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Foundation Management Development Programme

SA SOLDIER

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S A S O L D I E R  •  S E P T E M B E R  2 0 1 0
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ABOVE: Inspection of the giant National Flag. Overall view of Flag laid out in the drill hall. (Photo: WO1 Leonie Kapp)

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FRONT COVER: International Mandela Day: 67 minutes of love. Read about all the community work in honour of Mandela Day by DOD members from pages 18 to 25. (Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma)

For the latest news on defence matters in South Africa, visit our website at: www.sasoldier.mil.za
In honour of a respected icon - Mr Nelson Mandela (fondly known as Madiba) - the world has proclaimed his birthday - 18 July - as Mandela’s Day! To commemorate this day each and everyone was asked to try to spend at least 67 minutes doing something in a good cause. This edition is packed with such fruitful endeavours by DOD members:

On 18 July 2010 members of the Ministry of Defence and 14 SA Infantry Battalion honoured Mandela Day by painting and renovating the Efata School for the Blind in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape (read page 18).

Altogether 397 members of Defence Intelligence Division honoured Mandela Day by cleaning the animal enclosures and other areas of Pretoria Zoo (read page 19).

The Special Forces Headquarters staff redoubled their efforts and not only fixed and painted the goalposts of the Edward Phatudi High School in Atteridgeville, but also created a vegetable garden for the Centurion Hospice (read page 20).

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, said: “As Madiba lives to inspire and enthuse those around him, always ask yourself what can I do to make a difference to those around me?” Read on page 21 how our sailors celebrated Mandela Day.

The Infantryers had one thing in common when they supported Mandela Day and that was to do something for somebody else, whether it was providing entertainment, food and water, painting or cleaning (read page 22).

Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) members spread the spirit of UBUNTU by visiting sick children at the Steve Biko Hospital in Pretoria to wish them a speedy recovery (read page 23).

Members of the Auction Centre Western Cape paid a visit to the residents of House Eleanor Murray in Woodstock, Cape Town, to demonstrate their 67 minutes of love. (It is home to 25 elderly people, the eldest being 100 years old.) Not only did they enjoy cake and tea with their new friends, but new wheelchairs were given to them and their old ones were taken to be repaired (read page 24).

In honouring Mandela Day members of ASB Mpumalanga reached out to Lelecole, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Lydenburg, where the residents live in very basic circumstances. They donated food, blankets, toys, clothing and a television set to the residents (read page 25).

Continue to do good to your neighbour, and be thankful for everything you have.

Enjoy our spring edition and keep on spreading the goodness …

Nelda Pienaar
Editor

SA SOLDIER • SEPTEMBER 2010
Dealing decisively with debt

If you were to take a basic financial literacy test, how would you score? Probably good to excellent! While many people have a reasonably good knowledge of basic money management, few actually use their knowledge to bail them out of financial trouble, says Rosie Wilson, Market Development Manager at Old Mutual.

In an effort to help break the cycle of generational poverty and in response to government’s call for financial education initiatives, Old Mutual established a financial education unit in May 2007. The objective of the unit is to provide financial literacy programmes, amongst other things, to show people how to use their limited financial resources to realise their dreams and goals.

Says Wilson: “With thousands of homes and cars being repossessed each month in this country, it is clear that an entirely different approach is needed, if people are ever to get out of their debt trap. The approach is one of fostering responsible financial behaviour. Old Mutual’s Financial Education Unit aims to tackle the root of problem - bad spending habits - to address the critical debt problems facing some 4.5 million South Africans.”

Old Mutual’s financial literacy programmes are centered around the philosophy that creating wealth is not determined by one’s earning ability but rather by one’s attitude towards money. These programmes aim to provide South Africans with the necessary knowledge and tools to master the art of personal money management.

Access to the programmes can be done via:

The Financial Wellbeing Programme that provides employers and trustees with access to experienced trainers who can be called on to conduct educational seminars to members on various aspects of financial planning – including the reasons and methods for effective preservation, with preservation being an integral part of retirement planning for its fund members.

Financial education programmes accredited by the Insurance Sector and Training Authority (INSETA), as a learning provider in financial education. The accreditation means workshop delegates will receive a certificate, in line with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) standards, on completion of the programme. Old Mutual’s flagship money management programme “On The Money” was awarded learning programme approval.

Join the Old Mutual financial freedom family!!!
MY JOURNEY TO SOCIAL WORK IN POTCHEFSTROOM

I was staffed as a guard at the ASB Potchefstroom. I became bored of the routine guard functions and thought of doing something to spend my leisure time in a fruitful manner. I initially enrolled with Unisa for BA Welfare Science and later converted to BA Social Work.

During 2007 I requested detached duty to AMHU North West in order to familiarise myself with the rendering of social work services in the Social Work Department. Although a self-initiated change, it was not without its own challenges. The first challenge was the office environment, which I perceived to be solitary confinement compared to the liberty of enjoying the morning sun-rays at the gate. The second was to continue with my studies as a rifleman and declining nomination for the Officers Formative Course during 2008 in order to live my dream. The third challenge was the manner in which social work is practised in the military (occupational social work) that sometimes clashes with the requirements of Unisa (generic social work). However, I overcame these challenges with a lot of prayer and the support from my family and social worker colleagues (since I had applied for a position as a social work officer in AMHU NW). I graduated on 4 May 2010, and am looking forward to starting a new journey as a qualified social work officer, who will be delivering occupational social work services in the Department of Defence.

I would like to thank the Officer Commanding of the ASB Potchefstroom, Col P.J. van Dyk, and the Officer Commanding of the AMHU North West, Col G.T. Pillay, for their sincere support. I would also like to thank the Social Work Department of the AMHU North West and the Guards from the ASB Potchefstroom for assisting me during my studies.

Rfn Mthobeli Mzobotshe.

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Major Simon Tseki, Representative from 1 South African Infantry Battalion and Co-ordinator for the Project, getting to know the members better.

Towers of Hope is an organisation that provides for less fortunate people and this was what touched the hearts of the soldiers of 1 South African Infantry Battalion. These soldiers thought it best to celebrate Mandela Day by supporting those in need. Their contribution consisted of a lunch to these less fortunate people, including children.

Capt Heidi Lubbe, email

R200-00 prize for the best letter

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

LOGISTIC DIVISION

Members of the Logistic Division recognised Mandela Day with compassion and zeal. SO1 Corporate Communication, Lt Col E.S. Matomane, brainstormed the idea with the Formation Chaplain T.S. Theko and CWO P.J. Moloi to find a meaningful way for Logistic Division members to touch the lives of those less privileged by demonstrating support on Mandela Day.

Members brought donations in the form of money, food, clothing and cleaning materials that were donated to the Kingdom Life Centre in Saulsville on 16 July 2010. Apart from what we managed to collect from staff members, we also got sponsors from the Laudium business.

THE WINDSOCK IS

Working at Swartkop Airfield has definite benefits. This is not just because the base is the oldest and most historic in the SA Air Force, or the best looking, or because it boasts some of the most unique aircraft and equally special people, but also because it now features a first-class cafeteria called “The Windsock”.

The cafeteria, which is located at the
IT WAS NOT EASY, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT

Before I came to SA Army Combat Training Centre I heard a lot of bad things about the place. I always told them that I wanted to see for myself and I must say I have never been part of such a talented group. As we entered the main gate on 8 March 2010 we saw the slogan: “Discipline is the soul of every soldier”.

The theme of the year is: “Back to Basics”. I was afraid, but after the training and retraining, as we were still fresh from retraining, as we were still fresh from the winds of school, I was at ease. I have never been part of such a talented group.

I am sure of, because we as Infanteers working at a fabulous unit, “TTSW”. We rubberstamped our presence, because we always wanted happiness.

Pte S.N. May, SA Army Combat Training Centre

INPUT FOR WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

I would like to honour an excellent woman who for years has been working unnoticed in the SA Army.

Maj D.P. Mashigo is the first and only African woman who has worked in the LCAMPS Section since the section’s inception years ago and she is still the only African woman in the whole of the SA Army doing this work. The Major has touched many lives and helped to restore marriages while facilitating leadership programmes, including mine. Many people would agree. She is committed, passionate and does work for the community, the members of whom willingly donated some groceries.

Volunteers from Logistic Division went to the Kingdom Life Centre to put Mandela Day into practice by rendering services such as washing and ironing laundry, cleaning, painting walls and preparing lunch to welcome the children when they arrived from school.

After spending a busy day, Logistic Division members together with 50 children from the Kingdom Life Centre gathered in a hall where the donated items were handed formally to the Director of the Centre, Ms C. Magoba. Chaplain Theko read from John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”. This was in reference to the unselfish sacrifice that all South African citizens put into Mandela Day by dedicating 67 minutes towards community service.

Col G.E. Molefe, who represented the Chief of Logistics, said on the occasion: “18 July (Mandela Day) is not the only way that the world is recognising Madiba. The United Nations has adopted Madiba’s wishes in the Millennium Development Goals and, closer to home, I will mention the alleviation of hunger and poverty and education for each child, including shelter.

I appreciate what your teachers are doing and what this home, the Kingdom Life Centre, is doing because it is the wish of the Great Man.

“I believe that a man has two sides, the bad and the good. I am afraid of relating to my bad side, but remember that what I am talking about is in me and that is why I would like people to relate to me via my good side and my good side only. Referring to the Great Man, I have never heard about his bad side and, I have only known his good side.”

The children were delighted to sing Happy Birthday to "Utatu" Mandela. We ended the day with a braai.

Lt Col E.S. Matomane, SO1 Corp Com Logistic Division

RECOGNISING MANDELA DAY

Air Force Museum, was previously known as The Loadstar. It is now under new management and opened its revamped doors to the public and hungry residents of Swartkop during April 2010.

Under the creative guidance of the new owners, Willem and Annalize Punt, the little place has been transformed into a stylish establishment that complements the historic surroundings of the Air Force Museum. What better then than to take in the sights and sounds of aircraft from the runway, while enjoying a scrumptious meal with your favourite refreshment on the stoep. The food is well prepared, the portions plentiful, with lots of variety on the menu each day. By the way the service is friendly and, to top it all, The Windsock serves free filter coffee with each order!

Adjacent to the cafeteria a museum shop has been opened to cater for the many museum visitors that always ask for souvenirs, eg squadron badges and patches, magazines, models or books.

The cafeteria and museum shop are open during regular museum visiting hours on weekdays and Saturdays and can be contacted on 012 351 2103.

Capt Leon Steyn, SAAF Museum

THE PLACE TO MEET

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Capt Leon Steyn, SAAF Museum
Ms Poppy Legodi, who has been working for 16 years in the food services, decided to host her 55th birthday party in the Chief of the SANDF’s assembly area on 15 July 2010. Her work is to make sure that the Chief of the SANDF and other senior officers in that area are well taken care of. Ms Legodi started out in 1995, catering to the Chief of the SANDF and also serving visitors during meetings and other functions. She is grateful that she has grown in the Department and enjoys working in her environment. She has been able to do office administration, computer and receptionist courses. She is currently on a catering course as a means of empowering herself. Ms Legodi said: “My job is flawless, I know what I should do. Punctuality and effectiveness are key in this job. This work needs patience and popularising yourself.” Cpl Itumeleng Makhubela, Pretoria

Ms Poppy Legodi cuts her birthday cake after making a wish.

OPERATION WINTER HOPE 2010

Operation WINTER HOPE is an annual, national drive to collect goods for charity organisations during the winter months. Lt Col Johan Conradie of the Defence Reserves Office in the Western Cape initiated Operation WINTER HOPE in 2007. This worthy initiative has become an annual event on the Western Cape Reserve Forces’ calendar. The objective is for Western Cape SANDF Reserve members to collect non-perishable food, clothing and blankets to assist those less fortunate.

This year the Unitie Association hosted the event at Wingfield. The evening attracted a full house of members and guests who had an evening of fun and fellowship along with a warm mug of home-made soup.

Members of the Cape Field Artillery, the Cape Town Highlanders, the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes), the Sea Cadets, students of the University of Cape Town’s Grootte Schuur residence and other mansions and the Unitie Association combined their efforts and collected a considerable amount of much needed items. The collected goods were delivered to the Afrikaanse Christelike Vrouevereniging, which will ensure that they are distributed and utilised in areas of the Western and Southern Cape.

