defence Force.

During the men’s volleyball at the Kopanelo Hall the Lesotho Defence Force emerged victorious by beating their SANDF counterparts 3-0, in straight sets. After the volleyball challenge, came the moment when the boys had to be separated from the men at the Potchefstroom Military Sports Club Hall - the venue for the men’s boxing challenge. The SANDF made a clean sweep by registering six wins out of seven bouts.

To cap the day’s proceedings, the spectators were further entertained by impressive goalkeeping and dribbling skills by both sets of players during the men’s soccer game at the Johan du Randt Sports Complex. It was the Lesotho Defence Force that opened the scoring during the first ten minutes of the first half after a defensive blunder by the SANDF’s defence. The SANDF came back with only 15 minutes remaining to equalise, and the game had to be decided on penalty kicks. The Lesotho Defence Force goalkeeper made an important save after stopping a fourth SANDF penalty, which eventually helped the former to win 5-4 on penalties.

During the closing ceremony, Maj Gen Enock Mashoala, the main functionary representing the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, and the Chief of Human Resources, Lt Gen Derick Mgwebi, said that despite the Botswana Defence Force’s last minute withdrawal, the high level of the competition was equally impressive.

Maj Gen Mashoala said: “It was going to be more interesting if the Botswana Defence Force was also here to defend its title and to see if it could really match this high standard of performance we have seen for the past three days. This is simply due to the fact that the plans to stage the games were executed perfectly by the different role-players. It is also worth noting though that the Lesotho Defence Force was a worthy competitor and the members should keep their fitness levels up in order to be able to defend their titles at the next CISM Military Games. I was equally impressed by the particularly high standard of performance of the athletes present here and I hope you all made lots of friends, because the CISM motto is friendship through sport.”

Lt Col Khoantle Motsomotso, Chief of Mission for the Lesotho Defence Force, expressed his sincere gratitude to the host nation.

Lt Col Motsomotso, a CISM official, who was also representing the Chief of the Lesotho Defence Force, Lt Gen Thuso Molanyane, said: “From the first day of our visit here we were treated as royalty and we immediately felt at home. During the course of the week we were warmly received and we would like to express our thanks for the hospitality of the host nation, and to the escorts. I would also like to congratulate the SANDF for putting up a fine performance which enabled us to do our utmost best.”

Brig Gen Aubrey Sedibe, CISM SANDF Chief of Delegation and the Director of Physical Training, Sport and Recreation, also thanked all participants for taking time off their busy schedules to come and showcase their skills. The event was also graced by the presence of Brig Gen Gordon Yekelo, a passionate SANDF Boxing Patron.
Patience is a virtue

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photo: Thabo Shirinda

Col S. Krivuskin, the military representative of the Russian Embassy, and his wife made a clean sweep on 3 September 2010 when they won the trout fishing award at the annual Chief of the SA Army Trout Fishing Day for the Military Attaché and Advisory Corps (MAAC) at Muldersdrift, west of Johannesburg.

The anglers were fishing from three ponds on the Brookwood Estate Trout Fishing Farm.

More than 75 people, including Army Council members and friends, took part in the competition. The Krivuskin couple caught a total of 14,5 kg of fish, which made them the best male and female anglers. Having caught the most fish they won first prize, the fishing floating trophy. The biggest fish award was awarded to the wife of Col S.M. Mumwi who represented the Tanzanian Embassy.

For the last five years, the trout fishing event has been one of the few items on the SA Army calendar where the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, entertains MAAC members in a tranquil environment, away from the stress of the office. The occasion offers an opportunity to SA Army Council members to socialise and get to know the MAAC members better.

Addressing the delegates after an exhausting, but pleasant day of fishing, Lt Gen Shoke said that trout fishing was relaxing and taught patience. He said: "In order to escape the stress and noise in the office, we thought it appropriate to celebrate this friendship in a relaxing atmosphere. It takes patience for a person on a fishing expedition to catch a fish and I therefore agree fully with the saying that patience is a virtue. I also hope that this day has helped us to achieve our purpose of socialising and getting to know each other better. We did this to provide you with some enjoyable activity while you were in our country."

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, waits patiently for a catch after casting his fishing line during the annual Trout Fishing Day.

Thales SA Fox Trail keeps soldiers fit

By Kgabo Mashamaite

Almost 350 athletes from the SA Army Intelligence Corps and road runners from Potchefstroom participated in the Thales SA 9th annual SA Army Intelligence Corps Fox Trail event in the De la Rey Military Training Area at Vaalkop Base, Potchefstroom, on 28 August 2010.

The event is one of the well-established traditions on the Formation’s calendar. This year it was held to honour Brig Gen Job Magasela, the General Officer Commanding, who is currently sick. The event was complemented by many athletes, including those from Athletics South Africa, Potchefstroom Military Road Running Club and Bert’s Bricks Athletics Club, a local civilian road running club.

According to the SA Army Intelligence Formation Fox Trail Organiser, Lt Col Danie Labuschangne, the aim of the event is to encourage all members to participate in order to enhance their fitness levels.

Lt Col Labuschangne said: “The Fox Trail event is our flagship endurance sport where participants not only test their stamina and fitness, but also condition their bodies to house a healthy mind. This is also done in line with the tradition of the SANDF to keep our soldiers’ fitness levels high so that they can perform their daily tasks without having to worry about their form. This event also acts as a family outing where families come together and participate in the 10 km trail run, the 5 km fun run or could just walk for fun.”