Many thanks to the Unitie Association for arranging and hosting this year’s event, and to all those members and units that participated. And a special thank-you to the University of Cape Town students and the TS Woltemade Sea Cadets for their contributions. This wonderful effort made the Cape winter a little more bearable for the poor and needy people of our society. Lt (SAN) Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserve

SA SOLDIER • S E P T E M B E R  2 0 1 0
TENANCE COURSE

from Mr Justice Selala, the Facilitator. He said: “According to the K53 and the Arrive Alive campaign, if our drivers were trained in what to expect on the road, there would be fewer accidents and the loss of life would be reduced. Our course will facilitate the theoretical base with a practical outcome. We encourage safety on the road, and discourage driving others to death.” Learners were filled with optimism. One of them, Mr Jim Tshabalala, the Distribution Clerk of SA Soldier magazine, who obtained his military driving licence, said: “We got expert driving instructions on K53. Our course was focussed on the many technicalities of driving and how a driver should react in an emergency situation. The course was helpful as you learned the do’s and don’ts when driving a military vehicle. This will help to reduce the unauthorised use of vehicles,” said Mr Tshabalala. Ms Masbu Sebulele from the DOD Documentation Centre said, bubbling with enthusiasm: “Obtaining a civilian driving licence is frustrating as there are no proper facilitated driving schools. I thank CAT, the Service Corps and the DOD!”

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY RUNS OUT THEIR GUNS

After three weeks of continuous training under the watchful eyes of Lt Farmer, S Sgt Mokoto and Sgt Morake, from the School of Artillery, 26 members of Cape Field Artillery (CFA) qualified as gunners. Initially the practical aspects were dealt with, followed by theoretical instructions to ensure that the gunners could identify their respective roles as well as the technical aspects required. This approach to the training worked well with the learners as they were able to identify with all aspects by the time the theoretical instruction took place. To commemorate this achievement and show off their newly acquired skills, Lt Col Kees de Haan, Officer Commanding of the CFA, hosted an event where a GV5 gun was deployed for action, which included designating a target. He praised the newly qualified gunners for their tenacity and hard work, which resulted in a fine display of their skills. As the CFA provides the ceremonial 25 pounder/G1 guns for all official ceremonial functions, including the annual Opening of Parliament and the internationally acclaimed Cape Town Military Tattoo in Cape Town, it is imperative that their gunners are well trained and can be deployed as required, often at short notice. To realise this, as well as their operational goals, the CFA uses both formal and continuous training to ensure that their gunners are well versed in the R4, ceremonial gun drills, fitness, computer literacy, camouflage and concealment techniques. Maj Gen Keith Mokoape, Chief Director Army Reserves, VIP guests, family and supporters of the CFA attended the function to celebrate this achievement. Maj Gen Mokoape indicated that he was pleased with what he had witnessed and encouraged the new gunners to maintain their skills and high level of training.

Congratulations to all those who attended and successfully completed the course. They can now look forward to putting these new skills into practice when they have an opportunity to fire the GV5. Lt (SAN) Glenn von Zeil, SA Naval Reserve
FAREWELL TO A GREAT LEADER

I am the first Personal Staff Officer of the Military Police Division (MPD) to have been privileged to work with a legend and a philosopher, the late Provost Marshal General (PMG), Brig Gen R. Rabotapi. As a Personal Staff Officer you become attached to the person that you work with and moreover you become part of his life and part of his family. We would travel together all over the country without any hassles and indeed it was wonderful to work with a man of his calibre. The first time I saw him I really had mixed feelings on whether to work with him or not because he looked like someone who was not easily pleased.

But from that day (January 2008) onward, I started to understand what kind of a leader he was and I enjoyed every moment with him. But after almost four months working with him, Brig Gen M.J. Ledwaba (former PMG) wanted someone to work in his office and my name came up. DPMG was adamantly about releasing me, but because Brig Gen Ledwaba was the PMG at that time he gave him an instruction that I was to report to his office. I worked with Brig Gen Ledwaba under the mentorship of Lt Col P.W. van Deventer for the first few months and thereafter I was all on my own. In April 2009, Brig Gen Ledwaba was notified about his appointment as a Defence Attaché to the United States of America. As Brig Gen Ledwaba was busy preparing himself, the late Brig Gen Rabotapi (Colonel by then) was appointed Acting Provost Marshal General until the appointment of the new PMG, DPMG.

During that period I worked with him until he was appointed PMG on 1 August 2009. I vividly remember when he took over he called me into his office. We sat down and he said to me: "Mathebula, you know I have just been promoted; I don’t know much about this office. I will be counting on you since you have been here for a fairly long time, so continue working as if nothing has changed; guide me as far as the office administration is concerned".

The best thing about Brig Gen Rabotapi was that he was a very good listener, a caring person, a no-nonsense leader and a disciplinarian.

To me he was my boss, my father, my mentor in everything and my teacher. There are so many leaders in all walks of life, but a leader of his calibre is hard to find. He would always speak his mind without fearing anyone; he was unshakable. The MPD at large will never be the same without him and we will never have a leader like him in this lifetime. Martin Luther King once said: "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets so well that the hosts of heaven and earth will pause and say: ‘Here lives a great street sweeper who did his job well’.

Brig Gen Rabotapi did his job as a PMG very well and from time to time we will pause and say: ‘There was once a PMG who did his job well’. He might be gone, but his words of wisdom will always guide us, so he will be a source of reference at all times. The position of PMG is not a bed of roses: it requires a person with a strong character, a quick thinker, a good listener, non-tribalism, a person who has a vision for the Division because vision gives purpose; it is the compass that keeps us going in the right direction and it is the blueprint with which we build tomorrow today. A wise man once said: a person of character can appreciate difficulty, for it is through difficulty that he can realise his potential. The late PMG was indeed a man of character and that is why he used to say: “I was not parachuted into this position, I worked for it”.

It is hard to believe that things will never be the same again, especially at the office. I am what I am today because of his enormous contribution to my career. He would always encourage me to study further, which I did, and he was so proud of my academic achievements. I believe that his spirit will always be with all of us in the MPD. I am so grateful for the little time that I worked with him because he taught me a lot about work, about people and, most importantly, about life in general. He would always emphasise that we need to respect each other young and old, juniors and seniors. He would further say we need not be like the sons of Esau and Aholibama who were disruptive and disobedient, but we must be obedient to our leaders at all times. Dale Carnegie said there are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it. Brig Gen Rabotapi was both the candle and the light; now it is upon us to pick up the pieces and endeavour to move.

Every time I am in the office it feels like I see him walking in, especially in the morning. May his spirit continue to guide us and may all that he wished for be realised.

May his good soul rest in peace until we meet again. Capt E.M. Mathebula, SO3 Personal Staff Officer to Provost Marshal General Rabotapi.

MAY HE BE EMBRACED BY THE ANGELS

Our company, Coordinating Concepts, is the official contractor to the DOD for the printing and distribution of the SA Soldier magazine. We deliver these magazines to all the bases throughout South Africa and because I do this personally in my vehicle, I have had the pleasure of meeting many staff members to whom these magazines are addressed. I find all of these people to be most co-operative and extremely helpful in our endeavour to deliver these documents speedily and timeously, none more so than WO1 Shingir who is based in Merebank, Durban. Sadly we came to learn on our delivery to the base on Friday 27 August 2010 that he had passed away after a short illness the day before. A tinge of sadness came across my team and myself on learning about this. We had really built up a great relationship with the WO1. He made things very easy by assisting with the distribution when a parcel for someone else was not delivered because the consignee was not available, as he would take responsibility and make sure the parcel was delivered. Not only that, he would welcome us and always offered tea or refreshments as he probably felt sorry for us having spent so many hours on the road making sure the magazine arrived at the bases. On behalf of the management and team at Coordinating Concepts we pass on our condolences to his family, colleagues and friends, and salute him as we believe that the treatment we received from him was something he firmly believed in, embraced and followed, i.e. the principles of Batho Pele. The DOD has sadly lost a competent and well-liked member.

Go well our friend, may you be embraced by the angels and our team will never forget you. Brian Brown, Production and Distribution Manager, Coordinating Concepts.
Regional study tour to Tanzania

Thirty-four members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) 21/10 and staff led by the Commandant of the SA National Defence College, Brig Gen C.D. Schoeman, were privileged to undertake a regional study tour to the United Republic of Tanzania from 4 to 8 May 2010 as part of the ENSP Africa and International Studies curriculum.

The aim was to allow members of the ENSP 21/10 an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the national security policy, strategy and trends that shape the foreign and domestic policies of Tanzania.

Interestingly the visit coincided with the World Economic Forum, which was attended by Heads of State, government officials and eminent experts from across the world. Despite the presence of high-level delegations the tour of ENSP 21/10 was not affected, although some activities had to be rescheduled.

Tanzania was a unique experience, ranging from the arrival at Julius Nyerere International Airport to the welcoming at Paradise City Hotel. Of significance was the warm reception accorded to the delegation by the Tanzanian People’s Defence Force representative and the SA Defence Adviser, Col D. Mthimunye.

The itinerary encompassed a number of visits and presentations, which provided an insight into the national security of Tanzania. Following a presentation on Tanzania by the SA Defence Adviser, Col D. Mthimunye, Mr P. Moloto of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-money Laundering Group provided interesting background concerning money laundering and terrorism as well as the regional measures to counter this threat. The Tanzanian People’s Defence Force Headquarters was visited and briefings on the Tanzanian People’s Defence Force organisation, defence policy and its influence on national security, participation of the Tanzanian People’s Defence Force in peacekeeping missions and the war against piracy were given to the group. Also included was a presentation by the Tanzanian Automotive Technology Centre concerning the country’s defence-related industry. The Ministry of Trade and Industry provided thought-provoking information on the Tanzanian economy and the challenges. It was noted that the government had identified the following priorities for development: agriculture, education, health, infrastructure development (transport) and manufacturing, as ways to achieve economic development. The long-term social and economic goals are to improve the quality of life and governance, enforce the rule of law and transform the economy. A presentation at the University of Dar es Salaam was enriching and the briefing covered most of the strategic issues impacting on the national security of the country. Furthermore, the university will be in the process of fostering a partnership with the South African National Defence College.

The last day was devoted to visiting the historical island of Zanzibar and included tours of the slave market and Beit-el Ajaib (the People’s Palace). This was indeed a fitting conclusion to the tour.

Foreign study tour to Malaysia

Jubilation was clear on the faces of members of the Executive National Security Programme (ENSP) after 17 weeks of national strategic security learning, which culminated in a foreign study tour to Malaysia.

The journey was not only pleasant, but also extremely informative and stimulating. Of significance was the warm reception at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by the delegation of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) led by the SA Defence Adviser, Col Ben Mbanjwa, and representatives from the SA High Commissioner.

The courtesy call on the Acting High Commissioner of SA, Mr Andre van de Venter, took place as scheduled on Monday, 24 May 2010, and he briefed the delegation on the relationship between Malaysia and South Africa.

The afternoon was fully taken up with an exciting visit to the National Defence University of the MAF. Here the delegation was briefed on the partnership with the MAF to produce graduates tailored according to MAF requirements. This ensures a sustainable pool of intellectual capacity to support the unique requirements of the MAF officer’s corps based on each Service’s specific requirements. The programme for Tuesday had to be reshuffled owing to the official commitments of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Economic Planning Unit. This could easily be accommodated because of the positive attitude of the world-famous Petronas Twin Tower personnel. The afternoon was dedicated to an insightful briefing by the Economic Planning Unit of the Malaysian Government and it focussed on the transformation Malaysia has undergone since its independence in 1957 and its vision to become a developed nation by 2020.

On Wednesday the ENSP delegation started off with a visit to the MAF Defence Headquarters where the delegation was briefed on the higher defence organisation of the MAF HQ, regional security and the MAF Defence College.

In the afternoon the Science and Technology Research Institute for Defence was visited. Here the delegation was amazed by the successes of this humble nation and its vision to embark on defence research for future technology innovation.

The day ended with a cultural evening at the Saloma Bistro, which is a must for every visitor to Malaysia, as it offers true Malaysian cuisine and entertainment.

The following day began with a briefing on terrorism and related activities within the ASEAN region by STRATAD. This was followed by a visit to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry that again confirmed the vigorous economic development path Malaysia has embarked on to achieve its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2020, driven by advanced technological innovation and industrialisation policies to ensure quality employment and the eradication of poverty. The day ended with a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Policy, which gave the delegation an insight into Malaysia’s foreign policy objectives and the need to strengthen ties with South Africa.

And so, enriched with a better understanding and knowledge of beautiful Malaysia and its people, ENSP 21/10 bade Kuala Lumpur farewell and returned to South Africa via Singapore on 28 May 2010. Col S.S. Fortuin.
news from abroad

INTERNATIONAL MANDELA DAY

The inaugural Nelson Mandela Day was launched in style in El Fasher, Sudan. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has declared 18 July as Mandela Day to be celebrated internationally. The day is dedicated to our own son of the soil, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, popularly known as Madiba (his clan name). The day recognises the dedication of Mandela in the service of humanity in conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups. The date is being celebrated with the slogan “International Day of Nelson Mandela: For freedom, justice and democracy”. The Secretary-General of the UN, Mr Ban Ki-moon, said that Mr Mandela was a “living example of the core values of the UN, and an exemplary global citizen”. The event was organised by the United Nations African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Department of Communications and Public Information Division. It was divided into two phases, the first phase being the normal formalities and the speech by the Head of Gender Mission Support. The RSA Contingent Choir, under the stewardship of Cpl K.F. Mabula, took over the stage and suddenly the atmosphere became electrifying. The second part of the celebrations took place at El Fasher Township stadium in the form of a soccer tournament and entertainment. The arrival of the functionary, Maj Gen D. Mdutyana, signalled the beginning of the second phase. Again the RSA Choir was requested to lead the celebrations with their well-orchestrated and synchronised voices. The day was stolen by the display of RSA members blowing their vuvuzelas to the delight of Darfurians. As members of Operation CORDITE XI, we say: "Happy Birthday Tata".

Capt R.E. Mashao, Op CORDITE XI

COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN’S DAY IN KUTUM

On 9 August 2010 at RSA Battalion Headquarters, CIVPOL, MILOBs and local women celebrated Women’s Day in Kutum, Sudan. The event was to commemorate the 1956 historic march to the Union Buildings in which more than 20,000 women from all walks of life took part. The action took place against the background of a successful 1952 Defiance Campaign. A Ladies Forum has been established in Kutum to address issues that impact on women in the mission area and to mobilise support. Capt Mogobe and Pte Senoamadi did an excellent job as programme directors. Pte Majakoane opened with Scripture reading and prayer. The reading focused on women of courage, care, strength, capability, and women who honour God.

Amagolemele, a male choir, serenaded the women with their sweet melodies. L Cpl T. Mosaale aka Lady Beyonce, read a poem "Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou. Pte Mphahlele gave a mini-lecture on body image and self-esteem. The CIVPOL and MILOBs ladies sang and read a poem. The RSA NCC, Col Van Staden, and Lt Col Mofokeng acknowledged the sacrifices and hard work of the deployed women and encouraged them to make a success of the United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

The men of the RSA Battalion Headquarters entertained the women with a beauty contest. Pte Mosale (Lady Beyonce) was crowned Miss Kutum, L Cpl Newman was the First Princess and Cpl Skei was the Second Princess. The SANDF members are flying the SA flag high in the Sudan. L Cpl M.A. Mokoka, RSA BN HQ, MILOBs.

WHAT IS GENDER MAINSTREAMING?

This is a question many SANDF members are struggling with. Therefore, the following clarification: Gender Mainstreaming can be equated with, but is more than Affirmative Action. As many White members were opposed Affirmative Action, so many men oppose Gender Mainstreaming.

The redefinition of security, from being state centred to human security, and the realignment of the role and mission of the SANDF within a democratic framework has changed the gender configurations of this organisation. This has resulted in both women and men participating fully in the provision of the envisaged security.

- The achievement of gender equality is a constitutional imperative based on section 9 of the Constitution, which entrenches the right to substantive equality.

- This includes the prohibition of unfair discrimination based on gender, sex, marital status, and pregnancy. It also includes the adoption of positive measures to advance women as a historically disadvantaged group in order to address their systemic disadvantage in organisations and society.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of men and women an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that they benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.

Mainstreaming is not about adding a “woman’s component” or even a “gender equality component” to an existing activity. It goes beyond increasing women’s participation; it means bringing the experience, knowledge, and interests of men and women to bear at all levels and activities.

The participation of women in all spheres of life is one of the key elements of the Government’s transformation agenda.

GENDER FOCAL POINTS OF MISTRAL XV

Because of bad roads and the vast distances that have to be travelled, among members of the RSA contingent, approval was granted by the National Contingent Commander (NCC) to appoint gender focal points at all the Force Structure Elements - the NCC.
HELP SUDAN

Let’s start by saying:
Thank you Lord
Thank you South Africa

But most of all thank you to Tatu Madiba for your LOVE and UBUNTU that you bestowed on us as the nation and as soldiers. I have been blessed to deploy in the Sudan (Malha) on the mission called Operation CORDITE XI. I am here as one of the proud South African soldiers to raise our flag higher and higher.

Oh Lord, the Sudan is a desert. The Sudanese are full of love in their hearts; they wave and put their right hands on their hearts to show their love, how wonderful it is. For everyday that goes by you see lots of sad stories, women, children and donkeys are best friends in the Sudan. Children who are supposed to be in school are on top of donkeys from sunrise until sunset to fetch water and food. Women and children are doing the hard labour, while men are only there for protection.

But we as UNAMID members do the best we can to help them. We ask you, oh Lord, to bring peace, harmony and justice to all Sudanese and let the women and children be free. Give children education to better their future, and stop the hard labour. Camels, donkeys, sheep and goats are lying dead in the desert for it is dry in this place. We ask you, oh Lord, to give them rain and a better life.

The time is now,
No more fighting.
No more abuse of women and children.

Col S.D. Mtoha, Sudan

compound, the Battalion HQ, Battalion Support Group, the Engineers, Aviation, A-Met and MTG. These focal points will be responsible for reporting, via the command structure, and advise (within their area of responsibility) on basic Gender Mainstreaming, including issues of sexual exploitation and abuse.

On receipt of the input from the respective Commanders, the Gender Adviser provides a consolidated report to the NCC for submission to Joint Operations and the Chief Directorate Transformation Management (CDTM). The information received at CDTM is utilised for monitoring and control as well as input for training purposes at the Peace Mission Training Centre.

A strategic overview on Gender Mainstreaming, sexual exploitation and abuse, and Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 1889 were given to the leader group (45 members) on 5 June 2010.

All the Gender Focal Points received training by the Conduct and Disciplinary Unit (CDU) on 17 June 2010 and were provided with training material on sexual exploitation and abuse, the United Nations (UN) Code of Conduct, and the Force Commander’s Directives. The Gender Adviser, Col Smith, assists the Gender Focal Points with training on the Department of Defence and Military Veterans (DODMV) policies (specifically the Transformation Management Policy) and the implementation of the policy in the mission area.

Although most of the Gender Focal Points are young, the Officer in Charge of the CDU expressed her surprise at the knowledge, contribution and participation of the members. She also noted that this group knowledge, contribution and participation of this group were much better than among those trained at other contingents. The training and exposure of these youngsters are considered as an ideal mentoring and coaching opportunity for empowering our future leaders on gender mainstreaming.

The gender focal points deal with all gender mainstreaming issues. The responsibilities include relevant issues as reflected in Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 1889, the RSA Constitution, the Defence Act and the Force Commanders Directives and guidelines.

The DODMV policies in general, and the Transformation Management Policy in particular, are guiding and reference sources. The roles and functions of the Gender Adviser and Gender Focal Points therefore include, but are not limited to issues of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraternisation, gender equity, gender based violence, monitoring and reporting from a gender perspective, identifying of obstacles preventing deployment of women, RSA achievements in terms of gender mainstreaming and mainstreaming gender in plans and processes.

A total of 664 members were briefed on gender mainstreaming and sexual exploitation and abuse during June 2010.

In closing, Maj Gen William Nkonyenyi, Chief Specialist Adviser to the Chief of General Staff FARD C (Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo), mentioned during the seminar on Leadership, Gender and Civic Education for the FARD C: “Adapt or die - everything is changing. In South Africa, there are more women then men. For those opposing the advancement of women, you will not be able to stop it. You will stand alone. We are going on with gender equity, with or without you”. Col Hilton Smith, Gender Adviser: Op MISTRAL XV
SA/Vietnam alliance in maritime security

By Cpl Ally Rakoma

The South African Government has declared its commitment to playing a meaningful role in the region and with the rest of the international community. Of even greater significance, through the SANDF South Africa continues to add a voice to global efforts to create a better world of peace and order for the well-being of humanity.

On 3 August 2010 the Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, hosted the Commander-in-Chief of the Vietnamese Navy, V Adm Nguyen Van Hien, and his entourage, including the Vietnamese Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Nguyen Manh Hung, the Director-General of the Naval Technical Department, Senior Captain Nguyen Cong Thanh, the Director of Naval External Relations Division, Senior Captain Nguyen Ngoc Vinh, and the Vietnam Defence Adviser resident in the RSA, Senior Colonel Nguyen Manh Chu.

The delegation met with the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the Chief of Joint Operations, Lt Gen Temba Matanzima, at Defence Headquarters in Pretoria.

In welcoming the delegation, Deputy Minister Makwetla mentioned that South Africa had commonalities with other countries and remained actively engaged in helping to find solutions to various matters in the security domain with a view to stabilising global crises. Mr Makwetla said: “Your visit to South Africa serves to emphasise the bonds that unite us. Both our countries and armed forces value our diplomatic and military relations. We have common interests that may be utilised within the scope of the maritime security domain by co-operating in defence related matters.”

He added that having unique continental needs, priorities and requirements, and a maritime security strategy were some of the key components of collective security used to promote economic development.

Responding afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of the Vietnamese Navy stated that Vietnam admired the achievements and the freedom gained by the people of South Africa. He said that the capabilities of the two armed forces strengthened the alliance between the two nations. “We are here to reciprocate the visit of V Adm Mudimu to Vietnam in 2006. We are impressed with the modernisation of the SA Navy, its capacity having been expanded by modern technology and its considerable improvement in mission effectiveness and interoperability with fraternal navies of the world.”

V Adm Nguyen Van Hien, the Commander-in-Chief of the Vietnamese Navy (left) handing over a gift to Mr Thabang Makwetla, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.
Remembering the Battle of Delville Wood combatants

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The SANDF and the Pretoria Memorial Services Council commemorated the Battle of Delville Wood during the annual Delville Wood Memorial Service held at the Scottish Memorial in Burgers Park, Pretoria, on 18 July 2010. The representatives of the embassies of France, Belgium, Germany, the United States, Britain and other countries attended the commemoration.

Twenty-one crosses were planted and 14 wreaths were laid in remembrance of the soldiers who paid the ultimate price during the Battle of Delville Wood in 1916, which was fought by South African soldiers in France during World War I. It is always remembered annually on the Sunday closest to 16 July.

1 SA Brigade was part of 9 Scottish Division on the Western Front during the Great War of 1914 to 1918. On 15 July 1916, 1 SA Brigade under the command of Brig Gen H.T. Lukin was called to assist in clearing the village of Longueval and to capture Delville Wood. 1 SA Brigade had 3 153 men, 121 officers and 3 032 other ranks. On the morning of 17 July 1916 it was found that only 750 had survived the carnage of Delville Wood. Of these 607 were wounded and 143 were relatively unscathed.

The Chief Director Defence Reserves, Maj Gen Roy Andersen, lays a wreath at the annual Delville Wood Memorial Service in Pretoria.
Team BULISA, the Special Advisory Team to the Force de Armees de Democratic de Congo (FARDC) was deployed following a binational agreement between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa to assist with the formulation of the military strategy and capacity building of the FARDC in fulfilment of South Africa’s international obligations.