There were various categories, such as the Juniors, Open, Veterans, Masters, Great Masters and Great Great Masters organised in accordance with the standards of Athletics South Africa. The first ten men and women in the 10 km trail run were awarded gold medals, following which those up to the 200th position received silver medals, while bronze medals were awarded to all finishers of the 5 km fun run.

The male and female winners in the open category were both from Potchefstroom Military Road Running Club - Sgt M.J. Phamola (male) and Sgt T.P. Charles. The 10 km trail run was won by Col H.M. Booysen (male) and Maj M.C. Shaitan (female). The 5 km fun run was won by Lieut G.J. van der Land (male) and Maj L. Steyn (female).
Courage

By Col (Rev) M.A. Jamangile, Chief of Staff - SANDF Chaplain Service

Joshua 1:1-10

Moses, the faithful servant of God had died, and the curtains had fallen on the old order. He was a father figure, commander, confidant and spiritual mentor who exited the stage with aplomb and finesse. The stage was empty, the nation in limbo, the flags were down and the people in mourning. The loss was so great; it was incalculable. Everyone was aware that if they did not find anyone who could fit into the shoes of this giant, their course would at the least be derailed, at the most destroyed. So God’s intervention was of absolute necessity. God must act again, just like he did in the time of Pharaoh. The second stage of their liberation was about to commence, just like for us in South Africa today. The next phase of a new era had begun.

Our God recognises critical moments in our lives, especially when we have lost people who were giving us hope and direction. When we experience intractable problems that cannot be solved by anything or anyone, when we say we have tried everywhere and everything, our God steps in. When His plan for our lives seems unreachable, seems totally derailed and purposeless, when that spirit of giving up is taking over, He reveals himself in a spectacular way through wonders and miracles. He reveals himself in the stillness of our meditation. He reveals himself audibly in the warmth of our hearts and souls. Listen, open your spiritual ears just as Joshua did: you will hear and see God in your space.

So, what is courage?

Courage is defined as confidence and boldness in the face of adversity. It is the ability to overcome one’s fear. Bravery is to stand one’s ground despite doubt. Courage is the ability to swim against the tide, against all menacing forces and win. Courage is the interpretation and application of certain principles even though they are not popular or accepted by the majority. Courage is the mirror through which we see our future. It provides us with a full and comprehensive picture of who we are and what we could be in the coming years or decades. A vision is seen of what you can achieve in the future by showing you where you are today, what potential you possess and what you can do with such power. It reveals the other you, who is positive, hope filled, future orientated and passionate about what you believe in.

So courage helps us to focus on possibilities and opportunities presented by all sorts of challenges. It moves us away from the trap of concentrating on the power and ability of negative things. It transforms our outlook on life. We remain hopeful in hopeless situations.
School of Artillery proves to be a community asset

Article and photo by Capt Werner Joubert, PRO School of Artillery

The School of Artillery in Potchefstroom has proven once again to be a true community asset. Members from the unit, mostly women, took over the children’s playroom at the SA Police Service (SAPS) Child Protection Unit. This takeover was part of a community project initiated by the School of Artillery to give something lasting back to the community. The SAPS Child Protection Unit in Potchefstroom is housed in a private residence from where the dedicated policemen and women do their utmost to protect our children. Because a private owner owns the residence, no State funds can be allocated to maintain the house and facilities. The unit is therefore dependent on donations and sponsorships to upgrade and renovate the facilities. The State only funds the day-to-day expenses, such as salaries and office stationery.

The project included the renovation, maintenance and upgrading of the children’s playroom at the expense of the School of Artillery. This included maintenance to the windows and cracks in the walls, new paint for the children’s playroom, kitchen and bathroom, and the installation of a new television and home theatre system.

The funds needed for this project were generated earlier in the year when the unit hosted the Denel/School of Artillery Golf Classic. Part of the profits generated during the Golf Day are given every year as a charity donation to a predetermined organisation, and this year the SAPS Child Protection Unit was identified as the beneficiary.

The project team from the School of Artillery started with the project on 3 August and concluded it on 11 August 2010 with the handover ceremony conducted by the Commander of the unit, Col Dawid Schoonwinkel. The School of Artillery is proud to be associated with the Child Protection Unit and remains committed to serve the community we are part off.

The School of Artillery also wants to extend a challenge to all the other military units in the Potchefstroom area to become involved with projects such as this where we can serve our community and show the public that the soldiers of the SANDF are truly a national asset and that they are not afraid to serve the people of the country and our community.
South African Coat of Arms

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke", written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.

The Motto
- "Isikwe ke Xabba ke," written in the Khosaan language of the Xhosa people, literally meaning: diverse people unite. It addresses each individual effort to harness the unity between thought and action. On a collective scale, it calls for the nation to unite in a common sense of belonging and national pride — Unity, in Diversity.

The human figures
- are derived from images on the Tintin Stone, a world-famous example of South African rock art, now housed and displayed in the South African Museum in Cape Town. The Khosaan, the oldest known inhabitants of our land, testify to our common humanity and heritage as South Africans. The figures are depicted in an attitude of greeting, symbolising unity. This also represents the beginning of the individual's transformation into the greater sense of belonging to the nation and by extension, collective humanity.