As part of its mandate Team BULISA hosted a leadership seminar at the FARDC Headquarters in Kinshasa from 06 to 08 July 2010. The seminar was aimed at creating a platform for FARDC members to participate in leadership, gender and civic education and the output will contribute to the reform and enhancement of leadership values of the FARDC. The seminar was officially opened by Brig Gen Moya Jean Pierre who is responsible for training in the FARDC.

Major General William Nkonyeni, the Chief Specialist Adviser to the Chief of General Staff FARDC, gave a very informative presentation on Ethics and Leadership in which he explained the role of military leadership in ensuring the preparation of forces prior to the execution of any operation or mission.

Brigadier General Thalita Mxakato, Director Defence Intelligence Division, gave a lecture on military leadership. She highlighted the qualities, characteristics and values of military leaders, followed by a presentation on change management. In concise terms the presentation informed the audience that moving forward might be difficult for those whose belief system and personal identities were still vested in the old...
paradigm, and who perceived no reason to change. The personal and professional trap is that any paradigm or reality model that is too comfortable also becomes self-limiting.

The second day of the seminar focused on gender issues. Ms Esambo of the Security Sector Accountability and Police Reform Programme (SSAPR) gave a presentation on Global Gender perspectives. She made reference to UN Resolution 1325, and mentioned that women were under-represented in the military institutions. In conclusion she also mentioned that integration of genders in the armed forces and the defence organs must be considered as an important priority for the attainment of transformation in the DRC. Ms Esambo said: "It must be sustained by a strong political will to endeavour to effect positive change in the security sector. It must be founded on clearly defined strategic objectives. Initiatives must be made to increase the recruitment and promotion of women. Gender representivity must be integrated as part of the training programmes."

The next presentation was by Ms Ngalula, Gender Adviser to the Minister of Defence of the DRC. She mentioned that the first integration of women took place in 1966 and up to 2010 the highest ranking female officers consisted of only three full colonels, and women constituted only 5% of the total FARDC. The FARDC is making efforts to empower female soldiers by ensuring their representivity on courses.

The audience, especially the women, expressed a general dissatisfaction in the lack of opportunities for female soldiers in the FARDC. Their main concern was the lack of structures within the FARDC to address gender issues. It was for this reason that women remained a minority and were not involved in the decision making process in the organisation.

The DRC is emerging from a number of conflicts, and different belligerent groups are being integrated. The integration process necessitates thorough and continuous civic education towards a new military culture. The integration of different belligerent groups and civic education were the main focus of lectures and discussions on the third day. Prof Thierry Nlandu, also from SSAPR, started the day by giving a presentation on Civic Education. The professor mentioned that the Constitution formed the basis of the country’s core values and that it was imperative that the Army should therefore be in complete harmony with the democratic political systems.

The FARDC presented its challenges to integrating forces from different backgrounds. Gen Mulubi M. Jose stressed the importance of congruent relationships between civilians and the military through organised seminars and conferences with the main objective of reminding the military that they formed part of the community. This will therefore contribute towards community building.

The seminar has met its objectives, aided by South African perspectives, in enhancing the FARDC reform.
On 10 November 2009 the United Nations General Assembly adopted 18 July, the birthday of Mr Nelson Mandela (fondly known as Madiba), as International Mandela Day to celebrate the legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former President of South Africa. The adoption of this resolution was truly historic as it was the first time that the United Nations (UN) had designated an international day in honour of an individual.

The UN recognises Madiba as an international icon and a symbol of hope for oppressed and marginalised people around the world. Moreover it recognises Mr Mandela’s principles, values and dedication to the well-being of mankind, as well as his contribution to the struggle for international democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace.

The Ministry of Defence and 14 SA Infantry Battalion (14 SAI Bn) honoured Mr Mandela in the most fitting way by doing good for 67 minutes and took time off to visit less fortunate communities, and to donate food and bedding. They also helped out by painting and renovating the Efata School for the Blind in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape.

The DOD devoted 67 minutes of its time to community service to mark the number of years Mr Mandela spent in politics. Madiba turned 92 on 18 July 2010. His story is filled with an amazing strength and integrity of spirit. There is no one more deserving of this unprecedented international recognition.

Mr Mandela stepped down as President of South Africa in 1999 after serving one term in office. He is still revered around the world for promoting peace and fighting against racism and HIV and AIDS through his 46664 Campaign. The US President, Mr Barrack Obama, extended his birthday wishes to Mr Mandela, hailing the SA former President’s extraordinary vision, leadership and spirit. Mr Obama said that we should strive to build on his example of tolerance, compassion and reconciliation.

On the day of activism, i.e. 18 July, Mr Mandela’s birthday, individuals are called to live his legacy by doing 67 minutes of community work in honour of Madiba’s 67 years of uninterrupted and selfless service to the people of South Africa. The DOD decided to do just this. The Department tried to follow his example of giving back to our communities and our nation. One of the lessons we learnt is that we must work together to entrench unity and solidarity in the country.
Impressive work for Mandela Day celebrations

By Mandla Mahlangu
Photo: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (NZGSA) was grateful for the cleaning of its animal enclosures and other areas by 397 members of Defence Intelligence Division during the International Mandela Day celebrations at the Pretoria Zoo on 21 July 2010.

The Defence Intelligence Division decided to spend their sports parade commemorating the birthday of a former Commander-in-Chief, Mr Nelson Mandela, by doing something for the community. The Chief Director Intelligence Support, Brig Gen Dirk Janse van Rensburg, said: “We needed to do something within the inner city and approached the National Zoological Gardens (Pretoria Zoo) to dedicate our 67 minutes of service.”

The Managing Director of NZGSA, Dr Clifford Nxomani, welcomed the members of Defence Intelligence Division to the Pretoria Zoo. A worker at the zoo, Mr Mxolisi Makondo, said: “We are impressed with the work done by the soldiers. These people worked hard and diligently.” Mr Makondo’s co-worker, Mr Simon Rachidi, shared the same sentiment and added that the 67 minutes of work by the Defence Intelligence Division looked like a full day’s work.

Dr Clifford Nxomani took over the reins as the sixth Director of the Pretoria Zoo in 2007. Under his leadership the NZGSA has seen, among various other memorable projects, the creation of the innovative zoo loop development, the refurbishment of the zoo’s farmyard, revamping of the aquarium and acquisition of two ragged tooth sharks. The highlight of his tenure thus far has undoubtedly been the successful negotiations that led to the acquisition of four gorillas from Switzerland and Israel. (The NZGSA was founded in 1899 by the then Director of the Staatsmuseum, Dr Jan Boudewyn Gunning. It received national status in 1916 and became known as the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa. Its first Director was Dr Alwin Karl Haagner.)

Defence Intelligence Division is the premier intelligence organisation of the Department of Defence. Its mission is to provide intelligence and counter-intelligence at the strategic and operational level to support the activities of the Department and Government in pursuit of the security objectives of the country.
Special Forces doubles up for 67 minutes of community service

By Lt Col A-L. Human, SO1 Corporate Communication Special Forces

"It is in your hands" the famous words spoken by the former President, Mr Nelson Mandela, are powerful in communicating how 67 minutes can make a huge impact on uplifting a society. On 16 July 2010 the Special Forces Headquarters staff paid heed to the call and in true Special Forces style decided to redouble their efforts by not only supporting the Edward Phatudi High School in Atteridgeville, but also the Centurion Hospice.

A needs assessment was conducted in the local area surrounding the Special Forces Headquarters and based on this it was decided to support two initiatives, one being to fix and paint the goalposts of the Edward Phatudi High School in Atteridgeville, but also the Centurion Hospice.

The soccer goalposts at the Edward Phatudi High School were in dire need of repair since they were in pieces, rusted and without any nets. Members of the Special Forces Headquarters Unit welded the posts together and painted them on 15 July 2010. The paint was allowed to dry and on 16 July 2010 the General Officer Commanding of SA Special Forces, Brig Gen Rudzani Maphwanya, accompanied the Special Forces grouping to Atteridgeville to hand over two new soccer balls to the Headmaster of the Edward Phatudi High School, Mr Mike Masango, and to place new nets on the newly repaired goalposts. To finish the event off in style Brig Gen Maphwanya led the Special Forces soccer team in a friendly match against the High School soccer team to the cheers of the learners.

Meanwhile the other Special Forces grouping was intensely involved in preparing the soil for the vegetable patch at the Centurion Hospice. Although it proved to be more intensive labour than the soccer venture, all who participated were filled with a sense of purpose knowing that they had contributed their part to assisting the Centurion Hospice staff realise their wish of finally having a vegetable garden of their own.

Special Forces showed that 67 minutes is all it took to enrich the lives not only of the youth, but also the frail, and that they would continue to render support to these communities in future beyond the call of this international initiative.

Edward Phatudi High School: Special Forces members putting up new nets on the goalposts. (Photo: Maj J.M.M. Amorim)
Article and photos by
Able Seaman Phathu Nedzanani,
Communication NCO

Former President Nelson Mandela said: "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it. It is our hope that people will dedicate their time and effort to improve the conditions within their communities: our struggle for freedom and justice was a collective effort." The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, together with his winning team unleashed the spirit of UBUNTU at Fanang Diatla Centre for Disabled in Hammanskraal on 18 July 2010.

Navy Headquarters and SAS IMMORTELLE personnel dedicated their time and effort by tiling, painting, cutting grass, and fixing the fence at the Centre. These selfless deeds were their contributions to improving the living conditions for these learners.

In addition to the renovations the Chief of the SA Navy and naval personnel donated stationery, clothes, blankets and food parcels to the learners. The centre also boasts a brand new vegetable garden that was started by the sailors to assist with their feeding scheme.

The Chief of the SA Navy said: “As Madiba lives to inspire and enthuse those around him, always ask yourself what can I do to make a difference to those around me?”

Sailors celebrate Mandela Day

The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, giving blankets to the Fanang Diatla Centre for Disabled.
The Infanteers of the SA Army Infantry Formation pulled out all the stops in celebrating Mandela Day. Its Headquarters led from the front by cleaning Dequar Road and Potgieter Street in Pretoria. The Human Resource sections tackled the old soccer field with WO1 Monica Antonio picking up the dirt with white gloves and Lt Col Masakhane Dikgolo encouraging all to help. Down Potgieter Street you could hear Col Jan Wessels saying: “Kom nou boys laat ons klaarmaak” (Come on guys let us finish), while wearing his leather military gloves.

In Potchefstroom, Regiment De la Rey went to an informal settlement in Ikageng where the residents had the opportunity to get water from the water bunker and received a snack parcel sponsored by the members. A large number of black refuse bags were filled as they cleaned the area, but they also brought another ray of hope by praying for the sick. Their day ended with a church service for the members, with the theme: “be thankful for what you have”.

Further east in Durban, the Durban Regiment adopted the Excel Nursery and Pre-primary School and cleaned up around the school. The unit plans to obtain sponsorships and donations to give the school a much-needed make-over.

In the Free State, 44 Parachute Regiment invite 60 learners from three schools to visit the unit, and as always the hangar was the highlight of the visit. This project has also expanded to include the celebration of Women’s Day when clothing was donated to the schools. Meanwhile 1 SA Infantry Battalion went to help in the soup kitchen at the Towers of Hope Church in the centre of Bloemfontein, and this support included contributions of non-perishable products, besides serving the soup and bread. Regiment Bloemspuit also supported the effort by donating blankets to the needy.

But further south in Mthatha, 14 SA Infantry Battalion went to paint the Efata School for the Blind and Deaf. They also obtained donations from their suppliers and were able to provide food hampers and linen. The members gave the staff of the school a rest and served breakfast and lunch. (For more information...
July has become an important day internationally. This day has gained momentum not only as the birthday of the former President and Nelson Mandela Day was a means of spreading the spirit of UBUNTU by supporting a charity or community. Mandela Day and encourage the world to join us in this wonderful campaign”, he said.

Defence Corporate Communication (DCC) heeded the call of the current Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, Mr Zuma, by visiting the children’s wards of the Steve Biko Hospital. The children who were sick were given hope by 25 members of DCC who brought them snacks, beanies (sponsored by Assupol), pens, toy cellphones and books.

Brig Gen Debbie Molefe, Director Defence Reserves, who represented the SANDF, explained the importance of Mandela Day as the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela, and said that it must be honoured. Brig Gen Molefe said: “We are here as proud citizens of South Africa to execute our 67 minutes. We felt it was necessary to extend our hand to help these children and wish them a speedy recovery.”

Brig Gen Debbie Molefe, Director Defence Reserves, with L Cpl Mapule Raphela giving a gift bag to one of the children in the children’s ward of the Steve Biko Hospital in Pretoria.

Communicators honour Mandela Day

By L Cpl Mapule Raphela

July has become an important day internationally. This day has gained momentum not only as the birthday of the former President and Mandela Day was a means of spreading the spirit of UBUNTU by supporting a charity or community. During his national address President Zuma encouraged people all over the world to support this day: “Let us wholeheartedly support Mandela Day and encourage the world to join us in this wonderful campaign”, he said.

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Brig Gen Debbie Molefe, Director Defence Reserves, with L Cpl Mapule Raphela giving a gift bag to one of the children in the children’s ward of the Steve Biko Hospital in Pretoria.
67 minutes of love

Article and photo by Maj Kevin Bence, Officer in Charge Auction Centre Western Cape

The Nelson Mandela birthday drive of giving 67 minutes of your time to whatever community or person, sparked the flame for Auction Centre Western Cape to support House Eleanor Murray in Woodstock, Cape Town. (The home hosts 25 elderly people, the eldest being 100 years old.)

Maj Kevin Bence approached the home on 19 July 2010 to enquire about their needs. Within one week details were provided to the supervisors, Owen and Diane Jones, about the use of funds from the National Lottery, and contact was made with a friend, Mr Nelius du Plooy from the Western Province Rehabilitation Centre, to supply new wheelchairs and to repair those currently in use.

On 23 July personnel from the Auction Centre Western Cape presented tea and cake and donated all the cups, saucers and side plates used.

WO1 Andy Dreyer from the Auction Centre Western Cape also donated five personal alarms with the help of SECURIMART in Table View. The elderly could walk around and if they hurt themselves in the garden, on the way to their rooms, etc these alarms could be activated and the nursing staff would then be able to find them. Mr Du Plooy arrived after tea and presented three new wheelchairs to the home and picked up the old ones to be repaired.

The members then started by cleaning the garden, fixing door hinges, curtain rails and replaced a few ceramic tiles in the bathrooms. After the cleaning and the repairs they had a lovely sing-along.

Before the day ended some of the elderly people were brought out into the sun in the new wheelchairs.

After greeting everyone and promising contact on a regular basis, a follow-up visit was arranged for November 2010, which would include a braai.
ASB Mpumalanga supports Mandela Day

By Lize Pienaar, Communication Officer, ASB Mpumalanga

On the outskirts of Lydenburg one finds Lelievlei, an informal settlement where 68 residents live in very basic circumstances, including 20 children and some elderly people. They have no other means of living, and depend on donations from the community to make a living.

According to Ms Charlotte du Plooy, Manager of the settlement, they receive no subsidy from either the Government or from charity organisations. They fully depend on individuals and organisations in the community to support them.

After reading about this situation in the local newspapers, the Warrant Officers initiated an outreach to the settlement as ASB Mpumalanga’s contribution towards the 67 minutes of charity work for Mandela Day. Members of the unit responded overwhelmingly by donating food, blankets, toys and clothing, including a television. Several companies also contributed towards this effort, namely Heidel Eggs, Pick n Pay, Eastchem (which donated cleaning material), Conway and Kit Group.

On the premises is a hall which is utilised as a dining-room and which is equipped with a small kitchen. Several Wendy houses are used for sleeping quarters. The residents are not allowed to cook inside them. Meals are prepared on a communal basis for all by cooking teams consisting of the residents who operate on a rotational basis. There is also a small nursery school and a library.

The experience of delivering the donations to Lelievlei on 30 July 2010 opened our eyes once more and made us thankful for our own privileges. It was sad to see once again how many needy people there are in our country, so it was a great privilege to be able to make a small difference to the lives of these people.

The unit is planning to do more charity work of this nature in future and to include other informal settlements in our community.

SA Army Chaplains donating to the needy

By Bibi Sibanyoni
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

A Army Chaplains are focusing on fighting the epidemic of illiteracy in our country and have put aside one day of their annual conference to donate computers and clothes to those less fortunate.

On 20 July 2010 the SA Army Chaplains joined hands to strive for free education for all, an initiative by Government to eradicate poverty and unemployment in the broader community. The #goal education for all campaign was launched on 20 August 2009 and has been extensively discussed by many people globally.

The people of Mathintha village were happy about the donation of 60 computers, food and clothing to the intermediate school on the farm. The school caters for 65 learners whose parents work on the farm, including some from neighbouring villages. It is the children’s constitutional right to have access to basic education and this is the gap that the SA Army Chaplains have tried to bridge.

“When the mind is hungry feed it with education, when the soul is hungry feed it with the Word,” said the Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) of Education in Limpopo, Mr Dickson Masemola, to the learners of Mathintha Intermediate School. He added: “There is no poverty in a home where there is education”, as he encouraged the learners to continue with their passion and quest for education. He urged the teachers to strive for excellence in their work and go the extra mile. Mr Masemola affirmed: “Primary education is vital to the mental growth of the learners.”

SA Army members sang a synchronised song with Government as President Jacob Zuma, the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, encouraged people to call on world leaders to make education for all children a priority and a reality.

A proud Ms Freda Mbesi, a mother of two children who both attend the school, thanked the SA Army for...
enlightening the lives of their children and making sure that they were up to date with modern technology. Ms Mbesi said: “South Africa is growing fast and we are moving closer and closer to a technological world. I have the deepest gratitude in my heart and I salute the SA Army for also coming to give hope to our children.”

A Grade 6 learner, Thapelo Motsiani, expressed his gratitude, saying it was an honour to be visited by the SA Army in their school. A jovial Thapelo said: “Although our school is counted among the disadvantaged schools in Limpopo, today our educational standards have been elevated to the level of those schools in the suburb. Before today some of my schoolmates did not know what a computer looked like and now we all have an opportunity to get to own one. We are now more enthusiastic about going to school and our efforts will be shown in our reports.”

The Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, said to the parents: “We need these children to make the SANDF their employer of choice; our support will make them grow to their full potential.”
Celebrating agents of change

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

On 12 August 2010 the SA Army hosted a Women’s Day celebration at the SA Army HQ Assembly Hall with the theme: “Effective Implementation of Men’s and Women’s Constitutional Rights in the SA Army”.

In his welcoming remarks the Chief of the SA Army, Lt Gen Solly Shoke, outlined developments embracing the dignity of female soldiers in the SA Army that aimed to strengthen women’s abilities and confidence in the combat musters.

The Chief Director Transformation Management, Maj Gen Ntsiki Memela-Motumi, mentioned in her address that women were the anchors of family support and contributed to nation building. She said that in the

Women sang and showed enthusiasm throughout the day.

Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, encouraging women to be the agents of change.

>> on page 28
Defence Inspectorate Division celebrates Women's Day

By Cpl Ally Rakoma
Photos: Mr Thabo Shirinda

Women from the Defence Inspectorate Division celebrated Women's Day on 6 August 2010 at AFB Waterkloof Officers' Mess to commemorate the date of 9 August 1956, when 20 000 women took part in a march against the pass laws and protested for equality at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

The guest speaker, Ms Maemili Ramataboe, the Executive Principal Officer: Government Employees Pension Fund, said in her opening remarks that the military had always been perceived as a tough, male dominated environment and women were seen as too weak and were therefore placed in lower-level posts.

Today we see a rapidly growing number of women in leadership positions; it is an empowering achievement.

Speaking to SA Soldier, she said that it was critically important for women to be represented at the strategic level where crucial decisions are made as this would help to influence decisions. Ms Ramataboe said: "We value the contribution of the DOD/SANDF in the service of our nation and our continent. This world would not be the same without you."

The Programme Director, Brig Gen Nontobeko Mpaxa, the Commandant of the SA Army Combat Training Centre, added the inspiring note that the most important aspect of celebrating Women's Day was the assessment of progress made and the development of strategies for addressing the remaining obstacles for achieving the full and meaningful participation of women. Brig Gen Mpaxa said: "As women, let's be the agents of change and add value to the decisions we make and the processes we undertake in the organisation."
AAD investing in the youth

By Janine Fredericks, Chairperson
AAD Youth Programme

Photo: Denis Milton

Hosted by the Aerospace Maritime Defence Industries Association, Armscor, the Civil Aviation Association of SA and with the full support of the Department of Defence (DOD), the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition is set to take place at Air Force Base Ysterplaat in Cape Town from 21 to 25 September 2010. The first three days are reserved for trade visitors followed by two public days when members of the public may visit the exhibition halls and enjoy world-class flying displays.

A cornerstone of the AAD is the continuation and expansion of the Youth Development Programme (YDP) which has come to be closely associated with the AAD over the past few years. An objective of the YDP is to create awareness among youth of the high-tech world of aerospace and defence by introducing young learners to potential future career opportunities in these various disciplines.

A shortage of skills exists in the aerospace and defence sectors throughout the world and South Africa is no exception. Local companies are struggling to source sufficient pilots, air traffic controllers, designers, engineers and technical support staff to meet the growing demand for technically skilled personnel in the workplace to ensure sustainable economic growth.

To address this challenge, an AAD YDP committee was established which is chaired by Ms Janine Fredericks of Armscor. This committee has embarked on a commendable youth development programme to run alongside the AAD exhibition.

A number of activities are planned for the AAD Youth Development Pavilion at the AAD where students will learn more about possible career opportunities that await them if they study maths and science. During the three trade days of the exhibition some 2 000 learners from various disadvantaged communities will visit the YDP Pavilion. The Pavilion will house flight and vehicle driver simulators, virtual aviation, aircraft model building and many other interesting exhibits, together with an abundance of appropriate career guidance literature.

Role models will also be on hand to provide information to learners on how they themselves experience the technical world that they operate in and at the same time they will encourage the youth to pursue careers in the many technical disciplines available.

Youth Day celebration

In June, the AAD YDP kicked off on a high note in commemoration of National Youth Day by inviting Grade 12 learners from the Bokgoni Technical School in Atteridgeville to spend a day at Armscor’s Gerotek vehicle test facility. Key industries within the aerospace and defence environment were requested to assist by sponsoring the day’s activities.

A number of interesting technical lectures followed on the art of conceptualising and manufacturing products that have to meet the requirements of various end users. Other key sponsors such as Grintek Evation, Denel, Ivema, Sebenza Freight Forwarding, Carl Zeiss Optronics, Tellumat, the CSIR, Armscor and the DOD all played a part in making this event a huge success.

Activities ranging from model aircraft building, water propelled rockets using basic materials, to a military Samil vehicle driven on the dynamic vehicle test track, stimulated the learners to get to know more about aerodynamics, rocket science, vehicle design and handling capabilities. Many positive comments were received from learners and teachers alike and they unanimously agreed that the knowledge gained on this day had opened new doors for them and given new impetus to their career aspirations.

The AAD YDP acknowledges that considerable effort is still required to support youth development through sustainable programmes and the industry is urged to support these initiatives by donating funds or by making resources available.

Other YDP initiatives such as the “Adopt-a-school” and “Adopt-a-graduate” campaigns are aimed at realising Government’s priorities of achieving academic performance and thereby addressing the technical skills gap in the market place. Companies and individuals wishing to become involved and to make contributions to the AAD YDP are invited to contact Janine Fredericks on cell No: 073 386 7386.
SANDF quells unrest in Kya Sands

Article and photos by S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

The SANDF was called on to play a supporting role to the South African Police Service (SAPS) and assist in bringing the situation under control by quelling the unrest in Kya Sands, north of Johannesburg.

The violence and criminality at Kya Sands resulted in much destruction and many injuries, including assault, housebreaking, theft, and the looting of property owned or operated by foreign nationals from other African countries.

Tensions have long been growing between South Africans and foreign nationals who are being accused of taking the jobs and homes of South Africa citizens. Running battles erupted at Kya Sands after robbery in the township provoked anger between local people and foreign nationals.

On 21 July 2010 SA Soldier and Defence TV teams visited the men and women in uniform deployed in Kya Sands. The situation was stable and under control. Col Sipho Matolweni, Officer Commanding Joint Tactical Headquarters Gauteng, mentioned that they were assessing the situation, which he described as volatile. Col Matolweni said: “We are in support of the police and people around here are happy to see us and they are co-operating.” The operation included cordon and search, as well as foot and vehicle patrols.

The Colonel further stated that another operation was under way in the Boksburg area, where Intelligence had reason to believe that attacks could erupt at any time. He mentioned that the operation was intelligence driven. These attacks could wreck the positive image that Africa’s biggest insight

ABOVE AND ON BACKGROUND PICTURE: The SANDF and SA Police Service members doing cordon and search and foot patrols at Kya Sands, north of Johannesburg. Running battles erupted at Kya Sands after robbery in the township provoked anger between local people and foreign nationals.
South Africa have been endangered by the recent attacks. The Government has been warning people not to refer to xenophobic attacks in informal settlements when criminals are actually responsible. It also condemns any violent attacks against our African brothers and sisters in the strongest possible terms.

As the rainbow nation, it is embedded within our diverse cultural heritage of UBUNTU to value other people because they are human like the rest of us. The South African security forces were commended for their quick intervention in containing the threat and the attacks.

Cordon and search conducted during the night by members of the SANDF and the SA Police Service.

SA Police Service members conducting a search among the residents of Kya Sands. The SANDF deployment was to play a supporting role to the police and assist in bringing the situation under control.
The SAS DRAKENSBERG set sail for Mozambique on Saturday 21 August 2010 with 173 crew members. The Chief of the SA Navy, V Adm Johannes Mudimu, instructed the SA Navy to assist the Mozambican Navy in arranging the Standing Maritime Committee meeting to take place from 22 to 26 August, the Maritime Conference on 27 August and that the SA Navy...
ships were to be open to the public while in Mozambique.

Bidding farewell to the ship’s crew R Adm R.W. Higgs, Flag Officer Fleet, said that the SAS DRAKENSBERG was the pride of the Fleet and that she also played a major role in ensuring the safety of our country and assisting the continent in various missions.

He added that he was proud to have the SA Air Force and the SA Military Health Service on board and that their involvement strengthened relationships among all the Services.

The Officer Commanding SAS DRAKENSBERG, Capt (SAN) C.J. Coetzee, said that the ship’s company had done a fantastic job of mending and keeping the vessel in good condition and that it took hard work. He added that more work awaited the SA Navy in Mozambique.

Prior to sailing, the Executive Officer SAS DRAKENSBERG, Cdr J.J. Verster, welcomed and briefed all the crewmembers on what was expected of them and warned against unacceptable behaviour during the deployment.

The Naval Harbour Master, Capt G. Knox, and his extremely capable berthing party and tugs assisted the SAS DRAKENSBERG to undock and leave port in a strong north-westerly wind.
Insight

Pilatus PC-7 MkII meets international avionic standards

By Kgabo Mashamaite
Photos: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

To conform to the modern and stringent civil airworthiness requirements, the SA Air Force (SAAF) was handed a fully upgraded Pilatus PC-7 MkII basic flying trainer jet during a colourful ceremony at Air Force Base Langebaanweg on 13 July 2010. An upgrade of the PC-7 cockpit with state-of-the-art avionics system enables it to operate effectively under adverse weather conditions.

The 2005 study and analysis indicated that the onboard avionic suite of the old Pilatus Astra PC-7 that has been in service since 1996 might be obsolescent from 2008 onwards. The replacement of individual obsolete components, which formed the heart of the avionic system, was a cost-effective way to upgrade.

Accepting the new version of the aircraft trainer, the Chief of the SA Air Force, Lt Gen Carlo Gagiano, said that the event marked a total avionics revolution in the SAAF and the SANDF as a whole.

Lt Gen Gagiano said: “During the course of 2007 the possibility of an urgent upgrade to the existing obsolete avionics was explored, since operations by these aircraft in South African Airspace were severely restricted. After exploring various options we then established project ITHAMBO in 2008 with a view to upgrading at least 35 Astra aircraft and associated training aids. After a tendering process that included 18 companies the Pilatus Aircraft Ltd was subsequently offered a contract to upgrade the aircraft.”

He added that the project had to explore all avenues to measure the cost-effectiveness of replacing the obsolete components to ensure that the aircraft were versatile and their lifespan prolonged up to 2025. According to the Chief of the SA Air Force the event also put the SAAF among the best run air forces in the world, since the graduating pilots would now be able to conform to the modern and stringent civil airworthiness requirements.

An upgraded Pilatus PC-7 MkII trainer aircraft at the AFB Langebaanweg hangar during the handing-over ceremony. This is one of a fleet of 35 trainer jets that Pilatus Aircraft Ltd is in the process of upgrading to meet stringent airworthiness and safety requirements, including operating under adverse weather conditions.

S A S O L D I E R  •  S E P T E M B E R  2 0 1 0
An upgraded Pilatus PC-7 MkII (middle) performs an aerial display to showcase its newly found capabilities. (Accompanying the PC-7 MkII are the Silver Falcons Aerobatic aircraft.)

fully instrument rated when they received their Wings.

Handing over the state-of-the-art Pilatus PC-7 MkII formally to the SAAF, Mr Oscar Shwenk, Chairman of the Switzerland based Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, said that the gesture was a memorable milestone in the continued partnership between his company and the SAAF.

The Pilatus PC-7 MkII provides the SAAF with an avionic suite not only specifically designed to train pilots, but also to meet the stringent airworthiness and safety requirements of the Swiss civil aviation authorities. The avionic system is certified by the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation for operation under instrument flight rules.

Mr Shwenk said: "A very tough and professional evaluation forced us to build prototypes within seven weeks in order to meet the SAAF/Armscor specifications: an aircraft that was simple to fly, like a common PC-7, but with a staggered cockpit providing a superior view for the student and the instructor as well as ejection seats and a more powerful engine."

Capt Roy Sproul, Chief Flying Instructor from the Central Flying School Langebaanweg, and one of the three instructors and a test pilot to be trained on the new system in Switzerland after performing an aerial display in the refurbished Pilatus PC-7 MkII, said that the SAAF had raised the bar in the avionics industry with the project.

Capt Sproul said: "The upgrade of a trainer aircraft is a good idea and a giant leap in avionics training and it makes the SAAF one of the best in the world because a learner pilot utilises an aircraft with 21st century technology. The capability of this aircraft is magnificent and it is out of this world." (Capt Sproul has reached 3 000 flying hours since joining the SAAF in 1997.)

According to Lt Jesse Ramaisa, a co-pilot during the display and a flying instructor, to operate the aircraft one needs refresher training for a smooth transition from the analogue cockpit to the digital version.

Lt Ramaisa (27) who has 918 flying hours, said: "I went to Switzerland with Capt Sproul for specialised training that included basic conversion, navigation and maintenance to enable us to command, handle and manoeuvre the new version. I must admit that at first it was not easy, but one got used to it while practising, helped by the state-of-the-art cockpit. It is user-friendly as you can operate it during the night and during adverse weather conditions."

Mr Dawie Griesel, Armscor Acting General Manager Acquisition, said that the overhaul was informed by the reliability of the installed system, which is cost-effective and helps relieve some of the pressure on the SAAF maintenance budget.
Foundation Management Development Programme for PSAP

By Petra du Plessis, Senior Personnel Practitioner: PSAP (ETD)
Photo: S Sgt Lebogang Tlhaole

Foundation Management Development Programme to Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) on salary levels 3 - 5 was recently presented at the Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA). It was presented by the Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (PSAP: Education, Training and Development), through PALAMA over the periods 10 - 14 May 2010 and 21 - 25 June 2010.

Foundation Management Development Programme

Twenty-one employees from different working environments attended the Foundation Management Development Programme (FMDP) for PSAP on salary levels 3 - 5 in the DOD. It was presented in two blocks over the periods 10 - 14 May 2010 and 21 - 25 June 2010 at PALAMA in Pretoria.

The Programme covered the basic principles of management, with the objective of introducing sound management practices to first line supervisors and aspiring supervisors, in order to “grow” good managers for the future.

The FMDP is an accredited training opportunity. Block 1 focussed on gaining understanding of oneself and the team, while Block 2 focussed on supervision. Training modules included Self-Management, Working in Teams and Management Functions.

Feedback from participants

Ms V.T. Gxumisa, Senior Sec: DCACI & A (appointed in 2009), said: “This programme has equipped me with managerial skills that will enable...”
me to be more competent in my future career. Thanks to each and everyone who was involved in organising it, and a special thanks to all my fellow students and facilitator. Let us continue offering good service delivery to all SA citizens’.

Ms F. Kruger, Senior Admin Clerk (16 years’ experience in the DOD), said: “This programme helped me to reflect on my strengths and weaknesses. It provides the background necessary to understand the management functions in a department. Group activities gave me the opportunity to gain insight into other people’s experiences. This programme will ensure that I have the necessary knowledge and skills (competence) to function effectively as a first line supervisor within the Public Service. Upon the successful completion of this learning intervention I will be able to apply the relevant knowledge and skills to supervise effectively and lead subordinates towards increased performance”.

Mr P.C. Zondani, Asst Budget Manager: DTSS: SAC, said: “The orientation of this course is very interesting for PSAP. It makes it much easier to decide to be yourself once you understand it. Currently I am able to work with a team and can easily and amicably solve problems arising at work. I am committed to trying to assist in closing the gaps and to encourage one another to communicate trust, respect and belief. By planning my daily work with a team I am easily able to cope with external challenges. At present I am looking forward to improving my standard through working as a team. My desire is to cover both management development and leadership competencies. I believe that my endeavour to deliver better management can promote good working conditions. Understanding and co-operation in this regard are sincerely appreciated”.

General

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development acknowledges the dire need for the development of PSAP as first line supervisors and aspiring supervisors on salary levels 3 - 5. The FMDP will be presented annually.

The enthusiasm and participation exhibited by learners throughout the Programme constitute evidence of the success of the FMDP. Learners shared ideas and common interests as way of improving their own and the group performance, and in this way addressed personal development. The Programme has contributed to filling the gap in the management of PSAP in the DOD.

Chief Directorate Human Resources Development (CD HRD) acknowledges the effort by Services and Divisions in nominating PSAP for the FMDP and thus contributing to CD HRD’s commitment to promoting the continuous development of PSAP in the Department.

Integrated Management Development Programme

The Integrated Management Development Programme (IMDP) is a strategic intervention to achieve this goal, and as such it is one of the most significant and comprehensive product ranges offered by PALAMA since its reinvention as a Centre of Excellence.

The IMDP consists of four programmes, namely:

- Foundation Management Development Programme.
- Emerging Management Development Programme.
- Advanced Management Development Programme.
- Executive Development Programme.

PSAP Discipline: Skills Empowerment Workshop

By Yvonne Naudé,
Asst Dir: PSAP Discipline

Discipline is an integral part of the management of performance, and individuals who deviate from the standards of conduct laid down for the efficient operation of an organisation undermine the performance of that organisation.

Discipline is primarily seen as a progressive measure to ensure conduct and/or performance standards, but unfortunately in extreme cases it may lead to the ultimate sanction of dismissal. The importance of sound labour relations practices in the handling of PSAP disciplinary matters to ensure long-term success cannot be overemphasised.

During the appreciation of the Labour Relations environment, with specific reference to disciplinary procedures and processes, some gaps were identified with respect to the skills required in the performance of Departmental Representatives and Chairpersons of disciplinary hearings of Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) in the Department of Defence.

In view of the above, the Director Labour and Service Relations co-ordinated a skills development workshop over the period 16 to 20 August 2010 at the Air Force Base Bloemspruit in order to meet the specific development needs of Departmental Representatives and Chairpersons of Disciplinary Hearings.

The level of exposure and experience of the 40 delegates ranged from those who have not been involved in the disciplinary processes of PSAP, to those who actively lead evidence or preside over hearings and/or provide advice on the processes.

The presentation consisted of a mix of theory and the practical application of knowledge learned through the use of exercises, case studies and role-play. The content of the workshop appeared to be the most topical in the Department of Defence where there was a thirst for empowerment.

The group actively participated during presentations by the Trainer, Ms Rozaan Compaan of the company Human Progress Management, as well as during the session presented by members of the Directorate Labour and Service Relations.

A similar workshop is to be scheduled in Pretoria for July 2011. Interested personnel will be afforded an opportunity to be nominated via their official channel of command at a later stage.
Planning your dream career?

By Ms Hessa Ely, Senior Personnel Practitioner, Directorate Career Management: PSAP
Photo: Ms Hessa Ely and Ms Sanet Stoltz

In today’s tough job climate nothing should be left to chance. You have to invest in your most important asset: yourself. Directorate Career Management can help you to achieve that through career facilitation initiatives. The career services are designed to help Public Service Act Personnel (PSAP) staffed in the Department of Defence (DOD) to plan and development their careers.

What is career planning?

Career planning is a developmental process that you should pay active attention to throughout your life. It is a life-long learning process during which goals are set and actions are taken and it is based on life skills, e.g. self-assessment, self-monitoring and goal-setting skills. Employees and their supervisors are involved in the process and it also entails a series of career-life decisions. The employee is responsible for self-assessment, identifying career interests and developmental needs. As part of the process of self-assessment the individual analyses his/her own aptitudes, skills, qualifications, interests and values with a view to planning his/her career and making life/career decisions.

The employee should use self-management strategies to enable him/her to achieve his/her career-life goals. Self-management refers to the personal and systematic application of behaviour change strategies that result in the desired change in one’s own behaviour. This implies that you are able to manage every aspect of your working life and the way you do your job on a daily basis. It will also assist in improving your work performance. The following are guidelines on how to get started in managing your performance and career are:

1. Know yourself: Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. If you are uncertain regarding issues concerning your career, it is a good idea to obtain professional career counselling.
2. Define your goals: Develop a plan to achieve goals. Identify your shortcomings and how you are going to narrow or close the gap.
3. Take action: A plan is developed, what now? Put your plan in action. Get the necessary training; obtain practical experience and make use of opportunities.

Career Services

Directorate Career Management: Sub-directorate Career Services provides career development programmes for personnel appointed in terms of the Public Service Act within the DOD. An invitation is directed to all employees to participate in their own career development.

Career development programmes

Career development programmes support the career development of employees by assisting them with their personal career planning. Career development programmes offered by Career Services are aimed at assisting employees in the DOD to plan their careers.

The current career development programmes are:

1. Career planning workshops and individual career guidance for planned career progression.
2. Job enrichment opportunities that expand skills through learning different duties, e.g. the Empowerment Programme and workplace learning.
3. Continuous occupational and/or professional education and training to acquire expertise, e.g. study at State expense.

Section Career Planning

Career planning is the first step towards success with your career. The Section Career Planning assists and guides employees to plan for career success by offering career planning workshops and career interviews.

The aim of career planning workshops is to give the employee the opportunity to experience new ideas, reflect upon and think about how he/she can create opportunities and turn them into a plan of action. The following career planning workshops are offered:

1. CV writing, job application and job interviewing workshop. Attendees learn how to compile CVs that accurately reflect their experience, achievements and learning over a lifetime. The workshop focuses on how to search for suitable positions in both the Public
and Private Sectors, how to apply for such positions and job interviewing skills.

2 Study Techniques Workshop.

Attendees learn study techniques, e.g. how to plan and manage their time schedule, stress management and to balance work life and family life.

A specialised service is rendered to those employees who seek guidance with their career development. A series of career interviews are scheduled whereby the individual can undergo assessment with electronic tools to determine learning and related career preferences. Career interviews are conducted with the individual with the following in mind:

- How to conduct career planning and goal setting.
- Self-assessment (know yourself).
- How to develop an Individual Career Development Plan (ICDP).
- How to study effectively.

The ICDP is employee-initiated and directed. The line manager/supervisor of employees, however, has to engage with the individual by means of a development discussion. This is in preparation for the compilation of an ICDP. The line manager needs to relate present performance to future development opportunities. The manager also serves as coach/mentor and a source of information and should provide guidance where necessary. The focus of development should be long range on broader skills based on the individual’s strengths and potential.

What is an ICDP? The ICDP is a standard and is compulsory for non-uniformed personnel within the DOD (Example: Appendix B to JDP/PERS/000002/2004(EDI)). An ICDP directs employees as to what education, training and development they need to improve and be more effective in their present post and to develop them for their next position. This is a document that is developed to guide you in your career journey. It describes and sets out your plan with regard to your career. It is in this document that your “gaps” are indicated and you are given direction regarding your development. The supervisor and employee should sign it and be in agreement on it.

* For more information contact Hessa Ely on 012 392 2521 or Tsholo Ngwepe on 012 392 2456.

Career Management Section

The Public Service values employees who are willing to devote themselves to a career in service of the public; therefore opportunities are made available to develop their individual skills and abilities, provided these are in line with the Public Service’s operational requirements. Career Management is the process by which the career aspirations of the individual employee are reconciled with the operational objectives of the Department.

A professional career management service is therefore presented by Directorate Career Management to employees to assist in the light of their personal aspirations, the direction in which they wish their careers to advance, whether inside the DOD or outside the Public Service.

Services rendered are

1 The Empowerment Programme:
   - Directed towards non-administrative employees on salary levels 1 to 4
   - Receive in-service training and exposure to other careers
   - Be in possession of a Gr 10 or 12 qualification.

2 Co-ordination of nominations from all Services and Divisions regarding:
   - Personnel Service School courses, namely
   - PERSAL Orientation
   - Supervisors and Approvals
   - Military Qualification System
   - Chief Personnel Clerk
   - Senior Personnel Clerk
   - Junior Personnel Officer
   - Senior Personnel Officer.
   - Peacekeeping Mission courses:
     - Introduction to Peacekeeping (L6-L14)
     - Peace Mission Staff Officer (L8-L10)
     - Negotiation (L8-L10)
     - Peace Mission Logistic Officers Course (L8-L10)

392 2493 or Belina Cuinica on 012 392 2456.

Front: Ms Dorothy Kau. Second row, fltr: Ms Belina Cuinica, Ms Tsholo Ngwepe, Mr Billy Masela and Ms Sonet Stoltz (back) in the Resource Centre.
Career Resource Centre

The Career Resource Centre provides material to employees to help them develop and plan their careers, including career development information via electronic and non-electronic means, such as the Career Mentor Programme, Internet facilities, Education, Training and Development (ETD) information and books. The career resource centre holds various career materials that can assist employees in their own career development and planning. The information is both electronic and non-electronic in nature:

- Electronic resources, e.g. Career Mentor.
- Develop and publish career information on Human Resources Intranet website.
- Internet facilities.
- Books on career coaching and mentoring/study skills/leadership, etc.
- Magazines, e.g. People Dynamics.
- Audio resources (for the visually impaired).
- Mini Tape Aids - 60 topics (for people with disabilities).

* For more information contact Dorothy Kau at 012 392 2489.

Studies at State Expense Section

In terms of the Skills Development Act employers are compelled to support their employees to raise the skills level of the people in an effort to make the country a better place to live in. By enhancing the skills level, the Republic of South Africa can compete globally and create more jobs. The DOD presents to its employees the opportunity to improve their qualifications to the benefit of the organisation and the individual at the expense of the State. Each Service and Division must budget for studies at State expense under the Advanced Training series. The Studies at State Expense Section is responsible for the day-to-day contract administration of those studying at State expense, and can provide valuable information on the details involved when a person wants to study at State expense.

* For more information contact George Seete on 012 392 2485 or Beauty Rakgotho on 012 392 2488.

People with disabilities

Like all employees, persons with disabilities have a responsibility for their own career development, e.g. continually to seek opportunities for education, training and development in an effort to be effective in service delivery and to enjoy the challenges in the work environment.

Supervisors should assist and ensure that employees with disabilities have the same opportunities as other employees, namely to participate in career development programmes, i.e. empowerment programmes, job rotation, job enrichment, and to gain new experiences and skills. Job enrichment is a valuable career development tool to be utilised by an individual when tasked with more responsibilities and new assignments.

Career services are also directed at persons (PSAP) with disabilities to meet their special problems and needs and to provide guidance and assistance relating to career development. Persons with disabilities are invited to contact Hessa Ely on 012 392 2521 or Tsholo Ngwpe on 012 392 2493.

Career Service

Directorate Career Management: Western Cape Office provides a similar service, but also additional products such as a one-day retirement programme, a two-day self-coaching workshop and a one-on-one life coaching service. The office also presents a yearly DIY for women on basic home maintenance.

* For more information contact the Regional Manager of Western Cape Regional Office, Ms L. Daly, on 021 787 4188 or the Head of the Career Development Subsection, Mr E.C. Selk on 021 787 3776 or for Studies at State Expense and Empowerment Programme - Mr P. Klip on 021 787 3527. Ms Prema Moodley at Directorate Career Management: KwaZulu-Natal Regional Office can be contacted regarding career development programmes in this region at tel no: 031 451 0065.

References

The SA Air Force, in conjunction with the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS), held its Commission Parade at the SA Air Force College in Thaba Tshwane, Pretoria, on 18 June 2010.

The Officer Commanding of the SA Air Force College, Col Wessel Janse van Rensburg, said: “The commission parade is unique in that it includes representation from two other Services, the SA Army and the SAMHS. This is because the Officers’ Forming Programme has been utilised to pilot the incorporation of a nationally registered academic qualification.”

The Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC) in Military Operations was benchmarked by the SA Air Force, the SA Army and the SAMHS. It was a proud moment for the 22 learners who had graduated from this pilot programme.

Awards were also given to outstanding students during the course, with Candidate Officer E.S. Mashao being awarded the Air Squadron Sword for her outstanding performance during the course, including the Leadership Floating Trophy for her outstanding leadership.

The graduation was a culmination of the FETC certificate introduced by the SA Air Force in January 2010. The FETC consisted of all education and training from NQF levels 2 to 4, or the equivalent of grades 10 to 12 in the school system and National Technical Certificate 1 to 3 in technical colleges.

The primary purpose of the FETC was to equip learners with the knowledge, skills and values that would enable meaningful participation in and offer benefits to society as well as to provide a basis for continuing learning in higher education and training, and enable learners to be productive and responsible in the workplace.

Maj Gen Lucky Ngema, Chief Director Air Policy and Planning, presented the Air Squadron Sword to Candidate Officer E.S. Mopedi Mashao for her outstanding performance during the course.
The launch of
The Fourth Dimension

By Thabo Shirinda
Photos: Sgt Elias Mahuma

The South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) achieved a milestone when it launched a book titled "The Fourth Dimension" - the Untold Story of Military Health in South Africa - at Freedom Park in Pretoria on 10 August 2010. The book tells the story of the Military Health Service from the apartheid era right into the new dispensation. The book also covers the negotiations for the democracy we are enjoying today.

The book concerns the results of a project called Lerato (Love) then Tshepo (Hope). In 2007, Lt Gen Vejay Ramlakan, the DOD Surgeon General, came up with an idea of a comprehensively documented history of the evolution of the Military Health Service in South Africa.

Lt Gen Ramlakan said: "This book traces the role of the Military Health Service from its beginnings to the process of negotiations and integration into the new South Africa."

In its foreword the Commander-in-Chief of the SANDF, President Jacob Zuma, highlighted the fact that the SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) had over the years played an important role in the history of the military in South Africa.

Mr Zuma said: "The birth of democracy in South Africa enabled us to take our rightful place on the international stage; consequently the SANDF had to revise its role during peacetime. In this regard, the SAMHS has made, and will continue to make, major contributions towards our Government’s peace and development initiatives domestically and on the continent."

The President also highlighted the fact that the book was a fine example of how the SANDF had lived up to its expectations. Lt Gen Ramlakan requested retired Col Tax Rantao to help him with the production of this excellent work.

Col Ntabenkosi Fiphaza, who had started a military health service in an Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) camp in Tanzania was also co-opted for this momentous project. They were later joined by retired Col Susan O’Kennedy who helped them co-ordinate the book. (The people who played a role in this book are just too many to name.)

The former Minister of Health, Mr Roelf Meyer, was very supportive of this project and gave much needed input. The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Mr Thabang Makwetla, and the Chief of the SANDF, Gen Godfrey Ngwenya, all gave their thumbs up to the book.

The book is called "FOURTH DIMENSION" because of the fact that the SAMHS is often called the fourth Service of the SANDF. Lt Gen Niel Knobel (Ret), a former Surgeon General, was given the honour of signing the book together with Lt Gen Ramlakan.
Prince Alfred's Guard and the giant National Flag

Article and photo by WO1 Leonie Kapp, Communication Officer: Prince Alfred's Guard

During the 2010 Soccer World Cup, and shortly before the tournament began, the Mandela Bay Development Agency, an entity of the Metropolitan Municipality of Nelson Mandela Bay, instituted an upliftment programme for the city. This included beautifying the inner city open space known as the Donkin Reserve. Among other upliftment projects in this area were the hoisting of a giant National Flag measuring 12 m x 8 m, which was flown from a 45 m flagpole.

At an official parade the giant flag was ceremonially raised on the morning of 28 May 2010 in the presence of a large turnout of dignitaries, guests and spectators, despite threatening rain. Prince Alfred’s Guard formed part of the guard of honour with the SA Army Band in attendance.

The Regiment was once more honoured by the Council, which requested it to accept the responsibility of ensuring that the flag was raised and lowered on a daily basis, again indicative of the trust placed in the Regiment by the citizens of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

Interesting facts regarding the flag

The flag and the pole were custom-made by the firm Triden, of which Mr David Chamber is the owner and CEO in Dubai. He is well known and has appeared in the Guinness Book of Records a total of five times for this type of work. The highest flagpole made by him stands at 165 m.

The flag was made at a cost of R20 000. It weighs 21 kg. Three flags should they be required.

The flag was raised and lowered electronically by means of a three-phase one-horse power motor, which was made in the USA. Raising and lowering took place at 08:00 and 16:00 respectively and was done from a stainless steel bin to avoid the flag touching the ground. The bin was locally made and was designed by Lee Oschman, a planner of the Mandela Bay Development Agency.

Obviously, with the high winds often experienced in Port Elizabeth, the flag must be lowered at times to avoid damage. In order to do this an electronic weather station was installed at the Regimental Headquarters. This device sounds an alarm when unacceptable wind speeds are reached, in which instance the flag has to be lowered.

As it is situated on high ground the flag is clearly visible from a long distance, especially to shipping entering the bay. The flag has elicited favourable comments from citizens and visitors alike and has already become a landmark of the friendly city of Port Elizabeth.

At present the Mandela Bay Development Agency is busy enlarging the current flagpole by raising it from a height of 45 m to 60 m and the flag from 12 m x 8 m to 10 m x 15 m. In addition, spotlights in the colours red, yellow, blue and green will be installed on four corners around the pole. These will illuminate the flagpole at night, fading at intervals of 10 minutes.
Cross-country athletes from all over South Africa descended on ASB Western Cape in Youngsfield, Cape Town, for the SANDF Cross-country Championships on 6 August 2010. In attendance were 150 male and female athletes, officials and Executive Committee members representing territorial teams from Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Northern Cape and Western Cape. The championships were presented at Youngsfield on a challenging cross-country course. (Western Cape hosted the event.)

**Winners**

Senior Woman (18 to 34 years) 4 km: Leading Seaman Rene de Bruin from Western Province: SAS Wingfield in a time of 18 min, 49 sec.

Master Woman (35 plus) 8 km: WO2 Gail Jacobs from Western Province: AFB Ysterplaat in a time of 21 min, 21 sec.

Master Men (35 to 39 years) 8 km: Sgt C. Witbooi from Gauteng: SA Army

**Team Results**

Winners: Gauteng
Runners-up: Western Province
Third place: Free State

*Leading Seaman Rene de Bruin is currently rated among the top three for female runners in Western Province for the 8 km cross-country.*

Master Woman (35 plus) 8 km: WO2 Gail Jacobs from Western Province: AFB Ysterplaat in a time of 21 min, 21 sec.

*Western Province won the ladies team place.*

Master Men (35 to 39 years) 8 km: Sgt C. Witbooi from Gauteng: SA Army Engineer Formation - Master Men 35 to 39 years) and AB M. Mothomane (WP: Naval Base Simon's Town - Senior Men).

Winners in the different categories, fltr: Sgt P.I. Mokhobo (Free State: ASB Bloemfontein - Master Men 40 to 49 years), WO2 Gail Jacobs (WP: AFB Ysterplaat - Master Women 40 to 49 years), CPO J. Paul (WP: Naval Base Simon's Town - Master Men 50 to 59 years), LS Rene de Bruin (WP: SAS Wingfield - Senior Women), Sgt C. Witbooi (Gauteng: SA Army Engineer Formation - Master Men 35 to 39 years) and AB M. Mothomane (WP: Naval Base Simon's Town - Senior Men).
SA Air Force involved in the local community

Article and photo by Cpl Jan Mkhondo, HR Clerk

Many of us wanted to be firemen when we grew up and from time to time saw the big red fire trucks with blazing sirens driving past us to extinguish a fire or save a life somewhere. On 9 July 2010 the children of Bundi Bos Crèche in Centurion had an opportunity to witness a fire truck of the Military Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting School (MARFFS) stationed at 68 Air School.

Members of the MARFFS, under the command of Lt Christo Piek, Officer in Charge MARFFS, used the opportunity to educate the youngsters about fires at home and actions to take in case of an emergency. Special attention was given to ensure that all the children, irrespective of age, knew the number of their local emergency services.

The MARFFS team was accompanied by members from 502 Squadron who used the opportunity to promote the military among the almost 200 children. A dog from the Squadron’s Canine Section under the command of Sgt Bongani Sibeko, and Cpl Yvonne Mabaso, a K9 handler, showed the children the diverse variety of jobs within the military environment, especially the Protection Services in the SA Air Force. F Sgt Moses Sesinyi, Operations NCO, engaged the children by teaching them how to salute and drill. Although not perfect, the children amazed him with their enthusiasm and energetic spirit. It was difficult to determine who enjoyed the outing more, F Sgt Sesinyi or the children. Each child received a packet of crisps, some sweets and a copy of the latest SA Soldier magazine. Although most of the children were unable to read, they found the pictures very interesting and could not wait to go and show mom and dad.

502 Squadron wants to thank Ms Tonya Drinkwater for the opportunity she provided both the Squadron and MARFFS to visit her school and contribute towards the growth and education of the children.

Team Results

Winners: Free State
Runners-up: Western Province
Third place: Gauteng

SA Air Force

Master Men (50 to 59 years) 8 km: Chief Petty Officer J. Paul from Western Province: Naval Base Simon’s Town in a time of 30 min, 26 sec.

Senior Men (18 to 34 years) 12 km: Able Seaman M. Mothomane from Western Province: Naval Base Simon’s Town in a time of 37 min, 6 sec.

Team Results

Winners: Free State
Runners-up: Western Province
Third place: Gauteng

Total Medal Earnings

Western Province: 19 medals
Gauteng: 19 medals
Free State: 16 medals
North West: 5 medals
Eastern Cape: 1 medal

* All SANDF/DOD members are invited to join road-running or walking by signing up at the various SANDF road-running clubs in each province.
he question can rightfully be asked: Why focus on values? Do people not live in an enlightened age where they do not want to be told which values to adopt and which not to adopt? People want the freedom to choose for themselves what they regard as right and wrong, good and bad.

It may be true that we live in times when there is a greater emphasis on freedom to choose our own values. However, it is also true that values still are the most important component of any meaningful relationship. Another important reason to focus on values is the fact that a human and safe environment for dignified living can only be created where there is mutual respect for ethical values.

In South Africa today we have a diverse environment consisting of many different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds and therefore it becomes even more important to become aware of and be respectful of values that enhance our lives. When thinking about values it is important to understand the difference between personal and broader community (cultural, religious or communal) values that shape our lives.

**Personal values** are those values that are unique to our lives and shape them in a very special, personal way. These could be values such as neatness, punctuality, special colours when choosing clothes or decorating our homes, or respect for something such as a specific style of music.

**Broader community values** are values such as cultural, religious or communal values and their influences on our lives. These are values that are respected by groups of people belonging to different communities. They could have a long history, with the values being passed on from one generation to the next. These values influence people to think and act in specific ways according to their customs.

What role do values play in our lives, and how do they influence us? Values come from our different experiences and beliefs and give us convincing messages. When we accept their messages, they become powerful and are able to influence our perceptions, attitudes and behaviours - the lenses through which we look at and act in life.

When we are compelled to act or react to different situations in our daily lives, the challenge is to respond in a moral way, clearly choosing between right and wrong, between good and bad. This is always connected to our values. As Christians our morality is of course based on what the Bible teaches us about behaviour, specifically the example of Jesus Christ.

Most people have values about what is right and wrong based on their religious beliefs, cultural roots, family backgrounds, laws, organisational culture or the political organisations they belong to. In the military it is important that we respect each other’s different values, but reach consensus about the corporate values that bind us together and guide us in our relationships and the important decisions we have to make every day.
The SA Air Force Museum at Swartkop recently expanded on its already impressive collection of aircraft when the front fuselage section of an ex 60 Squadron Boeing 707-328C (tail number 1417) arrived at the Museum on 18 April 2010.

It was largely thanks to the initiative and efforts of two keen Warrant Officers that this ambitious project materialised. Even though the Museum had already received an ex 60 Squadron Boeing 707 (1419) in 2007, it was decided to salvage at least another part of the Boeing fleet for display purposes. Therefore before the scrap-man could lay his hands on the remaining 707’s languishing at Waterkloof, WO1 Steven Halstead and WO2 Alan Taylor devised a grand plan to recover a front fuselage cockpit section for posterity. Aircraft number 1417 was selected and, after delicate negotiations to secure the aircraft for the museum, plans were set in motion. 1 Aircraft Servicing Unit (1 ASU) at AFB Waterkloof agreed to provide the critical technical assistance and equipment needed, because the front section of the aircraft had to be cut from the rest of the fuselage on site.

The arduous and dangerous task of cutting the aircraft from the rest of the fuselage was done by 1 ASU within two weeks. Special supporting jacks and cradles had to be devised to support the front part of the aircraft after its separation from the main body. The fuselage was initially held in position by a pair of straps around the belly of the aircraft that extended up to the rig of a crane. For its transportation from Waterkloof to Swartkop by low-bed trailer, great care had to be taken to avoid any overhead obstacles, especially telephone and power lines, not to mention the ever-present bridges spanning the route.

Amidst a lot of tension the journey was safely made and all were relieved when the aircraft was moved into position at Swartkop. The 1 ASU team finally secured the aircraft in its cradle by attaching four welded support beams along the sides of the lower hull.

WO1 Halstead is adamant that the aircraft will be a live exhibit and envisages completely refitting the cockpit with live instrumentation and audio-visual links to engage visitors. The rest of the fuselage aft of the cockpit will be utilised as a museum display area to tell the story of the Boeing 707 and 60 Squadron; it remains a distinctive part of SA Air Force history and will be honoured as such.

Contact the SA Air Force Museum on 012 351 2290 or visit www.saafmuseum.org for more information.

**Highlights of the Boeing 707-328C "SAAF 1417"**

This particular Boeing (c/n 19723) was part of the original three obtained by the SA Air Force in 1983; all three were of ex Air France stock. 1417 was the first aircraft to fly after 60 Squadron was reformed in 1986. Squadron documentation states that the first orientation flight took place on 11 August 1986 at the hands of the then Officer Commanding of 60 Squadron, Col Viviers.

More significantly, this particular aircraft logged the longest operational flight ever made by an SA Air Force Boeing 707. On 10 September 1988 the aircraft totalled a non-stop 11 hours and 30 minutes on an emergency flight from Cape Town to the SANAE base in Antarctica to drop urgently needed medical supplies. 1417 carried the South African flag during the SA Air Force’s first ever participation in an international air tattoo at RAF Fairford in July 1995. 1417 and her crew managed to win two of the 10 awards in the Skytanker competition, the Spirit of the Meet Award and the Best Overall Ground Competition. The aircraft made its final flight on 29 March 2001 and was kept in storage at 60 Squadron until the squadron was disband in 2007.
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